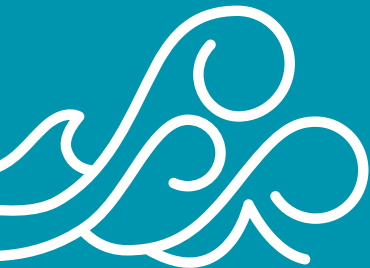


Lighthouse Guide

Discover the aids to
navigation on the Rhins
of Galloway Coast Path





Since people first ventured out on perilous journeys across the sea many attempts have been made to build landmarks warning sailors of dangers or guiding them to safety. This guide will help you discover lighthouses, foghorns and beacons along the Rhins of Galloway Coast Path as well as reveal some of the ships that have been wrecked on the rugged shore.



Portpatrick

This Lighthouse Guide has been produced as part of the Rhins of Galloway Coast Path project managed by Dumfries and Galloway Council.



Cover: Corsewall Lighthouse

How to use this guide

The 3 operational Lighthouses on the Rhins are important features on the coastal landscape, managed by the Northern Lighthouse Board to perform a vital role in keeping mariners safe in all weathers.

Discover a variety of navigational aids many of which are designated as listed buildings. Get up close with lighthouse tours and an exhibition at the Mull of Galloway Lighthouse or admire at a distance decommissioned lighthouses and redundant beacons.

The map at the back of the guide shows you the location of these visually striking reminders of how dangerous the rocky coast of the Rhins can be to mariners.



Killantringan Lighthouse



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Mull of Galloway Lighthouse

Designed by Robert Stevenson and first lit in 1830, the Mull of Galloway Lighthouse is perched on Scotland's most southerly point. It was automated in 1987 and the former Lightkeepers' accommodation are now managed as self-catering holiday cottages.

Structure: White tower 26m high

Position: 54°38.1'N 4°51.4'W

Character: Flashing white once every 20 seconds

Nominal range: 22 miles

Lighthouse Tours, Exhibition & Foghorn

The Mull of Galloway Lighthouse is open to visitors during the summer with the exhibition open every day and tours available at weekends and daily in July and August. The exhibition includes the engine room which powered the foghorn until it was switched off as sophisticated satellite technology was adopted by ships. At the Mull of Galloway the engines have been lovingly restored and now power the only working foghorn on mainland Scotland.

Fog siren: 2 blasts every 60 seconds

2





3

Kennedy's Cairn

This cairn at the Mull of Galloway has the appearance of an ancient landmark built to aid navigation but it does not appear on sea charts. In fact, this distinctive flat-topped cairn was constructed in the late 1800s long after the lighthouse was built. It was used for trapping ravens and is named after the local game keeper William Kennedy.

Position: 54°38.0'N 4°52.5'W

Structure: Stone cairn 2.5m high

Crammag Head Lighthouse

The first lighthouse at Crammag Head was built in 1913 but was replaced by a thoroughly modern structure in 2009. This low maintenance solar powered lighthouse is made of glass reinforced plastic and was delivered by helicopter.



Position: 54°39.9'N 4°57.8'W

Character: Flashing white every 10 seconds

Nominal range: 18 miles

Structure: White tower 7m high

4





Port Logan Harbour and Beacon

5

In the early 1800s Colonel Andrew McDouall of Logan planned an ambitious harbour to rival Portpatrick. Designed by Thomas Telford the modest quay that was eventually built included a striking bell tower at its seaward end, but the development failed to capture passenger trade crossing the Irish Sea.

Structure: Stone bell tower 10m high

Position: 54°43.5'N 4°57.5'W

Mull Hill Beacon

Constructed by Colonel McDouall of Logan in the early 1800s this 2-dimensional tower on Mull Hill served as a mark for navigators entering Port Logan Harbour. It originally had two gables with castellated tops and from a distance looked like an ancient tower. In the 1950s one of the walls collapsed.

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Structure: Mock stone tower 8m high

Position: 54°44.0'N 4°59.0'W





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Portpatrick Lighthouse

This structure was built in the late 1800s and replaced an earlier lighthouse located nearby. It was decommissioned in 1900 but was used for several years afterwards to light the harbour and seafront. The great storm of 1839 halted works to extend the harbour and damaged the former south pier lighthouse so badly it was dismantled and exported to be re-erected in Columbo, Sri Lanka.

Structure: Brick tower 11m high

Position: 54°50.5'N 5°07.0'W

Orion

Bound for Glasgow from Liverpool the paddle steamer Orion was sailing at full speed in the early hours of the morning when, despite clear visibility, it struck submerged rocks close to Portpatrick Harbour. It sank within ten minutes and many passengers were saved through the brave efforts of local fishermen. Sixty lives were lost and the headstones to some who died can be seen in the local graveyard.

Vessel: Iron steam ship not visible

Wrecked: June 1850

Position: 54°50.5'N 5°07.3'W

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9

MV Craigantlet

The 800 ton ship was bound to Liverpool from Belfast when it ran aground in Portamaggie Bay. The keepers in Killantringan Lighthouse above the bay raised the alarm and the crew of the MV Craigantlet were rescued by a Sea King helicopter. The cargo included hazardous materials, so the area was evacuated until all the containers were removed.

Vessel: Container ship part of bow visible

Wrecked: February 1982

Position: 54°51.3'N 5°08.5'W

Killantringan Lighthouse

Built in 1900 to a design by David Stephenson this lighthouse replaced those at Portpatrick Harbour. Automated in 1988 the lighthouse became surplus to the requirements of the Northern Lighthouse Board in 2005 and is no longer lit. The lighthouse is now in private ownership.

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Structure: White tower 22m high

Position: 54°51.7'N 5°08.7'W





11

Marian Hill Beacon

Marked on nautical charts this hilltop landmark was probably built in 1802 by Col. Alexander Ross who was related to the famous Arctic explorers. One local tale explaining the reason the tower was erected suggests it was a memorial to a girl killed by a bull. However, the most likely explanation is that the landowner wished the hill to be re-named after Marian, his wife.

Structure: White tower 4.5m high

Position: 54°58.5'N 5°08.0'W

Princess Royal

In the early hours of a foggy morning the Princess Royal was running at full speed between Liverpool and Greenock when it ploughed into the Ebbstone rocks. All passengers and crew were saved and ferried ashore at Dally Bay. The cargo was also salvaged before a storm broke up the ship.

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Vessel: Iron steam ship not visible

Wrecked: May 1856

Position: 54°58.5'N 5°11.2'W





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Ebbstone Beacon

A concrete base visible above the sea near Dally Bay is all that remains of a beacon constructed in 1840s which was maintained by the Northern Lighthouse Board. It consisted of a pyramid of iron pillars with a cylindrical cage on top all painted red. The beacon provided warning of the hidden reef when visibility was good but did not prevent ship wrecks occurring when the weather was poor.

Structure: Concrete Beacon Foundation

Position: 54°58.5'N 5°11.5'W

Corsewall Lighthouse

Designed by Robert Stevenson and first lit in 1817 Corsewall Lighthouse is the oldest active light on the Rhins of Galloway. It was automated in 1994 and the former Lightkeepers' accommodation is now run as Corsewall Lighthouse Hotel.

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Structure: White tower 34m high

Position: 55°00.5'N 5°09.5'W

Character: Alternate long flashing white and red every 74 seconds

Nominal range: 18 miles





83 mile

circular walking route
on Scotland's south
west coast



Route Sections

- Stranraer - Corsewall
- Corsewall - Portpatrick
- Portpatrick - Port Logan
- Port Logan - Mull of Galloway
- Mull of Galloway - Ardwell
- Ardwell - Stranraer