Lundy Old Lighthouse
(Lundy Island off the Coast of Devon)

History

Lundy is the largest island in the Bristol Channel, lying 12 miles (19 km) off the coast of Devon, England, approximately one third of the distance across the channel between England and Wales. It measures about 3 by 0.75 miles (4.8 by 1.2 km) at its widest. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lundy-cite_note-2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lundy) Lundy gives its name to a British sea area and is one of the islands of England.

Foundations for the first lighthouse were laid in 1787 but the lighthouse was not built until Trinity House obtained a 999-year lease in 1819. The 97 feet (30 m) tower, on the summit of Chapel Hill, was designed by Daniel Asher Alexander and built by Joseph Nelson at a cost of £36,000. Because the site is 407 feet (124 m) above sea level, the highest base for a lighthouse in Britain, the fog problem was not...
solved and the Fog Signal Battery was built about 1861. The lighthouse had two lights, however they revolved so quickly that they gave the impression it was a fixed light with no flashes detectable. These may have contributed to the grounding, at Cefn Sidan, of the La Jeune Emma, bound from Martinique to Cherbourg in 1828. 13 of the 19 on board drowned, including Adeline Coquelin, the 12 year-old niece of Napoleon Bonaparte's divorced wife Josephine de Beauharnais. Eventually the lighthouse was abandoned in 1897 when the North and South Lundy lighthouses were built. The Old Light and the associated keeper's houses are kept open by the Landmark Trust.

During the summer months (April to the end of October), the Lundy Trust supply and passenger ship, the MS Oldenburg, carries both day and staying visitors from Bideford or Ilfracombe. Passengers enjoy breathtaking views of the North Devon coast. For further information and reservations contact the Landmark Trust at:

Address
Shottesbrooke
Maidenhead
Berkshire
SL6 3SW

Booking inquiries
☎ 01628 825925
✉ bookings@landmarktrust.org.uk

The Booking Office is normally open Monday to Friday
9am - 6pm and Saturday 10am - 4pm.

Location