

Swanage Pier Interesting

Facts and Figures

- The original Swanage Pier was constructed in 1859/60 by James Walton of London for the Swanage Pier and Tramway Company (now known as Swanage Pier Company).
- The original Pier was built primarily for shipping the local Purbeck stone to London.
- The original Swanage Pier was opened by John Mowlem.
- Horses were used to pull carts along the narrow-gauge tramway which ran along the Pier and seafront.
- A second Pier was built in 1896 and opened to traffic on March 29th, 1897.
- The first paddle steamer was the P.S. Lord Elgin, which landed people on May 1st, 1896.
- The last paddle steamer was the P.S. Embassy.
- In 1940 the landward end of the Pier was blown up as an anti-invasion precaution.
- The Pier is owned and operated by the Swanage Pier Trust.
- The Trust was formed in 1994.
- The tidal rise and fall are 2m (6.5 ft).
- Some species of fish caught from Swanage Pier are Wrasse, Pout, Mackerel, Bass, Dog Fish.
- There are 19 lampposts along the pier, each one has been designed to look like an original Victorian lamppost.
- There are over 11000 brass plaques along the pier. Sponsorship of planks/plaques costs £125.00.

