



Station Pier

Victoria's gateway
for cruise shipping

October 2024

Station Pier is Victoria's heritage cruise shipping facility, hosting visiting ships and navy vessels.

Station Pier is a busy shipping facility. It operates around the clock and in the 2023-24 cruise season, a record 128 ship visits and 400,000 passengers and crew were welcomed to the pier.

Station Pier is also an older pier with heritage status that has local, state and national significance.

With an estimated \$379.5 million a year benefit to Victoria, cruise shipping is important to the State and vital to Station Pier.

UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE

In recognition of the vital role that Station Pier plays as Victoria's cruise shipping gateway, more than \$70 million is dedicated to maintenance and upgrades over the next four years.

This work protects the pier's heritage and maintains it as an operational shipping and cruise facility

For safety and security during maintenance works, Station Pier remains closed to the public.

Early planning has started for upgrading the pier's fenders in 2026-27 to continue to meet cruise industry needs.

In 2024, maintenance program works include:

- refurbishment of the pier's Gatehouse roof and exterior, including painting
- the ongoing, annual pile rehabilitation program (including West Finger Pier)
- painting, corrosion protection, electrical and other works on the pier and buildings.

PLANNING FOR STATION PIER'S FUTURE

The Victorian Government are working across relevant Department and Agencies to plan for Station Pier's future. Preserving what makes the pier iconic while meeting the growing industry's needs.

The first step in the process is working with Visit Victoria in the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry on a Victorian Cruise Shipping Strategy to support Victoria's cruise industry. The strategy will confirm the future needs of the pier for cruise shipping.

Work on the strategy commenced this year and it is expected to be complete by 2025.

This work is consultative, and we will engage with key local stakeholders like the City of Port Phillip, to consider new opportunities for the pier and its surrounds, including greater community use.



Station Pier 1931: Strathnaver and Orontes



Station Pier 1938: Empress of Britain and the German Ship - Reliance

FAST FACTS

- Station Pier, completed in 1930, replaced Railway Pier that was constructed in the 1850s to support Melbourne's expanding maritime and railway transport needs.
- Station Pier has been operating for 94 years.
- The piers were Australia's welcoming point for generations of new arrivals from the mid-1850s and a place of departure for our WWI and WWII service people.
- Station Pier is 650m long, 52m wide and is supported by around 6700 piles.
- A heritage ship-to-shore crane remains preserved on West Finger Pier.
- The pier has two active shipping berths, two terminal buildings, a gatehouse, a former railway station building, and two small kiosks.
- Station Pier is a working port facility, hosting more than 100 cruise and other ship visits each year.
- It was TT-Line's mainland ferry terminal, linking Tasmania and Victoria, from 1985 until late 2022.

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Railway Pier was opened in 1854 to support Melbourne's growing maritime and railway needs. It has been an arrival point for migrants since the Gold Rush and departure point for soldiers.

1850s	The first major Gold Rush arrivals.
1861	The first English cricket team arrived.
1895	The great horse Carbine (winner of the 1890 Melbourne Cup) returns to Britain.
1899	The first Victorian and Tasmanian contingents left for the Boer War.
1920s	Station Pier was built, opening in 1930.
1940s	General MacArthur's first Australian base.
1954	Hosted the royal yacht Gothic for Queen Elizabeth II's first Australian tour.
1949-1966	About 61,000 passengers arrived every year, reaching 110,802 in 1960.
1970s	Aeroplanes replaced ships for migrants entering the country.
1980s	TT-Line's ferry terminal, linking Tasmania and Victoria, operated from the mid-1980s until late 2022.
1987	The railway line from Flinders St to Port Melbourne was closed and converted to tram route 109.
2022	TT-Line left Station Pier to set up its mainland base in the port of Geelong.

Find out more

For more information about Station Pier, visit the website or contact Ports Victoria.

Email: information@ports.vic.gov.au

Visit: ports.vic.gov.au