

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 is 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 8000 brass plaques along the pier. Sponsorship of planks/plaques costs £50.