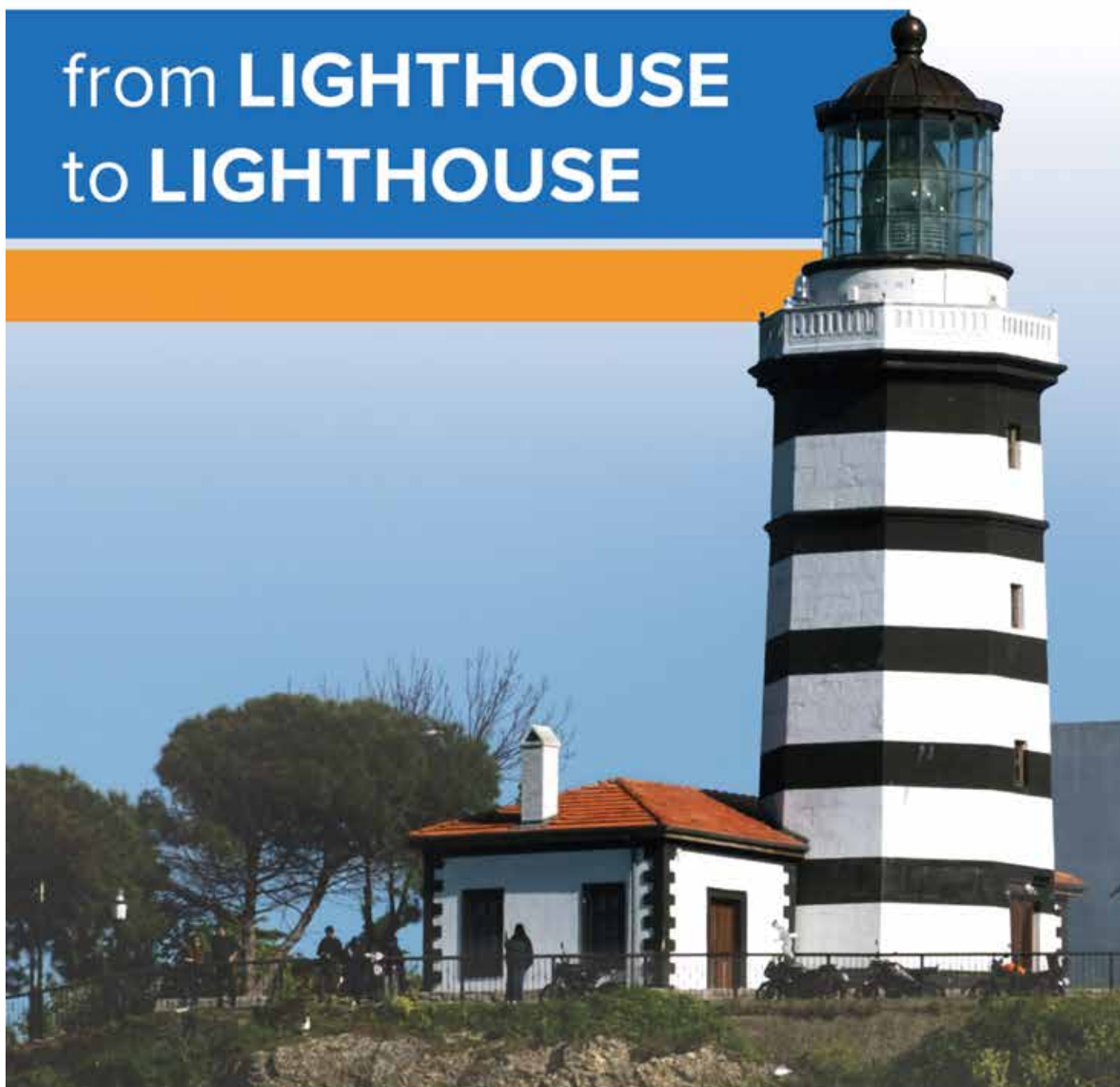


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LIST OF CONTENT

FOREWORD FROM THE BRIDGE-BS COORDINATOR	5
INTRODUCTION	6
ACKNOWLEDGMENT	7
BULGARIA	8
Cape Shabla Lighthouse (Фарът На Шабла)	9
Kaliakra Cape Lighthouse (Фар Калиакра)	10
Euxinograd Lighthouse Вксиноградски Фар)	12
Emine Cape Lighthouse (Фар Нос Емине)	14
St. Anastasia Lighthouse (Фар Остров Св. Анастасия)	16
T. Ivan Island Lighthouse (Фара На Остров Св. Иван)	18
Maslen Nos Lighthouse (Фарът При Маслен Нос)	20
Ahtopol Lighthouse (Фара На Град Ахтопол)	22
GEORGIA	25
Batumi Lighthouse	26
Poti Lighthouse	28
ROMANIA	31
The Genoese Lighthouse (Farul Genovez)	32
King Carol I Lighthouse (Farul Regele Carol I)	34
The Constanța Landing Lighthouse (Farul De Aterizare Constanța)	36
The White Lighthouse (Farul Alb)	38
European Commission Sulina Old Lighthouse Museum (Farul Comisiei Europene A Dunării De La Sulina)	40
New Sulina Lighthouse (Farul Nou Sulina)	42
The Genoese Lighthouse of Mangalia (Farul Genovez Din Mangalia)	44
Cape Tuzla Landing Lighthouse (Farul De Aterizare Tuzla)	46
Sfântul Gheorghe Lighthouse (Farul Sf. Gheorghe)	48
TURKIYE	51
Limankoy Lighthouse (Limanköy Feneri) Igneada, Türkiye	52
Rumeli Lighthouse (Rumelifeneri) Istanbul, Türkiye	54
Sile Lighthouse (Şile Feneri) istanbul, Türkiye	56
Oluce Lighthouse (Ölüce Feneri) Zonguldak , Türkiye	58
Zonguldak Lighthouse (Zonguldak Feneri) Zonguldak, Türkiye	60
Amasra Lighthouse (Amasra Feneri) Bartın, Türkiye	62
Kerempe Lighthouse (Kerempe Feneri) Kastamonu, Türkiye	64
Inceburun Lighthouse (İnceburun Feneri) Sinop, Türkiye	66
Yoroz Lighthouse (Yoroz Feneri, Isıklar Feneri) Trabzon, Türkiye	68
Penerit Lighthouse (Penerit Feneri) Artvin, Türkiye	70
UKRAINE	72
Stanislav-Adzhyhol Rear Lighthouse (Станіслав - Аджигольський Задній)	73
Vorontsov Lighthouse (Воронцовський Маяк)	75
Tarkhankut Lighthouse (Тарханкутський Маяк)	77
Dzharilgatsky Lighthouse (Джарилгацький Маяк)	79
Sivers Lighthouses (Маяк Сіверсів Передній)	80
Genichesk (Henichesk) Lighthouse (Генічеський Маяк)	83
Khablivskiy Rear Lighthouse (Маяк Хабловський Задній)	85
Sanji Lighthouse (Санжійський Маяк)	87
Lighthouse Berezansko—Ochakiv (Маяк Березансько-Очаківського Коліна Задній)	89
Yalta Lighthouse -Sarych Lighthouse (Маяк Ялтинський - Маяк Сарич)	91

FOREWORD BY THE BRIDGE-BS COORDINATOR

The BRIDGE-BS Project, funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Programme, was launched to improve our scientific understanding of the Black Sea and support its sustainable future. Alongside its scientific achievements, the project has carried out many successful activities to increase ocean literacy in the region, engaging young people, citizens, and local communities.

As part of these efforts, BRIDGE-BS planned already in 2020 to prepare this book, “**From Lighthouse to Lighthouse,**” focusing on the historical lighthouses located along the Black Sea coast. The idea was to highlight their history, their importance for sailors and coastal communities, and their role in helping people better connect with the sea. Preserving and promoting these lighthouses also supports the project’s goal of contributing to a more sea-literate public.

Interestingly, the idea for this book emerged just before the EU officially launched the Mission and its Lighthouse structure in 2021, showing how naturally the BRIDGE-BS objectives aligned with the Mission’s approach of mobilising communities around meaningful and symbolic points in each basin.

Under the EU Mission “Restore our Ocean and Waters”, Mission Lighthouses aim to bring stakeholders together in a co-design process for developing solutions and ideas that contribute to technological, social, business, and governance transformation. They serve as hubs for testing and demonstrating innovative approaches that can be shared and scaled across different regions.

In this sense, we believe that the *From Lighthouse to Lighthouse* book has supported this broader vision by reminding us of the real lighthouses that once—and still today—play an important role in the lives of coastal communities. Revisiting these sites helps strengthen the connection between past and present, and encourages collective thinking about the future of our seas.

Throughout the project’s lifetime, partners from across the Black Sea identified the most significant lighthouses in the region. Their collective work has resulted in this book, which presents **40 lighthouses** selected for their historical, cultural, and maritime importance.

We hope this publication helps readers appreciate the heritage of these coastal landmarks and strengthens the connection between people and the Black Sea.

Prof. Barış Salihoğlu
BRIDGE-BS Coordinator
METU-IMS

INTRODUCTION

When we are working at sea, away from the shore, with just water surrounding us, we feel immense freedom like nothing else. But people are not dolphins nor fish, so we need to go back to the land, where we naturally belong. That is why we feel safe and relieved when we see a flashing light from a lighthouse or a lighthouse itself. It symbolizes our connection to the land even when we are at sea and to the sea when we are on land.

This book of Black Sea lighthouses shows you the richness of our culture related to the seas. In the modern era, when people travel within and across the Black Sea by ship, they need lighthouses to guide them along the coasts. They were built in various styles, tall or short, thin or stubby, but their sole purpose is to guide sailors safely and soundly. Today, ships navigate using GPS, so they do not need lighthouses that much anymore. How thrilling and reassuring it still feels to spot a lighthouse glowing in the distance, especially at night!

In this book, we collect the images and information on the lighthouses of 5 countries along the Black Sea: Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Türkiye and Ukraine. The diversity of these lighthouses is quite impressive. Some of them are described with interesting anecdotes. We sincerely hope readers feel connected to this rich sea culture by reading about these lighthouses.

This lighthouse book has been compiled under the EU-funded BRIDGE-BS Project with the contribution of our partner organizations: METU-IMS, IBER-BAS, Marine Cluster Bulgaria, GeoEcoMar TSU, SUMAE, TUDAV and UkrSCES. We truly appreciate their work and enthusiasm.

We aim to reach more people to share the rich culture of the Black Sea through introducing the lighthouses on our shores. We hope readers will rediscover the value of the Black Sea, not only as a source of tasty fish or a route of transportation, but also as a place of beautiful monuments, culture and heritage.

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Dr. Ayaka Amaha Öztürk
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BULGARIA

Stretching over approximately 378 kilometers, Bulgaria's Black Sea coastline offers a rich blend of dramatic cliffs, golden beaches, and culturally vibrant port towns. From the northern border near Romania to the southern reaches near Türkiye, the coast serves as a vital gateway between Europe and Asia, historically fostering trade, defense, and cultural exchange. The region is dotted with ancient ruins, Byzantine fortresses, and bustling seaside resorts such as Varna and Burgas—two of the country's largest coastal cities.

The strategic importance of this shoreline has long called for navigational aids, and Bulgaria's lighthouses stand as silent sentinels along its rugged edge. These structures not only guide ships through the often unpredictable waters of the Black Sea but also embody architectural and historical significance. Bulgarian lighthouses vary from utilitarian concrete towers to charming, heritage-rich beacons that reflect the region's maritime past. Today, many of them continue to operate, while some have become landmarks that capture the imagination of travelers and sea lovers alike.

Cape Shabla Lighthouse (ФАРЪТ НА ШАБЛА)

Dobrich/Bulgaria



© Pochivka.bg

It is the oldest, authentic working lighthouse on the Balkan Peninsula, and also the highest of its kind in Bulgaria (32 meters).

It protects ships from collision with an underwater reef, which is nearly 1 nautical mile long, as well as from sinking in the shoals between Cape Shabla and the village of Tyulenovo. Its white light flashes three times every 25 seconds and can be seen from a distance of 17 nautical miles in good visibility. There are 132 steps up to the searchlight that never stops illuminating the ships’ path. The lightning rod still in its original kind, has a gold-plated tip. The walls of the lighthouse are 1.20 meters thick, and even in winter, it is said to never get cold inside.

A local story says that the lighthouse is a scaled-down copy of one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - the Lighthouse of Alexandria. Another curious fact is that the monogram of Sultan Abdul Mejid (1823–1861) is embedded on the lighthouse guard wall, witnessing a rare and important monument for that time.

Four lighthouse keepers monitor its work around the clock. The shifts change every 8 hours. There was only one female guard of such a facility worked before.

Today a message for future generations is embedded in the walls of the tower by its guardians. It contains the data on the distance between the coast and lighthouse. In 1996 local people measured the distance to be 13 meters, but according to preserved statistics, in 1948 it was 29 meters. The guards want this distance to be measured and compared years from now. The message is to be made public in 2056.

The Shabla Lighthouse (Bulgarian: Шабленски фар) is a lighthouse located 5 kilometres east of the town of Shabla, Dobrich Province, at the easternmost point of Bulgaria. The lighthouse was built in that shape by the Ottoman Empire in 1856, although some documents witness its existence since the Crimean War (1853 - 1856), and others talk about a simple navigation facility existing in this place (Karia) in Antiquity because of the underwater reef threatening the ships in that part of the Black Sea.

Kaliakra Cape Lighthouse (ФАР КАЛИАКРА)

Bulgarevo/Bulgaria



© www.vila.bg

Kaliakra Cape Lighthouse stands on a promontory steeped in legend and layered with history, from Thracian settlements and medieval fortresses to tales of heroism and maritime lore. After suffering structural damage from an earthquake, the lighthouse was rebuilt and given its current form in 1901. The design is simple yet striking: a white, circular stone tower standing 9.7 meters tall, harmonizing with the rugged beauty of the surrounding landscape.

The lighthouse is on the Via Pontica, a major bird migration route from Africa into Eastern and Northern Europe. Many rare and migrant birds can be seen here in spring and autumn and, like much of this coastline, it is home to several rare breeding birds such as the pied wheatear and a local race of European shag.

Location	Bulgarevo, Bulgaria
Coordinates	43.3619472, 28.4656245
Height	9.7 m
Altitude	68 m
Established in	1866

Perched dramatically on the steep cliffs of Cape Kaliakra, this historic lighthouse has watched over the northern Bulgarian coast for centuries. The first navigational light was established here in the 18th century, marking one of the earliest efforts to guide seafarers safely through the Black Sea’s unpredictable waters. On July 15, 1866, the first official lighthouse was lit, equipped with precision French optics that cast its beam up to 16 nautical miles away—an impressive reach for its time.



© Georgi Stoyanov/jorofo.net



©D.Popov/Green Balkans NGO

Today, it remains an active aid to navigation and a beloved landmark. Visitors to Cape Kaliakra are treated not only to breathtaking views of the sea but also to a tangible connection with Bulgaria’s maritime heritage—anchored by the quiet presence of this steadfast lighthouse.

Euxinograd Lighthouse (ВКСИНОГРАДСКИ ФАР)Varna/Bulgaria



©By Grigor Paskov, CC0, via wikipedia

Located along the northern Bulgarian coastline near Varna, the Euxinograd Lighthouse was built in 1928 to assist coastal navigation in the Black Sea. With a height of 15.9 meters, the lighthouse is modest in scale but vital in function—especially for small vessels sailing close to the shore.

Originally, the lighthouse emitted a white light, but in 1947, its characteristic was changed to red to better differentiate it from other navigational aids in the region. The light is set at 18.5 meters above mean sea level, with a visibility range of 6 nautical miles in clear weather.

While it is often associated by name with the nearby Euxinograd Palace, the lighthouse is situated approximately 3 kilometers away from the royal estate. The palace was built in the late 19th century as a summer residence for Prince Alexander I Battenberg in 1881–1885, the Bulgarian monarchy, in the style of a French château. Today it serves as a governmental and presidential retreat and is open for tourist visits under advance reservation.

Unlike many scenic lighthouses perched on dramatic cliffs, Euxinograd Lighthouse stands in a more accessible and low-lying coastal setting, serving as a quiet but essential sentinel along Varna Bay.

Location	Varna, Bulgaria
Coordinates	43.2167097, 27.9870701
Height	15.9 m
Altitude	18.5 m
Established in	1928

Euxinograd Lighthouse (ВКСИНОГРАДСКИ ФАР)Emona/Bulgaria



© www.chernomorie-bg.com

The Emine Cape Lighthouse is perched on a steep, rocky outcrop that projects roughly 70 meters into the Black Sea, making it the easternmost tip of the Balkan Mountains and the endpoint of the famous Kom–Emine hiking trail. While hikers completing the route can admire the lighthouse’s distinct cylindrical structure from the outside, entry is restricted and allowed only with special permission.

Thanks to its exposed position and unpredictable strong winds, Cape Emine has long been considered a critical point for maritime safety. The shallow coastal waters and hidden underwater rocks in the area have historically posed serious threats to ships. Even in the Middle Ages, warning lights were used here to signal danger to passing vessels.

The present-day lighthouse was constructed in 1880 at the cape’s tip, which is divided from the main ridge of the mountains by a deep ravine and thought to have been part of the defensive moat of the medieval Paleokastro Fortress, discovered during the lighthouse’s construction. The uneven terrain still presents challenges for access today.

Originally built and fitted by a French company specializing in lighthouses, the beacon first operated on gas, later switching to acetylene. It was electrified in 1962 and upgraded with modern electric optics. The tower stands at 9.4 meters, with a light that flashes every 6 seconds (1.5 seconds on, 4.5 seconds off), and is visible from 20 nautical miles out at sea.

Location	Emona, Bulgaria
Coordinates	42.7014322, 27.8997239
Height	9.4 m
Altitude	64.1 m
Established in	1880

St. Anastasia Lighthouse

(ФАР ОСТРОВ СВ. АНАСТАСИЯ)

Burgas/Bulgaria



© www.wikimapia.org

Standing watch over the Gulf of Burgas, the St. Anastasia Island Lighthouse is located on the northern tip of the only inhabited island along Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast. This white, round concrete tower has guided ships safely through the bay for over a century, serving as both a navigational aid and a picturesque part of the island’s maritime charm.

The lighthouse was first put into operation on 13 June 1914, marking a significant moment in the region’s development as a hub for maritime trade and travel. It was electrified and modernized in 1932, allowing for improved visibility and reliability. Today, it emits a white flash every 8 seconds, a signal that remains clearly visible even from the Sea Garden in the city of Burgas, connecting mainland life to the rhythms of the sea.

Though modest in size, the lighthouse adds to the mystique of St. Anastasia Island, a place rich in history. It was once home to a medieval monastery dedicated to St. Anastasia the Healer, the island later became a refuge for sailors and a target for pirate raids along the Black Sea. In the early 20th century, it gained notoriety as a political prison, where dissidents and revolutionaries were held before staging a daring escape in 1925—a story now woven into local folklore. Visitors to the island can view the lighthouse from the nearby walking paths and enjoy sweeping views of the surrounding bay.

Location	St. Anastasia Island – Burgas, Bulgaria
Coordinates	42.4683101, 27.5529975
Height	12.3 m
Altitude	21.7 m
Established in	1914

St. Ivan Island Lighthouse

(ФАРА НА ОСТРОВ СВ. ИВАН)

Burgas/Bulgaria



© Spasimir Pilev

Perched on the largest island off the Bulgarian Black Sea coast, the St. Ivan Island Lighthouse plays a vital role in maritime navigation near Sozopol. Erected in 1911, this white, cylindrical tower rises to a height of 9.2 meters, quietly overlooking the surrounding waters with a steadfast presence.

Its light is visible from up to 18 nautical miles, making it a crucial guide for vessels navigating the approaches to Sozopol and the nearby coastal regions. Though the lighthouse is not open to visitors, it can be clearly seen from the mainland and from boats passing through the area.

St. Ivan Island itself is a protected nature reserve, known for its rich biodiversity and archaeological significance, including the remains of an ancient monastery and early Christian basilicas. The lighthouse stands as a beacon not only for ships but also for the island’s layered history—blending nature, heritage, and seafaring tradition in one striking location.

Location	St. Ivan Island - Sozopol, Bulgaria
Coordinates	42.4383836, 27.6904956
Height	9.2 m
Altitude	43.6 m
Established in	1911

Maslen Nos Lighthouse (ФАРЪТ ПРИ МАСЛЕН НОС)Primorsko/Bulgaria



© www.varnacitycard.com

Guarding the southern Bulgarian coast, the Primorsko Lighthouse stands on Maslen Nos Cape, a dramatic rocky promontory known for its shipwreck legends and panoramic views. The lighthouse plays a critical role in guiding vessels through this historically treacherous stretch of the Black Sea.

The earliest lighthouse structure here dates back to 1863, when a simple metal pole with a red light marked the site. The current lighthouse was constructed in 1930, giving the cape its now-familiar maritime landmark—a round stone tower, standing 7.5 meters high.

Equipped with M-500 optics, the lighthouse projects a steady beam that reaches up to 17 nautical miles into the sea. Though modest in size, it has been a reliable guidepost for nearly a century, serving fishing boats and cargo ships navigating near Primorsko’s rugged coast.

Maslen Nos Cape and its lighthouse are steeped in local lore, and the surrounding area offers striking coastal views and a sense of windswept solitude. While the lighthouse itself isn’t open to visitors, the cape is a popular destination for hikers, nature lovers, and those curious about Bulgaria’s maritime history.

Location	Primorsko, Bulgaria
Coordinates	42.3079707, 27.7930927
Height	7.5 m
Altitude	37.5 m
Established in	1930

Ahtopol Lighthouse (ФАРА НА ГРАД АХТОПОЛ)Ahtopol/Bulgaria



© Evgeni Dinev

Marking the entrance to one of the southernmost harbors on Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast, the Ahtopol Lighthouse stands proudly on a rocky outcrop at the northern edge of Ahtopol Bay. Built to guide vessels into the small but vital fishing port, the lighthouse has been operating since July 1932.

Rising 11.3 meters above the sea, the lighthouse may be modest in scale, but its role is significant—especially in the winter months, when the bay offers safe anchorage for local fishing boats. Its beam, visible from up to 5 nautical miles, provides a crucial signal to mariners navigating the sometimes turbulent coastal waters.

The structure itself is simple and enduring, emblematic of Ahtopol’s maritime character. The surrounding area, with its peaceful harbor and nearby historic town center, adds to the charm of this quiet, sea-weathered beacon on Bulgaria’s southeastern coast.

Location	Ahtopol, Bulgaria
Coordinates	42.100244, 27.949133
Height	11.3 m
Altitude	14.8 m
Established in	1932



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GEORGIA

Stretching along the eastern edge of the Black Sea, Georgia's coastline spans approximately 310 kilometers, offering a unique blend of subtropical landscapes, historic port cities, and cultural diversity. This compact yet strategic coastline has long served as a gateway between Europe and Asia, shaping the region's maritime identity and connecting Georgia to major trade and travel routes for centuries.

The coast features both lively urban centers like Batumi and Poti, as well as quieter, nature-rich areas known for their biodiversity and bird migration routes. The warm, humid climate nurtures lush vegetation, while the Caucasus Mountains rise dramatically inland, providing a breathtaking backdrop. The region is not only significant economically but also ecologically, home to wetlands, migratory bird habitats, and protected marine zones, including Kolkheti National Park near Poti and Mtskheta-Mtianeti National Park near Batumi—areas that safeguard unique coastal ecosystems, lagoons, and subtropical forests vital to the Black Sea's biodiversity.

Georgia's lighthouses, some dating back to the 19th century, mark this storied shore with architectural and historical significance. They continue to guide vessels safely through these waters, serving as enduring symbols of Georgia's maritime heritage, cultural resilience, and connection to the wider Black Sea world.

Batumi Lighthouse (ბათუმის შუქურა)

Ajara/Georgia



© State Hydrographic service of Georgia

Standing proudly near the entrance to one of Georgia’s busiest ports, the Batumi Lighthouse is both a navigational landmark and a cultural icon. Built in 1882 by French engineers, the lighthouse is an octagonal stone tower crowned with a circular veranda and a glass-encased lantern room. Inside, a spiral iron staircase winds its way to the top, where the light system continues to guide ships arriving at Batumi Sea Port.

Originally, the light source relied on oil, kerosene, and coal, but with technological advancements, it was later fitted with an electric flashing system. Today, its beam is visible from up to 14 nautical miles, offering a vital signal along this bustling stretch of the Black Sea coast.

Managed by the State Hydrographic Service of Georgia, the lighthouse remains fully operational. As a protected cultural heritage monument, it also attracts many visitors drawn to its historic charm and architectural elegance—an enduring symbol of Batumi’s maritime spirit.

Location	Batumi, Georgia
Coordinates	41.65587, 41.64099
Height	22 m
Altitude	24 m
Established in	1883

Poti Lighthouse (ფოთის შუქურა)

Poti, Samegrelo - Zemo Svaneti/Georgia



© State Hydrographic service of Georgia

One of the oldest and most iconic lighthouses on Georgia’s Black Sea coast, the Poti Lighthouse was constructed in 1862 by the renowned British engineering company Easton Amos and Sons. After being transported from London to Georgia, the cast iron structure was assembled at the confluence of the Rioni River and the Black Sea, a process that took around six months under the supervision of English engineers.

The lighthouse became operational on November 1, 1864, initially using oil, kerosene, and coal as sources of light. In time, it was electrified and fitted with a Fresnel lens system, significantly enhancing its range and reliability. Today, the fully automated lighthouse emits a powerful light visible from up to 16 nautical miles.

The red-and-white striped tower, made of cast iron and featuring a spiral staircase with 160 steps, remains in excellent condition. It is currently managed by the State Hydrographic Service of Georgia, a member of both the International Hydrographic Organization and the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities.

Still active in guiding vessels to Poti Sea Port, the lighthouse is also a popular cultural and touristic attraction. Recognized as a monument of cultural heritage, it draws countless visitors each year—including pharologists, enthusiasts dedicated to the study and exploration of lighthouses.

Location	Poti, Georgia
Coordinates	42.133167, 41.661167
Height	36.6 m
Altitude	39.9 m
Established in	1862



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ROMANIA

Romania's Black Sea coastline stretches for about 245 kilometers, forming the country's eastern boundary and providing a vital connection to maritime trade, tourism, and ecological diversity. This stretch of coast offers a rich variety of landscapes—from the wide sandy beaches and resorts of Mamaia and Eforie, to the dramatic cliffs near Constanța, Romania's main port city and maritime hub.

At the northern end of the coastline lies the Danube Delta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Europe's most biodiverse regions. This vast wetland network of channels, lakes, and reed beds plays a crucial role in bird migration and supports numerous endangered species such as., the Dalmatian pelican, pygmy cormorant, and European mink.

Romania's lighthouses, many dating back to the 19th and early 20th centuries, were built to guide ships through the complex geography of the Danube Delta mouth, the port of Constanța, and the southern approaches near the Bulgarian border. These coastal lights are not only essential aids to navigation but also silent witnesses to Romania's maritime history, trade, and technological advancement over the past centuries.

The Genoese Lighthouse (Farul Genovez)Constanța County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

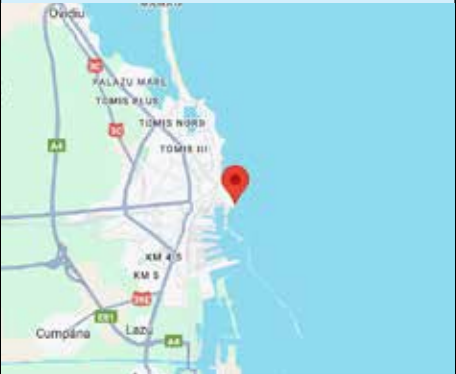
This Genoese Lighthouse has been declared to be a great touristic objective, as it is an architectural monument, although it can be observed only from outside. The lighthouse stands as a symbol of the city’s maritime legacy and the evolution of lighthouse design on the Black Sea coast.

The current structure was built between 1858 and 1860 by French-Armenian engineer Artin Aslan, commissioned by the English company “Danube and Black Sea Railway Co. Limited.” The original foundation of the Genoese lighthouse, as the name suggests, was built around 1300 to guide ships within a 2-mile radius towards the small port of Constance.

The lighthouse remained operational until 1913, when its role was taken over by the more modern King Carol I Lighthouse. Architecturally, it rises to about 8 meters in height, with a unique design: the lower part of the tower is parallelepipedal up to 3.5 meters, then transitions into an octagonal shape. At the base lies a plinth of two stone steps, followed by a cylindrical interior space and a spiral stone staircase leading to the top. The lantern, protected by a metal casing, is supported by a cornice with sculpted brackets.

After over a century of silence, the Genoese Lighthouse was brought back to life in February 2020. A new lighting system was installed, carefully calibrated so as not to interfere with modern maritime traffic—restoring both function and symbolism to this historic beacon after 107 years.

Today, located near the iconic Constanța Casino, the Genoese Lighthouse continues to enchant visitors with its historical charm and coastal elegance.

Location	Constanța City, Constanța County, Romania
Coordinates	44.172124, 28.664632
	
Height	8 m
Altitude	6 m
Established in	1860

King Carol I Lighthouse (Farul Regele Carol I)Constanța County/Romania



© Teaca Adrian

The old Carol I lighthouse is located within the port of Constanța. Inaugurated on September 27, 1909, by King Carol I himself, this stone tower lighthouse rose to prominence as Constanța began its journey toward becoming a major Black Sea port. Constanța was modernizing and needed new symbols, and the Carol I Lighthouse was definitely one of them. The lighthouse was officially commissioned in 1913, replacing the older Genovese Lighthouse, whose beam had guided ships since the mid-19th century.

Positioned at 21.75 meters above sea level, it offered vital visibility over the increasingly busy harbor, overseeing more than 140 hectares of port platforms, 36 commercial berths, 3 military berths, 4 defense dykes, huge oil tanks and grain silos.

Architecturally, the King Carol I Lighthouse carries both functionality and symbolic richness. It features a bas-relief of King Carol I, commemorating the monarch’s role in opening the modernized port, along with a plaque reading “Portul Constanța (Constanța Port)”. These elements reflect a period when Romania sought to affirm its national identity and economic growth through infrastructure and innovation.

The lighthouse remained operational until 1961, when it was succeeded by newer facilities, including the Landing Lighthouse (1960) and the White Lighthouse at the end of the extended pier (1972). Though no longer active, the King Carol I Lighthouse remains a cherished historical landmark within the port—marking both a literal and symbolic light in Romania’s maritime heritage.

Location	Constanța City, Constanța County, Romania
Coordinates	44.15800690, 28.65712793
	
Height	22 m
Altitude	1 m
Established in	1909

The Constanța Landing Lighthouse
(Farul De Aterizare Constanța)

Constanța County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

A towering presence on the Romanian coast, the Landing Lighthouse of Constanța is not only a key navigational aid but also a technological landmark. Completed in 1958 and put into operation in 1960, this lighthouse marked a significant step forward in maritime safety and modernization during the Cold War era.

At 58 meters tall, with a light height of 87 meters above sea level, it is one of the tallest structures of its kind along the Black Sea. Its white concrete pyramidal tower is topped with a distinctive inverted blue pyramid dome, giving it a futuristic appearance that contrasts with older, classical lighthouses. Surrounding the structure, a small park now offers visitors a pleasant viewpoint to admire this unique coastal monument.

Functionally, the Landing Lighthouse is also Romania’s only radiophare—one of only four along the entire Black Sea. It transmits a Morse code radio signal, assisting ships through radiogoniometry, a method of navigation that allows vessels to determine their bearing relative to the lighthouse even in poor visibility conditions.

Its flashing white light emits in a two-blink sequence every 29.8 seconds, with a range of 24 nautical miles, ensuring that ships approaching the busy Port of Constanța can safely find their way. Over the decades, the lighthouse has undergone necessary modernization, and today it remains not only a critical piece of navigation infrastructure but also an iconic symbol of Constanța’s maritime identity.

Location	Constanța City, Constanța County, Romania
Coordinates	44.1581561, 28.6304003
Height	58 m
Altitude	28 m
Established in	1960

The White Lighthouse (Farul Alb)

Constanța County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

Location	Constanța City, Constanța County, Romania
Coordinates	44.14348366, 28.67281647
Height	18 m
Altitude	1 m
Established in	1972

The White Lighthouse of Constanța, named for its enduring ash-white façade, has guarded the northeast breakwater of Constanța Port since 1972. Built from sturdy granite and capped with a sleek white dome, this 18-metre tower remains fully operational. Its beam, still trusted for navigation, is complemented by a nautophone that signals the Morse code letter “C” during low visibility—a nod to its enduring role in maritime safety.

The White Lighthouse partners with two smaller lights —the N-E Green Entry Light and the S Entry Light—to shepherd vessels safely through the port entrance. Though not as tall as some of its historical predecessors, its construction coincided with an era of substantial port expansion and modernization, reinforcing Constanța’s status as Romania’s premier maritime gateway.



N-E Green Entry Light



S Red Entry Light

like many lighthouses of its era, it’s carved from granite rather than concrete, lending it exceptional resilience against the Black Sea’s harsh winds and waves. Occasionally visible from the harbor promenade on clear days, the lighthouse also contributes to Constanța’s cultural seascape.

Though access is restricted—sitting on secured port territory—it remains an unmistakable landmark for sailors. Technically modernized in recent decades, it now features remote-control operation and automated systems that ensure reliable performance in all weather conditions.

European Commision Sulina Old Lighthouse Museum
(Farul Comisiei Europene A Dunarii De La Sulina)

Sulina, Tulcea County/Romania



© Teaca Adrian

The European Commission Lighthouse of the Danube, also known as the Old Lighthouse or Observatory Lighthouse, is a historical monument located on Strada II in Sulina, Romania. Originally near the Danube's mouth, it now stands about 1.5 km from the shore due to land expansion. Built of brick and lime mortar, the truncated lighthouse is 17.34 m high and features a spiral metal staircase lit by three windows.

Atop the lighthouse is a platform surrounded by metal railing, with a cylindrical copper-dome watchtower. It originally emitted a steady white light visible up to 15 nautical miles, using oil lamps until electric lighting was introduced in 1910-1911. Constructed by the Russian administration in 1841, it guided ships entering the Sulina branch of the Danube and was later managed by the European Danube Commission starting in 1879. The lighthouse was retired in 1986 and has served as a museum since 2003 under the Ministry of Culture.

As a significant navigation aid and observatory for the Romanian Navy, the Sulina Old Lighthouse is now a protected historical site open to visitors. It offers panoramic views of the Black Sea coast and the Danube Delta, making it a popular tourist destination and cultural center, hosting various exhibitions and events. Overall, the lighthouse is an important symbol of Romania's maritime heritage and history.

Location	Sulina Town, Tulcea County, Romania
Coordinates	45.15537497, 29.66263809
Height	17 m
Altitude	4 m
Established in	1841

New Sulina Lighthouse (Farul Nou Sulina)

Sulina, Tulcea County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

Marking the easternmost edge of Romania, the New Sulina Lighthouse stands tall at the mouth of the Sulina Canal, where the Danube River meets the Black Sea.

As the Sulina Canal underwent significant extension works in the early 20th century, the older lighthouses in the area were decommissioned.

Completed in 1983 and designed by Romanian architect Ileana Luscov, the lighthouse became operational under the management of the Maritime Hydrographic Directorate in 1996. Built from reinforced white concrete, the lighthouse features a slender tower topped with a dome, reaching a total height of 48 meters. The light source itself is positioned at 48 meters above sea level, making it one of the tallest Romanian lighthouses. Its white light flashes in a group of three every 16.2 seconds, covering a sector of 240° (from 165° to 045°), and is visible from up to 19 nautical miles offshore.

The Sulina lighthouse is intended to help ships sailing at night to orient themselves to the entrance to the Sulina channel, for this reason it is generically called "landing". The tower is also equipped with an active radar reflector, enhancing its utility in low-visibility conditions and reaffirming its status as a key component of Romania's coastal safety infrastructure.

Location	Sulina Town, Tulcea County, Romania
Coordinates	45.14808274, 29.75902662
Height	48 m
Altitude	1 m
Established in	1983

The Genoese Lighthouse Of Mangalia
(Farul Genovez Din Mangalia)

Mangalia, Constanța County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

The Genoese Lighthouse of Mangalia is a cultural monument with deep historical roots, believed to have been originally built in the 14th century by Genoese merchants active along the Black Sea coast. Though the original lighthouse no longer survives—likely lost to coastal erosion and sea encroachment—its significance was preserved in local memory and historical references. In 1958, to modernize Mangalia’s port infrastructure, a new lighthouse was constructed, primarily for Romanian military use. However, after just six years, it was decommissioned and has since remained a symbolic structure representing the city’s maritime heritage.

The current tower is a modest, cylindrical structure made of stone and brick, noted for its clean architectural lines and sturdy build. While no longer functional as a navigational aid, it remains an iconic viewpoint in Mangalia, offering sweeping vistas of the harbor and coastline. In 2018, the lighthouse underwent a light modernization process, improving access and appearance without altering its historic character.

Today, the Genoese Lighthouse is one of Mangalia’s most popular touristic attractions. Entry is free, the climb is short and easy, and the tower provides an excellent setting for those interested in local history, architecture, and seafaring lore. Though no longer guiding ships, it continues to illuminate the cultural identity of the town.

Location	Mangalia Town, Constanța County, Romania
Coordinates	43.803562819, 28.589147135
Height	8 m
Altitude	2 m
Established in	1952

v(Farul De Aterizare Tuzla)

Tuzla, Constanța County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

The Tuzla Landing Lighthouse is the oldest operational lighthouse on Romania’s Black Sea coast, first lit in 1900 using oil lamps. Over the decades, it has undergone multiple upgrades—in 1926, 1946, 1957, and 1972—and was electrified in 1958. Built at a time when coastal navigation was growing in importance, the lighthouse is considered a remarkable example of early Romanian engineering. Among the experts involved in its construction were notable Romanian engineers Anghel Saligny and Gheorghe Pănculescu.

The lighthouse tower stands 44 meters high, with a light elevation of 62 meters above sea level, and emits a white light with two flashes every 9.7 seconds, visible from up to 20 nautical miles. An auxiliary red beacon is mounted on the lighthouse at 57 m, providing a fixed red light visible up to 6 nautical miles. This secondary light serves as a warning to ships navigating shallow and hazardous waters near Tuzla. Additionally, the lighthouse is equipped with a fog signal (autophone) that emits the Morse code letter "U", further aiding maritime safety in low-visibility conditions.

The Tuzla Lighthouse is not open to the public and can only be accessed on foot due to poor road conditions. However, a detailed scale model of the lighthouse can be viewed at the National Museum of the Romanian Navy in Constanța.

Location	Tuzla Commune, Constanța County, Romania
Coordinates	43.9908256071, 8.6663618164
Height	44 m
Altitude	18 m
Established in	1900

Sfantul Gheorghe Lighthouse (Farul Sf. Gheorghe)



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

Sf. Gheorghe, Tulcea County/Romania



© Pavel Ana-Bianca

Commonly known as the French Lighthouse, this historical beacon was originally built by French engineers in 1866, during the reign of Ottoman Sultan Abdul Mejid (1823–1861). It stands as one of the earliest modern navigational aids along Romania’s coast, blending both historical significance and continued functionality.

In 1968, the current Sfântu Gheorghe landing beacon became operational. Its unique metal tower features a design composed of two slightly twisted triangular prisms, with surfaces alternating between stainless steel and polycarbonate panels—a rare architectural form among lighthouses.

The lighthouse emits a white light with two flashes every 7.2 seconds, visible from up to 19 nautical miles. The light elevation is 50 meters above sea level, and the structure itself stands 48 meters tall. Historically, the light was powered by kerosene and operated using a mechanical winding system, before being electrified. Today, it shines brightly using halogen bulbs and plastic reflectors, dramatically improving visibility.

The surrounding land has since been leased to private operators, with plans to develop a restaurant and tea garden, aiming to open the site to the public while preserving its maritime legacy.

Location	Sfântul Gheorghe Town, Tulcea County, Romania
Coordinates	44.899153666, 29.6003581181
Height	48 m
Altitude	2 m
Established in	1968



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TÜRKİYE

Straddling both Europe and Asia, Türkiye is a country defined by its unique geography and deep maritime heritage. Its shores stretch for more than 8,000 kilometres, touching four distinct seas; Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Marmara Sea and Black Sea being on the north.

The Turkish coast of the Black Sea alone extends over 1,700 kilometres, curving from the Thracian border in the west to the highlands of Artvin in the east. It is a rugged and green shoreline, marked by steep cliffs, small fishing harbours, and fertile river deltas. Storms can sweep in suddenly, making navigation challenging for mariners—conditions that have long underscored the importance of reliable coastal lights.

From ancient watchtowers to modern beacons, lighthouses have played a vital role in Türkiye's maritime safety. Many were built during the Ottoman era with the help of foreign engineers, while others date from the early years of the Republic. Today, these structures remain both functional navigational aids and cultural landmarks, standing as silent witnesses to centuries of seafaring along one of the world's most diverse coastlines.

Limanköy Lighthouse (Limanköy Feneri)



©Asaf Ertan

İğneada, Kırklareli/Türkiye



©Asaf Ertan

Built by the French engineers in 1866 during the reign of Sultan Abdul Mejid (1823–1861), İğneada’s lighthouse soon became known locally as the “French Lighthouse.” Its light guided ships for decades until 1903, when political unrest swept the region. Rebel attacks left many settlements in İğneada in flames, and as gendarmerie forces withdrew, the lighthouse keepers fled. That summer, reports told of the lighthouse destroyed by an explosion and its keepers’ house burned to the ground.

Reconstruction was approved later that year, with work beginning in November 1904 under military protection. By December, the light shone again, now with a range of 20 nautical miles. Remote and isolated, the lighthouse became more than just a workplace for its keepers—several of their children were born within sight of its tower, making it a true home on the edge of the sea.

Location	İğneada, Kırklareli Province, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.884723 / 28.056309
Height	8 m
Altitude	44 m
Established in	1866

Rumeli Lighthouse (Rumeli Feneri)



©TUDAV

Rumeli Feneri, İstanbul/Türkiye



©TUDAV

Legends say towers once lined the Black Sea coast, their night fires guiding sailors. A 12th-century geographer mentioned a beacon at the entrance to the Istanbul Strait, and travelers from the 16th–18th centuries described an octagonal tower with a lantern and staff. Damaged by a cannonball in 1808, the lighthouse was restored and stands opposite Anadolu Lighthouse, so ships entering the strait see guiding lights on both shores.

In 1854, two warships wrecked after mistaking a light on the mountains for a beacon. Due to the frequent fog in the region and the deceptive fires lit to mislead ships, it was decided that the both of the lighthouses should emit different light so that they could be seen and distinguished from at least 30 miles away. Since there were more foul fires burned, it was decided that Rumeli Lighthouse would have a flashing light. The European-made flashing light was installed in 1856, by a specialist sent to train local keepers.

Location	Rumelifeneri, İstanbul, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.2352778 / 29.1125
Height	30 m
Altitude	58 m
Established in	1830

The white, ten-level stone tower contains storage, machinery rooms, and the tomb of Sarı Saltuk, a 13th-century dervish venerated as a saint. A fountain in his name stands outside. Local lore claims the tower repeatedly collapsed during construction until the tomb was built first, ensuring the structure’s stability.

Şile Lighthouse (Şile Feneri)



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Şile, İstanbul/Türkiye



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The Şile Lighthouse was initiated in 1856 under Marius Michel, Director of the Lighthouses Authority, who prioritized its construction after surveying the coast with British Captain Esperan and Surveyor Garbeyron. Captain Esperan’s reports recommended two lighthouses for the northwestern Black Sea, one of them at Şile. Construction began in 1857, and the lighthouse entered service in 1859, becoming the first built by the authority on the Anatolian Black Sea coast.

Painted in white and red horizontal stripes for maximum visibility, it originally used wick-based kerosene lamps, switching to 1000W electric lamps in 1968. Beneath the keeper’s house is a cistern designed for gas storage, unique among Türkiye’s lighthouses. Its beam reaches 20 nautical miles.

Today, it houses a small museum with historical lamps, tools, and maritime artifacts. To mark its 150th anniversary, universities, local authorities, and artists created projects including draping the lighthouse and its path in locally woven Şile cloth and issuing a commemorative postal stamp. In 2013, the Turkish State Mint included it in a series of eight lighthouses.

Location	Şile, İstanbul Province, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.177754 / 29.616217
Height	60 m
Altitude	19 m
Established in	1859



Ölüce Lighthouse (Ölüce Feneri)



©Municipality of Karadeniz Ereğlisi

Ölüce, Zonguldak/Türkiye

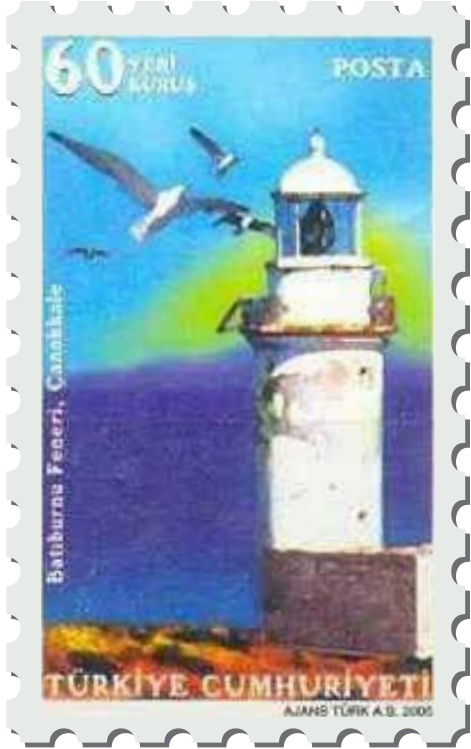


©Municipality of Karadeniz Ereğlisi

Built in 1863 by a French company on the order of the Ottoman Empire, the Ölüce Lighthouse is a white masonry tower accompanied by a keeper's house roofed with Marseille tiles. It underwent renovations in 1910 and 1961, and today its light reaches 15 nautical miles. Hidden within dense forest overlooking the Black Sea, it can only be reached on foot along narrow woodland paths.

Nearby are the remains of another lighthouse tower, believed to date back to ancient times. According to legend, its beam once aligned with Polaris, misleading sailors at night. This confusion is said to have inspired the construction of other lighthouses in the region, including the still-operational Ölüce Lighthouse.

Location	Balı, Zonguldak Province, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.313378 / 31.399576
Height	9 m
Altitude	78 m
Established in	1863



Zonguldak Lighthouse (Zonguldak Feneri)



©TUDAV

Zonguldak/Türkiye

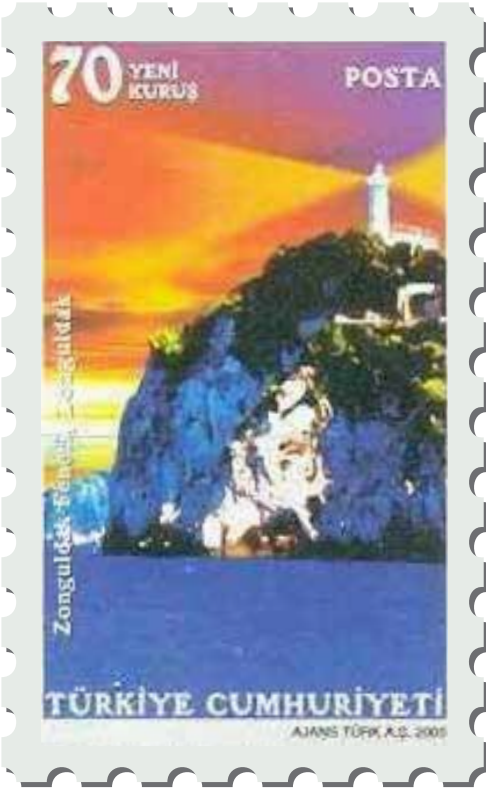


©TUDAV

Rising above Zonguldak’s coastline, this white masonry lighthouse was built by a French company in 1907 and entered service in 1908, following requests from foreign embassies concerned about the growing port’s navigational safety. The single-storey keeper’s house, topped with Marseille tiles, connects to the tower via a narrow corridor and spiral staircase. A hidden secondary stairwell winds its way up to an intriguing pendulum mechanism, where it once powered the brilliant light that guided sailors safely home. Once gas-lit, it has run on electricity since the 1980s, with a light visible for 20 nautical miles.

The lighthouse gave its name to the surrounding district, Fener, derived from the Turkish word for “lighthouse.” Since 2012, a small restaurant has welcomed visitors beneath its shade, offering sweeping sea views. In 2004, it was featured in the Turkish Postal Service’s “Lighthouse Postal Stamps” series.

Location	Yayla, Zonguldak, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.464664 / 31.787582
Height	9 m
Altitude	53 m
Established in	1908



Amasra Lighthouse (Amasra Feneri)



©TUDAV

Amasra, Bartın/Türkiye



©TUDAV

Perched on Boztepe Island in Amasra, this white tower was built in 1863 as part of the Ottoman Empire’s 1860 Concession plan for new lighthouses. The island, now linked to the mainland, holds both the tower and a modest keeper’s house, just 3 meters tall, with views across the Black Sea. Originally lit by gas, the lighthouse switched to electricity in the 1980s, guiding ships for 20 nautical miles.

Today, the tradition continues—its current keeper is the fourth generation of the same family to tend its light, living in the adjoining house much as his ancestors did.

Location	Kaleiçi, Bartın, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.752808 / 32.383092
Height	4 m
Altitude	77 m
Established in	1863

Kerempe Lighthouse (Kerempe Feneri)



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Kerempe, Kastamonu/Türkiye



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Construction of the Kerempe Lighthouse began in 1884, and it entered service on 1 May 1885. The white tower, with a visibility range of 20 nautical miles, stands alongside a four-room keeper's house positioned just behind it. Today, the keeper—inherited the role from his family—resides in a separate nearby home.

During the Turkish War of Independence, many lighthouses along the Black Sea coast, including Kerempe, were extinguished. It later found a place in *The Epic of the War of Independence* (a book written by Nazım Hikmet), where it is depicted guiding ammunition ships through stormy Black Sea.

In 2004, the Turkish Postal Service issued a stamp featuring the Kerempe Lighthouse as part of its “Lighthouse Stamps” series.

Location	Aydıncık, Kastamonu, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	42.016545 / 33.338313
Height	8 m
Altitude	82 m
Established in	1884



İnceburun Lighthouse (İnceburun Feneri)



©TUDAV

İnceburun, Sinop/Türkiye



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At Türkiye’s northernmost point, İnceburun Lighthouse stands atop the cliffs of the “Thin Cape (İnce Burun in Turkish)” beside its keeper’s house. Planned under the Ottoman Empire’s 1860 Concession, it entered service on 15 August 1863 as one of eight new lighthouses along the Black Sea coast. Its range, once recorded as 13 miles in 1878 and 14 miles in 1925, now reaches 18 nautical miles.

Maintained for many years by the French, the lighthouse is now cared for by the fifth generation of the same family.

The İnceburun Lighthouse was included in the 2013 Lighthouse Series issued by the Turkish State Mint, featuring eight significant Turkish lighthouses.



Location	Abalı, Sinop, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	43.99082560, 28.66636181
Height	8 m
Altitude	26 m
Established in	1863

Yoroz Lighthouse (Yoroz Feneri, Işıklar Feneri)



©TUDAV

Trabzon/Türkiye



©TUDAV

Built by the French and inaugurated on 15 September 1886 for the Ottoman Empire, Yoroz Lighthouse stands 30 m above sea level with a current range of 18 nautical miles. It was briefly out of service between 1916 and 1918 before being repaired by a team sent by the government. Originally powered by acetylene, it switched to kerosene in 1926 and to electricity in 2000.

The lighthouse gave its name to the surrounding district, Fenerköy, meaning “Light Village.” Since 1927, it has been maintained by the Bozoklu family, spanning four generations: the current keeper’s great-grandfather, grandfather, and father each served before him, marking 135 years of family dedication. The family lived in the keeper’s house below the tower until 2000, when modernisation led them to move to a house on the hill above.

Location	Fenerköy, Trabzon, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.106567 / 39.419024
Height	8 m
Altitude	25 m
Established in	1886

Penerit Lighthouse (Penerit Feneri)



©TUDAV

Hopa, Artvin/Türkiye



©TUDAV

Set against a green hillside, Hopa Lighthouse has guided vessels since 1935, representing the early years of the modern Turkish Republic. It is the last lighthouse on Türkiye’s Black Sea coast before the Georgian border, with a range of 10 nautical miles.

In 2007, the construction of the Black Sea Coastal Road cut it off from the shoreline. Before then, the sea reached the base of the lighthouse, and locals were swimming directly in front of it.

Known locally as Penerit, the lighthouse was among those leased to the private sector in 2005 by the Directorate General of Coastal Safety as part of a programme to make such sites more accessible to the public.

Location	Çamlı, Artvin, TÜRKİYE
Coordinates	41.372462 / 41.343936
Height	12 m
Altitude	23 m
Established in	1935



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UKRAINE

Ukraine's southern frontier is defined by the shores of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, stretching over 2,700 kilometres. This coastline has long been a crossroads of cultures, trade routes, and naval history, linking Eastern Europe to the wider world through vital maritime corridors. The Black Sea connects Ukraine to the Mediterranean via the Istanbul Strait (Bosphorus), while the shallow, warmer waters of the Sea of Azov provide important fishing grounds and access to inland waterways.

The Ukrainian coast is diverse—ranging from sandy beaches and low steppe shores to rocky capes and wide river estuaries. Major ports such as Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson have been central to the country's economy, while smaller harbours and fishing villages continue age-old traditions tied to the sea. Weather along the coast can change rapidly, with fog, storms, and shifting currents posing hazards to navigation.

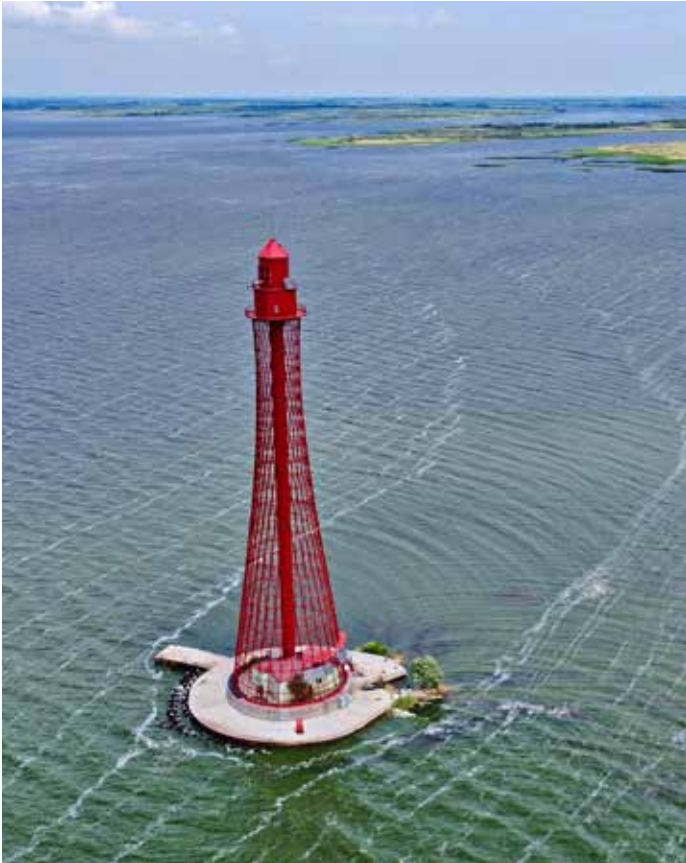
Lighthouses have been indispensable to Ukraine's maritime life for centuries, guiding ships safely through the Black Sea's busy shipping lanes and into its river mouths. Some of these beacons date back to the Russian Empire, while others were constructed in the Soviet period, each bearing the marks of its time. Together, they remain enduring sentinels of the Ukrainian shore, preserving both a practical function and a cultural heritage deeply rooted in the nation's seafaring past.

Stanislav-Aazhyhol Rear Lighthouse (СТАНІСЛАВ - АДЖИГОЛЬСЬКИЙ ЗАДНІЙ)



By V1snyk - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Kherson Oblast/Ukraine



By Oleksandr Malyon - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The Adzhigol Rear Lighthouse, or Stanislav-Adzhigolsky Lighthouse, is Ukraine’s tallest at 64 meters and among the top twenty tallest traditional lighthouses in the world.

Designed and built in 1911 by visionary engineer Volodymyr Shukhov, it stands on an artificial islet in the Dnieper-Bug Estuary. Its hyperboloid steel frame—a hallmark of Shukhov’s pioneering design—combines strength and lightness, allowing for a soaring yet efficient structure.

Inside, a central column contains a spiral staircase and service rooms, leading to a lantern visible from 19 nautical miles. It works in tandem with smaller twin, the 34-meter Adzhigol Front Lighthouse, 6.5 km away, to guide vessels through the estuary’s complex, shallow channels.

Once a restricted site, it opened to visitors in 2020, offering sweeping views of the Kinburn Spit and surrounding waters. In July 2022, the lighthouse was damaged by missile strikes, yet its towering frame endures as a rare example of industrial architecture and maritime heritage.

Location	Rybal'che, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.492372, 32.232597
Height	64 m
Altitude	3 m
Established in	1911

Vorontsov Lighthouse (ВОРОНЦОВСЬКИЙ МАЯК)



By Nata Naval - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Odesa/Ukraine



By Oleksandr Malyon - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Vorontsov Lighthouse stands at the entrance to the port of Odesa, guiding vessels safely into the harbour. The current structure, built in 1955 and assembled from cast iron tubing made in Kronstadt, rises 27 metres above sea level. Its electric lantern emits a powerful red flash every 12 seconds, visible from 17 nautical miles. The lighthouse also transmits sound signals in poor weather using Morse code.

Odesa’s beacon history dates back to the late 18th century, when the Turks built the first stone lighthouse near the Yeni-Dunya fortress. Later, a major lighthouse was erected in 1827 at Bolshoi Fontan, thanks to an engineer J.V. Gayuy. However, the growing port needed a more prominent marker at the harbour mouth. This led to a series of lighthouses on the Quarantine and Reid piers—each named after Prince M.S. Vorontsov, one of the governors-general of the Odesa region.

The current lighthouse is the third to bear that name. The first, built in 1863 using cast iron tubing, was relocated to Crimea in 1898. The second, built in 1888, served until WWII, when it was destroyed to prevent its use by enemy forces. Rebuilt after the war, today's Vorontsov Lighthouse remains a symbol of resilience and Odesa’s maritime legacy.

Location	Odesa, Odesa Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.496556, 30.760056
Height	26 m
Altitude	1 m
Established in	1845

Tarkhankut Lighthouse (ТАРХАНКУТСЬКИЙ МАЯК)Crimea/Ukraine



By Vadim Indeikin, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Tarkhankut Lighthouse, built in 1816, stands on the westernmost tip of Crimea, on Cape Tarkhankut near the village of Olenivka. Constructed from white Inkerman limestone transported by sea and land, the 38-metre tower was designed to improve safety along this treacherous stretch of coastline. It began operation in 1817 and has remained active ever since.

The original tower had a wooden lantern and housed personnel in small nearby buildings, which offered little protection from the harsh winters. Over time, the lighthouse underwent several upgrades: improved lighting in 1862, a telegraph station in 1876, and the first Black Sea fog siren in 1883. A bell was later added to signal ships before the siren was ready. In the 20th century, the lighthouse adopted kerosene lighting, radio beacons, and wind-powered electricity. Its current optical system, installed in 1959, is still in use.

Today, the Tarkhankut Lighthouse continues to function, though it is in need of repair. Visitors can follow the keeper’s route up a spiral staircase to an observation deck with sweeping views of the Black Sea’s rugged cliffs. With a white light visible from 17 nautical miles, it remains a vital and iconic part of Crimea’s maritime heritage.

Location	Olenivka village, Crimea, Ukraine
Coordinates	45.346944, 32.494167
Height	33 m
Altitude	3 m
Established in	1816

Khablivskyi Rear Lighthouse (МАЯК ХАБЛОВСЬКИЙ ЗАДНІЙ)Olexandrivka, Bilozerka Raion, Kherson/Ukraine



By Дмитро Коваль - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The Khablivskyi Rear Lighthouse stands unusually far from water—about 6 km inland—on the border of Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, between Luparevo and Oleksandrivka. Built on the area’s highest point, 58 meters above sea level, its light is visible up to 37 km. Together with the Luparevo and Middle Khablivskyi lighthouses, it forms a navigational line guiding vessels safely into the Southern Bug estuary.

The lighthouse was originally built in 1902 to aid ships navigating the winding, shallow canal connecting the Dnipro Estuary with the ports of Kherson and Mykolaiv. The complex waterway required more than one lighthouse to prevent accidents. The original structure was destroyed during World War II, and the current black tower with a white stripe was built in 1952. It stands 11 meters tall.

Aside from its inland location, the Khablivskyi Lighthouse is also known for its strange acoustic feature—when the wind is strong, the tower produces eerie, musical tones, often compared to throat singing. This oddity has made it a small tourist attraction.

In 2022, the lighthouse was severely damaged during Russian military strikes amid the ongoing war.

Location	Between of Luparevo and Oleksandrivka, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.671367, 32.029937
Height	24 m
Altitude	34 m
Established in	1866

Dzharilgatsky Lighthouse (ДЖАРИЛГАЦЬКИЙ МАЯК)



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Dzharylgach Island, Kherson Oblast/Ukraine



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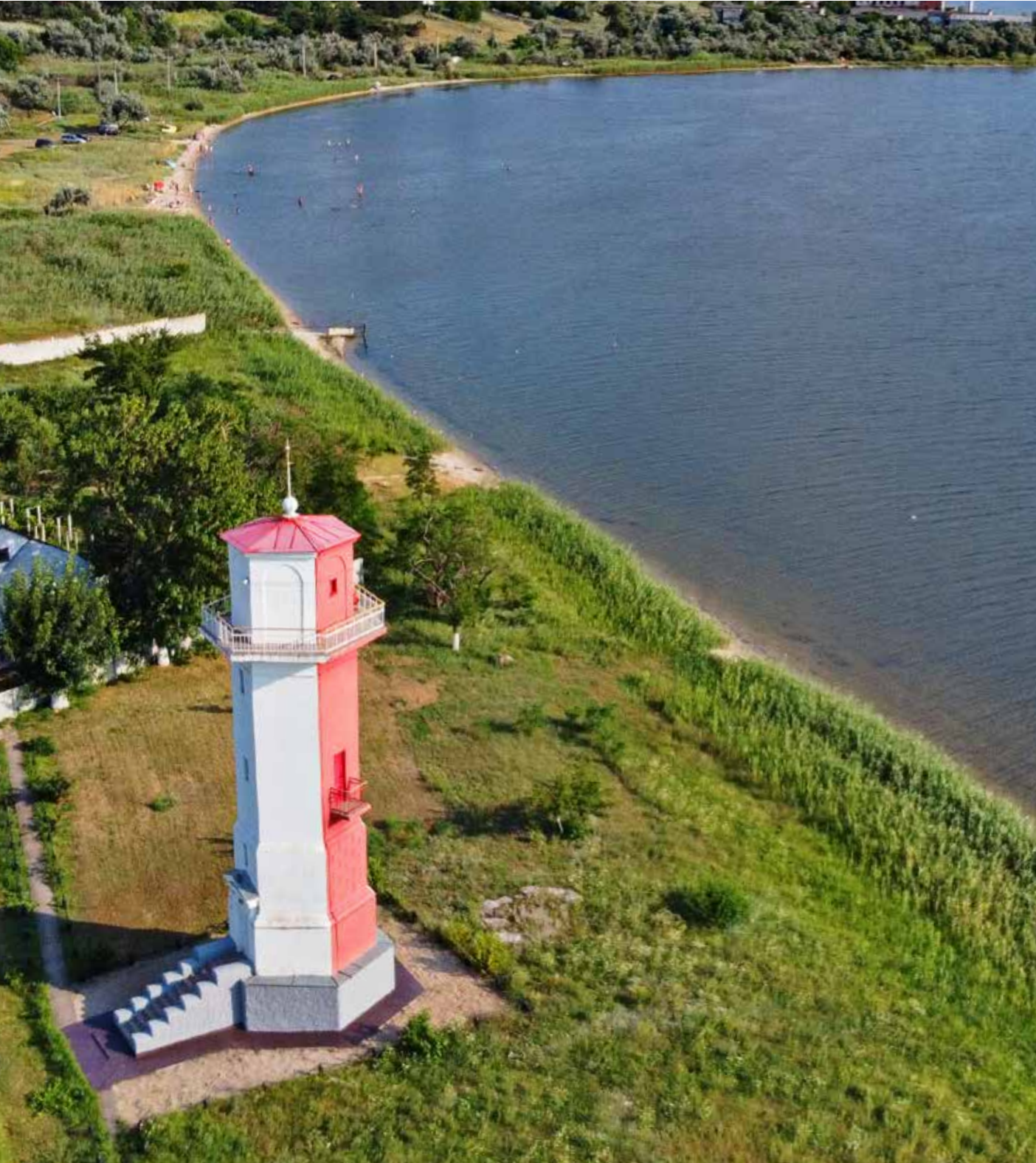
Located on the eastern tip of Dzharylhach Island in Ukraine’s Kherson Region, the Dzharylhach Lighthouse is a striking lattice iron tower built in 1902. Designed by a student of Gustave Eiffel, or Eiffel himself, and shipped from Paris, the lighthouse remains one of the Black Sea’s most iconic beacons. Standing 24.4 meters tall, its original Fresnel lens projected a powerful beam visible up to 14.8 nautical miles. The structure’s elegant, skeletal frame and cultural significance have earned it monument status.

The lighthouse replaced an older beacon and was part of a strategic expansion to aid maritime navigation in the region. Its remote setting—on Ukraine’s largest Black Sea island, known for its flat terrain and lagoons—adds to its mystique. Over the years, it survived storms, housed telegraph and weather stations, and was manned by generations of lighthouse keepers.

Though decommissioned in 2005 and now threatened by coastal erosion, the tower remains standing and accessible to visitors. In 1997, a new lighthouse was built just 50 meters away to continue its legacy. The Dzharylhach Lighthouse also lives on in literature, having inspired writers like Boris Zhitkov and David Burliuk. It endures as both a relic of maritime history and a symbol of Ukraine’s coastal heritage.

Location	Dzharylgach Island, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.013192, 33.063880
Height	24,4 m
Altitude	0 m
Established in	1902

Sivers Lighthouse (МАЯК СІВЕРСІВ ПЕРЕДНІЙ)



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Mykolaiv, Mykolaiv Oblast/Ukraine



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Due to the complex fairways and numerous shallows in the Dnieper-Bug estuary, the approaches to Mykolaiv Seaport are among the most challenging in the Black Sea. As a result, the region is marked by several lighthouses, including the Sivers Front and Rear lights near Shyroka Balka, guiding ships through the 11th and 12th sections of the Buzko-Dniprovskiy Estuary Canal with steady red lights.

Originally military installations under the Soviet Black Sea Fleet, the lighthouses became civilian assets in 1994, now managed by Ukraine’s State Hydrography under the Ministry of Transport. The Sivers lighthouses are named after Siversova Spit, once known as Pavlova Spit, renamed after a 19th-century naval settler. The first structures appeared in 1866 as wooden towers. In 1886, the front lighthouse was rebuilt in stone; the rear followed soon after. Both towers were white, with the rear one placed on higher ground for visibility.

The current rear tower, modernized in 1975, stands 10 meters tall, with its light visible for 16 miles. It is painted white with a red top and located among residential buildings. The front tower, rebuilt in 1967, is 18 meters tall and hexagonal, with red faces and a white vertical stripe visible from the channel. Its light reaches 15 miles. Both lighthouses remain accessible in the Mykolaiv area.

Location	Mykolaiv, Mykolaiv Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.894000, 32.011194
Height	16 m
Altitude	2 m
Established in	1866

Genichesk (Henichesk) Lighthouse (ГЕНІЧЕСЬКИЙ МАЯК)



By Oleksandr Malyon - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Kherson Oblast/Ukraine



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Located near the Arabat Spit in the Kherson region, the Genichesk Lighthouse is one of Ukraine's few lighthouses open to tourists. Built on the shore of the Utlyutsky Estuary of the Sea of Azov, it remains an important historical and navigational landmark.

Construction began in 1874 with the involvement of French specialists and was completed in 1879. However, due to the Russo-Turkish War, it operated only as a navigation mark until its light was finally activated in 1883. Its beam helped ships avoid the shoals near Byrucha Spit and guided them into the Genichesk Approach Channel, completed in 1900.

The lighthouse was heavily damaged during World War II and restored in 1944. Further renovations followed in 1961. A flashing white light was added in 1977, and a radio beacon in 1990.

Architecturally, it features a square stone tower attached to a two-story keeper's house. The 18-meter tower stands on high ground, giving the light a focal height of 25.4 meters above sea level. It emits a white flash every 5 seconds, with a fixed red light beneath. Painted white with a black vertical stripe, it remains a symbol of the region's maritime past and a scenic attraction for visitors today.

Location	Genichesk, Kherson Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.182298, 34.821161
Height	18 m
Altitude	1 m
Established in	1879

Sanji Lighthouse

(САНЖІЙСЬКИЙ МАЯК)

Sanzhiika, Ovidiopol's'kyi district, Odessa Oblast/Ukraine

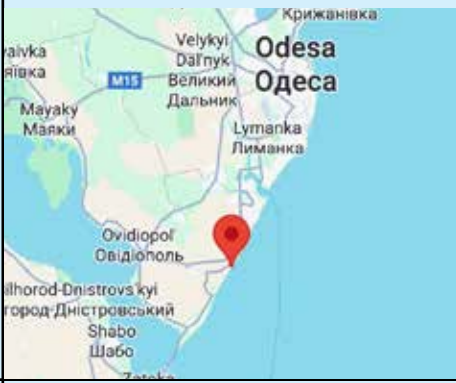


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Sanzhiysky Lighthouse, also known as the Runaway Lighthouse, stands on the Black Sea coast in Ukraine’s Odesa region. It marks a dangerous area where two underwater currents—one from the Istanbul Strait (Bosphorus) and one from the Kerch Strait—collide, posing risks to passing ships. To warn vessels, a watchtower with a garrison was established here in 1792–1793, using signal flags before a lighthouse was built. The original lighthouse structure was erected in 1921, and the current tower dates back to 1956. Due to severe coastal erosion—about one meter per year—the sea gradually crept up to the tower. To save it, the lighthouse was relocated 80 meters inland in 2010, earning it the nickname "Runaway Lighthouse."

It stands 28 meters tall, with its light at 41 meters above sea level, visible from up to 17 miles away.

The area also holds historical maritime significance. Ancient texts mention a much older lighthouse—the “Tower of Neoptolemus,” named after a Pontic commander. Said to have stood at the mouth of the Tyras River, it vanished from records in the early centuries AD and is believed to lie underwater today.

Location	Sanzhiika, Ovidiopol's'kyi district, Odessa Oblast, Ukraine
Coordinates	46.22552, 30.60895 
Height	28 m
Altitude	13 m
Established in	1921

Lighthouse Berezansko–Ochakiv

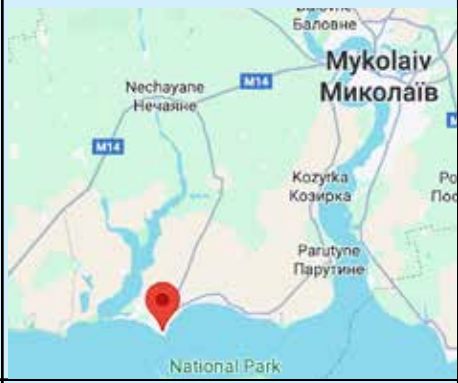
(МАЯК БЕРЕЗАНСЬКО- ОЧАКІВСЬКОГО КОЛІНА ЗАДНІЙ)

Ochakiv, Mykolaiv Oblast/Ukraine



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Standing in the central part of Ochakiv, the Berezansko-Ochakivskyi Lighthouse has guided vessels along Ukraine’s Black Sea coast since its establishment in 1826. The white tower rises 20 meters from its base, with the light positioned 49 meters above sea level. Its signal reaches up to 14 nautical miles, providing a crucial navigational reference for ships approaching the area. Located at town centre, the lighthouse remains an enduring feature of Ochakiv’s maritime landscape and a testament to the region’s long-standing seafaring heritage.

Location	Ochakiv, Mykolaiv Oblast , Ukraine
Coordinates	46.611944, 31.5505555 
Height	20 m
Altitude	29 m
Established in	1826

Yalta Lighthouse - Sarych Lighthouse (МАЯК ЯЛТИНСЬКИЙ - МАЯК САРИЧ)



By Наталья Филатова, CC BY 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Yalta, Crimea/Ukraine



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Yalta Lighthouse stands at the edge of a concrete pier by the passenger port, guiding vessels entering Yalta Bay and navigating the southern Crimean coast. Its origin dates back to 1874, when a temporary lighthouse was built, shining a red light to greet arriving ships.

The current metal tower was installed in 1908 at the southern tip of the pier. Though dismantled during the German occupation in WWII, it was rebuilt by 1957 with a 17-meter reinforced concrete structure topped by a spire.

The lighthouse's light was briefly changed to green in the 1980s, causing protests from captains, and was soon restored to red. In the post-Soviet period, the lighthouse became a point of dispute between Ukraine and Russia, eventually becoming a shared-use object. Ukraine added a temporary tower with a powerful lamp next to the original structure.

Today, Yalta Lighthouse is not only a key navigational aid but also a recognizable part of the cityscape. A historic cannon loaded with cannonballs sits nearby, adding to its charm.

Location	Yalta, Crimea, Ukraine
Coordinates	44.491325, 34.169135
Height	12 m
Altitude	3 m
Established in	1898



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