Medieval Lighthouses
15E - Site Survey
by Dr Ken Trethewey

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Turkey

Rumeli Feneri (Antiquity continuing; 1450, 1856)
Alternative Names: Timoea, Turkeli Feneri, Rumili Fanar, Panium
Location: Black Sea - Istanbul
Lat/Lon: 41.23498, 29.11443
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1856)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Rumeli Feneri (İstanbul Province) represents a site of exceptional continuity in the marking of a navigational choke point. Although no purpose-built lighthouse existed before the nineteenth century, towers and fires are documented from antiquity through the Byzantine and early Ottoman periods. The close association of signalling installations with churches and clerical personnel makes ecclesiastical involvement highly plausible, placing Rumeli Feneri among the strongest pre-1700 "lighted sites" on the Turkish Black Sea coast. Hague concludes this site was the one reported as the Timoea Tower by Dionysius of Byzantiumn in the first century. The name Rumeli refers to this location belonging to Greece, so today it is renamed Turkeli. The equivalent site on the Asian side of the waterway is Anadolu Feneri, a second important site here.
References: Zemke (1992), p10, 22, 23, 27; Hague (1974), p2, 8, 14; Mango, Cyril: Byzantium: The Empire of New Rome. London: Phoenix, 2002; Müller- Wiener, Wolfgang: Bildlexikon zur Topographie Istanbuls. Tübingen: Wasmuth, 1977; Sheehan, Kevin: "The Appearance of Lighthouses on Portolan Charts." In Proceedings of the International Medieval Ports Conference. Nottingham, 2009; Talbot, Alice-Mary, ed: Byzantine Constantinople: Monuments, Topography and Everyday Life. Leiden: Brill, 2004; Necipoğlu, Gülru: Byzantium Between the Ottomans and the Latins. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
AL References: 82, 83, 91, 282
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Karaburun - Black Sea (1938)
Alternative Names: Thynias, Megalos Akrion
Location: Black Sea - Istanbul
Lat/Lon: 41.3458, 28.6838
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1938)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: This second similarly named site has a better claim to medieval lights as part of a Byzantine chain of messaging sites. Strategically, it could well have shown lights from the headland that assisted mariners. Unfortunately, Karaburun (İstanbul Province) shows no evidence for a permanent navigational light before 1700. Any illumination used along this exposed Thracian Black Sea coast was likely temporary and defensive in character, consisting of watch or signal fires rather than institutionalized lightkeeping. No ecclesiastical involvement can be demonstrated.
References: Braudel, Fernand: The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II. Vol. 1. Translated by Siân Reynolds. New York: Harper & Row, 1972; Horden, Peregrine, and Nicholas Purcell: The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000; Sheehan, Kevin: "The Appearance of Lighthouses on Portolan Charts." In Proceedings of the International Medieval Ports Conference. Nottingham, 2009; Mango, Cyril: Byzantium: The Empire of New Rome. London: Phoenix, 2002. For Thracian and Bosphorus coastal context.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: demonstrated. No
Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Bulgaria

Apollonia Pontica (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Antheia, Apollonia Pontica, Apollonia Magna, Sozopolis
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 42.4208, 27.6936
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No Sveti Ivan
Ecclesiastical: No

Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Many anchors from the second and first millennium BC have been discovered in the town's bay, a proof of active shipping since ancient times. Archaeologists report evidence for a Roman lighthouse on the island. Apollonia exemplifies the Hellenistic–Roman harbour-light tradition of Cyrenaica: practical, locally administered, and architecturally modest. Serving as the maritime gateway to Cyrene, its rocky approaches and engineered harbour works strongly favour the use of harbour- mounted fires or lanterns, maintained as part of ordinary port operations rather than as monumental statements. The site's later abandonment underscores a recurring pattern in lighthouse history: navigational lighting endured only as long as the harbour and its institutions survived, disappearing rapidly once urban continuity was broken.
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: Yes; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Mesembria (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Nesebar
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 42.661, 27.738
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified structure
Light Form: beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes (5c)
Notes: Mesembria exemplifies the island–peninsula lighting logic of the western Black Sea. From its Greek foundation through Roman, Byzantine, and medieval phases, the city's morphology consistently favoured near-field harbour lights and headland beacons, embedded in fortifications and watch structures rather than expressed as monumental towers. The site demonstrates that, in the Black Sea as in much of the Mediterranean, effective navigational lighting before 1700 depended less on architectural scale than on topography, continuity of occupation, and institutional watchkeeping.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Cape Emine (8c continuing, 1880)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 42.7014, 27.8999
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1880 - French)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Cape Emine exemplifies the turning-point beacon tradition of the Black Sea. Unlike harbour lights, which depend on urban continuity, Emine's lighting logic derived entirely from geography: a high, unavoidable headland marking a change of course along a hazardous coast. Such sites were among the most resilient components of pre-modern navigational lighting, persisting across political regimes precisely because they required minimal infrastructure and served universal maritime needs. The later construction of a lighthouse here reflects not innovation, but the institutionalisation of a role long embedded in ancient and medieval navigation.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Odessos - Varna (Antiquity continuing)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 43.1981, 27.9189
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Odessos stands as the clearest western Black Sea analogue to Mediterranean harbour-light continuity. From its Greek foundation through Roman, Byzantine, and medieval phases, the port's scale and exposure strongly favour the sustained use of harbour-side fires and beacon lights, embedded within urban and defensive architecture rather than monumentalised. Varna demonstrates that, even in the Black Sea, navigational lighting before 1700 followed the familiar pre-modern pattern: institutionally continuous, architecturally modest, and functionally indispensable, yet rarely singled out in textual sources.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Cape Kaliakra (4c, 8c continuing, 1886, 1901)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 43.36185, 28.46562
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1901)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Cape Kaliakra exemplifies the headland-beacon tradition of the Black Sea. From antiquity through the medieval period, its exceptional topography made it

a natural site for distant fires and signal lights, serving both navigational orientation and coastal defence. Unlike harbour lights, which required institutional continuity and maintenance, Kaliakra's lighting logic was geographically self-justifying, allowing beacon practice to persist across political regimes without monumental architecture. The later construction of a modern lighthouse here represents not a conceptual innovation, but the formalisation of a role long embedded in the maritime landscape. The presence of a chapel to St Nicholas on the point of land is a further marker of ancient maritime tradition.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No
Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Shabla (5c continuing, 1856)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 43.5403, 28.607
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1856 - Ottoman)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Beacon light
Light Form: Fire beacons
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Shabla exemplifies the intermediate headland-beacon role on the western Black Sea: neither a harbour light nor a monumental signal, but a geographic marker essential to long-distance coastal navigation along an otherwise featureless shore. From Roman frontier logistics through Byzantine and medieval coastal defence, its value lay in continuity of visibility, not institutional complexity. The later construction of a permanent lighthouse here, now the oldest functioning, confirms that early modern engineers recognised and formalised a pre-existing navigational logic, rather than inventing a new one.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Romania

Callatis - Mangalia (Antiquity continuing)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 43.8103, 28.5848
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Callatis illustrates how secondary Black Sea ports participated fully in the pre-modern lighting ecology without producing monumental or specialised lighthouse structures. From its Greek foundation through Roman and medieval phases, navigational lighting here was almost certainly low-intensity, locally managed, and embedded in harbour and watch infrastructure. In combination with Tomis, Callatis demonstrates that Black Sea lighting before 1700 operated as a graduated system, in which major hubs sustained more regular harbour lights while smaller ports relied on the same practices at reduced scale.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 3

Constanta (1300, 1860)
Alternative Names: Tomis
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 44.1721, 28.6646
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1860)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Built structure
Light Form: Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Tomis represents the strongest Romanian case for sustained pre-modern harbour lighting on the Black Sea. From its Greek foundation through Roman, Byzantine, and medieval phases, the city's exposed promontory setting and administrative importance created persistent incentives for harbour-mounted fires or lanterns, embedded within urban and defensive architecture rather than monumentalised. In this respect, Tomis closely parallels Odessos and stands as the western Black Sea's clearest analogue to Mediterranean harbour-light continuity before 1700. The present 'Genoese' lighthouse was built early in the 14c by the Genoese and its basis structure modified in 1860.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: Yes; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 6

Ukraine

Tyra - Akkerman (4c-8c, 12c continuing)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 46.1999, 30.3513
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: River navigation/Fortification lights
Light Form: Local fires and lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Tyras illustrates the river-mouth lighting logic of the northern Black Sea. From its Greek foundation

through Roman frontier use and medieval revival as Akkerman, navigational lighting here was necessarily adaptive, short range, and regulatory, aimed at marking shifting channels and controlling access rather than guiding ships from afar. Like the Nile mouths, Tyras shows that some of the most persistent pre-modern lighting traditions were deliberately non-monumental, shaped by geomorphology and political control rather than by architectural ambition.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: ambition. No
Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 4

Olbia (Antiquity declining)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 46.6886, 31.9055
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: River navigation
Light Form: Local fires and lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Olbia exemplifies the adaptive, non-monumental lighting logic of the northern Black Sea limans. During its Greek and Roman phases, navigational lighting here was almost certainly short range, adjustable, and seasonally maintained, focused on channel marking rather than coastal visibility. The city's later abandonment underscores a recurring pattern in lighthouse history: where urban and institutional continuity failed, even well-established lighting practices disappeared, leaving no architectural trace.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Cherson (Classical continuing, 1816, 1950)
Alternative Names: Khersonesskiy, Cape Chersonese, Chersonesus Taurica
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 44.5833, 33.3789
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1950)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Built structure
Light Form: Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Chersonesus Taurica represents the Mediterranean model transplanted into the Black Sea. Its rocky peninsula, sheltered coves, and exceptional Byzantine continuity fostered stable, embedded harbour lighting, closer in logic to Aegean and eastern Mediterranean ports than to the adaptive liman systems of the northern coast. The site demonstrates that where urban survival and imperial administration endured, pre-modern navigational lighting could remain predictable and institutionalised even in the Black Sea world. An academic study notes that this lightstructure was located close to the so-called Nekropela - Karkinitc Bay, a stratregic point for the Byzantines.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 4

Theodosia (Classical declining, 13c continuing)
Alternative Names: Feodosia
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 45.0215, 35.3996
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour lights / Fortification lights
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires, Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes (14c)
Notes: Theodosia/Caffa represents the Genoese commercial lighting model transplanted to the Black Sea. Its exposed bay, heavy traffic, and integration into long-distance trade created strong incentives for regulated harbour lighting, managed institutionally rather than monumentally. In contrast to Venetian lagoonal practice, Genoese lights here emphasised external legibility and predictability, reinforcing both navigation and authority. The site thus stands as one of the clearest medieval precursors to modern harbour-light systems in the Black Sea world. The still standing remains of the tower are called the Tower of Constantine or Tower of Giovanni Di Scaffa and were part of the larger fortress.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: Yes
Genoese: Yes; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 4

Kerch (Antiquity continuing)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 45.3491, 36.4728
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour lights/Fortress lights
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Kerch exemplifies the strait-lighting tradition of the ancient and medieval world. From its Greek foundation as Panticapaeum through Roman, Byzantine, and medieval phases, navigational lighting here was shaped by chokepoint geometry rather than open-sea visibility. Fires and lanterns marked channels, currents, and controlled passage, embedded in elevated civic and military structures. Like the Hellespont and the Golden Horn, Kerch demonstrates that some of the most

enduring pre- modern lighting practices were those tied to strait governance, where navigation, taxation, and security converged.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 5

Yeni-Kale (Medieval continuing, 1699, 1820, 1953)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 45.3493, 36.6047
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No (1953)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Built structure
Light Form: Local fires and lanterns, Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes (17c)
Notes: The current lighthouse here is post 1700 but there are earlier reports of "navigation cressets" that point to earlier lights being shown here. Yeni- Kale marks the outer chronological limit of the medieval Mediterranean–Black Sea lighting tradition. Its lights—if and when shown—were not navigational aids in the modern sense, but instruments of passage control, embedded within fortress architecture and activated selectively by military authority. The site demonstrates that even on the threshold of the modern era, dominant maritime powers still conceptualised light as a regulatory signal rather than a continuous public service. Only with the nineteenth-century redefinition of navigation as a standardised, state-guaranteed infrastructure would this logic finally be displaced.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Russia

Phanagoria (Antiquity declining)
Alternative Names: Sennoi
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 45.2909, 36.9866
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Minor harbour
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Phanagoria (Taman Peninsula) was a major Greek and Bosporan city controlling the Azov–Black Sea interface with a busy harbour activity in antiquity, but later decline. It probably had harbour and strait-related fires in Classical and Roman periods, but there was no medieval continuity.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: continuity. No
Activity Index: 3

Georgia

Pityous (Antiquity declining; abandoned pre-1700)
Alternative Names: Pitsunda
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 43.1597, 40.3381
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Minor harbour; Intermittent military
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Along the north-eastern Black Sea coast (modern Georgia and the Russian Caucasus), conditions are very different from the western and Crimean shores, and this sharply limits the development of pre-1700 navigational lighting. This coast is characterised by steep, forested mountains dropping directly to the sea with few safe natural harbours. Weather conditions are poor with high rainfall, fog, and heavy swell. Urban maritime institutions before the modern era are very weak and as a result, navigation relied heavily on daylight, seasonal timing, and local pilots, with little incentive or capacity to sustain permanent lighting. Pityus / Pitius (modern Pitsunda) was a Roman and Byzantine fortified port used intermittently as a naval base. Fortress-mounted harbour or signal lights are probable, but were abandoned before 1700.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Dioskuria (Antiquity declining)
Alternative Names: Sokhumi
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 42.9951, 40.991
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Minor harbour
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Dioscurias / Sebastopolis (modern Sukhumi, Georgia) was founded by Greeks and later a Roman outpost. Its harbour was used into Late Antiquity and harbour fires were likely during the Roman phase. It declined early and there was no medieval institutional continuity.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek

Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Phasis
Alternative Names: Patara, Poti
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 42.1848, 41.709
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: River navigation
Light Form: Local lanterna and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Phasis illustrates the extreme river-mouth limit of pre-modern navigational lighting in the Black Sea. Its low relief, heavy sedimentation, and climatic instability rendered permanent lights impractical and long-range beacons ineffective. Instead, any lighting before 1700 was necessarily adaptive, temporary, and regulatory, focused on marking channels or signalling access rather than guiding approach from the open sea. In this respect, Phasis aligns closely with the Nile mouths and the Dniester and Bug limans, while also marking the eastern terminus of the Black Sea lighting ecology, beyond which geography decisively constrained maritime infrastructure.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Gonio (Antiquity declining)
Alternative Names: Batumi, Apsarus
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.5372, 41.5372
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Minor Military
Light Form: Signal lights
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Apsarus (near Gonio, Georgia) possessed a Roman fort at the river mouth so its role was primarily military logistics, not a commercial port. Signal fires were possible, but navigational lights were unlikely.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Turkey

Trabzon (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Trebizond, Trapezous
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.007, 39.736
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified structure
Light Form: Fortified structure with signal fires and lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Trabzon constitutes the most compelling eastern Black Sea case for sustained pre-1700 maritime lighting without a formal lighthouse. From antiquity through the Komnenian and early Ottoman periods, fires shown from towers and elevated structures almost certainly marked the roadstead and served broader signalling functions. The city's dense ecclesiastical landscape and imperial status make ecclesiastical participation in these practices highly plausible, though not explicitly documented. Beacon fires along the citadel were noted in Komnenoi chronicles.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Tirebolu (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Tripolis
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.0077, 38.8208
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Military
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Tirebolu functioned primarily as a fortified coastal signalling point rather than a major harbour. Although no purpose-built lighthouse existed before 1700, the castle-capped promontory makes the use of signal or watch fires highly probable from antiquity through the medieval period. There is no evidence for ecclesiastical involvement; any lighting was military or civic in character.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Giresun
Alternative Names: Kerasous
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 40.92168, 38.38926
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Giresun combines a fortified headland with the only substantial offshore island on the Turkish Black Sea

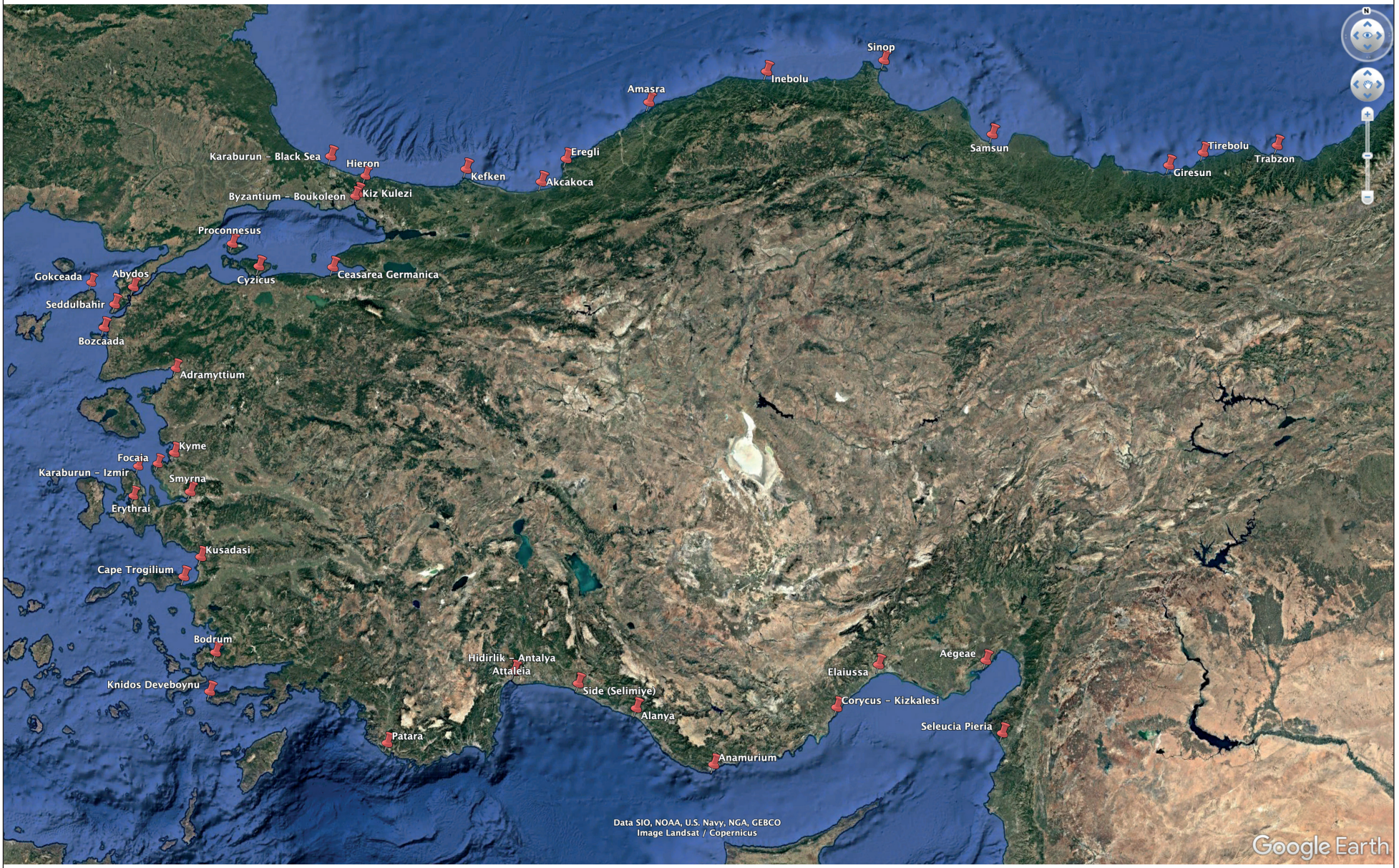
coast, creating an unusually strong setting for pre-1700 maritime marking. The use of fires from the headland, the island, or both is highly plausible. Ecclesiastical involvement cannot be proven but is institutionally and topographically credible, particularly in relation to island cult activity and episcopal presence.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Samsun (Antiquity continuing, 1863)
Alternative Names: Amisos
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.3145, 36.3381
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1863)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires and lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Samsun functioned as a major Black Sea port from antiquity through to the medieval period. The city's scale and continuity make the use of fires from elevated urban or defensive structures for coastal marking and signalling highly plausible. Ecclesiastical involvement cannot be demonstrated and should be regarded as incidental rather than institutional.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Sinop (Antiquity continuing; 1150)
Alternative Names: Boztepe Burnu
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 42.032, 35.156
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No Boztepe Burnu
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires and lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Sinope was a very important trading port since ancient times, occupied by the Greeks and used by the Romans. It was important because of the isthmus that gave it a double harbour on the north and south sides. A Byzantine lightstructure was described here by Anna Komnene in the 12th c. Sinop (Sinope) represents the most convincing case on the Turkish Black Sea coast for sustained pre-1700 harbour lighting. The city's exceptional harbour geography, long urban continuity, and extensive fortifications make the regular use of fires from towers or promontory points highly probable. Ecclesiastical involvement cannot be proven but is institutionally plausible within the Byzantine and early medieval city.
References: Robinson, David M: Ancient Sinope. American Journal of Philology, (1906) First part: Vol 27 (2)125-153.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Inebolu
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.9794, 33.7639
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: İnebolu exemplifies the secondary-harbour lighting logic of the Anatolian Black Sea. From antiquity through the Byzantine and early Ottoman periods, its value lay not in scale but in reliability, sustaining low-intensity harbour lights embedded in fortifications and waterfront structures. The site demonstrates how navigational lighting could persist below the threshold of monumentality, maintained by continuity of use rather than by formal institutionalisation.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Amasra (Medieval continuing)
Alternative Names: Amastris
Location: Black Sea - Bartin
Lat/Lon: 41.7521, 32.3834
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified structure
Light Form: Military site with bastion and brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes (15c)
Notes: Amasra, with its rare double-harbour configuration and long urban continuity, represents one of the strongest cases on the Turkish Black Sea coast for pre-1700 harbour lighting. The city's fortified towers and prominent ecclesiastical topography make the use of fires for navigation and signalling highly plausible. Ecclesiastical involvement cannot be proven but is institutionally credible within the Byzantine urban context. A fortification continuously occupied by Byzantine and Ottoman forces showed a beacon from a promontory, recorded in the 16th c.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3


Sinop
Inebolu
Amasra
Samsun
Tirebolu
Trabzon
Giresun
Karaburun - Black Sea
Hieron
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Byzantium - Boukoleon
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Proconnesus
Gokceada
Abydos
Cyzicus
Ceasarea Germanica
Seddulbahir
Bozcaada
Adramyttium
Kyme
Focaia
Karaburun - Izmir
Smyrna
Erythrai
Kusadasi
Cape Trogilium
Bodrum
Knidos Deveboynu
Hidirlik - Antalya
Attaleia
Side (Selimiye)
Alanya
Patara
Anamurium
Aegeae
Elaiussa
Corycus - Kizkalesi
Seleucia Pieria
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Google Earth

Herakleia Pontika
Alternative Names: Karadeniz Eregli
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.28306, 31.41122
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour and Military
Light Form: Local lanterna and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Heraclea Pontica exemplifies the upper tier of embedded harbour lighting on the Anatolian Black Sea coast. Its excellent natural harbour, urban continuity, and strategic importance sustained routine harbour-side fires and lanterns from antiquity through the medieval period, without ever generating a monumental lighthouse tradition. The site demonstrates that, even in favourable conditions, pre-modern Black Sea lighting remained institutionally integrated rather than architecturally specialised, prioritising reliability and control over scale.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 2

Akçakoca (75, 14c)
Location: Black Sea
Lat/Lon: 41.08592, 31.09297
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Military and signalling
Light Form: Local beacons
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes (14c)
Notes: Akçakoca represents the lower threshold of navigational lighting along the Anatolian Black Sea coast. Lacking a true harbour and lying outside major commercial corridors, it never developed routine harbour lights. Instead, any illumination before 1700 was episodic and strategic, consisting of watch or signal fires tied to coastal surveillance rather than navigation. Sites like Akçakoca are essential to understanding the Black Sea as a graduated system, where lighting intensity diminishes smoothly away from institutional ports and strategic straits.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Kefken (Antiquity continuing; 1200, 19c)
Alternative Names: Calpe, Kalpe, Kerpe, Cebeci
Location: Black Sea - Kocaeli
Lat/Lon: 41.216, 30.258
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (late 19c)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Beacon light
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Kefken was one of the most important natural anchorages on the western Black Sea coast of Anatolia. The site's repeated use as a refuge from Classical antiquity onward makes the intermittent use of harbour or signal fires highly probable, particularly from elevated points such as Kefken Island. No direct evidence links these practices to ecclesiastical institutions. An Ottoman beacon was later shown here to assist Black Sea convoys, but probably on an occasional basis.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Şile (Medieval continuing, 1859)
Location: Black Sea - Istanbul
Lat/Lon: 41.1816, 29.6092
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1859)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Military
Light Form: Fortified Structure
Medieval Structure Exists:
Notes: Şile occupied a modest but strategically important position on the Anatolian Black Sea coast. The presence of a prominent offshore island and a usable anchorage makes the intermittent use of fires for harbour marking or warning plausible. There is no evidence for ecclesiastical involvement; any lighting was likely informal and locally managed.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Anadolu Feneri (Antiquity continuing; 1600, 1856)
Location: Black Sea - Istanbul
Lat/Lon: 41.2174, 29.152
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1856 - French)
Ecclesiastical: Yes
Light Function: Built structure
Light Form: Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Anadolu Feneri functioned from antiquity through the medieval and early Ottoman periods as one half of a paired system marking the Bosphorus entrance. Fires shown from towers or fortified points are strongly implied by geography, strategic necessity, and Byzantine practice. The close integration of coastal defense, sacred sites, and imperial infrastructure makes ecclesiastical involvement in signalling activities highly plausible.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek

Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes
Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Hieron (4c continuing)

Alternative Names: Fanum, Yoros Kalesi
Location: On the high point of the promontory at the narrowest point of the
Lat/Lon: 41.17863, 29.09492
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified structure
Light Form: Built structure with brazier
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Called Hieron by Greeks and Fanum by Latins, this ancient temple site was considered to be at the mouth of the Bosporus, even though it might seem to be not at the mouth on today's maps. Hieron, situated on the Asian shore at the Bosphorus entrance, represents one of the earliest lighted maritime sites in the region. Although there has never been a purpose-built lighthouse here, the sanctuary's ritual fires almost certainly functioned as visible markers for mariners at a critical location. In Late Antiquity and the medieval period, this model of light-use, first created in the context of religion, was modified into broader Byzantine and Ottoman signalling systems. Hieron thus illustrates how pre-modern navigation relied on the continuity of sacred, defensive, and communication fires rather than on dedicated lightstructures. The reference mentions Hieron as a fortress guarding the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorus. A source is quoted as reporting a torch to guide travellers at night.
References: Moreno, Alfonso: Hieron - The Ancient Sanctuary at the Mouth of the Black Sea. Hesperia, 77 (2008), p655-709. Quotation on p697. Also: thebyzantinelegacy.com/yoros
AL References: 282
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: travellers at night. No
Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Kiz Kulesi (4c continuing, 1110, 1719, 1857)

Alternative Names: Maiden`s Tower, Leander`s Tower, Chrysopolis, Scutari
Location: Istanbul; Üsküdar Island
Lat/Lon: 41.0211, 29.0042
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Kiz Kulesi (1857)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns and fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Kiz Kulesi is on an islet just offshore from Üsküdar. It is the site of the ancient and medieval light known as Chrysopolis. It is essentially an Ottoman built tower on Byzantine foundations. In its present form it has been rebuilt several times. Kız Kulesi should not be treated as a lighthouse in the modern sense. From the Byzantine period to the early Ottoman era the islet functioned primarily as a fortified control point within the Bosphorus traffic system. While fires or lights were likely shown periodically for signalling or warning, there is no evidence for a maintained navigational light or ecclesiastical involvement before the modern period. The names of Maiden and Leander are also misleading for the story of Hero and Leander did not take place here. This was probably the unidentified tall lighthouse described by travellers Pierre Belon and Philippe du Fresne-Canaye in 1550 and 1595. The tower was destroyed by an earthquake in 1509, rebuilt and burned down in 1719.
AL References: 283
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Galata Tower (1348)

Location: Istanbul; Facing the northern coast of the Golden Horn on the European
Lat/Lon: 41.02562, 28.9741
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Built structure
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Galata represents the closest approximation to a lightstructure site within medieval Istanbul without becoming a dedicated lighthouse. The Genoese tower complex, especially the Galata Tower, was ideally positioned to display signal or approach lights for vessels entering the Golden Horn. Such lighting was commercial and administrative in character, not ecclesiastical, and functioned episodically within broader harbour-control systems rather than as a continuous navigational service. Although lights may at times have been displayed from Galata Tower for purposes of watch or signalling, there is no evidence that the tower ever housed a permanent, enclosed navigational light. Neither the surviving fabric nor the pre-1700 textual record indicates the presence of a purpose-built lantern or a continuous maritime light, and the structure should therefore be understood as a defensive and signal tower rather than a lighthouse in the technical sense.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: Yes; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Chrysopolis (Antiquity)
Alternative Names: Damalis, Bous, Scutari, Üsküdar
Location: Istanbul; Üsküdar
Lat/Lon: 41.02975, 29.0176
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Landing lights
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Giardina is a source of confusion about locations of possible ancient lighthouses in Byzantium. We identify five possible sites that vary widely in probability. Chrysopolis functioned primarily as an anchorage and transit point within the Bosphorus system rather than as a navigational marker. Although occasional fires or lamps may have been used for short-range signalling or administrative purposes, there is no evidence for a maintained navigational light or ecclesiastical involvement before 1700. Any lighting at Chrysopolis addressed vessels already within the straits, not those approaching from open water.
References: Stevenson p2; Zemke p10, 22; Hague & Christie p8; Constantine Porphyrogenitus, De Ceremoniis II.52; Mango, "The Pharos and Lighthouse of Constantinople, " DOP 18 (1964); Müller-Wiener, Bildlexikon zur Topographie Istanbuls (1977).
AL References: 283
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Ahırkapı (4c continuing, 1857)
Alternative Names: Seraglio
Location: Istanbul; Southern entrance to the Golden Horn in the Bosphorus Strait.
Lat/Lon: 41.0063, 28.985
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1857)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Beacon light
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Ahırkapı marks the principal Marmara-facing approach to Constantinople and is one of the few sites where recurrent pre-modern approach lighting is highly plausible. Although no purpose-built lighthouse existed before the nineteenth century, fires or lamps shown from towers or coastal installations almost certainly served as visual confirmation of landfall for vessels arriving from the Hellespont. Such lighting functioned on an occasional basis within defensive and ceremonial systems rather than as a continuous navigational service, and there is no evidence for ecclesiastical responsibility.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Byzantium (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Boukoleon
Location: Istanbul; On the south (European) shore of the Golden Horn in the
Lat/Lon: 41.0023, 28.9768
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires; ecclesiastical assistance
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Byzantine texts refer to a tower "used as a lighthouse" on the Boukoleon seafront, immediately beside the imperial landing steps with the inference that it was a navigational/ signal beacon for imperial shipping. These texts are part of modern archaeological mapping of the Boukoleon Palace ruins along the Marmara shore. The Boukoleon Palace was the seaside wing of the Byzantine Great Palace, with its own imperial landing steps. This tower sat immediately east of the Boukoleon harbour stairs. The Boukoleon Palace ruins still exist, on the south shore of Istanbul, along Kennedy Caddesi, between the old sea walls and the railway. The palace had a private harbour (the "Harbour of Boukoleon") with a monumental landing stair for the emperor's galley. Just to the east of that landing is where sources note a tower "used as a lighthouse." That puts the light on the Sea of Marmara frontage of the Great Palace, not up at Seraglio Point and not inside the Golden Horn. That coordinate sits on the surviving line of the Theodosian/Byzantine sea wall, immediately seaward of the Boukoleon Palace substructures, and just east of the carved imperial landing. This is the best-supported archaeological placement for the "palace lighthouse" of Constantinople. Byzantium/Constantinople did not depend on a single lighthouse before 1700. Instead, it operated as a distributed maritime-light system in which walls, towers, harbours, and palatial and ecclesiastical structures collectively marked the city by night. This model integrated navigational orientation, defence, and ceremonial display, and it helps explain both the rarity of dedicated lighthouse buildings and the persistence of maritime visibility at the capital across Byzantine and early Ottoman periods.
References: Zemke p10, 22, 23; Hague & Christie p2, 7, 8, 11; Giardina (2010), p73-74; https://brill.com/display/title/71027, Constantinople through the Ages; The Visible City from Its Foundation to Contemporary Istanbul. Series: Cultural Interactions in the Mediterranean, Volume: 08; Volume Editors: Diederik Burgersdijk, Fokke Gerritsen, and Willemijn Waal Brill (2024). ISBN: 978-90-04-71097-9.
AL References: 282

Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Chalcedon (To 4c)

Alternative Names: Calcedonia, Kadıköy, Bithnyia
Location: Istanbul
Lat/Lon: 40.99306, 29.01942
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: local fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Despite its early foundation and major ecclesiastical significance, there is no evidence that it functioned as a navigational light site beyond antiquity and before 1700. Its open shoreline and subordinate position opposite Constantinople meant that maritime orientation focused on the imperial peninsula rather than on the Asian shore. Any lighting at Chalcedon was urban or domestic in character, with no demonstrable ecclesiastical or navigational function.
References: Apian: Mithridatique 10; Diadorus: Hist 18, 20; Stevenson img35, 35
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Caesarea Germanica (Antiquity)

Alternative Names: Tirilye
Location: Sea of Marmara
Lat/Lon: 40.37998, 28.72539
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Built structure
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: A dubious assignment by Giardina. Evidence from one coin only. At Caesarea Germanica (Tirilye) on the southern Sea of Marmara coast — a harbour known in antiquity — numismatic evidence depicts a harbour light/pharos motif, suggesting the presence of an important ancient lighthouse. However, there are no surviving medieval or early modern sources that confirm a functioning lighthouse at the location through the 14th–17th centuries, and today it does not host a modern lighthouse station unlike nearby capes on the Marmara shore.
AL References: 283
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Cyzicus (Antiquity only, 1863)

Location: Sea of Marmara
Lat/Lon: 40.3878, 27.8707
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Kapıdağ (1863)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Cyzicus stands as one of the clearest ancient lighthouse sites on the Sea of Marmara, with repeated Roman coin depictions of a harbour pharos strongly indicating a purpose-built navigational tower integral to the city's maritime identity. Despite this prominence, there is no evidence for continuity of lighthouse operation beyond late antiquity, and the modern Kapıdağ Lighthouse (1863) represents a geographically shifted, nineteenth-century response to open-sea navigation rather than reuse of the ancient harbour light.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Proconnesus (4-12c)

Alternative Names: Marmara island
Location: Sea of Marmara
Lat/Lon: 40.5844, 27.5526
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Proconnesus (modern Marmara Island) occupied a central position in the Sea of Marmara and served as the principal marble-export centre for Constantinople and the eastern Mediterranean. While its maritime traffic and harbour infrastructure strongly imply the use of harbour beacons or navigational lights from the Roman through to the Byzantine periods, no firmly documented lighthouse tower or explicit textual reference to a pharos is known before 1700.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Abydos (Antiquity continuing)

Alternative Names: Abydus, Cap Nagara or Nara
Location: Dardanelles, north of Canakkale
Lat/Lon: 40.19603, 26.40516
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Signal and watchtower lights
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Paired with the ancient light reputedly built at Sestos. Site of the story of Hero and Leander. Despite no archaeological evidence thus far, the strength of the story provides the confidence in the existence of a light at Abydos, if not at Sestos. Abydos occupied the narrowest crossing of the Hellespont and functioned throughout antiquity and the medieval period as a regulated maritime gateway rather than a harbour requiring a monumental lighthouse. Although no purpose-built pharos is documented, the site's strategic role makes the use of signal fires and watchtower lighting virtually certain, representing a distinct tradition of strait-control illumination that differs fundamentally from open-coast lighthouse systems. Modern lighthouse provision shifted southward to headlands such as Nara Burnu, reflecting nineteenth-century navigational properties.
References: Strabo: 13.1.22; Museus 23-25;
AL References: 284
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Sestos (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Tower of Hero, Sestus
Location: Bigale Kalesi, Yalikabat
Lat/Lon: 40.20914, 26.3856
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Signal and watchtower lights
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Paired with the ancient light reputedly built at Abydos. Site of the story of Hero and Leander. Without archaeological support, there is a great confidence that lighthouses existed on both sides of this narrow part of the Bosporus. Sestos, paired with Abydos at the narrowest point of the Hellespont, is one of antiquity's best-documented signal-light sites. Literary tradition — most famously the story of Hero and Leander — confirms the use of a guiding light on the European shore, yet no archaeological or textual evidence supports the existence of a monumental lighthouse (pharos) at Sestos before 1700. The site exemplifies strait-control illumination, where light served communication and authorization rather than open-sea navigation. Modern lighthouse provision shifted to fortified and headland locations farther south.
References: Strabo: 13.1.22; Museus 23-25;
AL References: 85, 88, 89, 280, 284
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: further south. No Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Cimenlik (15 c continuing)
Location: At the narrow point of the Dardanelles passage.
Lat/Lon: 40.14618, 26.39852
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Military
Light Form: Local beacons
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Kilitbahir and Çimenlik form a paired fortress system at a constricted reach of the Dardanelles, slightly south of Abydos/Sestos. Together they command the central navigable channel, strong currents and eddies, and the point at which vessels were required to slow, anchor, or await permission. This is a classic state-controlled maritime corridor, not an open navigational coast.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Kilitbahir (1462 continuing, 1859)
Location: At the narrow point of the Dardanelles passage.
Lat/Lon: 40.14673, 26.38036
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1859)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Military
Light Form: Local beacons
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Kilitbahir marks a decisive stage in the evolution of navigational lighting in the Dardanelles. Built in 1462–63 as part of Mehmed II's strait-control system, the fortress incorporated continuous, state-managed night signalling that regulated maritime passage. Although not a lighthouse in the monumental or freely guiding sense, this lighting regime represents a proto-lighthouse system, bridging medieval signal practices and the later construction of the Kilitbahir Lighthouse (1859) as a dedicated navigational aid. Dates: 1462–1463 : Kilitbahir Fortress built by Mehmed II for permanent strait control;15th–17th c. Fortress-based lighting Signal fires/ lamps used for regulated navigation.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 2

Seddulbahir (1659, 1856)
Location: Entrance to the Dardanelles
Lat/Lon: 40.0411, 26.18824
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1856)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Military
Light Form: Fortified structure with signal fires and lanterns

Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Seddülbahir represents the culmination of pre-modern navigational lighting in the Dardanelles. Established in 1659 as a fortress controlling the Aegean entrance to the strait, it almost certainly employed signal fires and lanterns to manage night-time approach navigation. While still militarized and conditional, this lighting regime addressed open-sea hazardsrather than internal strait coordination. The construction of the Seddülbahir Lighthouse in 1856 formalized and civilianized this function, completing the transition from fortress signal lighting to a modern lighthouse system.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 2

Gökçeada (Antiquity continuing, 1859)
Alternative Names: Imbros
Lat/Lon: 40.2349, 25.8986
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Inceburnu (1859)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires and local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Gökçeada functioned throughout antiquity and the medieval period as a strategic island waypoint in the northern Aegean, where navigation depended on visibility and recognition rather than harbour guidance. The island's scale, exposure, and strategic role make the use of beacon fires and signal lights highly probable. The construction of the İncirburnu Lighthouse in 1859, followed by additional stations, formalized a long-standing visual-navigation role rooted in pre-modern practice.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Bozcaada (9c, 1861)
Alternative Names: Tenedos
Lat/Lon: 39.8359, 26.0718
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1861)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Bozcaada (ancient Tenedos) occupied a commanding position at the Aegean entrance to the Dardanelles, functioning for over two millennia as a critical island waypoint and anchorage. Although no monumental ancient lighthouse is preserved, the island's exposure and strategic importance make the use of beacon fires and maintained navigational lights highly probable from antiquity through the early Ottoman period. By the 9th century Tenedos is a phrourion (fort) in the Byzantine De Administrando Imperio. Venetian records (a 1347 treaty with the Emperor) include the phrase "cum suo fanali" when describing the island's harbour installations. Genoese and Venetians alternated control here and charts (Pizigani 1367, Benincasa 1474) consistently show a light- tower symbol. The Ottoman traveller Evliya Çelebi (17th c.) later notes "a lantern tower remaining from the Franks." The construction of the Bozcaada Lighthouse in 1861 formalized and civilianized a long-standing navigational function rooted in pre-1700 maritime practice.
References: De Administrando Imperio c. 50; Venetian–Byzantine treaty 1347; Pizigani 1367; Benincasa 1474; Evliya Çelebi VII.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: Yes; Genoese: Yes; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 5

Cape Baba (Antiquity continuing, 1859)
Alternative Names: Baba Burnu, Cape Lectum, Cape Lecture
Location: The westernmost point of Turkey.
Lat/Lon: 39.47945, 26.06416
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1859)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: As the westernmost point of Turkey, and in the Troad, Cape Baba has always been associated with danger to seamen. There is a long tradition of showing a warning signal to mariners from his site. This may have been an early lighthouse. There is an attribution of the creation of lighthouses here to Palamedes of Nauplia. Cape Baba (ancient Lekton) is one of the most important natural navigational landmarks on the Anatolian Aegean coast, marking both the western extremity of Asia Minor and a critical change in sailing direction. The cape's exposure and prominence make the long-term use of beacon fires or signal lights highly probable from antiquity onward. The construction of the Babakale Lighthouse in 1859 represents the formal institutionalization of a navigational function that had existed at this headland for centuries.
References: Duggan, T.M.P.; Aykan Akçay: On the Missing Navigational Markers, Beacon Towers; Pharos Of Antiquity, And Notice Of Two Extant Small Marker Beacon Towers of Roman Late 1st c. BC – Early 1st c. AD Anemorium. Akdeniz.Edu.Tr; Cedrus II (2014), pp377-442; Strabo: Geographica 13, 1.
AL References: 284
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek

Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Kyme (Antiquity)

Alternative Names: Cyme, Syme, Aeolis
Location: Nemrut Limani, South of Aliaga
Lat/Lon: 38.7594, 26.9362
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: A well-established port from the end of the Trojan Wars, this Greek site was important. Presence of a harbour lighthouse on the end of a mole is tentative, based upon underwater remains in the now-submerged port area. Kyme exemplifies a major ancient harbour without a lighthouse tradition, reinforcing the pattern that enclosed or gently shelving coasts in western Anatolia rarely generated early lighthouse construction. The Aeolians regarded Cyme (Aeolis) as the largest and most important of their twelve cities, which were located on the coastline of Turkey. It came under Roman control in the 1st. c. CE. There is no firm evidence of a light maintained before c1100.
References: Strabo: 13.3.6; Scylax Periplus; Esposito, E.; E. Filici, P.A. Gianfrotta, E. Scognamiglio: Il Porto di Kyme. In: Archaeologia Subacquea, Studi, Ricerche, Documenti, III, Roma (2002), pp1-37.;
AL References: 284
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Focaia (4 c continuing, 1869)

Alternative Names: Foça
Location: Foça
Lat/Lon: 38.6692, 26.7513
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1869)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour lights
Light Form: Beacon fires and local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Phokaia (modern Foça) combined open-sea exposure with sheltered harbours, making it a natural candidate for early navigational lighting. The city's maritime prominence and complex approaches strongly suggest the use of beacon fires or lanterns associated with harbour and defensive structures. The construction of the Foça Lighthouse in 1869 represents the institutionalization of a long-standing navigational role rather than its inception.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Smyrna (4c continuing, 1863)

Alternative Names: Eurydikeia
Location: Izmir
Lat/Lon: 38.419, 27.1376
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Sancakburnu (1863)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: The city of Smyrna has played a large role in history since at least 11th. c. BCE when it was an Aeolian Greek settlement at Tepekule. But constant battles for its control have left few remains. Kadifekale is the centre of late Greek/Roman remains. Much change has occurred here regarding the location and form of the ancient ports so it is unsurprising that there is no archaeological evidence for this lighthouse. However, 4th. c. records attribute a lighthouse to Proconsul Ambrosius of Mylasa. A Byzantine pharos here in the harbour was rebuilt by the Genoese. Ottoman records (Evilyan Celebi 1670s) report lanterns on the mole. Its deeply sheltered bay reduced the need for inner-harbour navigational lighting, while safe access depended instead on prominent bay-entrance headlands and local pilotage. The establishment of the Sancakburnu Lighthouse in 1863 represents the modernization of this long-standing approach system rather than a continuation of an ancient lighthouse tradition.
References: Stevenson p2; Zemke pp 10, 22, 23; Hague & Christie p2; Feissel, D.: Gouverneurs et Edifices Dans Epigrammes de Smyrne au Bas Empire. REG, 111 (1998), pp125-44; Bedon, R.: Les Phares Antiques. In: Archeologia. Prehistoire et Archaeologie, Paris (1988b); Giardina (2010), p72; Strabo: 14.1.4; Anthologia Palatina IX, 671.
AL References: 284
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No: Greek Classical: Yes; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: Yes; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 7

Karaburun - Izmir (12c continuing, 1865)

Alternative Names: Melaena, Capo Melano
Location: Aegean Sea, Izmir
Lat/Lon: 38.6427, 26.5249
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1865)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Two Turkish Karaburuns cause confusion. This

site in the Aegean has a modest claim to a medieval light with little hard evicence. Cape Karaburun controlled the outer approach to İzmir Bay and functioned for centuries as the primary seamark for Smyrna-bound shipping. The headland's exposure and navigational importance make the use of beacon fires or watch-lights probable.
References: Strabo XIV.1.36; Pizigani Chart (1367); Catalan Atlas (1375); Dainville (1960); Müller-Wiener, Byzantinische Häfen Kleinasiens (1980); Ottoman Liste des Phares (1863).
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Erythrai
Alternative Names: Ildiri
Lat/Lon: 38.3834, 26.4771
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour lights
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Erythrai (modern Ildırı) occupied a strategically placed peninsular harbour on the Ionian coast opposite Chios, where navigation involved offshore islands and narrow approaches. The evidence supports, at most, the use of local harbour lights or beacon fires, with long-range navigational lighting instead concentrated on nearby headlands and islands.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: Yes; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: islands. Yes
Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Kuşadası (5c continuing, 1834)
Alternative Names: Panormos
Lat/Lon: 37.8607, 27.2564
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Güvercinada (1834)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Kuşadası emerged as the principal harbour of the Ephesian region after the silting of the Cayster delta rendered Ephesus inaccessible. Its stable coastline and sheltered bay made it suitable for sustained maritime use and for the development of harbour-based navigational lighting, probably integrated into fortifications from the late medieval period onward.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: No; Local: No; Activity Index: 0

Cape Trogilium (4c continuing, 1966)
Lat/Lon: 37.68534, 27.06532
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Dilek (1966)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Cape Trogilium (on the Dilek Peninsula) controlled the Mycale Strait between the Anatolian mainland and Samos and functioned from antiquity as a critical coastal seamark and channel-control point. The cape's prominence and navigational hazards make the long-term use of beacon fires or watch-lights probable. This site is useful to include because it shows that even exceptionally hazardous headlands did not always generate early lighthouse construction. Iinstitutional lighthouse systems lagged far behind functional navigational need. Island–mainland channels often relied on bilateral visual signalling, not single towers.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Bodrum Castle (12c continuing, 1870)
Alternative Names: Halicarnassus
Lat/Lon: 37.0314, 27.4284
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1870)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified structure
Light Form: Military site with bastion and brazier
Medieval Structure Exists:
Notes: A crusader-built fortress of St Peter kept a watch fire on the tower that was continued under the Ottomans. Halicarnassus (modern Bodrum) combines a stable rocky coastline, a constricted harbour entrance, and a harbour islet ideally suited to beacon lights, making it one of the strongest candidates on the Carian coast for sustained pre-modern navigational lighting. The continuity of harbour use and the later installation of medieval and Ottoman fortifications strongly support the presence of harbour-based beacon lights before 1700.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Knidos Deveboynu (5c continuing, 1931)
Lat/Lon: 37.6854, 27.0653
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Tekir Burnu (1931)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Waypoint/Landfall
Light Form: Local beacons
Medieval Structure Exists: No

Notes: Knidos, situated on a promontory commanding major Aegean and eastern Mediterranean sea lanes, represents one of the most convincing ancient lighthouse landscapes on the Anatolian coast. Its twin harbours, exposed approaches, and stable rocky shoreline strongly favour the long- term use of harbour and headland beacons, even though no inscribed pharos survives.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 1

Patara (Antiquity - 8c)

Alternative Names: Arsinoe, Patara Plaji
Location: Near to Gelemis, 5 km southeast of the mouth of the River Xanthos.
Lat/Lon: 36.2633, 29.30813
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Built structure
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Patara was an important city in Lycia, itself part of anatolia. A city with ancient origins, its history was complicated as it came under different rulers. After being Hellenized in the time of Alexander it later came under Roman control. The remains of a great lighthouse can be seen today and is confirmed by inscriptions and other artefacts. It is very likely to have been built post-Pharos, either in the time of Ptolemy or during the reign of Nero. It is not typical of a Roman lighthouse. The site was abandoned by the 7-8th c. Patara is one of the rare Anatolian ports where a purpose-built Roman lighthouse is securely documented by inscription and excavation, constructed under Nero c. 64–65 CE to serve the engineered harbour of Lycia's principal port. Unlike river-mouth cities such as Ephesus or Kaunos, Patara's controlled harbour entrance supported a monumental lighthouse installation. Following late antique destruction and silting, however, the site ceased to function as a harbour, and no continuity of navigational lighting is confirmed before 1700. A full-scale reconstruction of the Roman lighthouse was completed in the early 2020s as an archaeological and commemorative structure but not as an aid to navigation.
References: Strabo: 14.3; Pliny: Hist Nat 5.33; Appian: Guerres Civiles, 4, 10; Diodorus: Hist 20, 93; Livy: Hist 37, 17; Luke, Acts, 21.1; Periplus of Pseudo-Scylax; Stadiasmus Maris Magni: 246 & 272; Herodotus: Hist 1.182; Iskan-Isik, H.; W. Eck; H. Engelmann: Der Leuchtturm von Patara und Sex. Marcius Priscus als Statthalter der Provinz Lycia von Nero bis Vespasian. Zeitschrift fur Papyrologie und Epigraphik, 164 (2008), pp91-121.
AL References: 285
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Attaleia (Antiquity, 13c continuing, 1937)

Alternative Names: Antalya, Adalia
Location: Antalya
Lat/Lon: 36.88296, 30.70002
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1937)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Attaleia was the principal harbour of Pamphylia and illustrates how harbour engineering and urban prominence did not necessarily produce early lighthouse construction. Navigational lighting was probably limited to harbour-scale lamps integrated into defensive structures. A beacon is mentioned by 14th c. pilots on a Byzantine/Venetian mole.
References: Zemke pp 10, 22, 23; Hague & Christie pp 2, Mango, Byzantine Architecture (1986); Foss & Winfield, Byzantine Fortifications (1986); al- Idrīsī, Nuzhat al-Mushtāq(12th c.); Eyice, "Hıdırlık Kulesi, " Belleten 23 (1959). Giardina (2010), p70; Stadiasmus: Maris Magni 223.
AL References: 285
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: Yes; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 4

Hidirlik Tower (4c)

Alternative Names: Antalya, Attaleia, Adalia
Lat/Lon: 33.8814, 30.7025
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Occasional lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Arguments about the existing tower known as Hidirlik Kulesi concern whether it was once a Roman lighthouse or a mausoleum. However, consensus supports its use as a light structure for at least part of its existence in the early period when marine traffic was heavy, but there is no firm evidence. Neither its architecture nor any ancient source supports its identification as a purpose-built pharos. While it may have carried signal or watch-lights in later periods, navigational lighting at Attaleia before 1700 appears to have remained harbour-scale and non-institutional.
References: Zemke pp 10, 22, 23; Hague & Christie pp 2, Mango, Byzantine Architecture (1986); Foss & Winfield, Byzantine Fortifications (1986); al- Idrīsī, Nuzhat al-

Mushtāq(12th c.); Eyice, “Hıdırlık Kulesi, ” Belleten 23 (1959). Giardina (2010), p70; Stadiasmus: Maris Magni 223.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Side (-900)
Alternative Names: Sida
Location: Selimiye
Lat/Lon: 36.7644, 31.397
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires and lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Settlement began here in the 7th c. BCE and the port was used until the 4th c. CE. Evidence for a lighthouse is only from a coin and therefore uncertain, but the commonality of this port with numerous others make it a good candidate for a lighthouse. Side was a prominent Roman harbour city on the Pamphylian coast. Despite occasional modern claims, neither architectural evidence nor ancient sources support the identification of any structure at Side as a purpose-built lighthouse. Navigational lighting, if present, was limited to harbour-scale lamps, with no continuity into the medieval or early modern periods. The modern lighthouse constructed in 1934 represents a wholly new navigational intervention. Here we see that even monumental Roman ports did not automatically generate lighthouses. Lighthouse construction depended more on geomorphology and hazard than wealth or scale. Over-identification of lighthouses is a persistent problem for us as we look back in time.
References: Pomponius Mela: Geogr 1, 15; Scylax Periplus; Stiadasmus: 214; Mansel, A.M.: Die Ruinen von Side, Berlin (1963); TMP Duggan
AL References: 285
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Alanya (5c continuing, 1880)
Alternative Names: Alaiyye, Korakesion
Lat/Lon: 36.534, 31.999
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes (1880)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified structure
Light Form: Round stone tower, with dwelling
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: Alanya (ancient Korakesion) occupies one of the most prominent rocky headlands on the southern Anatolian coast, forming a decisive seamark and natural harbour complex. The site’s geomorphology and continuous military–maritime use make the long-term employment of beacon and signal lighting highly probable. Medieval Seljuk fortifications, particularly the Kızıl Kule, almost certainly supported navigational lighting, anticipating the construction of the Alanya Lighthouse in 1880, which formalized a centuries-old navigational role. Alanya strengthens several core conclusions. Firstly, headlands outperform harbours in lighthouse generation. Secondly, medieval Islamic polities actively maintained proto-lighthouse systems. A lighthouse tower was reported on a medieval fortress by Piri Reis in Kitab-I Bahriye - 1521.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Anemurium (12c, 1860)
Alternative Names: Eski Anamur, Anemuryum, Stallimur, Cape Anamur
Location: Anamur
Lat/Lon: 36.0242, 32.8026
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Anamur (1860)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Built structure
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: A possible neolithic waypoint, Anemurium was in the Roman province of Isauria and was situated near a high point (Cape Anamur) that marks the southernmost point of Asia Minor, only 64 km from Cyprus. In medieval times, it was called Stallimur. The ruins of an ancient Roman lighthouse here were re-used through Byzantine times. However, there is no firm evidence of a light maintained before c1100. Anemurium occupied one of the most prominent headlands on the Cilician coast, controlling long open-sea routes between Anatolia and Cyprus so the site’s exposed geography and surviving coastal towers make the long-term use of beacon or signal lighting very probable.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: Yes; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Corycus - Kizkalesi (5c continuing, 1869)
Lat/Lon: 36.457, 34.1477
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Kizkalesi (1869)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Fortified harbour light
Light Form: Local fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Corycus (modern Kızkalesi) represents one of the

most compelling cases for long-term navigational beacon use on the Anatolian coast. Its protected harbour, paired mainland–island fortifications, and exposure to major Mediterranean routes created an ideal environment for harbour-mouth lighting from antiquity onward. Although no inscribed pharos survives, the continuity of fortified occupation supports the sustained use of signal fires and lanterns well before 1700.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: Yes; Activity Index: 2

Elaiussa (4c - 8c)
Alternative Names: Elaiussa, Sebaste
Lat/Lon: 36.48394, 34.1774
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Elaiussa Sebaste combined an island nucleus and sheltered coastal anchorages, creating a harbour environment well suited to harbour- mouth beacons. The site's geometry and archaeological remains strongly suggest the use of signal fires or lanterns during its Roman peak. Its relatively early decline prevented the institutional continuity seen at nearby Corycus, and modern navigation has been absorbed into the regional lighthouse system.
References: Strabo: 14.5;
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Yumurtalık (13c, 1866)
Alternative Names: Süleyman Tower
Lat/Lon: 36.7687, 35.7768
Modern Lighthouse On Site: Yes Yumurtalık (1866)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Signal and watchtower lights
Light Form: Occasional lanterns
Medieval Structure Exists: Yes
Notes: The so-called Tower of Süleyman at Yumurtalık, though often assumed to have functioned as a lighthouse, is better understood as an Ottoman coastal watchtower. While it may have supported signal fires or watch- lights, neither its architecture nor its siting supports identification as a purpose-built navigational pharos.
Antiquity: No; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: Yes; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2

Seleucia di Pieria (4-7c)
Location: Cevlik
Lat/Lon: 36.11923, 35.92215
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No Çevlik (1856)
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Beacon fires
Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: This man-made port had shipyards and an inner harbour. The port became the home of the Roman fleet, Classis Syriaca. Underwater remains of a mole and of a tower seem to confirm a lighthouse at this port. Seleucia Pieria, the port of Antioch, occupied one of the most hazardous coastal environments in the eastern Mediterranean. Massive Roman harbour works confirm the site's strategic importance and persistent navigational difficulties. A light shown in classical times probably did not exist beyond the 6th c as the port became increasingly disused. The location is incorrect in Giardina. De Graauw is correct, placing it near the mouth of the River Orontes flowing from Antakya (Antioch). Although no inscription explicitly records a pharos, the combination of extreme coastal risk, imperial traffic, and elevated coastal positions makes the long-term use of harbour and headland beacons highly probable before 1700. The construction of the Çevlik Lighthouse in 1856 formalized a navigational role that had long existed at the threshold between Anatolia and the Levant.As the final site Seleucia Pieria is ideal because it shows the Anatolian pattern handing off to the Levantine system where lightstructure probability sharply increases, and where Roman imperial harbour engineering and navigational lighting begin to converge more consistently.
References: Stadiasmus: Maris Magni 148 and 272; Polybius: Hist 5, 13.; Strabo XVI.2.6; Procopius, De Aedificiis V.9; J. Crow, "Harbour and Lighthouse at Seleucia Pieria, " Levant 14 (1982); Hatay Archaeological Survey Reports (2000s)
AL References: 286
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: Yes; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 3

Aegeae (Antiquity continuing)
Alternative Names: Aigai, Aigaiai, Aiscala, Ege, Aiyas, Venetian: Laiazzo
Location: Yumurtalik, Roman province of Cilicia, Gulf of Iskerendum
Lat/Lon: 36.76859, 35.7932
Modern Lighthouse On Site: No
Ecclesiastical: No
Light Function: Harbour light
Light Form: Local fires

Medieval Structure Exists: No
Notes: Evidence for a lighthouse is solely based on images on coins. There are clear remains of a harbour but insufficient archaeological work has been undertaken. An old lighthouse may have been built on the site of the present castle in the harbour. This site has a long history, dating from ca. 2000 BCE. Located on the Gulf of Issus (Iskerendum). Aegeae (modern Yumurtalık) marked the eastern maritime threshold of Anatolia, linking the Cilician plain to Levantine sea routes. The city's strategic harbour, fortified coastline, and continued medieval relevance make the sustained use of beacon or signal lighting highly probable before 1700.
References: Strabo: 14.5; Stadiasmus Maris Magni: 158;
AL References: 285
Antiquity: Yes; Phoenician: No; Greek Colony: No; Greek Classical: No; Roman: No; Byzantine: No; Venetian: No; Genoese: No; Ottoman: No; Islamic: Yes; Local: No; Activity Index: 2