

One piece

One Piece is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Eiichiro Oda. It has been serialized in Shueisha's *shōnen* manga magazine *Weekly Shōnen Jump* since July 1997, with its individual chapters compiled in 108 *tankōbon* volumes as of March 2024. The story follows the adventures of Monkey D Luffy and his crew, the Straw Hat Pirates, where he explores the Grand Line in search of the mythical treasure known as the "One Piece" in order to become the next King of the Pirates.

The manga spawned a media franchise, having been adapted into a festival film by Production I.G, and an anime series by Toei Animation, which began broadcasting in 1999. Additionally, Toei has developed fourteen animated feature films, one original video animation, and thirteen television specials. Several companies have developed various types of merchandising and media, such as a trading card game and numerous video games. The manga series was licensed for an English language release in North America and the United Kingdom by Viz Media and in Australia by Madman Entertainment. The anime series was licensed by 4Kids Entertainment for an English-language release in North America in 2004 before the license was dropped and subsequently acquired by Funimation in 2007.

The world of *One Piece* is populated by humans and other races such as dwarves (more akin to faeries in size), giants, merfolk, fish-men, long-limbed tribes, long-necked people known as the Snakeneck Tribe, and animal people (known as "Minks"). The world is governed by an intercontinental organization known as the World Government, consisting of dozens of member countries. The Navy is the sea military branch of the World Government that protects the known seas from pirates and other criminals. There is also Cipher Pol which is a group of agencies within the World Government that are their secret police. While pirates are major opponents against the Government, the ones who really challenge their rule are the Revolutionary Army who seeks to overthrow them. The central tension of the series pits the World Government and their forces against pirates. The series regularly emphasizes moral ambiguity over the label "pirate", which includes cruel villains, but also any individuals that do not submit to the World Government's authoritarian—and often morally ambiguous—rule. The *One Piece* world also has supernormal characteristics like Devil Fruits, which are mysterious fruits that grant whoever eats them transformative powers. Another supernatural power is Haki, which grants its users enhanced willpower, observation, and fighting abilities, and it is one of the only effective methods of inflicting bodily harm on certain Devil Fruit users.

Eiichiro Oda's interest in pirates began in his childhood, watching the animated series *Vicky the Viking*, which inspired him to want to draw a manga series about pirates.^[2] The reading of pirate biographies influenced Oda to incorporate the characteristics of real-life pirates into many of the characters in *One Piece*; for example, the character Marshall D. Teach is based on and named after the historical pirate Edward "Blackbeard" Teach.^[3] Apart from the history of piracy, Oda's biggest influence is Akira Toriyama and his series *Dragon Ball*, which is one of his favorite manga. He was also inspired by *The Wizard of Oz*, claiming not to endure stories where the reward of adventure is the adventure itself, opting for a story where travel is important, but even more important is the goal.

While working as an assistant to Nobuhiro Watsuki, Oda began writing *One Piece* in 1996.^[6] It started as two one-shot stories entitled *Romance Dawn* which would later be used as the title for *One Piece*'s first chapter and volume. They both featured the character of Luffy, and included elements that would appear later in the main series. The first of these short stories was published in August 1996 in *Akamaru Jump*, and reprinted in 2002 in *One Piece Red* guidebook. The second was published in the 41st issue of *Weekly Shōnen Jump* in 1996, and reprinted in 1998 in Oda's short story collection, *Wanted!* In an interview with TBS, Takanori Asada, the original editor of *One Piece*, revealed that the manga was rejected by *Weekly Shōnen Jump* three times before Shueisha agreed to publish the series

Oda revealed that he originally planned *One Piece* to last five years, and that he had already planned the ending. However, he found it would take longer than he had expected as Oda realized that he liked the story too much to end it in that period of time. In 2016, nineteen years after the start of serialization, the author said that the manga has reached 65% of the story he intends to tell. In July 2018, on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of *One Piece*, Oda said that the manga has reached 80% of the plot, while in January 2019, he said that *One Piece* is on its way to the conclusion, but that it could exceed the 100th volume. In August 2019, Oda said that, according to his predictions, the manga will end between 2024 and 2025. However, Oda stated that the ending would be what he had decided in the beginning; he is committed to seeing it through. In a television special aired in Japan, Oda said he would be willing to change the ending if the fans were to be able to predict it. In August 2020, Shueisha announced in the year's 35th issue of *Weekly Shōnen Jump* that *One Piece* was "headed toward the upcoming final saga." On January 4, 2021, *One Piece* reached its thousandth chapter. In June 2022, Oda announced that the manga would enter a one-month break to prepare for its 25th anniversary and its final saga, set to begin with the release of chapter 1054.