



## Commonly Asked Questions about the Ponce Inlet Light Station

### **1. How tall is the lighthouse?**

At 175 feet in height, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is the tallest lighthouse in Florida and the second tallest brick lighthouse in the United States.

### **1. How many steps are in the lighthouse?**

There are 203 steps from the ground level to the gallery deck at the top of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and 213 steps to the Lantern Room which is closed to the public.

### **3. When was the lighthouse built?**

The Ponce Inlet Light Station took four years to build. Construction began in 1883 and lasted until 1887.

### **4. When was the light first lit?**

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse was lit for the first time on November 1, 1887.

### **5. How many bricks are in the lighthouse?**

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse contains more than 1,250,000 bricks.

### **6. How thick are the lighthouse's walls?**

The Lighthouse's walls are eight feet thick at the bottom and two feet thick at the top.

### **7. Is this still a working lighthouse?**

Yes, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is a working aid to navigation that is still used by local mariners.

**8. When was the lighthouse restored last?**

The Ponce Inlet Lighthouse was fully restored in 2001 although restoration and preservation work continues on a regular basis.

**9. How many stories tall is the lighthouse?**

At 175 feet in height, the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse is over 17 stories tall.

**10. Does the Lighthouse ever get struck by lightning?**

Yes, the lightning strikes the lighthouse on many occasions throughout the year, especially during summer months when thunderstorms are almost a daily occurrence

**11. What are the little holes around the base of the lighthouse for?**

The little holes in the outer walls of the lighthouse at ground level are called weep holes. Weep holes allow air to circulate inside the tower walls. Air circulation helps keep the hollow spaces inside the lighthouse's walls stay dry.

**12. When did the United States Coast Guard run the lighthouse?**

The United States Coast Guard ran the Ponce Inlet Light Station from 1939 until 1972 when the lighthouse was given to the town of Ponce Inlet.

**13. How far can you see from the top of the lighthouse?**

People can see almost 20 miles from the top of the lighthouse on a clear day.

**14. There are two large rusting metal objects in the southeast corner of the Light Station. What are they?**

The two large rusty objects in the southeast corner of the Light Station are old channel buoys. Channel Buoys are large floating canisters used to mark the left (port) and right (starboard) edges of navigable channels. Port buoys are painted green and starboard buoys are red.

**15. Who runs the lighthouse now?**

The Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association has maintained and operated the Ponce Inlet Light Station since 1972.

**16. Was the lighthouse always called the Ponce Inlet Light Station?**

No, the lighthouse was originally called the Mosquito Inlet Light Station until the mid-1920s when the name was changed to Ponce de Leon Inlet to attract more tourists and home buyers.