

# Ideas for helping you enjoy your stay in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

## Discovery Days

### Last week in October

Over 100 events across the World Heritage Site, including walks, talks, open houses, art workshops, performances and family activities over nine days. Look out for the leaflet in September. More details at [www.derwentvalleymills.org](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org)

## Station to Station Walks

Walks can be enjoyed between local stations including Duffield, Belper, Ambergate, Whatstandwell, Cromford, Matlock Bath and Matlock. 12 trails offer scenic hillside, riverside and woodland walks between stations.

Leaflets are available at [www.derwentvalleymills.org/get-active](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/get-active)



## More things to see near the Derwent Valley

While you're in the area why not see other nearby attractions:

- Bakewell Old House Museum** [www.oldhousemuseum.org.uk](http://www.oldhousemuseum.org.uk)
- Buxton Museum** [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/buxton\\_museum/](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/buxton_museum/)
- Caudwell's Mill** [www.caudwellsmill.co.uk](http://www.caudwellsmill.co.uk)
- Chatsworth House** [www.chatsworth.org](http://www.chatsworth.org)
- Crich Stand** [www.crich-memorial.org.uk](http://www.crich-memorial.org.uk)
- Crich Tramway Village** [www.tramway.co.uk](http://www.tramway.co.uk)
- Derby Cathedral** [www.derbycathedral.org](http://www.derbycathedral.org)
- Haddon Hall** [www.haddonhall.co.uk](http://www.haddonhall.co.uk)
- Heage Windmill** [www.heagewindmill.org.uk](http://www.heagewindmill.org.uk)
- Heights of Abraham** [www.heightsofabraham.com](http://www.heightsofabraham.com)
- Kedleston Hall** [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall)
- Middleton Top Engine House** [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside)
- National Stone Centre** [www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk](http://www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk)
- Peak District Mining Museum** [www.peakmines.co.uk](http://www.peakmines.co.uk)
- Peak Rail** [www.peakrail.co.uk](http://www.peakrail.co.uk)
- St John's Chapel, Belper** [www.belpercelebration.co.uk/stjohnschapel.html](http://www.belpercelebration.co.uk/stjohnschapel.html)
- Wirksworth Heritage Centre** [www.storyofwirksworth.co.uk](http://www.storyofwirksworth.co.uk)



## HOW TO FIND US

### TOURIST INFORMATION

[www.visitpeakdistrict.com](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com)

**Derby**  
Assembly Rooms  
Market Place  
Derby DE1 3AH  
Tel: 01332 643411  
E-mail: [tourism@derby.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@derby.gov.uk)  
[www.visitderby.co.uk](http://www.visitderby.co.uk)

**Belper**  
Derwent Valley Visitor Centre  
Strutt's North Mill  
Bridgefoot  
Belper DE56 1YD  
Tel: 01773 880474  
E-mail: [tourism@ambervalley.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@ambervalley.gov.uk)

**Matlock Bath**  
The Peak District Mining Museum  
Matlock Bath DE4 3NR  
Tel: 01629 583834  
E-mail: [tourism@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)  
[www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk)



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Derwent Valley Mills  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2001

[www.derwentvalleymills.org](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org)



# Visitor Guide



### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

#### By Train

Derby is well served by the national rail network. East Midlands Trains operate hourly train services from Nottingham and Derby along the Derwent Valley Line to Matlock, serving all local stations including Belper and Cromford. [www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/derwentvalleyline](http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/derwentvalleyline)  
For train times, call National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 or visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

#### By Bus

National Express operate regular coach services to Derby from around the UK. Call 08717 818181 or visit: [www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com). Regular bus services to destinations within the World Heritage Site include: TransPeak (TP), an hourly, daily, limited stop service between Derby, Belper, Cromford and Buxton with some services to/from Manchester and the 6.1 between Derby, Belper, Cromford and Matlock via Wirksworth. More frequent services operate between Derby and Belper. For bus times, call: 0871 200 22 33 or visit [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses).

You can use the East Midlands Journey Planner to help plan your journey - visit [www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk](http://www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk)

Long Row, Belper



Belper River Gardens



Tantivy during Discovery Days



Darley Abbey Mills



# Experience, enjoy and discover the Derwent Valley

Take a journey back to an age when Britain held centre-stage as the world's first industrial nation – to a place where water power was first successfully harnessed for textile production – a milestone in the Industrial Revolution.

Amid breathtaking countryside in the heart of rural Derbyshire, and offering fascinating insights into industrial and social life during the 18th and 19th centuries, the **Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site** is the perfect choice for a summer outing or a winter break.

Snaking 15 miles down the river valley from Matlock Bath to Derby, the World Heritage Site contains a fascinating series of historic mill complexes, including some of the world's first 'modern' factories. No less important are the watercourses that powered them, the

settlements that were built for the mill workers, and the remains of one of the world's earliest railways – all nestling within a stunningly beautiful landscape that has changed little over two centuries.

Here too, you can enjoy a range of country walks, quality shopping, wholesome food and drink, and abundant local hospitality. There is something for everyone!

Come and see for yourself why this part of Derbyshire has been designated a World Heritage Site.

Visitors travelling by train can benefit from discounts on mill tours at Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills and on Cromford Canal narrow boat cruises, on production of their train ticket. Download the discount vouchers from [www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/derwentvalleyline](http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/derwentvalleyline)

High Peak Junction interior



Cromford Canal



Horse-drawn canal trips



Sir Richard Arkwright's magnificent **Masson Mills** at Matlock Bath stand at the northern entrance to the World Heritage Site. Established in 1783, and in continuous use until 1991, the mills house a remarkable working textile museum and an adjoining retail village. Experience the sights, sounds and smells of a bygone age: the clatter of well-oiled machinery, the whirr of drive belts and wooden floors worn by generations of local millworkers' feet.

A short distance south lies Arkwright's **Cromford Mill** of 1771, the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill. The complex was saved from dereliction in the 1970s and now houses a new visitor centre, exhibitions, cafes, specialist shops, business spaces and the Arkwright Experience.

As he harnessed water power to move the cotton industry out of homes and into purpose-built factories, Arkwright provided for the needs of his new workforce. Today much of **Cromford** – the village he created and which remained in his family's ownership until the 1920s – remains intact. See the cottages built for workers' families, the school, the inn, the lock-up for those who misbehaved, even the privies, allotments and pigsties that formed the backdrop to factory workers' lives.

Before leaving Cromford, be sure to call into the magnificent **St Mary's Church** and the Arkwright's family home of **Willersley Castle**, and take a stroll along the **Cromford Canal** to the **High Peak Junction Workshops**. From Cromford, make a brief diversion to the factory shop at **John Smedley's Mill** before travelling southwards to Belper.

In Cromford's Visitor Centre



Derby Silk Mill



Standing at the northern entrance to Belper is the **Strutt's North Mill** (1804). Visitors to its museum can explore the story of how Jedediah Strutt helped introduce mechanised cotton spinning to the Derwent Valley and transformed Belper into the world's first cotton mill town.

Once inside, see how the North Mill's pioneering fire-proof technology inspired the construction of skyscrapers, and discover the impact of the factory system on ordinary people's lives. The museum also tells the story of how Belper's Samuel Slater became 'Father of the American Industrial Revolution'. Strutt's North Mill also houses the **Derwent Valley Visitor Centre**, where you can find tourist information, gift shop and light refreshments. Before leaving Belper, take a moment to admire the remarkable

horseshoe weir and discover the beautiful **River Gardens**.

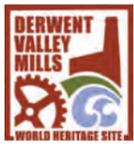
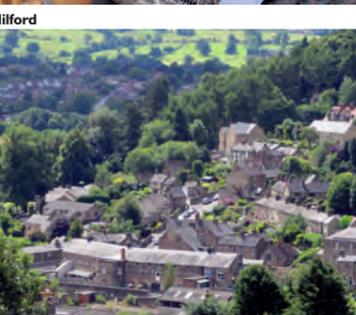
Following the river downstream through the historic mill village of **Milford**, you will arrive at the community of **Darley Abbey**. Here water power was already in use driving paper, corn, flint and leather mills when, in 1782, the Evans family added their cotton mills and later their factory village.

A walk through **Darley Park** brings you to Derby **Silk Mill**, the southern entrance to the World Heritage Site. It is currently closed for redevelopment and will open again in 2020. **Derby Museum and Art Gallery** boasts the largest collection of Joseph Wright paintings and drawings plus temporary exhibitions and displays celebrating natural history, archaeology, military history, ceramics and more.

# places to explore



- KEY:**
- A6
  - Railway line
  - Railway station
  - River Derwent
  - Cromford Canal
  - Audio guide
  - Refreshments
  - Gift shop
  - Public toilets
  - Wheelchair access
  - Disabled toilets
  - Guide dogs welcome
  - Parking on-site
  - Tours available
  - Conference facilities



**1 MASSON MILLS** (Working Textile Museum)  
Derby Road, Matlock Bath, Derbyshire DE4 3PY  
Telephone: 01629 581001 Website: www.massonmills.co.uk

Sir Richard Arkwright's 1783 Masson Mills, at the northern gateway to the World Heritage Site, are the finest surviving, and best preserved, example of an Arkwright cotton spinning mill. Working textile museum illustrating Arkwright's legacy.

**Opening Times:** Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm, Sunday 11am to 4pm. Closed Easter Sunday and throughout December (January times vary, please enquire before visiting). Machinery demonstrations at 11am and 2pm (Sun 12 noon and 2pm). Times vary subject to availability.

**Admission:** Adults £3.00, Child (5-16) £2.00, Family £6.50, Concessions £2.50, Adult Pre-booked Groups and Schools (30+) £2.50 per person. Guide fee of £10 applicable for groups only. Accompanying teachers and group leaders FREE.

**Railway Station:** Cromford or Matlock Bath: 15-minute walk.

**More Information:** Educational tours available - see website



**2 CROMFORD**

Take a tour of the village Sir Richard Arkwright built for his mill workers from 1776. Highlights include the Greyhound Hotel and pond, the village lock-up, pigsties and the ingenious 'Bear Pit'.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 10-minute walk.

**More Information:** Village tours can be pre-booked at Cromford Mills or phone 01629 823256.

**3 WILLERSLEY CASTLE**  
Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 5JH Telephone: 01629 582270  
E-mail: willersley@christianguild.co.uk Website: www.christianguild.co.uk

Built for Sir Richard Arkwright, Willersley Castle provides unparalleled views along the Derwent Valley. Set in extensive parkland, the house retains many original features, including the striking 'Well Gallery' with its glass dome.

**Opening Times:** Open daily throughout the year 7.30am to 10.30pm.

**Admission:** FREE.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 5-minute walk.

**More Information:** Willersley Castle is owned and operated as an hotel by Christian Guild Holidays, providing holiday and conference facilities throughout the year.



**4 CROMFORD MILLS AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE VISITOR CENTRE**  
Mill Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RQ Telephone: 01629 823256  
E-mail: info@arkwrightsociety.org.uk Website: www.cromfordmills.org.uk

The world's first successful water-powered cotton mills built by Sir Richard Arkwright between 1771 and 1791. Discover the birthplace of the factory system and how the Derwent Valley changed the world at the new visitor centre. There are also guided tours, exhibitions, restaurants, specialist shops and the Arkwright Experience.

**Opening Times:** Open daily throughout the year (except Christmas Day).

**Admission:** Please see www.cromfordmills.org.uk for details.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 5-minute walk.

**More Information:** Evening talks and group tours by arrangement.



**5 ST MARY'S CHURCH** (Cromford)  
Mill Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RQ Telephone: 01629 583924  
Website: www.st-marys-cromford.co.uk

Opened in 1797, Cromford's parish church was built by Sir Richard Arkwright and contains the family vaults. The interior is decorated with extensive, striking wall paintings and stained glass by the Victorian artist, A. O. Hemming.

**Opening Times:** Sunday Services: 9.30 - 10.30am. Second Sunday of month 10.30am start. Summer: (May - September) Saturday open to visitors: 11.30am - 2.30pm.

Access by prior arrangement telephone: 01629 822710 / 583924

**Admission:** FREE.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 5-minute walk.



**6 'BIRDSWOOD'** (Cromford Canal)  
Mill Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3RQ  
Telephone: 07552 055 455 Website: www.birdswood.org

'Birdswood' is the Friends of Cromford Canal trip boat, entirely run by volunteers. There are trips throughout the year. Come and enjoy a peaceful journey along the canal, introduced by a booming announcement from the Friends' President, Brian Blessed.

**Opening Times:** 11am and 2pm, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from March, plus Thursdays from Easter, unless horse-drawn. Ranges from £4 (child's single) to £8 (adult's return) excluding special events.

**Admission:** Dogs welcome on all boat trips.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 5-minute walk.



**7 CROMFORD CANAL**

An alternative to 'Birdswood' is a walk along the banks of the canal, built in the 1790s to unlock Derbyshire's immense mineral wealth and now a rich haven for plants and wildlife. The towpath is a wonderful way of exploring the Derwent Valley between Cromford and Ambergate. More details available from the High Peak Junction Workshops or telephone 01629 533298.

**8 HIGH PEAK JUNCTION WORKSHOPS**  
Cromford Canal, Cromford, Derbyshire  
Telephone: 01629 533298 E-mail: countrysideservice@derbyshire.gov.uk  
Website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside

A countryside visitor centre housed in one of the world's oldest surviving railway workshops, built around 1830 and restored to how they would have looked in the 1880s. An audio guide takes visitors back to the days of steam on the Cromford and High Peak Railway.

**Opening Times:** 10am to 5pm Easter to October; 10.30am to 4pm weekends only, November to March.

**Admission:** Visitor Centre and workshops FREE, a small charge for the audio tour.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 25-minute walk.



**9 LEAWOOD PUMPHOUSE**  
Cromford Canal, Cromford, Derbyshire  
Telephone: 01629 533298 E-mail: countrysideservice@derbyshire.gov.uk  
Website: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside

This magnificent steam pump engine of 1849 is still capable of lifting 4 tonnes of water from the River Derwent to the Cromford Canal in each stroke.

**Opening Times:** One weekend per month, throughout the summer, 12 noon to 5pm. Telephone for details or visit the website.

**Admission:** FREE (group bookings by arrangement).

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 30-minute walk.



**10 JOHN SMEDLEY** (Mill and Factory Shop)  
Lea Bridge, Near Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 5AG.  
Telephone: 01629 534571 E-mail: enquiries@johnsmedley.com  
Website: www.johnsmedley.com

This site has been owned by the Smedley family for almost 235 years and has been operational throughout that time. It is the head office, manufacturing and distribution base for the luxury knitwear brand that is John Smedley. Visit the factory shop for a wide range of products including John Smedley's exclusive Sea Island cotton and Merino wool ranges.

**Opening Times:** The factory shop is open daily throughout the year, 10am to 4pm.

**Admission:** FREE.

**Railway Station:** Cromford: 30-minute walk (or catch a bus outside Cromford Mill).



**11 BELPER RIVER GARDENS**

Enjoy stunning views of the River Derwent and, throughout the summer, enjoy the band concerts and rowing boats for hire.

**12 BELPER**

There's lots to do and see in this historic town, winner of the 2014 Great British High Street Competition. Look for the World Heritage Site logo in shop windows and ambassadors with badges who can tell you where to go and what to do. Walk the streets of the community built by the Strutt family for mill workers from the 1780s. See the terraced housing, a nail maker's workshop and more. Group tours can be booked at Strutt's North Mill.



**13 STRUTT'S NORTH MILL MUSEUM**  
(Derwent Valley Visitor Centre)  
Bridgefoot, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 1YD Telephone: 01773 880474  
E-mail: info@belpernorthmill.org.uk Website: www.belpernorthmill.org

Come and explore inside this pioneering fire-proof cotton mill to find out how Jedediah Strutt helped introduce mechanised cotton spinning to the Derwent Valley, sparking the Industrial Revolution, and transforming Belper into the world's first cotton mill town. Free guided tours are included in the admission price, with light refreshments and a gift shop available on site.

**Opening Times:** March to October, Wednesday-Sunday from 11am to 4pm, plus Bank Holidays. February & November, Saturdays & Sundays from 11am to 4pm. Closed December and January.

**Admission:** Adults £5, Accompanied children (under 16) FREE.

**Railway Station:** Belper: 10-minute walk.

**More Information:** Group bookings and school visits by arrangement.



**14 MILFORD**

Discover the cottages, churches, pubs, school and the remains of the cotton and bleach works that were built to serve the Strutt industrial community from 1781.

**15 DARLEY ABBEY**

Within walking distance of Derby City centre is the factory village of Darley Abbey, created by the Evans family from the 1780s onwards and including St Matthew's Church. Pause beside the River Derwent, within sight of one of the most complete early textile mill complexes.

**16 DARLEY PARK**

Enjoy the open space of unspoilt parkland, once part of the Evans family estate, with fine views of Derby.

**17 DERBY SILK MILL**  
Silk Mill Lane, off Full Street, Derby DE1 3AF Telephone: 01332 641901  
Email: info@derbymuseums.org Website: www.derbymuseums.org

Located on the site of John Lombe's Silk Mill of the early 1720s - the world's first 'modern' factory.

**Opening Times:** The building is closed for redevelopment and will open again in 2020.

**18 DERBY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY**  
The Strand, Derby DE1 1BS Telephone: 01332 641901  
Email: info@derbymuseums.org Website: www.derbymuseums.org

The impressive Joseph Wright Gallery includes portraits, landscapes and scenes of industry directly relevant to the story of the Derwent Valley Mills. The Museum and Art Gallery has exciting displays about fine art, natural history, archaeology, military history, ceramics and more.

**Opening Times:** Opening Times: Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12-4pm. Please check the website for Christmas/ New Year opening times.

**Admission:** FREE.

**Railway Station:** Derby: 15 minute walk.



**19 PICKFORD'S HOUSE**  
41 Friar Gate, Derby DE1 1 DA Telephone: 01332 641901  
Email: info@derbymuseums.org Website: www.derbymuseums.org

Hidden amongst the gorgeous old buildings and cobbled pavement of Friar Gate sits Pickford's House. This unique museum in the show home of the show home of the Enlightenment architect Joseph Pickford illustrates aspects of domestic life from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

**Opening time:** Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm.

**Admission:** FREE.

**Railway Station:** Derby: 15 minutes walk.



**DERWENT VALLEY HERITAGE WAY**

Discover the delights of the Derwent Valley on foot. The Derwent Valley Heritage Way is a 55 mile long walking route offering spectacular scenery and stunning views. Why not wander through the full length of the World Heritage Site and the Derwent Valley beyond?

**Admission prices and opening times for all attractions correct at time of going to print, March 2018.**