TRANSPORDIAMET

There are a total of ~ 1600 navigation signs in Estonia, of which 55 are lighthouses, 235 light tanks, 33 day signs and ~ 1300 floating signs.

RUHNU LIGHTHOUSE

Geographical coordinates: 57° 48.081'N; 23° 15.607'E.

The metal tower with a lantern room, a balcony and pillars is located in the Gulf of Riga, in the eastern part of Ruhnu Island, on Håubjärre Hill (also Ouberg, Hochberg or Högberget). Ruhnu lighthouse together with Sõrve and Kolka lighthouses facilitate the movement of ships in the Irbe Strait (Kura Gorge) and the Gulf of Riga.

Ruhnu Lighthouse is the only lighthouse of this design in Europe (there is only one lighthouse of similar design in the world, located in Egypt - Ras Gharib Lighthouse by the Red Sea).

LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY AND INFORMATION

- **The first lighthouse in Ruhnu was built in 1646** by order of King Gustav II Adolf of Sweden on the Persian cape on the west coast of Ruhnu. This simple nautical sign was a wooden tank with a retractable fire. The fire burning in the metal grate was raised to a height of about 110 feet (33 m). In order to keep the fire in the lighthouse, it took about **50 fathoms (about 150 m³ / room)** of trees a year.
- In 1811, the existing lighthouse was replaced with a new one: it was an octagonal wooden lighthouse 79 feet (about 24 m) high. Catoptric lighting devices (a cannabis oil lamp) were installed in the lighthouse of the lighthouse, illuminating the waterways around the northern and western part of the island from 14 nautical miles, but not marking the waterways east of Ruhnu.
- In 1851, the first lighthouse manor on Håubjärre Hill was completed and construction of the lighthouse began. Fields were built at the foot of a mountain cleared of trees.
- In 1854, during the Russo-Crimean War, a squadron of English warships entered the Baltic Sea. Due to the situation, the foundation of the already completed lighthouse and the stone plinth were covered with a layer of moss. In this way, it was possible to give the unfamiliar impression to a stranger that it was a dilapidated structure and to prevent the possible destruction of the tower by enemy ships.
- In 1860, the construction of the next lighthouse in Håubjärre was completed: it was a six-sided yellow truncated pyramid tower with a table lining and a circular lantern illuminating it 16 nautical miles away. The height of the lantern is about 61 m above sea level.
- **The surviving lighthouse was built in 1877** on Håubjärre Hill. The lighting device, whose lantern was 66 m above sea level, operated on a T. R. Sautter, Lemonnier & Cie stage II diopter (four-way kerosene lamp) and was visible at a distance of 17 nautical miles. A basement, a kerosene fence and a smithy were built next to the lighthouse.

  The lighthouse project and metal structures were ordered two years earlier from the port city of Le Havre, France, by *Forges et Chantiers de la Mediterranee*, designed by L. E. Lecointre (legends that the lighthouse was designed or built by the famous architect G. Eiffel are legends and untrue).
- In 1904, the lighthouse got its red color.
- In 1915, during World War I, the Germans destroyed the lighthouse of the lighthouse with explosives. It was restored as a temporary building by 1921.
- In 1936-1937, the service and lamp room was restored in a modified form. A rotating diopter lighting device was installed in the lantern room, illuminating it at a height of 21 m above sea level at a distance of 63 m above sea level.
- In 1958-1964, a technical building was built in the lighthouse town, where diesel generators were installed. During the same period, the rotating lighting device was replaced by an electric flashing lamp located at a height of 65 m above sea level with a visibility of 20 nautical miles.
- In 1994, the 110 V DC fixed prism lens lamp ЭМН-500 was replaced by a new 12 V DC system using a 500 W incandescent bulb.
- In 1997, the lighthouse was transferred to remote sensing.
- In 2000, the ekta ™ E602 light system with an automatic bulb changer and 500 W incandescent bulbs was installed. The visibility was considered to be 11 nautical miles.
- In 2007, the existing Sabik LED light system lamp was replaced with an LED350-4W lamp with a total power consumption of 80 W.
- The Sabik LED circular lantern (360 °) E8276 has been in use since 2015, with a maximum luminous intensity of **6350 cd** (one candela (cd) is equal to the luminous intensity of one burning candle) and a total power consumption of 66 W. The visibility of the light at night is determined on the nautical chart 11 nautical miles. **In ideal conditions, the fire is visible from a distance of 35 km.**
- Ruhnu lighthouse has been taken under heritage protection in 1999, the register number of the monument: 21071.

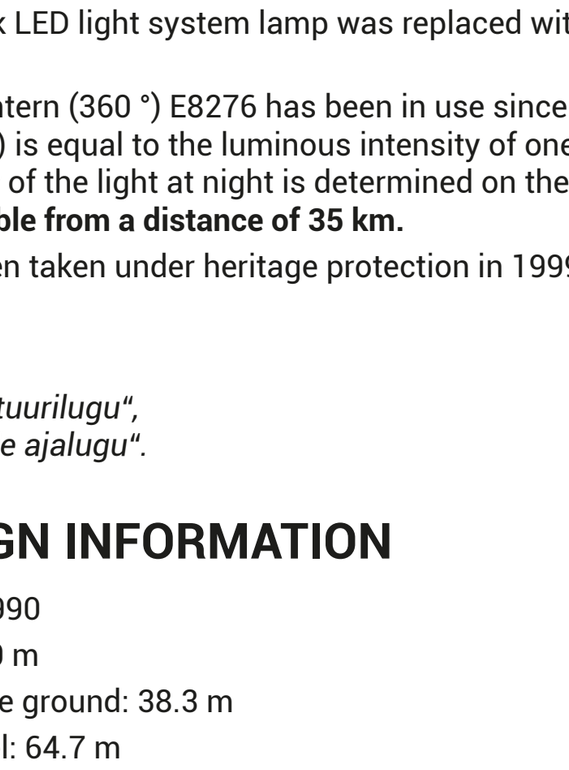
Sources:

Peeter Peetsalu „Merekultuurilugu“,
Jaan Vali „Eesti tuletornide ajalugu“.

NAVIGATION SIGN INFORMATION

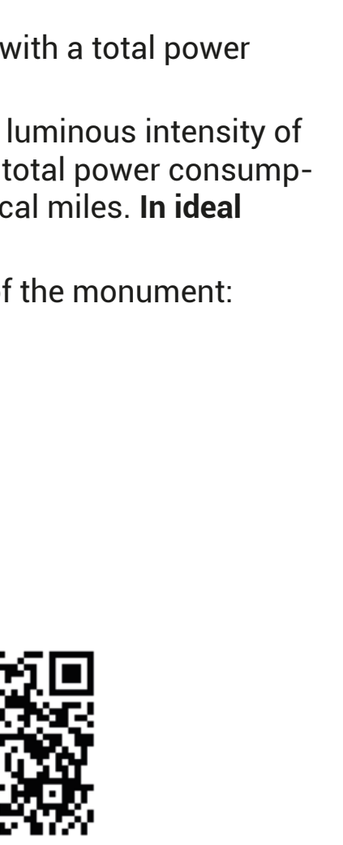
Navigation sign number: 990
Height above sea level: 30 m
Height of the sign from the ground: 38.3 m
Fire height above sea level: 64.7 m
Characteristics of the light: Fl W 4s (*flash white 4 seconds*)
Description of the pling period: 1+3=4
Permanent sign data in the navigation sign database: https://nma.transpordiamet.ee/aton/2538

1 lighthouse
2 kerosene shed
3 meteorological point
4 inspector of the dwelling
5 potato cellar
6 ice cellar
7 sauna
8 wood shed
9 storage room
10 well
11 precipitation meter
12 barn
13 forge

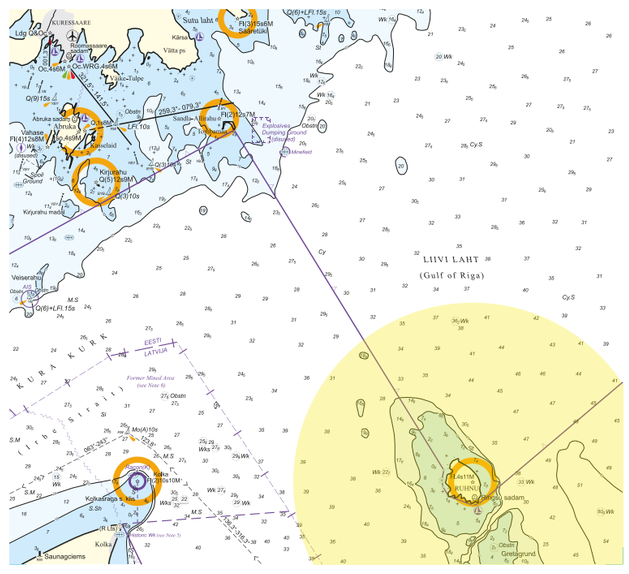


Ruhnu lighthouse complex in 1910

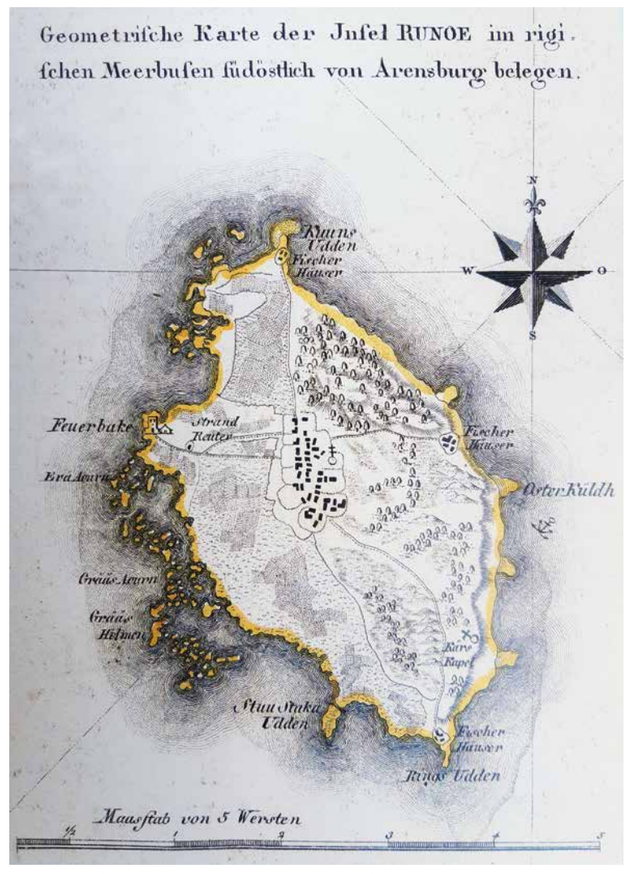
Ruhnu lighthouse in 1901



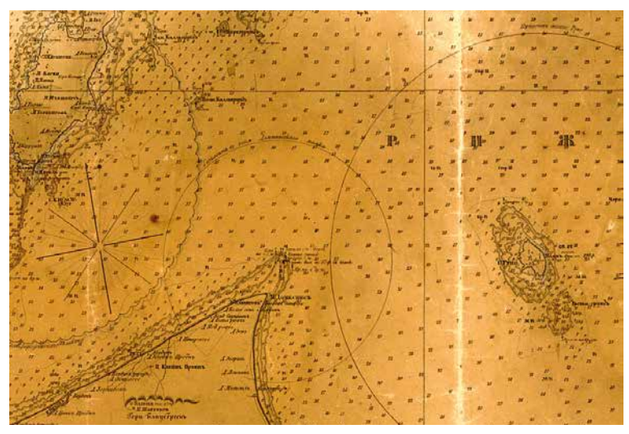
Ruhnu lighthouse with a temporary lantern in 1930



Excerpt from the map atlas "Estonian nautical charts" from 2022 with the light sector of the lighthouse fire



Excerpt from L.A. Mellini's atlas of 1798 shows the original location of the lighthouse on the Pärsi cape



Excerpt from the 1862 nautical chart of the Gulf of Riga

Postage stamp issued in 1997, designed by Roman Matkiewicz

Hexagonal wooden lighthouse on Håubjärrel, sketch from the 1862 nautical chart

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RUS