



NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE GUIDE



THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO NEW JERSEY'S MAJESTIC LANDMARKS





CONNECT WITH NEW JERSEY



VISIT NEW JERSEY'S LIGHTHOUSES

New Jersey's lighthouses are majestic beacons, silent sentinels that guard time and mariners alike. It's a testament to the craftsmanship of their construction that so many lighthouses have survived to today, after years of fighting the awe-inspiring force of the sea. Each one that remains tells its own fascinating tale of bygone seafarers and the dangers they faced.

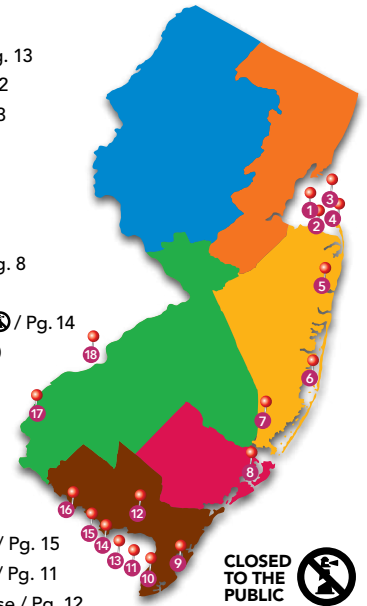
As you plan your next vacation, remember to discover New Jersey's lighthouses. Those open to the public are located in some of the most beautiful and adventurous settings you'll ever visit. Put them on your travel itinerary and you'll agree...New Jersey's lighthouses are still a "must-see!"

DISCLAIMER: Any listing in this publication does not constitute an official endorsement by the State of New Jersey or the Division of Travel and Tourism.


Cover Photos: (Top) Cape May Lighthouse; (Bottom) East Point Lighthouse/David Ewan

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#3  SHORE REGION

FACT
Sandy Hook is the only survivor of the 11 colonial lighthouses built from 1716 to 1771.


SANDY HOOK LIGHTHOUSE

The Sandy Hook Lighthouse is the oldest operating lighthouse in the U.S. and on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located near the Highlands at the northern end of the Sandy Hook Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area. Beautifully well-preserved, this unique octagonal tower dates back to the 18th century and has been in service since 1764. The beacon has continuously operated, except for being darkened during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II.

The lighthouse is located on the post grounds of Fort Hancock and is just one of many interesting tourist attractions at Sandy Hook. Visitors enjoy climbing 95 steps and a nine-rung ladder to the lens room at the top. The peninsula boasts old concrete gun batteries, the largest American Holly forest on the east coast, excellent surf fishing, hiking trails, a paved bicycle path, sandy beaches, bayside salt marshes and over 300 species of birds. The U.S. Coast Guard owns, operates, and maintains the light.

-  85 Mercer Rd., Highlands
-  (732) 872-5970; www.nps.gov/gate/
-  Open: Daily, 9 AM – 5 PM (Winter: Daily, 10 AM – 4 PM)
Guided Tours Every Half-Hour From 1 PM – 4:30 PM
-  FREE (must be 48 inches tall to climb lighthouse)



#4  SHORE REGION

FACT
The Twin Lights served as the primary lighthouse for New York Harbor.

TWIN LIGHTS OF NAVESINK

Towering 250 feet above Sandy Hook Bay, the Twin Lights remain one of the highest points along the coast, while also marking the location of the country's first Fresnel lens. Not to mention that Guglielmo Marconi demonstrated the first practical use of the wireless telegraph from Navesink in 1899, the first lamps to be fueled by kerosene were used here in 1883, and it was one of the first electrically lit seacoast lighthouses in the country in 1898.

The present-day brownstone double lighthouses were built in 1862 on the original site of the 1828 Navesink Lighthouses. The attractive building houses a museum of lighthouse and lifesaving station artifacts even though it was decommissioned in 1949. See the spectacular views from atop the medieval-style towers after climbing the 64 steps to the observation deck in the north tower and south tower. Also on the National Register of Historic Places.

-  Lighthouse Rd. (off Rt. 36), Highlands
-  (732) 872-1814; www.twinlightslighthouse.com
-  Open: Wed. – Sun., 10 AM – 12 NOON & 1 PM – 4 PM
(Jan. & Feb.: Weekends); Grounds Close at 4:30 PM
-  FREE (donations requested)



#5



SHORE REGION

FACT

Sea Girt was the last live-in lighthouse built on the Atlantic Coast.

SEA GIRT LIGHTHOUSE

Nestled within an L-shaped Victorian building, the Sea Girt Lighthouse first shone in 1896, projecting its flashing beacon for 15 miles. Like most lighthouses of that time, its fourth-order Fresnel lens revolved on ball bearings driven by complex clockworks.

When the lighthouse's second keeper, Abram Yates, died on active duty on May 29, 1910, his wife, Harriet, kept the light burning, becoming the first woman keeper in the U.S. Lighthouse Service. While the mother of four was skilled at her job and hailed a pioneer, Mrs. Yates had a brief tenure, as she did not receive approval to continue her post.

Originally built to bridge the 45-mile gap between Barnegat Light and the Twin Lights of Navesink, the square red brick tower attached to a keeper's dwelling was decommissioned in 1945. The interior of the lighthouse has been meticulously restored by a local citizens' committee and furnished in keeping with its historical period. Climb 42 steps to the top and marvel at the breathtaking view.



9 Ocean Ave., Sea Girt



(732) 974-0514; www.seagirtlighthouse.com



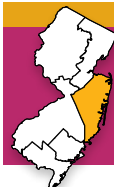
Open: Mid-April to Mid-Nov., Sun., 2 PM – 4 PM, Except Holiday Weekends



FREE (donations requested)



#6



SHORE REGION

FACT

"Barney" received a new light in 2009. Its beam is visible up to 22 nautical miles.

BARNEGAT LIGHTHOUSE

The 165-foot red and white tower at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park was originally used as a lookout during World War I. Restored to its original splendor in 1988, the lighthouse remains a symbol of the state's proud maritime heritage. The original 40-foot lighthouse was built in 1835 to mark a hazardous shoal as well as the fortieth parallel, a point crucial to transatlantic navigation.

Its beehive-shaped Fresnel lens can be viewed at the nearby Barnegat Light Museum. Six feet in diameter, the 12-foot-high lens is formed from 1,024 separate prisms mounted in bronze fittings. Open year-round, the lighthouse is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

With a pair of comfortable shoes and a bit of nerve, a trip up the 217-step winding staircase of "Old Barney" is well worth it. With breathtaking views of Island Beach State Park to the north, 18 miles of Long Beach Island to the south, and a bird's-eye view of Barnegat Inlet from every angle, this attraction is a must-see!



208 Broadway, Barnegat Light



(609) 494-2016; www.njparksandforests.org



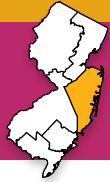
Open: Daily, Memorial Day – Labor Day, 10 AM – 4:30 PM; Remainder of the Year, Weekends, 9 AM – 3:30 PM



Call or Visit Website for Details.



#7



SHORE REGION

FACT

The original lighthouse was decommissioned only weeks before it fell into the sea.

TUCKER'S ISLAND LIGHT

The original Tucker's Island lighthouse was built in 1848. Decades of pounding surf and beach erosion left the lighthouse in a precarious position, and by 1927, the ocean was at its front door. Keeper Arthur Rider recommended moving the lighthouse before it was swept away and, finally, requested to abandon his post after an August storm took the porch and left the roof hanging. Much to his dismay, he was asked to remain until the lighthouse was decommissioned on September 30, 1927. By October 13, the lighthouse had toppled into the sea.

A recreation of the original lighthouse (but one-third larger), Tucker's Island Lighthouse is part of Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen's Museum, a 40-acre maritime village featuring 17 historic and recreated buildings. Connected by boardwalk, the area also features a maritime forest and wetlands nature trail, the Jersey Shore Folklife Center and the New Jersey Surf Museum. The lighthouse exhibit tells the history of the U.S. Lifesaving Service, Barnegat Bay pirates and the bay itself. Climb the 42 steps for views of the Seaport and Lake Pohatcong.



120 W. Main St., Tuckerton



(609) 296-8868; www.tuckertonseaport.org



Open: Daily, 10 AM – 5 PM (Nov. – April, 4 PM)



Call or Visit Website for Details.



#8



GREATER ATLANTIC CITY REGION

FACT

Absecon's recent renovation includes a replica of the light keeper's quarters.

ABSECON LIGHTHOUSE

Like saltwater taffy and the world-famous boardwalk, Absecon Lighthouse is one of Atlantic City's iconic emblems. The third tallest masonry lighthouse in the U.S., Absecon also holds the honor as New Jersey's tallest beacon. Built in 1857 to warn mariners of the dangerous shoals of Absecon and Brigantine, the distinctive 171-foot tower was the prototype for Barnegat and Cape May Lighthouses. George Meade, who later commanded the Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg, was in charge of overseeing its construction.

After opening, the lighthouse immediately attracted thousands of visitors to climb its 228 steps for views of the Atlantic Ocean and Atlantic City skyline. Over the years, its light has come from mineral oil, incandescent oil vapor and, electricity starting in 1925. The light was extinguished in 1933, when the lighthouse was decommissioned, but was relit for Atlantic City's centennial in 1954. The majestic tower retains its original first-order Fresnel lens, making it the only New Jersey light to do so. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



31 S. Rhode Island Ave., Atlantic City



(609) 449-1360; www.abseconlighthouse.org



Open: July – Aug., Daily, 10 AM – 5 PM (Thurs., 8 PM);
Sept. – June, Thurs. – Mon., 11 AM – 4 PM



Call or Visit Website for Details.



#9



SOUTHERN SHORE REGION

FACT

The lighthouse's award-winning Victorian-style gardens feature over 200 plant varieties.

HEREFORD INLET LIGHTHOUSE

Thanks to its Victorian charm, it would be easy to mistake the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse for a desirable vacation home or a romantic bed and breakfast. Built in 1874, the lighthouse featured five fireplaces and beautiful living quarters for the keeper and his family, making it one of the most well appointed lighthouses along the Jersey Shore.

Paul J. Pelz, who is best known as the designer of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., is responsible for Hereford Inlet's attractive "Stick Style" architecture (also referred to as Swiss Carpenter Gothic). It's the only lighthouse of its style on the East Coast, although Pelz designed five nearly identical lights in the West, only two of which exist today.

The grounds feature a lovely Victorian-style garden, which is a favorite among bird and butterfly watchers. Hereford Inlet Lighthouse now offers a small museum and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Climb the 47 steps to the top to see the gorgeous views of the Atlantic Ocean.



111 N. Central Ave., North Wildwood



(609) 600-1561; www.herefordinletlighthouse.com



Open: Mid-March – Mid-May, Fri., 10 AM – 2 PM;
Mid-May – Mid-Oct., Daily, 9 AM – 5 PM;
Mid-Oct. – Dec., Fri., 10 AM – 2 PM



FREE



#10



SOUTHERN SHORE REGION

FACT

On a clear day, visitors can see all the way to Delaware from the top of the tower.

CAPE MAY LIGHTHOUSE

A visit to historic Victorian Cape May becomes even more memorable when you stop at the Cape May Lighthouse at Cape May Point State Park. Over 2.1 million visitors have climbed the 199 steps to the top of the tower since the lighthouse opened publicly in 1988. Towering 157.5 feet above the southernmost tip of New Jersey, its distinctive beam flashes once every 15 seconds and is visible from 24 miles out at sea.

Built in 1859 under the supervision of First Lieutenant George Meade, the original lens was so large that the keeper actually stood inside it to refuel. Nearby at the Museum of Cape May County, the Fresnel lens specified by Meade is on display. Also on the National Register of Historic Places.

While at the state park, visitors can observe migrating birds and butterflies in the natural area, complete with hiking trails, surf fishing and picnic areas.



215 Lighthouse Ave., Cape May Point



(609) 884-5404; www.capemaymac.org



Open: Mid-Feb. – Mid-March, Sat. & Sun., Noon – 3 PM;
Mid-March – Mid-April, Daily, 11 AM – 3 PM; Mid-April – Mid-June,
Daily, 10 AM – 4 PM; Mid-June – Aug., Daily, 9 AM – 8 PM;
Sept., Daily, 10 AM – 5 PM; Oct. – Dec., Weekends, Noon – 3 PM



Call or Visit Website for Details.



Photo: Nancy Patterson

#12



SOUTHERN SHORE REGION

FACT

East Point is the last lighthouse remaining on the New Jersey side of the Delaware Bay.

EAST POINT LIGHTHOUSE

Known as the Maurice River Lighthouse before 1913, New Jersey's second oldest lighthouse has guided commercial fisherman and pleasure boaters along the shore of Delaware Bay since it was built in 1849. Set at the mouth of the river, East Point enjoys a picturesque setting miles from any developed land. Once the lighthouse became automated, custodians were appointed to maintain the light. The custodians were allowed to live in the lighthouse rent-free and were paid \$1 a year for their services. The lighthouse was blacked out during World War II and decommissioned in December of 1941.

The lighthouse's distinctive "Cape Cod" features inspired many of the early lighthouses built on the Pacific Coast. The two-story red brick structure is white in color and topped by a bright red roof and lantern that can't be missed. Climb the 17 steps up the winding staircase to admire the beautiful Delaware Bay. The lighthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Maurice River Lighthouse.



10 Lighthouse & E. Point Rds., Heislerville



(856) 785-0349; www.eastpointlight.com



Open: July – Sept., Weekends, 1 PM – 4 PM;
Oct. – June, First & Third Sun., 1 PM – 4 PM



Call or Visit Website for Details.



#17



DELAWARE RIVER REGION

FACT

In 1981, a local businesswoman lobbied Congress to appropriate the funds to refurbish the tower.

FINNS POINT REAR RANGE LIGHT

Originally constructed in Buffalo, New York, this unusual wrought-iron open-frame lighthouse was built in 1876 for the mere cost of \$1,200. The tower stands 115 feet tall and has 130 steps (119 steps in the spiral staircase and 11 steps up a ladder to the lantern room). It featured a 24-inch range lens with a double-wick burner and kerosene vapor lamp emitting 150,000 candlepower. Army mule trains driven by soldiers brought the iron rings that make up the tower to the site. Automated in 1939, this beacon was extinguished in 1951 after a change in the shipping channel. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Finns Point is also part of Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, which is located along the Delaware River estuary, wetlands of international importance. Nearby stands Fort Mott State Park, a 124-acre waterfront park with remaining buildings and gun emplacements from the Spanish-American War, along with trails and fishing.



Fort Mott & Lighthouse Rds., Pennsville



(609) 463-0994; www.friendsofsupawna Refuge.org



Open: May – Oct., Third Sun., 1 PM – 4 PM,
weather permitting.



FREE



Photo: Robert English

#18



DELAWARE RIVER REGION

FACT

The light was changed from oil to electric in 1917.

TINICUM REAR RANGE LIGHTHOUSE

First lit on New Year's Eve in 1880, this light paired with the Tinicum Front Range Light to serve as a key guide for ships heading north along the Delaware River. Its fixed red light and 1,000-watt lamps exhibit 500,000 candlepower from atop an 85-foot-high tower that features 112 steps.

The lighthouse's steel skeletal structure features a neoclassical pavilion at the base of the tower to the lantern room. Below the lantern room is the watch room, which has a unique curved wood-lined closet on the outer wall. While only the lighthouse remains, the site was home to a seven-room keeper's dwelling, brick oil house, frame barn and barnyard, cow shed, poultry house and privy set on 4.8 acres.

Captain John Birch was the last lighthouse keeper to reside at Tinicum Light in 1933, but remained as a custodian of the light until 1945. Today, the lighthouse is maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard and on the National Register of Historic Places.



70 2nd St. & Mantua Ave., Paulsboro



(856) 423-1554;

www.tinicumrearrangelighthouse.org



Open: April – Oct., Third Sun., Noon – 4 PM



FREE (Donations Requested)

CLOSED LIGHTHOUSES

It is a testament to the craftsmanship of their construction that so many lighthouses have survived to today, after years of fighting the awe-inspiring forces of the sea. Each one that remains tells its own fascinating tale of bygone seafarers and the dangers they faced.

These historic lighthouses can be seen around the coast, but are currently not available for tours and public access. However, that doesn't take away from their beauty and importance.

#1

CONOVER BEACON

LEONARDO: The original 1856 structure situated on the beach was paired with the Chapel Hill Beacon to guide ships through the Chapel Hill Channel. It was named after Rulif Conover, original owner of the land. Its wooden tower toppled and in 1941 it was replaced with the present open-frame metal structure, originally called Bayside Beacon, that was taken out of service during the 1930s in Keansburg.



Photo: Robert English

#2

CHAPEL HILL LIGHTHOUSE

CHAPEL HILL: The Chapel Hill Lighthouse was erected in 1856 and named after a nearby church. Paired with the Conover Beacon located about 1.5 miles north on Leonardo Beach, they marked the Chapel Hill Channel and entry into Sandy Hook Bay.

The lighthouse stood 224-feet above sea level and featured two chimneys on both ends that flanked its square central tower. It was the last wooden rear range light of its kind in New Jersey. It was decommissioned and replaced in 1957 with an automated tower. In 1959, the lighthouse was sold and is a private residence.

#11 BRANDYWINE SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE

DELAWARE BAY: Built on a caisson of reinforced concrete, the original lighthouse was constructed in 1914. The light was automated in 1974 and now runs on solar power. The original lighthouse built in 1850 was the first in the U.S. constructed on screw piles – auger-tipped metal pilings that were screwed into the sandy bottom of Delaware Bay to form a foundation. Maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard and on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photo: Robert English

#13 FOURTEEN FOOT BANK LIGHTHOUSE

DELAWARE BAY: 13 miles out at sea, on the western side of the shipping channel, the keeper's quarters of Fourteen Foot Bank Lighthouse reflect the Victorian era with its quaint three-story structure and "hip-roof" privy set atop a caisson base. The light was outfitted with a fourth-order Fresnel lens and was first lit on December 1, 1886. It was named after the 14 feet of water that covers the shoal bank. Unmanned since 1972, the light remains a key directional aid for ships passing through Delaware Bay. Maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

#14 MIAH MAULL SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE

DELAWARE BAY: The legend has it that a man named Nehemiah Maull drowned in a shipwreck near the site of the present lighthouse in the late 1900s. In 1909, a temporary light shone from the cast iron foundation shell. In 1913, the permanent light was exhibited and could be seen for 15 miles from its fourth-order lens. Miah Maull has shown the way for thousands of seafarers and today remains an active aid to navigation. Maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard and on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photo: Robert English

#15 ELBOW OF CROSS LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE

DELAWARE BAY: A temporary light was placed in 1907 at the Elbow of Cross Ledge until the permanent light could be completed in 1910. This lighthouse experienced its share of such run-ins with ship collisions. Until 1951, when the lighthouse was abandoned for good during a hurricane, its four-man crew routinely slept in lifejackets because of frequent jolts from passing ships.

The final blow was struck in 1953, when a freighter loaded with ore finished off the original red brick dwelling, leaving only the base of the structure and the bottom 10 feet of the light. In 1954, an automated light mounted on top of a steel skeleton was built to replace the damaged structure. Maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.



Photo: Robert English

#16 SHIP JOHN SHOAL LIGHTHOUSE

DELAWARE BAY: This lighthouse is named after the vessel, Ship John, which crashed on this shoal and sank off the mouth of the Cohansey River in 1787. Vessels from nearby rushed into the waters and saved all 60 German passengers and the captain. After the ship sunk, a wooden lighthouse was placed there to mark the shoal, but in 1876 it was destroyed by ice.

In 1877, finally a lighthouse was constructed on a caisson foundation. The Second Empire Victorian-style cottage that sits atop this lighthouse features a quaint copper roof and paned windows. Maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard and on the National Register of Historic Places.



Photo: Robert English



NEW JERSEY LIGHTHOUSE "FIRSTS"

- 1823** **Sandy Hook Lightship** becomes the first outside lightship in the U.S.
- 1841** **Twin Lights of Navesink** becomes the first lighthouse in the New World to be equipped with a Fresnel lens.
- 1850** **Brandywine Shoal Lighthouse** becomes the first completed lighthouse in the country built on a screw pile foundation.
- 1868** **Sandy Hook East Beacon** becomes the first lighthouse in the country to be equipped with a steam-driven fog siren.
- 1883** **Twin Lights of Navesink** becomes the initial first-order lighthouse to use mineral oil (kerosene) for fuel.
- 1889** **Sandy Hook Lighthouse** becomes the first lighthouse in the U.S. to use the incandescent lamp.
- 1899** The first wireless (radio) messages to be sent and received in the U.S. were exchanged between operators aboard the S.S. Ponce and **Twin Lights of Navesink**.
- 1903** Compressed acetylene dissolved in acetone was first used as fuel at the **Sandy Hook South Beacon** and **Jones Rock Beacon** in Connecticut.
- 1921** **Sea Girt Lighthouse** and **Ambrose Lightship** became the first stations to use a radio fog beacon. A device was also installed aboard the **Fire Island Lightship** of Navesink.
- 1934** **Cape May Lighthouse** becomes the first lighthouse in the country to be illuminated by a sodium vapor lamp.

Visit the New Jersey Lighthouse Society's website to read more at www.njlhs.org

TAKE THE LIGHTHOUSE CHALLENGE

How many New Jersey lighthouses do you think you can visit in just two days? Take the **Annual Lighthouse Challenge in October** to experience NJ's notable lighthouses and to help raise funds for the preservation of these majestic beacons of light. Just purchase a souvenir booklet at your first stop, and get it stamped along the way as you try to visit as many participating lighthouses and museums as you can over the weekend. To plan your challenge weekend, and learn about participating lighthouses visit:

www.visitnj.org





Barnegat Lighthouse

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