

THE **Oomph!** DIGEST

A Guide to some of the UK's most interesting Lighthouses



Lighthouses have played a vital role in shining a light to keep sailors, fishermen and all who travel our seas safe for centuries. These buildings are iconic in their own right, and are often found in some of the most remote parts of the UK.

Dating back to the Roman times, Britain's early lighthouses were often found in religious buildings sat on hilltops along the coast. However, it

wasn't until the early 18th century that modern lighthouse construction began in the UK. An increased in transatlantic trade encouraged the building of lighthouses, their purpose being to warn trading ships against hazards, such as reefs and rocks. There are more than 60 lighthouses dotted around the UK. The charity Trinity House looks after many of these lighthouses to help maintain the safety of seafarers.

Lizard Point Lighthouse, Cornwall



Lizard Point Lighthouse in Cornwall is the most southerly lighthouse on mainland Britain. It is a dual towered lighthouse off the Cornish coast and has stood there since 1619.

A local man, Sir John Killigrew, applied for the first patent for a lighthouse on

the site. It was granted, but with one condition... At the time, the Cornish coast was rife with piracy and smuggling, and so it was required that the light was extinguished when the enemy approached, for fear that it would guide the unwanted criminals home.

Did you know...

The first lighthouse was Egypt's Pharos of Alexandria, built in the third century BC. The lighthouse of Alexandria was made from a fire on a platform to signal the port entrance. Meanwhile, the world's oldest existing lighthouse is considered to be Tower of Hercules, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that marks the entrance of Spain's La Coruña harbor.



Muckle Flugga, Isle of Unst, Scotland



Muckle Flugga is the most northerly lighthouse in Britain. The lighthouse is nearer to Bergen in Norway than to Aberdeen! Muckle Flugga was established in 1854 and was designed and built by Thomas and David

Stevenson, the father and uncle of the author Robert Louis Stevenson. The writer visited the island as a young man and it is believed that it influenced him in his creation of Treasure Island.

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, Scottish Highlands

In 1845, 20 acres was bought for £20 for the construction of this lighthouse, which now stands as the most westerly on the British mainland. To the west of Fort William, in the West Highlands, it is 36 metres tall! The lighthouse is built of granite from the Island of Mull and is the only lighthouse in the world built in an Egyptian style. Another Stevenson family creation, it was erected by Alan Stevenson, brother of Thomas and David, also an uncle to Robert Louis. That's keeping it in the family!



Souter Lighthouse, Tyne & Wear



Now owned by the National Trust, Souter lighthouse is situated on the North East coast between the Tyne and the Wear river mouths. The lighthouse was completed in 1871, with the red

and white hoops of the lighthouse echoing those of Beachy Head. Souter Lighthouse was the first lighthouse in the world built for electric power and is also rumoured to be haunted!

Chalk Tower, Flamborough Head, East Riding of Yorkshire

The chalk tower lighthouse at Flamborough Head was built in 1669. However, recent examination and restoration of the structure suggests that the beacon was never actually lit. Even though this is the case, the lighthouse has stood for over 350 years, and is the oldest complete lighthouse structure in the United Kingdom. It is also one of the oldest in the world!



Beachy Head Lighthouse, Sussex

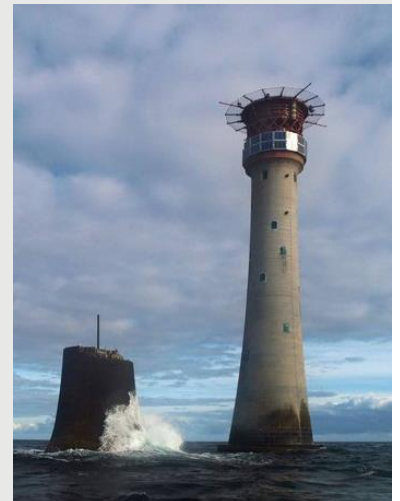


Beachy Head lighthouse is famous, having appeared in James Bond films (The Living Daylights) and many TV shows, with its red and white stripes set against the white cliffs. Beachy

Head Lighthouse represents a quintessentially British vision, although the name 'Beachy Head' is believed to be a corruption of the original French, meaning 'beautiful headland'.

Eddystone Lighthouse, Plymouth

The Eddystone lighthouse is a famous lighthouse located on the dangerous Eddystone Rocks. There has been a beacon on the site of the Eddystone lighthouse since 1698, but the lighthouse is now in its fourth incarnation. Having been destroyed more than once, thanks to terrible weather conditions and a fire that could not be put out, the base of the third lighthouse is still visible beside it to this day. Did you know, Eddystone lighthouse was referenced in Moby Dick?



The Lighthouse, Llandudno



This is not your average lighthouse! The lighthouse turned hotel is more fortress-like, with quirky rooms and original features in abundance. Those lucky enough to stay in the Telegraph Room can enjoy spectacular 280° views and (accompanied) trips on to the lighthouse roof via step-ladders.

Lundy Island Lighthouse, Devon



Lundy is the largest island in the Bristol Channel, where a lighthouse was built to warn mariners entering the channel about the 3½ mile-long mass of granite surrounded by reefs and jagged rocks.

Berry Head Lighthouse, Devon

Rare plants surround this somewhat short little 5 metre lighthouse in the south of England. Pink thrift, autumn squill, wild rock rose, and honewort can be found. Despite being such a miniature building, it also happens to be one of the highest lighthouses in the country, set on top of a 60 metre high headland.



A Lighthouse Joke

Q: How do lighthouse keepers communicate with each other?

A: With shine language!

Word Scramble Puzzle

Can you unscramble this selection of scrambled words related to:

Lighthouses

1. LTIHG
2. HSIP
3. SHNIE
4. SAE
5. ROSKC
6. MASRIENR
7. CFLFI
8. BAEHC
9. BAEOCN
10. LANRETN

Quiz Answers:
1. a) 2. b) 3. c) 4. c) 5. a)

Word Scramble Answers:
1. LIGHT, 2. SHIP, 3. SHINE,
4. SEA, 5. ROCKS, 6. MARINERS,
7. CLIFF, 8. BEACH, 9. BEACON,
10. LANTERN

Lighthouse Quiz

1. **Where was the first lighthouse?**
 - a) Egypt
 - b) China
 - c) India

2. **Which of these lighthouses is famous for its red and white stripes?**
 - a) Llandudno Lighthouse
 - b) Beachy Head Lighthouse
 - c) Berry Head Lighthouse

3. **What happened to the original lighthouses at Eddystone?**
 - a) Fell down due to poor structure
 - b) Destroyed by local vandals
 - c) Destroyed by weather and fire

4. **Where is Lizard Point Lighthouse?**
 - a) Wales
 - b) Devon
 - c) Cornwall

5. **Which lighthouse was the first to be built for electric power?**
 - a) Souter Lighthouse
 - b) Lundy Island Lighthouse
 - c) Chalk Tower