



## Florida's Forgotten Coast is home to four unique and historic lighthouses.

The oldest, a masonry tower built at St. Marks in 1842, is located in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge overlooking beautiful Apalachee Bay. The newest, the fourth reconstruction of the Cape St. George Light, was completed in 2008 on St. George Island. The graceful red and white skeletal Crooked River lighthouse near Carrabelle Beach features a park space with a playground for children. The Cape San Blas Light, now located in downtown Port St. Joe, includes two keepers dwellings saved from the sea and lovingly refurbished.



*Each Forgotten Coast lighthouse tells a story of Florida's maritime heritage and the commitment to preserving history for future generations.*



## Lighthouse Groups Host Events & Activities

Many of the lighthouse sites in Franklin, Wakulla and Gulf counties feature regular events and activities. In Franklin County, the Cape St. George Lighthouse features regularly scheduled full moon climbs and the Crooked River Lighthouse hosts an annual Lantern Fest each fall. In Wakulla and Gulf counties, the lighthouse is a featured attraction at several of those area's annual events. You can learn more about activities by contacting each of the lighthouse groups directly.

### Cape St. George Lighthouse

[www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org)

### Crooked River Lighthouse

[www.crookedriverlighthouse.org](http://www.crookedriverlighthouse.org)

### Cape San Blas Light

[www.capesanblaslight.org](http://www.capesanblaslight.org)

### St. Marks Lighthouse

[www.stmarkslighthouse.net](http://www.stmarkslighthouse.net)



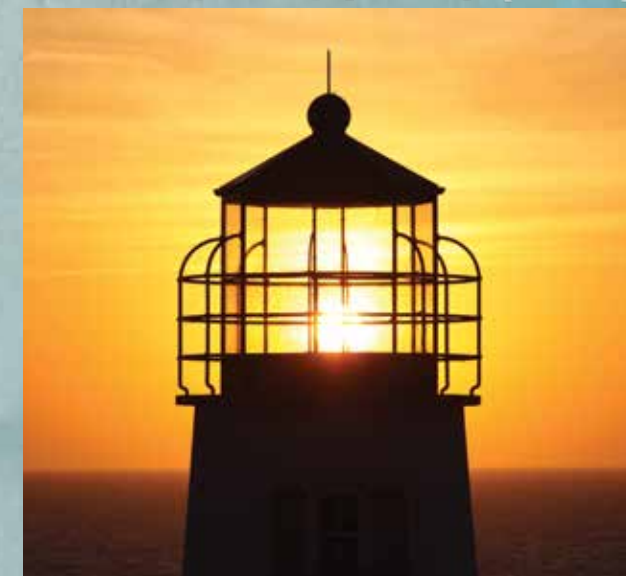
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## LIGHTHOUSES of Florida's Forgotten Coast

CAPE ST. GEORGE . CROOKED RIVER  
ST. MARKS . CAPE SAN BLAS



EXPLORE NORTH FLORIDA'S HISTORIC MARITIME BEACONS  
**TOURS & ACTIVITIES AT EACH SITE**



## St. Marks Lighthouse

In Wakulla County the second oldest lighthouse in Florida stills stands sentinel over the shores of Apalachee Bay. Constructed in 1842, the picturesque whitewashed masonry tower and keeper's quarters rest securely on a base of limestone rock taken according to local legend, from nearby Fort San Marcos de Apalache. It is located on the north side of Apalachee Bay on the east side of the entrance to the St. Marks River.

Eighty-five steps spiral up the brick tower to the lantern room; the first seventy-two are wood and the last thirteen are iron. The tower walls are four feet thick at the base, tapering to 18 inches at the top. The historic Fresnel lens, installed in 1867, was removed for preservation in 2014 and is temporarily on display in the refuge visitor center. Over the years oil, kerosene, and electricity have powered the lamp which could be seen up to 15 miles.

In 1931 the St. Marks Migratory Bird Refuge was created around the St. Marks Lighthouse and a road to the lighthouse was constructed. In 1960, the light was automated and eliminated the need for keepers. A modern solar powered light was installed in 2000. Ownership of the St. Marks Lighthouse was transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2013. Open the first Saturday of most months, 1-4 pm. Federal entrance fees apply.



**Location:** Visitor Center, 1255 Lighthouse Rd. St. Marks, Florida 32355. The St. Marks Lighthouse is located at the end of Lighthouse Road in the main area of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.  
**Contact:** (850) 925-6121  
[www.stmarksighthouse.net](http://www.stmarksighthouse.net)

## Crooked River Lighthouse

For 120 years Crooked River Lighthouse has been a guiding light for sea travelers navigating the treacherous pass between Dog and St. George Islands. Today the lighthouse, one of two remaining in Franklin County, stands on the mainland where the light was originally built in 1895, replacing the three short-lived beacons destroyed by hurricanes on Dog Island. The 103 foot iron and steel structure was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1995 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Carrabelle Lighthouse Association and the City of Carrabelle acquired the landmark in 2001 and created a public park surrounding it. An acrylic reproduction of the tower's original 4th order Fresnel lens beams nightly. Nestled in a coastal forest habitat, the park is the trail head of the Carrabelle Beach bike path and features a picnic area. A replica of the Keeper's House serves as an historic museum and gift shop and the original station washhouse is also on the grounds.

The Lighthouse and Museum are managed by the Crooked River Lighthouse Association. Tower climbs are offered weekends (\$5 adults, \$3 children). Scheduled tours are available upon request. An enchanting birthday celebration, Lantern Fest, is held annually, the 4th weekend in October.



**Location:** 1975 Hwy 98, Carrabelle, FL 32322. Located approximately two miles west of the Carrabelle bridge at Carrabelle Beach.  
**Contact:** (850) 697-2732  
[www.crookedriverlighthouse.org](http://www.crookedriverlighthouse.org)

## Cape St. George Light

The Cape St. George Light, the second of two remaining Franklin County lighthouses, stands at the center of St. George Island. It is the fourth reconstruction of the historic lighthouse that was originally built on what is now Little St. George Island. The first lighthouse was erected in 1833 near West Pass. Damaged by storms, it was dismantled and reconstructed in 1848 at Cape St. George. The second lighthouse fell during a hurricane in 1851 and a third lighthouse was completed in 1852, again using materials from its predecessor, but positioned further inland from the water's edge. For 153 years the Cape St. George Light valiantly served mariners well, but beach erosion ultimately caused its collapse on October 21, 2005.

Dedicated volunteers salvaged more than 22,000 original bricks from the lighthouse rubble and with extensive community support and public and private funding, the Cape St. George Light was successfully rebuilt and opened to the public on December 1, 2008. A replica of the original Lighthouse Keeper's House, built next to the lighthouse, features a museum and gift shop. Museum exhibits tell the story of the lighthouse and its keepers. The lighthouse is open daily except Thursday. Climbing fees are \$5 for adults; \$3 for Youth age 16 and under. No charge for children age 6 and under.



**Location:** 2 East Gulf Beach Drive, St. George Island, FL 32328. Located in St. George Lighthouse Park as you arrive on St. George Island.  
**Contact:** (850) 927-7745  
[www.stgeorgelight.org](http://www.stgeorgelight.org)

## Cape San Blas Lighthouse

The Cape San Blas Lighthouse in Gulf County was built more than 130 years ago when Congress appropriated \$8,000 to erect the original structure. It was designed to guide vessels around the shoals running out from the Cape using the sole beacon that could be seen for up to 10 miles offshore.

Rich with history, including an attack by Union Troops in 1862, the structure has survived a series of blows from storms, winds and high surf throughout the years. Mother Nature continued her own onslaught and Tropical Storm Isaac reclaimed the remaining shoreline forcing the lighthouse to close temporarily in 2012.

In honor of its historic and iconic presence, the City of Port St. Joe successfully moved the lighthouse to its protective shores on St. Joseph Bay on July 15, 2014 to preserve and maintain the beloved structure.

The Lighthouse Gift Shop is currently located adjacent to the Welcome Center in the historic Maddox House overlooking St. Joseph Bay. Housed with souvenirs that honor the Cape San Blas Lighthouse, visitors can also see antiques from the Keepers' Quarters and St. Joseph Telephone Company as well as register to climb the Lighthouse. Tours are \$5.



**Location:** 200 Miss Zola's Drive, Port St. Joe, FL 32456. One block off US Highway 98 in downtown Port St. Joe.  
**Contact:** (850) 229-1151  
[www.capesanblaslight.org](http://www.capesanblaslight.org)