

## Lighthouses

The most famous of the world's lighthouses was the Great Lighthouse of Alexandria, which was one of the seven wonders of the world and built in the 3rd century BC on the island of Pharos. It was destroyed by repeated earthquakes over the course of 500 years, finally disappearing in 1480. Today, the United States is home to more lighthouses than any other country.

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A lighthouse is a tower, house, or frame designed to be lit by a system of lights and lenses; before the harnessing of electricity, they were lit by fire. The light of a lighthouse marks the roads on the sea, shows ships where there are reefs and cliffs, and helps sailors find their way into port and determine their position at sea. Lighthouses can also help aircraft orient themselves and are like "eyes" on the sea and islands.

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Vietnam currently has 92 lighthouses on the mainland, stretching from Mong Cai to Ha Tien, each with its own beauty and history. Notably, the lighthouses in the Paracel and Spratly Island districts shine day and night, not only to guide ships, but also to assert Vietnam's sovereignty over the ocean and islands of the East Sea.

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For how long did the Great Lighthouse stand?

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How many lighthouses are on the Vietnamese mainland?

Why do the Paracel and Spratly Island lighthouses shine during the day?