

# Bulgarian Black Sea Lighthouses



Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company (BPI Co.) is a managing body of the Bulgarian public transport ports. BPI Co. also provides vessel traffic and shipping information services, operating with some of the most modern and high-tech systems. The Company also administrates some of the lighthouses on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast.

From August 14, 1909, the sea lighthouses and the navigational signs along the Bulgarian Black sea coast are under the care of the Bulgarian state. At that time, the lighthouses of Cape Shabla, Cape Kaliakra, Cape Galata, Cape Emine, St. Ivan Island, St. Anastasia Island, Burgas and Varna have already been built. In the period 1910 – 1939, new lighthouses were built in Euxinograd, Maslen Nos, Cape St. Atanas, Nessebar, Pomorie, Tsarevo, Ahtopol, Sozopol. In 1928, a programme for modernization of all the lighthouses on our Black Sea coast was prepared.

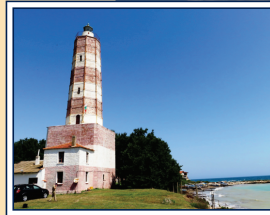


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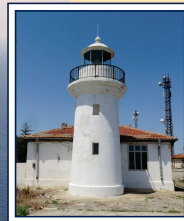
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Shabla lighthouse is the northern Bulgarian lighthouse and is situated at the easternmost point of Bulgaria. It has existed since the second half of the 18th century, and in its modern form it is unique with its architecture. Its white light flashes at a frequency of 20 seconds and the signal is visible at a distance of up to 17 nautical miles.



**Shabla Lighthouse**  
43°32.42' N; 28°36.42' E

**Kaliakra Lighthouse**  
43°21.72' N; 28°27.94' E

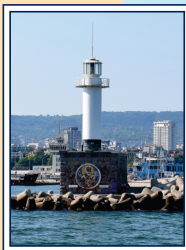


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Kaliakra Cape is impressive with its steep slopes descending into the sea and vertical cliffs. The lighthouse on Kaliakra Cape was opened on July 15, 1866 but in 1901 the building was affected by the earthquake and the tower was rebuilt. Today the lighthouse is 9.7 meters high and 67.6 meters above the sea level and its signal is white, flashing light.

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**St. Nikolai Lighthouse in Varna**  
43°11.24' N; 27°55.31' E

The first light signal at the Port of Varna is from the "red lantern", which once emitted red light, where its name comes from. It was opened on August 15, 1863. At its base, facing the incoming and outgoing ships, in 1903 was disposed a bronze bas-relief of Prince Ferdinand I, which years later was replaced with the bas-relief of Georgi Dimitrov and from December 6, 1995 – with the mosaic of St. Nikolai the Wonderworker.



Galata Lighthouse  
43° 10.21' N; 27° 53.70' E



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The Lighthouse at Galata Cape was built in 1863 and just as the Varna lighthouse was opened on August 15 of the same year. The newest lighthouse is 21 m high and was opened on July 11, 2001. The visibility from the sea is 22 nautical miles. The lighthouse features a distinctive futuristic design – an octagonal concrete tower. Within 15 sec. its light flashes three times for 0,5 sec., followed by darkness (first – 1,5 sec., then – 2,0 sec. and finally 10 sec.).

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One of the most strategic sea lighthouses in the Black Sea was "kindled" on December 15, 1880. Its prototype was a signal fire at the top of a high column. The place has been visited by the ancient seafarers. Cape Emine is a boundary between the North and South Black Sea coast. The white stone tower is 9 meters high and white light is emitted at 6 seconds – a flash of 1,5 sec., followed by 4,5 seconds darkness.



Cape Emine Lighthouse  
42° 42.03' N; 27° 54.00' E



**Burgas Lighthouse**  
42° 28.89' N; 27° 29,00' E



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The lighthouse in Burgas was “kindled” in 1899 – several years before the official opening of the port, which was on May 18, 1903. The signal of the present lighthouse (since 1995) emits from a height of 24 meters and flashes in white in 3 sec., being visible at a distance of 14 nautical miles.

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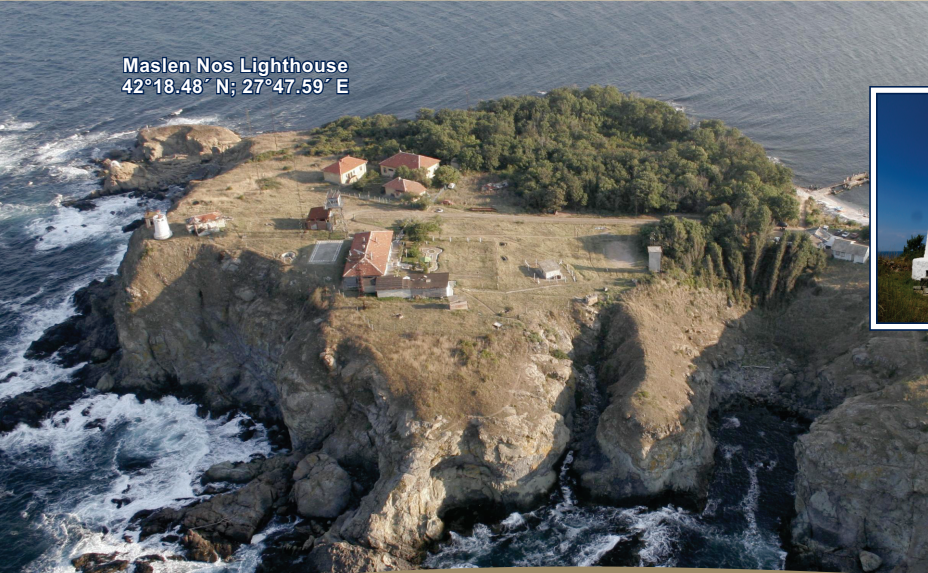


**St. Anastasia Island Lighthouse**  
42°28,10' N; 27°33,18' E

St. Anastasia Lighthouse is located in the northern part of the island. In 1863, the first light-signaling facility was built. The lighthouse known to us today was built in 1914 in the immediate vicinity of the buildings of an old monastery. The tower is 12 meters high and shines in white and red light 2 seconds, darkness – 6 seconds, visibility 20 miles.



Maslen Nos Lighthouse  
42°18.48' N; 27°47.59' E



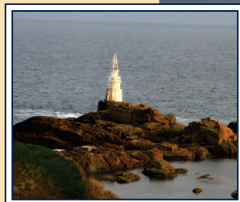
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Maslen Nos lighthouse was put into operation on July 25, 1932. The "light power" of the lighthouse signal is equal to 25 000 candles. In 1976 the lighthouse was electrified. The radio beacons on Maslen Nos, Kaliakra Cape and Emine Cape, are of the same type: KPM-100. The radius of operation is up to 100 nautical miles. The signal is emitted 10 times per hour and is: pause – 2 sec., dash – 25 sec., pause - 305 sec. The power of the radio transmitter is 100 W.

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Only in 1932 a luminous sign was placed in this area. Its location has made maintenance and refueling for years, especially in bad weather, in a trial. Later, in 1956, it was electrified, with the power cord running across the seabed. For emergency cases, it is also planned power supply from batteries of 12 volts, 320 a/h.



Ahtopol Lighthouse  
42°06.02' N; 27°56.94' E



## The modern lighthouses of XXI century

Coastal Center for Vessel Traffic Management  
and Information Services Varna



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VTMIS Coastal Center Varna, built by Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company in Asparuhov Park was opened on August 15, 2015. In it is located Operational Center for vessel traffic management, Operational Center of the coastal radio station Varna Radio, associated with the Maritime Rescue and Coordination Center and performing the functions of the GMDSS, and a VTS simulator. The building also houses a Situation Center for Crisis Management, which has all the communication and information resources of VTMIS.

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The Coastal Center for Vessel Traffic Management and Information Services Burgas was opened on August 8, 2015 and has analogical functions with the VTMIS Coastal Center in Varna, with the exception of CS Varna Radio and the GMDSS functionalities. The center is located at the East Terminal near to Burgas Passenger Terminal. The two centers maintain a constant exchange of information and have the technological capability of each center to take over the functions of the other if necessary.



Coastal Center for Vessel Traffic Management  
and Information Services Burgas

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Source: Lighthouses and other means of navigation support along the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast (1878 – 2018)



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