

VISITOR GUIDELINES



Please enjoy the grounds from dawn until dusk. To ensure your safety, the conservation of the property and the enjoyment of all, we ask that you observe a few simple rules:

- Stay within the boundaries of the fences. Remember: if the poison ivy doesn't get you, the dog will.
- Avoid the golf course next door, and please respect the peace and quiet of our neighbors and golfers by keeping your voices and music low.
- While your dogs are welcome, keep them leashed, and don't forget to use dog-walk bags to pick up after them.
- Please pack in and pack out all items.

A BELOVED ISLAND ICON

Today, Sankaty Head Lighthouse is a beloved Nantucket icon. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the care of the 'Sconset Trust board of trustees, and the dedication of volunteers, government officials, and island businesses, the 7-acre site is here for the pleasure of everyone. The 'Sconset Trust maintains the lighthouse and occasionally opens it to the public. Please visit sconsettrust.org for Open Day schedules.

To support this community preservation effort, call (508) 257-4100 or visit our website, sconsettrust.org, to make a donation. Many thanks. Enjoy your visit!



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WELCOME TO

SANKATY HEAD LIGHTHOUSE



LIGHTHOUSE FACTS



CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY

Sankaty Head Lighthouse was erected in 1849. Federal funding budgeted \$12,000; the actual cost of construction came in at \$10,330. Upon completion, the lighthouse stood 158 feet above sea level. The light was originally illuminated by a French Fresnel lens (now at the Nantucket Historical Association) and a single-wick whale oil lamp. The keeper and his assistant alternated four-hour watches around the clock to tend to the light. The lighthouse was home to the keeper and his family from 1850 until 1944, when the U. S. Coast Guard took over management of the lighthouse, which it continues to this day.



BLUFF EROSION AND MOVING THE LIGHTHOUSE

Between 1894 and 1999, storms and erosion claimed 195 feet of the bluff near the lighthouse. Since 1999, the bluff has been losing about three feet per year. The lighthouse was 72 feet from the bluff's edge by 2006. The Sconset Trust took ownership of the 405-ton lighthouse in 2007, when it sat 68 feet from the edge of the bluff. The Trust undertook to move the lighthouse 405 feet to the northwest of its original site during October 2007, and it presently stands 267 feet away from the bluff's edge.

PHOTO: ROB BENCHLEY

ILLUMINATION

Sankaty Head Lighthouse has been an active aid to navigation for more than 160 years. Visible for 25 miles at sea, the light completes its rotation every 7.5 seconds. The lighthouse was converted to electricity in 1933 and fully automated in 1965.

