

= Europa Point Lighthouse =

The Europa Point Lighthouse , also referred to as the Trinity Lighthouse at Europa Point and the Victoria Tower or La Farola in Llanito , is a lighthouse at Europa Point , on the southeastern tip of the British Overseas Territory of Gibraltar , on the southern end of the Iberian Peninsula , at the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea .

Europa Lighthouse was inaugurated on 1 August 1841 in a brief ceremony witnessed by about 10 @, @ 000 people . The first upgrade of the lighthouse occurred in 1864 , when the single @-@ wick lamp was replaced with a Chance Brothers four @-@ wick burner , with further changes in 1875 and in 1894 when the amount of light emitted was increased . A three incandescent mantle burner was added in 1905 . Following further modernisation in the 20th century , the lighthouse was fully automated in 1994 .

Europa Point Lighthouse is operated by Trinity House . The cylindrical tower is painted white , with a wide red horizontal band in the middle . The lighthouse has a height of 20 metres ( 66 ft ) and is 49 metres ( 161 ft ) above the high @-@ water mark , and has a white light that occults every ten seconds . The Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society operates from the lighthouse during the third weekend of August each year .

The lighthouse 's beacon may soon be retired if plans for a new UEFA Category 4 stadium go ahead .

= = History = =

Also known as the Trinity Lighthouse at Europa Point and the Victoria Tower , the Europa Point Lighthouse , of classic British design , first underwent construction in 1838 . Sir Alexander George Woodford ( 1782 ? 1870 ) , Governor and Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of Gibraltar , set the first stone for the lighthouse 's foundation on 26 April 1838 , with the aid of the Masonic Order of Gibraltar . The inscription read :

This foundation @-@ stone of a light @-@ house , erected by order of the colonial government of her Majesty Victoria , Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and their dependencies , in the first year of her reign , was laid on the 26th day of April , A.D. 1838 , A.L. 5838 , with military and masonic honours , by his Excellency Major @-@ General Sir Alexander Woodford , K.C.B. & c. governor and commander @-@ in @-@ chief of the town and garrison of Gibraltar , assisted by the Rev. W. E. T. Burrow , D.D. F.R.S. Provincial Grand Master , for the protection of Mediterranean commerce , the saving of human life , and the honour of the British name .

A brief ceremony commemorated the event , which was witnessed by about 10 @, @ 000 people . Construction of the lighthouse was completed in 1841 , and was inaugurated according to schedule on 1 August that year . The first lighting of the Europa Point Lighthouse drew an audience of more than 2 @, @ 000 people .

To navigate the Bay of Gibraltar prior to the opening of the lighthouse sailors were dependent on the light emitted by the Shrine of Our Lady of Europe , Roman Catholic shrine , which was originally a mosque built after the victory of King Ferdinand IV of Spain over the Moors at the 1309 siege . They expressed their gratitude by leaving supplies of oil at the chapel , which also encouraged the continued burning of the lights .

At the time of the opening of the lighthouse in 1841 , a fixed light was emitted by an oil lamp with one wick . The intensity of the light was increased by a combination of a dioptric fixed lens and catoptric mirrors . On 25 April 1843 , lighting was upgraded to improve visibility from Sandy Bay , and in 1854 , the lighthouse had a reported visibility of 16 miles ( 26 km ) .

Repairs and alterations were made to the lighthouse in 1863 @-@ 64 by engineer Henry Norris , when the single @-@ wick lamp was replaced with a Chance Brothers four @-@ wick burner , as well as a new lens . The improvements included a red arc of light over the hazardous Pearl Rock region . An additional upgrade was made in 1875 when the lamp was switched out for a four @-@ wick mineral oil burner .

In 1894 , the lighthouse was further altered to increase the amount of light emitted . The four @-@

wick burner and mirrors were exchanged for a Douglass burner with eight wicks and an improved lantern ; the power of the light was increased to 35 @, @ 000 candela . The characteristic of the light changed from fixed to occulting . A foghorn was also installed , with two quick blasts every five minutes . The eight @-@ wick burner was exchanged for a three incandescent mantle burner in 1905 . In 1923 , the burner was replaced by a Hood petroleum vapour burner with one mantle .

Later , between 1954 and 1956 , further extensive changes were made , and the introduction of electric lighting further improved visibility . A much more powerful , revolving lens system was utilised for the primary optic , and a second light below the main light was included to cast a fixed red light to cover the Pearl Rock region . The height of the tower was increased by 6 feet ( 1 @. @ 8 m ) .

= = Description = =

The lighthouse is strategically located at the southeastern tip of the Rock of Gibraltar at Europa Point , between the Atlantic and Mediterranean , rising to 49 metres ( 161 ft ) above the high @-@ water mark . The Mediterranean is to the east , the Bay of Gibraltar to the northwest , and the Strait of Gibraltar to the southwest .

The lighthouse is locally known as " La Farola " ( literally ' lamppost ' in Spanish ) in Llanito , Gibraltar 's spoken vernacular .

The lighthouse was fully automated in February 1994 . The extant optics were kept , but complemented with a three position lampchanger . The foghorn was changed to an electric model , with a directional 500 Hz emitter stack that was installed on the gallery of the lantern room . The active lighthouse has a 19 metres ( 62 ft ) masonry tower with lantern and gallery . The tower is painted white , with a single wide red horizontal band in the middle . The lighthouse has a white light which occults every ten seconds . There is a continuous red light as well as an occulting red light which is on for 5 @. @ 8 seconds and off for 4 @. @ 2 seconds . In addition , a foghorn emits a blast every twenty seconds .

In February 2014 the Gibraltar Football Association unveiled its plans for the Europa Point Stadium , a proposed UEFA Category 4 multi @-@ function stadium , is planned for construction at Europa Point . If approved by the Development and Planning Commission , the beacon will soon be retired as the stadium will obstruct the lighthouse 's beam and a new beacon is to be installed on top of the proposed stadium whilst retaining the lighthouse building as a historic landmark .

= = Administration = =

The lighthouse is the only such building outside of the United Kingdom which is operated by Trinity House , a lighthouse agency based in England . Accordingly , it is also referred to as the Trinity Lighthouse . Trinity House became responsible for Europa Point Lighthouse at the time of an 1838 Act of Parliament . In addition , the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 resulted in Trinity House becoming the General Lighthouse Authority ( GLA ) for Gibraltar . The site of the lighthouse is managed by the Government of Gibraltar , and monitoring of the lighthouse is through a reporting station connected by telephone to the Gibraltar Port Office . The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office Admiralty Digital Lists of Lights ( ADLL ) number for the Europa Point Lighthouse is D2438 . The United States National Geospatial @-@ Intelligence Agency ( NGA ) number is 4220 .

Soon after World War II , amateur radio , also called ham radio , made its appearance in Gibraltar . The Gibraltar Amateur Radio Society , with its headquarters on Coaling Island , operates from the lighthouse once annually , during the third weekend of August . The annual International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend has as its goal in Gibraltar of putting the Europa Point Lighthouse on the air , using the call sign , ZB2LGT . The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society ( ARLHS ) number for the lighthouse is GIB @-@ 001 .