



The current Lighthouse

The Saint Louis lighthouse has been rebuilt in 1949, similar to the last one. With 33.5m in height (35.85m above sea level), *diameter at the base*: 6m, *diameter at the top*: 4.75m

The construction required 2297 stones which represents 310m³. It is entirely made of Jurassic limestone from the Frontignan quarry, except for the first 3 rows of the tower, made of Cassis stones, the only remains of the previous lighthouse.

The lighthouse possesses 14 windows, 12 on the tower and 2 on the chart house, as well as a spiral staircase with 94 steps and 2 ladders.

The lighthouse is a flashing port-side red light. Every 15 seconds it flashes four times, with a range of 15 miles; it has a DELS lamp which has been solarized in 2014.

Nowadays, the lighthouse lights up the pier and is only useful for the ships entering the port.

These verses by the poet Paul Valery are engraved at the bottom of the lighthouse, facing the sea: 'Its moving eye blends to the lightings of hazards the laughing sea and the unfaithfully dance of the waves'.

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Sète,
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Thank you for your visit !





Saint-Louis Lighthouse



Lighthouse of the past

The lighthouse is located on Sète's oldest structure: the Saint- Louis pier. This pier was built in 1666, after the king Louis the XIV and his minister Colbert, decided to create the Port of Sète.

The history of the lighthouses:

The lighthouse and the port have been built under the supervision of Pierre Paul Riquet, the creator of the Canal du Midi.

In 1680, the pier's edge and its lantern were destroyed by a storm.

In 1720, the first lighthouse was built. It was a 17m high square tower that was later heightened to 25m

It was located inside the Saint Louis fortress, which was built to protect the harbor.

During the 17th and the 18th century, lighthouses were running with oil lamps, then with kerosene and finally with paraffin vapor lamps in the 19th century. In 1861, a 33m high circular lighthouse was built with Cassis stones on the current site. The lighthouse was first lit with electricity in 1933.

On August 19th 1944, this circular lighthouse was destroyed by the German army, as well as the square tower and the remains of the Saint Louis fortress.