

SIGHTINGS AT SEA

By
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How far can you see at sea? Due to the Earth's curvature, objects moving away from you seem to disappear below the horizon. Objects approaching you seem to rise up on the horizon.

It's important that you know how to gauge these sightings. Judging distances at sea can be difficult because there are no reference points. The only measuring you can use is the height of your line of sight above the water. How high are your eyes above the water? The height of your eyes determines how far you can see before the object drops below the earth's horizon.

There are math formulas that you can use to measure line of sight distances, but for everyday use I think the following chart should work.

1 ft above the water =	1.169 Nautical miles to the Horizon
2 ft above the water =	1.653 Nautical miles to the Horizon
3 ft above the water =	2.024 Nautical miles to the Horizon
4 ft above the water =	2.338 Nautical miles to the Horizon
5 ft above the water =	2.613 Nautical miles to the Horizon
10 ft above the water =	3.696 Nautical miles to the Horizon
15 ft above the water =	4.522 Nautical miles to the Horizon
20 ft above the water =	5.227 Nautical miles to the Horizon
30 ft above the water =	6.402 Nautical miles to the Horizon
40 ft above the water =	7.393 Nautical miles to the Horizon
50 ft above the water =	8.266 Nautical miles to the Horizon
75 ft above the water =	10.123 Nautical miles to the Horizon
100 above the water =	11.690 Nautical miles

“Lookouts to the top of the riggings”