

SALTBURN (Marine Parade) – SALTBURN (Promenade)

The Saltburn Cliff Lift connects Marina Parade with the Promenade. For further information, please telephone ☎ (01287) 622528, or visit <http://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/accommodation.nsf/TouristList/F6737A1C45441CC7802579CF00558787?OpenDocument>

View the video at : http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IDwPOH-tIro

Saltburn Cliff Lift is owned and operated by Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

SALTBURN’S INCLINED TRAMWAY - A BRIEF HISTORY

Before 1860, Saltburn was described as “a small sixteen house hamlet situated UPON the sea and UNDER a mountain, with quaint villagers engaged in fishing and seal catching, but mainly smuggling “.

Then came a dramatic transformation. On 17 August 1861, the Stockton & Darlington Railway came to Saltburn. With it came a project to develop a seaside resort to rival all the other famous Victorian watering places. A magnificent hotel, ‘The Zetland’, was built, the glen spanned by the Ha’penny bridge (the toll for each person), a splendid pier opened and a vertical hoist erected for the 150 foot drop from town to beach (fare ½d).

Engineered by John Anderson, the hoist opened in July 1870, 14 months after the pier. Over 120 feet high, built of wood and fastened down by guy ropes, it carried up to 20 passengers in a cage. This was raised and lowered by pouring water into, or out of a tank, which counterbalanced the cage and its passengers.

The rickety structure miraculously carried Victorians up and down until 1883, when after an adverse inspection, it was immediately demolished.

A new inclined tramway was speedily constructed to replace it, and opened on 28 June 1884 to complement further improvements to the promenade and pier. This was the third structure in Britain (the first two were in Scarborough).

Alas, all these improvements were a last in vain attempt to bolster Saltburn’s status as a seaside spa town.

The pier was greatly shortened after a 1974 storm, and the Ha’penny Bridge demolished the same year. The Cliff Lift remains, to carry thousands of passengers in safety each summer season, thus carrying on the spirit of Victorian endeavour.

Apart from the installation of a new electrically operated water pump in 1924, with regular maintenance and restoration, the lift is almost as it was when built – even the stained glass has been replaced in the cars – a safe and convenient way to avoid the climb to and from the beach and pier.

Saltburn's water powered cliff lift undertook a £30,000 refit in 2011; this was the carriages’ first off site overhaul since 1992. The lift has a new intercom system which allows the driver to talk to the passengers while the carriages are in motion. The cliff lift links Saltburn Pier with the town and is popular tourist attraction.

Saltburn Cliff Lift – Facts and Figures

Opened.....	28 June 1884
Height of lift.....	120 feet
Gradient.....	1 in 1.40 (71%)
Length of Track.....	207 feet
Track Gauge.....	4’2½ “
Capacity of carriage.....	10 persons
Motive power.....	Water balance
Electric pump installed.....	1924
	(Previously gas powered pump)
Capacity of water tanks	20,000 gallons
Journey time.....	Approximately 55 seconds

