

Lighthouses of the Carolinas: Guiding Lights Along the Coast

When picturing the charming coastal region of the Carolinas, it's impossible not to be captivated by the iconic lighthouses that adorn its shores. These historical landmarks have played a crucial role in maritime navigation, providing safety and guidance to countless ships and sailors.



The Majestic Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

Standing tall at an impressive 210 feet, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in North Carolina is undoubtedly one of the most famous and recognizable lighthouses in the world. Its black and white candy cane stripes make it an alluring sight against the backdrop of the Atlantic Ocean.

 Lighthouses
of the
Carolinas: A
Short History
and Guide

Lighthouses of the Carolinas: A Short History and Guide by Terrance Zepke (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 184 pages



Originally built in 1803, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse has a rich history. Throughout the years, it has weathered storms, undergone relocations, and even witnessed the ravages of the Civil War. In 1999, it faced a monumental threat from beach erosion, leading to its relocation to a safer spot approximately 2,900 feet from the shore.

Visitors can now climb the 257 steps to the top of the lighthouse and take in breathtaking panoramic views of the Outer Banks. The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse serves as a timeless reminder of the resilience and ingenuity of the Carolinas' lighthouse keepers.



The Historic Old Baldy Lighthouse

Nestled on Bald Head Island in North Carolina, the Old Baldy Lighthouse is a treasure trove of history. Built in 1817, it is the oldest standing lighthouse in the state.

Its storied past includes serving as a lookout during the Civil War, where it played a vital role in monitoring blockade runners along the Cape Fear River. The Old

Baldy Lighthouse withstood numerous hurricanes and even went through a period of abandonment before its restoration in the 1980s.

Visitors to Old Baldy can explore the lighthouse's interior exhibits and climb the 108 steps to the top, offering breathtaking views of the island and the surrounding coastline. The serene setting of Bald Head Island adds to the allure of this historic landmark, making it a must-visit for lighthouse enthusiasts.



The Enchanting Cape Lookout Lighthouse

Situated on the picturesque barrier island of South Core Banks, the Cape Lookout Lighthouse is a true gem of the Carolinas. Its black and white diamond pattern has become an emblem of the region.

Built in 1859, the Cape Lookout Lighthouse has witnessed both the Civil War and multiple hurricanes. Despite the challenges, it has stood tall, remaining an essential aid to navigation. Its unique shape, painted with distinct daymark colors, ensures sailors can easily recognize it among other lighthouses along the coast.

Visitors to Cape Lookout can take a short ferry ride to the island and explore the lighthouse grounds. Although climbing to the top is currently prohibited, the breathtaking views of the Cape Lookout National Seashore are worth the visit.



The Radiant Oak Island Lighthouse

Dubbed as the brightest lighthouse in the United States, the Oak Island Lighthouse in North Carolina shines as a beacon of hope along the coastline. Completed in 1958, it is a relatively young lighthouse but certainly no less impressive.

The Oak Island Lighthouse stands at 153 feet and has a unique skeletal structure. It uses a system of prisms and a powerful electric light to create a beam that can reach 24 nautical miles. Its striking white exterior stands out against the vivid blue sky, attracting visitors from far and wide.

While climbing the Oak Island Lighthouse is not permitted, visitors can explore the surrounding area and enjoy the stunning vistas of the beach. The lighthouse's association with mysterious events, such as the "Oak Island Curse," also adds an intriguing element to its allure.

Preserving a Rich Coastal Legacy

The lighthouses of the Carolinas are not merely architectural wonders, but they also represent a cherished part of the nation's maritime heritage. These towering structures have witnessed centuries of history, with each brick and beam telling a story of resilience and seafaring adventure.

Preservation efforts ensure that these lighthouses remain not only as striking landmarks but also as reminders of the past. The captivating beauty and cultural significance of the lighthouses of the Carolinas make them unforgettable symbols of the region's coastal charm.

Visit the Lighthouses of the Carolinas Today

Be sure to add the lighthouses of the Carolinas to your travel itinerary. Explore the rich history, breathtaking views, and awe-inspiring feats of engineering that await you at these remarkable coastal landmarks. Discover the stories of the dedicated lighthouse keepers and experience the allure of these guiding lights along the Carolina coastlines.

Plan your visit today and embark on a journey that will take you back in time, evoking a deep appreciation for the maritime history that unfolded amidst the beauty of the Carolinas.

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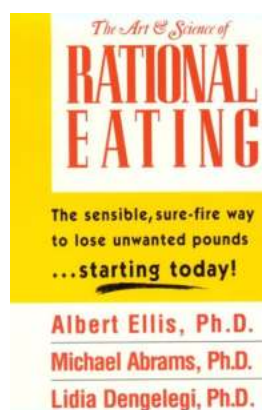
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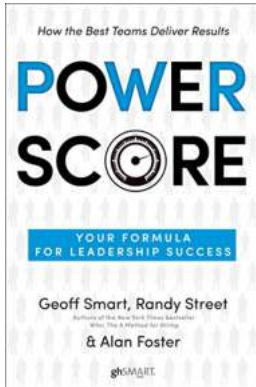


Eighteen lighthouses still stand in the Carolinas, from Currituck Lighthouse near the Virginia border down to Haig Point Lighthouse near the border with Georgia. Author Zepke tells how they were built and how they have weathered hurricanes, erosion, and neglect. Some are open to visitors; others can be seen from the coast or on a passing boat. In this second edition, all the travel guide information is updated, along with new sections on light keepers, the U.S. Lighthouse Board, and a timeline.



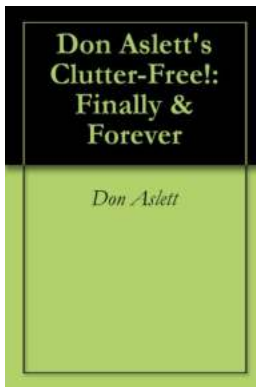
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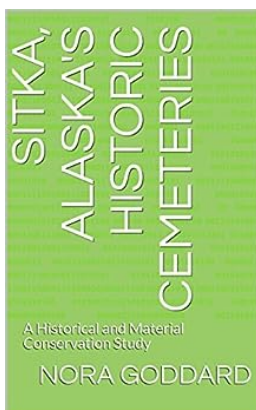
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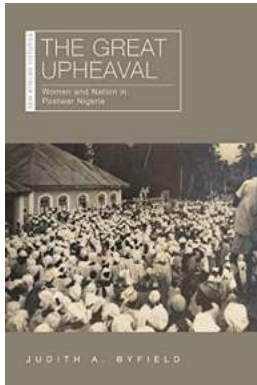
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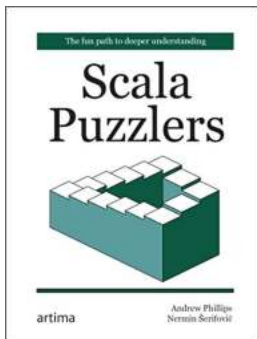
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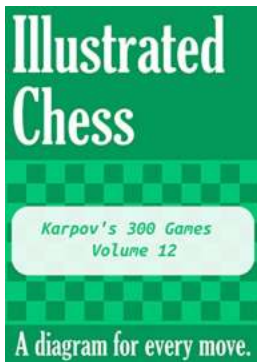
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