

## Panama Canal Range Lights

Cruising from Los Angeles to Fort Lauderdale my wife and I cruised Panama Canal (northbound) on January 29, 2009. We used an enlarged printed copy of the historical 1914 map as reference and this proved to be very helpful. We found a very good lookout on deck 11 and being on the aft of the ship we had very good visibility to both port side and starboard side of the ship.

Following is a summary of our viewing results, photograph numbers are between brackets and shown in red.

### Balboa Northbound Range Lights

(both starboard ship)

The Front light ([panama01a](#)) was taken at 06:18 am when it was still dark.



Next photo ([panama01b](#)) about 10 minutes later while we were entering the first chamber of the Miraflores Locks.



The Rear light ([panama01c](#)) was taken while entering the second chamber of the locks at 07:26 am.



### Gamboa Southbound Front Light

(starboard ship,  
10:25 am  
[panama02](#))



### Gamboa Northbound Range Lights

(both starboard ship)

At approximately 10:45 am we reached Gamboa Northbound lights ([panama03a](#)).



Rear light  
(panama03b)



Front light  
(panama03c)



After passing the Gamboa lights we got a little confused. We have done thorough (Google-) preparation before we left home, but there is no detail view of this part of the Canal like on Gatun Lake and other parts of the Canal.

### Mamei Curve ???

At 10:56 am we spotted a Southbound range of lights port side ship (panama04). Our view on this range matches the photo shown in the "Lighthouse Directory" as "Peña Blanca Northbound Lights". As this range is located close to the Gatun Locks, your information must be incorrect, see also our photos of this range later on.



A few minutes later we saw a range of lights, not listed on your site.

The location of this range however is shown

on the historical 1914 map as the last Southbound R.L. before leaving Gatun Lake and entering Mamei Curve.

(panama05)

Google coordinates (approximately):  
09° 06' 41" N  
79° 45' 29" W



### Tabernilla Southbound Range Lights

11:12 am, port side ship, matches satellite view on your website (panama06).



Google coordinates:

Front: 09° 05' 54" N      79° 48' 08" W  
Rear: 09° 05' 42" N      79° 48' 06" W

### San Pablo Northbound Range Lights

11:14 am, port side ship, matches satellite view, R.L. location shown on 1914 map.



Both lights (panama07a)



Front (panama07b)

Google coordinates:  
09° 07' 17" N  
79° 48' 41" W

Rear (panama07c)

Google coordinates:  
09° 07' 18" N  
79° 48' 48" W



Old rear light (vaguely) visible behind rear skeletal tower



### Buena Vista Southbound Range Lights

11:23 am, starboard side ship, matches satellite view. Both lights ([panama08a](#))



Front ([panama08b](#))  
Google coordinates:  
09° 08' 53" N  
79° 48' 01" W

Rear ([panama08b](#))  
Google coordinates:  
09° 08' 30" N  
79° 47' 32" W



### Buena Vista Northbound Range Lights

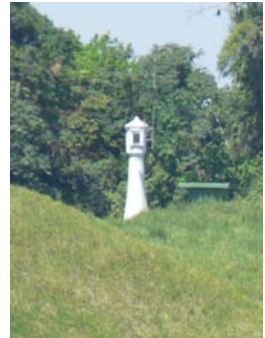
11:39 am, starboard side ship, matches satellite view, R.L. location shown on 1914 map. Both lights ([panama10a](#))



Front ([panama10b](#))



Rear ([panama10c](#))



Google coordinates:

Front: 09° 11' 27" N      79° 51' 00" W

Rear: 09° 11' 34" N      79° 51' 08" W

### Tabernilla Northbound Range Lights

11:25 am, starboard side ship, matches satellite view, R.L. location shown on 1914 map. Both lights ([panama09](#))



Google coordinates:

Front: 09° 11' 18" N      79° 49' 09" W

Rear: 09° 11' 49" N      79° 49' 15" W

Within a few minutes after this range and on the lookout for the next range to come (we expected Peña Blanca Southbound Range) we had another surprise; 2 more ranges, not listed on the site and not shown on the 1914 map, but afterwards, after checking Google, very logically located.

Both ranges are possibly daymarks only, but they show some light options as well. See next page for photos, locations and coordinates.

(panama11) 2 skeletal towers, southbound range on a little island south east from the Buena Vista Northbound Range.  
11:42 am, starboard side ship



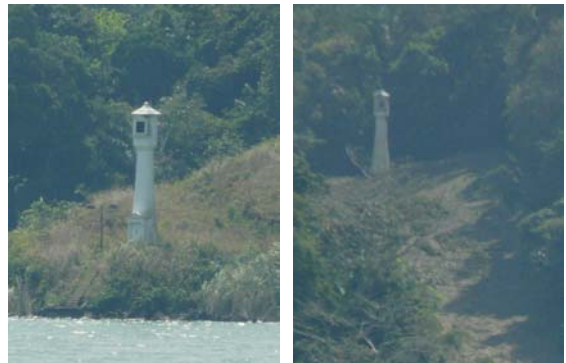
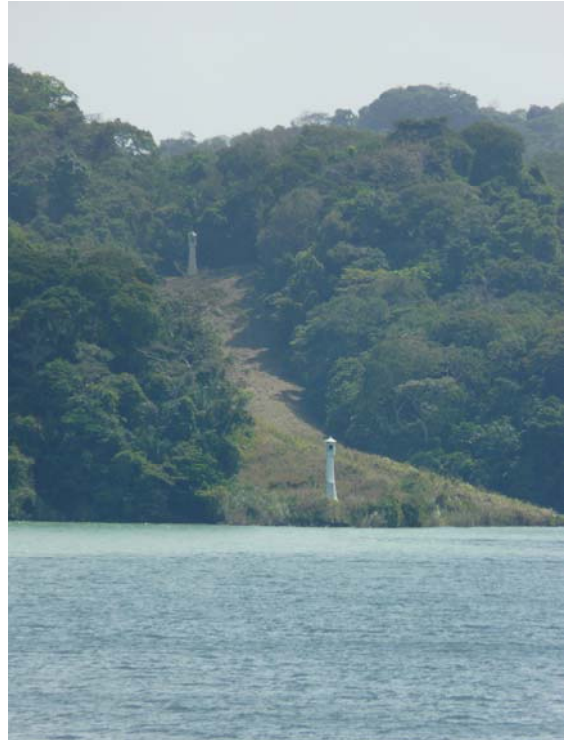
Google coordinates (approximately):  
09° 11' 14" N  
79° 50' 35" W

(panama12) 2 skeletal towers, northbound range on eastern tip of peninsula south west of the Buena Vista Northbound Range. 11:45 am, port side ship  
The round white construction left from the front skeletal tower can be recognized on the Google view.



Google coordinates (approximately):  
09° 10' 29" N  
79° 52' 49" W

**Peña Blanca Southbound Range Lights**  
11:49 am, port side ship, matches satellite view, R.L. location shown on 1914 map.  
Both lights (panama13a)



Front (panama13b) Rear (panama13c)  
Google coordinates:  
Front: 09° 10' 22" N 79° 51' 24" W  
Rear: 09° 10' 13" N 79° 51' 08" W



### Gatun Southbound Range Lights

12:04 pm, port side ship, matches satellite view, R.L. location shown on 1914 map.

Rear light no photo, only front light visible due to ship direction ([panama14](#))



Google coordinates:

Front: 09° 10' 28" N 79° 55' 27" W

Rear: 09° 10' 02" N 79° 55' 27" W

### Peña Blanca Northbound Range Lights

12:13 pm, port side ship. Located south west from Gatun Dam and Locks, no details visible in Google satellite view.

Google coordinates approximately:

Front: 09° 13' 25" N 79° 56' 58" W

Both lights ([panama15a](#))

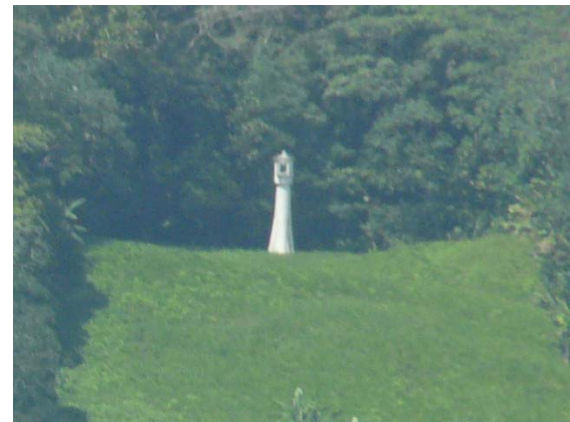


As mentioned in photo "panama04", these "panama15" photos should replace the photo as currently used in the internet site.

Front light ([panama15b](#))



Rear light ([panama15c](#))



### Gatun Northbound Rear Light

13:19 pm, port side ship, while entering first chamber of Gatun Locks ([panama16](#))



### Atlantic Entrance Range Lights

02:51 pm, starboard side ship

Rear light from second chamber of Gatun Locks ([panama17a](#))



03:22 pm, starboard side ship

Middle light after leaving third chamber of Gatun Locks ([panama17b](#))

