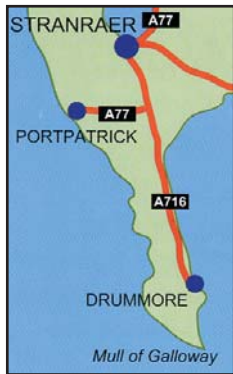


## Why not climb to the top?

Why not climb to the top of the lighthouse? On a clear day you can see Ireland's Antrim Hills and the Mountains of Mourne, the Cumbrian Machers and the Isle of Man.

The lighthouse is open to visitors on Saturday and Sundays from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm during the months of April to September. There is a small charge to help maintain this facility. On days when essential maintenance is taking place the lighthouse will be closed to visitors.

The opening of the Mull of Galloway Lighthouse is a joint venture between the Northern Lighthouse Board and the South Rhins Community Development Trust.



### How to get there

From Stranraer follow the A77 then the A716 in the direction of Sandhead. Continue on to Drummore then follow the signs for the lighthouse out to East Tarbet. There is a parking area near the lighthouse. You can also enjoy a walk around the RSPB Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre and visit the recently opened Gallie Craig Coffee House.

### You can stay at the Mull of Galloway Lighthouse...

You can now stay in the Lightkeepers Cottage, which are operated as a holiday house by the National Trust for Scotland. Contact the Trust on Tel: 0131 243 9331 or email [holidays@nts.org.uk](mailto:holidays@nts.org.uk) or book on line at [www.ntsholidays.com](http://www.ntsholidays.com)

# Mull of Galloway

## LIGHTHOUSE

The Northern Lighthouse Board has been in existence since 1786. Today their headquarters in Edinburgh monitors and maintains Scottish and Isle of Man lighthouses, buoys & beacons and provides a marine Differential Global Positioning Service (DGPS).

"In Salutem Omnium"  
For the Safety of All



Photograph by Arnaud Späni ©

More than Lighthouses  
[www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk)

As the steady lenses circle  
with a frosty gleam of glass;  
And the clear bell chimes,  
And the oil brims over the lip of the burner,  
Quiet and still at his desk,  
The lonely Light-Keeper holds his vigil.

Extract from poem "The Lightkeeper" by Robert Louis Stevenson





# BEACONS OF THE SEA

Mull of Galloway lighthouse is one of over 200 located around Scotland's wild coastline.

Operated and maintained by the Northern Lighthouse Board.

## Building the Light

The Mull of Galloway lighthouse stands 26 metres high and 99 metres above sea level and is as far South as you can go in Scotland. The lighthouse was designed and built in 1830 by the famous Scottish Engineer, Robert Stevenson, and cost £9,000 to build, some £9 million in today's terms! By contrast the Principal Lightkeeper working at the light was paid £45 per year.

## Disaster

During the Second World War on 8 June 1944 a Beaufighter aircraft crashed into the lighthouse stores building. It was foggy at the time and two men were killed as part of the roof of the store was blown off.

## Fog Horn

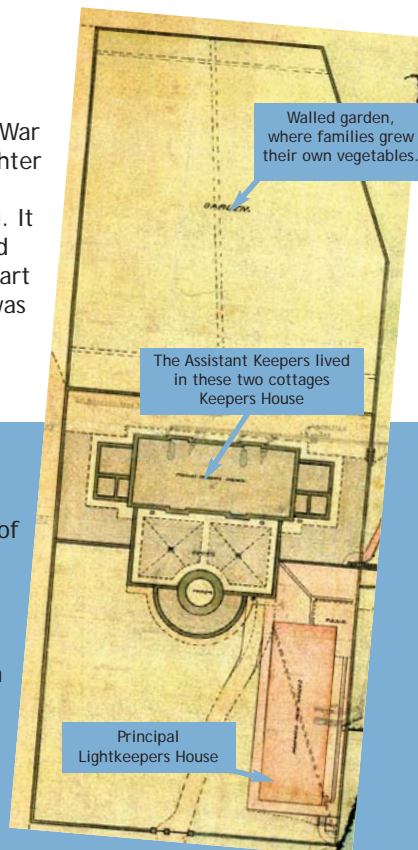
There is no longer a working fog horn at Mull of Galloway. Following wide spread consultation all Scottish fog Horns have now been switched off. The last Scottish fog horn was at Skerryvore lighthouse; which was switched off on 4 October 2005.

## The Sensational Stevensons

For over one hundred and fifty years Robert Stevenson and his descendants designed most of Scotland's Lighthouses. Battling against the odds and the elements - the Stevensons constructed wonders of engineering that have withstood the test of time, an amazing historical achievement. Robert Stevenson's talented family also included the famous writer Robert Louis Stevenson (his grandson). Visits with his family to remote lighthouses are thought to have inspired his books Kidnapped and Treasure Island.

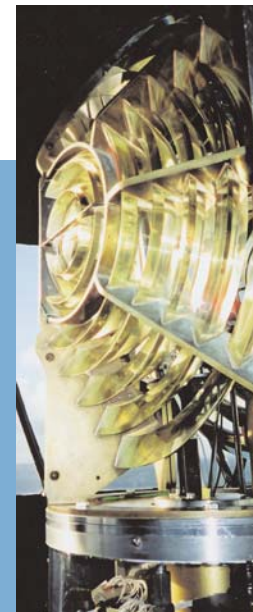


Robert Stevenson



## French Crystal

The original 5 tonnes lens at the Mull of Galloway was a Fresnel lens, so named after its French inventor, Augustin Fresnel. The lens was made from a series of perfectly polished crystal glass lenses set into a brass structure. This lens was removed in 1971 when the station was converted to electric operation and replaced with an array of sealed-beam electric lamps.



## Lightkeeping - end of an era

All Scottish lighthouses now operate automatically. The last Scottish lighthouse to be automated was Fair Isle South in 1998. Now, when daylight falls and rises between set levels, a light sensor switches the light on and off. The status of the light and all its associated equipment is relayed back to the Northern Lighthouse Board's headquarters in Edinburgh by phone link, radio signal or satellite. Prior to the automation of the Mull of Galloway in 1988 a Principal Lightkeeper and two Assistants, with their families, lived at the light. The families would have grown their own vegetables and kept chickens, sheep and a horse for transporting provisions from the boat landing. Lightkeeping was a remote, lonely and hard existence. At night each keeper was required to keep a watch in the lightroom to ensure that the light flashed correctly to character, during daytime keepers were engaged in cleaning, painting if necessary, and generally keeping the premises clean and tidy.



## Webcam

There is a web camera installed on the Mull of Galloway lighthouse, this can be viewed through the Northern Lighthouse Board's website at [www.nlb.org.uk](http://www.nlb.org.uk). This camera was funded by the European Region Development Fund. This is an innovative project involving a web camera, a radio link and satellite broadband access to the world wide web.

## Facts

Light established: 1830  
Engineer: Robert Stevenson  
Position: Latitude 54° 38.1'N  
Longitude 04° 51.4'W  
Character: Flashing white every 20 seconds  
Range of light: 28 nautical miles  
Elevation: 99 metres (above sea level)  
Height of tower: 26 metres  
Number of Steps to the top: 114

