

Historic Tour to Lighthouse Island



1857 & 1827 Lights in Cape Romain NWR

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge celebrates National Wildlife Refuge Week and our rich coastal heritage with the annual fall tour to historic Lighthouse Island! On **Sunday, October 2, 2011** Cape Romain NWR in conjunction with Coastal Expeditions offers the guided tour to the Island where you can view the two 1800's lights and remains of the light keeper's dwellings. A slide

presentation on the history of the lighthouses will begin at 9:30 am at the Sewee Visitor and Environmental Education Center, 5821 Highway 17 in Awendaw, SC. Following the presentation, participants will travel to the McClellanville boat landing and board the Coastal Expeditions Island Cat Ferry. The ferry will leave Lighthouse Island at approximately 2:30 pm to return to the mainland.

Built in 1827, the conical lighthouse stands at 65 feet. Its light, powered by a whale oil wick lamp, was visible from a distance of 14 miles under the most favorable circumstances. In 1857, a 150-foot octagonal lighthouse was built. Installed on the 150-foot tower was a prismatic lens that was visible for approximately 19 miles and dramatically reduced the number of shipwrecks off the Cape. The 1857 light was taken out of service in 1947 when coastal navigation techniques made it obsolete. Both lights are a significant maritime landmark and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1827 lighthouse is the oldest of its kind still standing in the United States.

Note: Lighthouse Island is located in a National Wilderness Area. Therefore, there are no facilities or dock on the island; participants will wade ashore and walk a dirt path to the lighthouses. Wear appropriate footwear for water and pluff mud! Bring insect repellent, water and snacks and dress for the weather.

The transportation fee is \$45.00 per person. Boat space is limited to 50 passengers. **Reservations are required! Contact the Sewee Center at 843.928.3368 between 9 am and 5 pm, Tuesday - Saturday.**

