

SEEING THE LIGHT

A Self-Guiding Tour for Teachers

Things to Know Before You Start

- Introduce your students to this experience by reminding them - no food, drink, or backpacks allowed. No more than 10 students with a chaperone are allowed in the gift shop at any one time.
- If your group is larger than 20, divide them and give a booklet to each small-group leader. Our galleries are tiny, plus we limit the number of people who can climb the tower at one time.
- The self-guiding tour is designed so that you can start anywhere. Once you are inside the historic grounds have each small group start in a different place. Give students time to answer the questions and do the activities.
- Ask your chaperones to enforce proper museum behavior. This means no shouting, running, pushing. Please do not touch objects or displays unless they are clearly a hands-on activity. Have fun but be dignified!
- Our restrooms are small. Students may go a few at a time, *with a chaperone*, during the tour. Water is located at several places around the light station including the front porch of the Principal Keeper's house. All locations are clearly marked.
- ALL STUDENTS MUST BE CHAPERONED AT ALL TIMES.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR GROUPS TOGETHER.



Entering the Picket Fence

- What does a lighthouse do? (It tells people who are sailing along the coast where to find harbors, inlets, or other safe waters, and it also warns them of dangerous places.)
- Why did we need a lighthouse here? (There are sandbars along the coast as far out as 13 miles offshore. Also, Ponce Inlet is one of the most dangerous inlets on the east coast.)
- Why did people use such a dangerous inlet? (They would have to go many miles north or south to find another inlet that could be navigated.) In the 1700s and 1800s, there were plantations along the rivers. They needed to get their products like indigo, cotton, sugar cane and beef out to the big ships in the ocean. Before the Civil War, there was also a big timber industry here, and logs had to be shipped out. During the Civil War, Confederate supply ships used the inlet.)
- The Light Station was completed in 1887. Your grandparents' grandparents were your age then! There were no roads here. Also, there were no schools, no stores, no electricity, and no well for water. The city of Daytona across the river was only 10 years old. What do you think life was like out here?

The Second Assistant Keeper's House (Building 4)

- This was a big light station, and it had 3 keepers who lived here with their wives and children. Each family had its own house.
- In this house, find the model that shows how the lighthouse was built. (Have your students look carefully for 30 seconds and then turn their backs. While they aren't looking, ask them to tell what they saw. What did everyone learn about building the lighthouse? Did you know that *everything*, including 2 million bricks, had to be brought here by boat?)

- Can you find the model of another lighthouse? This lighthouse was built on the south side of the inlet, then called Mosquito Inlet, in 1835. During the Second Seminole War, Indians attacked that lighthouse as part of a big raid on the nearby plantations and the town of New Smyrna.
- What do you think the people who lived at this light station did for fun? Can you find something in this building that would have been entertainment in 1887? (Besides reading, kids had picnics, played games like Old Maid and Tiddley Winks, swam in the river, and put on plays.)

First Assistant Keeper's House (Building 8)

- You can't actually go inside this building, but you can look in and see how the families lived. If you were a baby, you would sleep in your parents' room. If not, you and your brothers and sisters would share the only other bedroom!
- What is missing from this house that you probably have in yours? (Closets, modern appliances, electricity, running water, bathrooms, and more!)
- What do you think people ate in 1887? Remember, there were no grocery stores here. (Snack foods did not exist. You'd have to wait a few years to get some Cracker Jacks, and Twinkies didn't come along until 1931! You could, however, have a Coke, beginning in 1886!) One of the first school teachers here reports eating fish and grits three times a day!
- Check out the laundry "room." You can see the top of the underground water storage tank called a cistern. Those gutters along the roof of the house once directed rain water into the cistern. There was no well here until about 1907! That very same well is still in use today! It provides water for the lawn.

Principal Keeper's House (Building 5)

- The Principal Keeper was in charge of the Light Station. Is there something about this building that tells you the boss lived here?
- There are some hands-on things for you to do in this building. Have fun!
- What does a lighthouse have to do with navigation and shipwrecks?

Lens Exhibit Building (Building 10)

- Today there is an electric light at the top of our tower, but in 1887 the lamp was fueled by kerosene (also called mineral oil). Such small lights wouldn't be seen out at sea without help, so lighthouses use Fresnel (pronounced Freh-NEL) lenses to project the light out to sea.
- Fresnel lenses were invented in the early 1800s by a young Frenchman. His design was so good that it is still in use, and there is a Fresnel lens at work in this tower every night. Yes, this is still a working lighthouse!
- In this building you can compare a first order (the largest size) Fresnel lens that rotates and one that is fixed. The rotating lens appears to flash when you see it from the ocean. The flash pattern of a lighthouse beacon is called the *characteristic*. It helps sailors identify their location at night. How could a sailor identify a lighthouse in the daytime when the light can't be seen? (The sailor would look at the *daymark* or paint job on the tower!)

Oil Storage Building (Building 12)

- Why do you think this little building is so far from the tower and the other original buildings?
- Every evening the keepers carried up enough fuel for one night. It took about 6 gallons in the winter and 5 in the summer. Why do you think less fuel was used in the summer?
- Try lifting the kerosene can! Imagine carrying it up the tower!

The Light Tower (Time to climb!)

- Think of the Light Station as a little village whose only reason to exist is to keep the beacon lit at night. What could happen if the beacon went out?
- As you enter the doorway, notice how thick the walls are. They are 8 feet thick! When you get to the top, they will only be 2 feet thick.
- What geometrical shape is the tower? (It's a big cone.)
- The keepers here reported the weather every day. When you get to the top, check the weather. What kind of clouds do you see? (Cumulus clouds are puffy cotton balls and signal fair weather. Cirrus clouds are feathery "mares' tails" that appear when the weather is about to change, and rain clouds or nimbus clouds are dark.)
- Can you locate the four directions without a compass? How? What do you see to the east? The west? The south and north? What do you see that was here in 1887?
- Do you think women could become lighthouse keepers? Yes! Especially if they were the wife or child of a keeper. They learned by helping out and often got the job if their male relative retired or was injured and could not continue working.

The Boat Yard and Nature Trail

- The Boat Yard has two historic boats that were built nearby and used in this area for many years. One was a tug boat and the smaller one was one of the first charter fishing boats in the area.
- We might not name a boat *Gay Wind* anymore, but remember, the word *gay* originally meant happy and this boat was named over 65 years ago. Just like everything else, the meaning of words can change over time. Can you think of other old-fashioned words?
- If the mosquitoes will let you, take a walk along the nature trail. Besides mosquitoes, what other things might live here?
- Near the start of the trail you will find a marker for a small tree called the Hercules ' club. (Maybe you had to be as tough as Hercules to hold on to it!) Some people call it the "tooth ache tree." Native Americans and early settlers knew that you could use the bark and the leaves as a pain killer. How does this tree protect itself?
- Walk along the trail a little farther. Stop for a moment and close your eyes. Listen very carefully. What do you hear that people in 1887 would have heard? What sounds are modern? When someone says "noise pollution," what do you think they mean?
- Enjoy the rest of the trail. Before the lighthouse was built and the area was settled, most of the land looked like this.

At the end of your tour, ask students to tell you three things they learned about the Light Station.