

Cape Neddick Lighthouse

By
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Cape Neddick Lighthouse located in York Maine is also called Nubble Light as a result of the rocky island it sits on. Built in 1879 at the cost of \$15,000, Nubble Light is a 40 foot tower that uses a fourth-order lens and is built on the highest point on the island for a total height of 88 feet. The red light flashed about every six seconds and is visible for 13 miles.

The main house is a two story, six room building consisting of a living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom, and pantry. The Coast Guard automated the lighthouse in 1987.

An interested piece of trivia is that the four points of the roof are shaped as a cross and indicate the compass directions of north, south, east, and west. The little red building houses a backup generator. The white building to the left is used for equipment storage.

The island is inaccessible to the public due to a small strip of ocean between the mainland and the lighthouse. The best time to shoot the lighthouse is late afternoon when the sun is low and brings warm light onto the scene. You can setup your tripod at the edge of the parking lot using a 24-120 mm lens. For a different perspective, there is an easy climb down from the parking to almost the ocean level to a flat area from which to shoot from. Since Nubble Light is on a small island offshore from the mainland. Sunrise would be a difficult shoot and make for only silhouette shots so stick with late afternoon.

During the holiday season from the first Saturday after Thanksgiving through the first week or so in January, the lighthouse is decorated with white lights. The lights are turned on just at sunset and highlight the edges of the various buildings. You can even see a Christmas tree decorated inside one of the buildings.

To get there take Route 95 North to Exit 4 (Yorks/Ogunquit). Bear right at the exit ramp and another right onto Route 1 South. Turn left onto Route 1A at the next light and follow 1A to York Beach (some excellent restaurants long this strip). Make a right onto Nubble Road and follow this approximately one mile to Sohier Park where you can park.



This is approximately a 5 hour drive from Ramsey and another hour further north to the Portland Headlight.