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

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

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.culturehouse.org.uk
Buxton Museum www.derbyshire.gov.uk/visitorcentre/buxton_museum
Caudwell’s Mill www.heagewindmill.org.uk
Darley Abbey Mills www.derbyshire.gov.uk/millstimemuseum
Derby Museum www.chatsworth.org
Derby Silk Mill www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk
Duffield Railway Station www.visitderby.co.uk
Genival’s Mill www.storyofwirksworth.co.uk
Haddon Hall www.haddonhall.co.uk
Kedleston Hall www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Keele University www.keele.ac.uk
Market Place Derby www.visitpeakdistrict.com
Matlock Bath DE4 3NR
National Heritage Centre for Industry www.derbyshire.gov.uk/nationalheritagecentre
National Stone Centre www.nationalstonecentre.org.uk
Peak District Mining Museum www.derbyshire.gov.uk/millstimemuseum
Peak Rail www.paulmaskell.co.uk
St John’s Chapel, Belper www.belpercelebration.co.uk
Stonebridge Mill www.storyofwirksworth.co.uk

Visitor Guide

How to find us

Tourist Information www.visitderby.co.uk

Contact Information

By Train

Derby is well served by the national rail network. East Midlands Trains operate hourly train services from Manchester and Derby along the Derwent Valley Line to Matlock. Use local rail services including Belper and Cromford.

For train times, call National Rail Enquiries on 0871 880 22 33 or visit www.nationalexpress.com. Regular bus services to destinations within the UK. Call 08717 818181 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

By Bus

You can use the East Midlands Journey Planner to help plan your journey - www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk/derwentvalleyline

Canal narrow boat cruises, on half day or weekend breaks, may be available from Matlock Bath. For further details call: 01629 787225 or email: info@matlockbathcanalboats.co.uk

Public Transport

By Road

Derby is well served by the national road network.

By Cycle

The National Cycle Network follows the route of the old railway line along the Derwent Valley. The Churnet Valley Road is an ideal cycle route between Wirksworth and Belper. The Monsal Trail and the Monsal Trail Extension link Bakewell with the Peak Rail.

Parking

There are numerous car parks throughout the area. Car parking detail sheets are available from the leaflet in September. More information at www.derwentvalleymills.org
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 reflection 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 existing within a stunningly beautiful landscape that has changed little over two centuries.

Here, too, you can enjoy a range of country walks, cycling, canoeing, heritage 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.

Tourist Information

HOW TO FIND US

By Car

The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site is signposted from M1/J23, M6/J26, M6/J27, A52 and A50/A57.

By Train

Train times and information can be accessed at www.nationalrail.co.uk or visit www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk/derwentvalleyline

DOWNLOAD THE DISCOUNT VOUCHERS FROM WWW.EASTMIDLANDSTRAINS.CO.UK/DERWENTVALLEYLINE

Visit www.visitpeakdistrict.com for more information and a special ticket offer.

Try the visitor centres

Visit Sir Richard Arkwright’s magnificent Masson Mills at Matlock Bath to stand at the northern entrance to the World Heritage Site. Established in 1783 and in continuous use until 1911, 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 is Arkwright’s Cromford Mill of 1771, the world’s first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill. The complex was saved from demolition 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 the seeds of his new world. 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, Arkwright’s family home of the Evans family added their heritage to the local parish in 1850, 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 Smalley’s Mill before travelling southwards to Belper.

Standing at the northern entrance to Belper is Strutt’s North Mill (1804). Visitors to its museum can explore the story of how Belper’s factory system on ordinary land turned the poorest village in Britain into the world’s first cotton mill town. Once inside, see how the North Mill’s pioneering fire-proof structure transformed Belper into the world’s first cotton mill town.

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Derby Abbey Mills

High Peak junction station

Harehorns canal trips

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places to explore
The World Heritage Site

1. **Masson Mills (Working Textile Museum)**
   - Location: Mill Lane, Derwent, Derbyshire DE4 3PY
   - Telephone: 01629 823256
   - Website: www.massonmills.co.uk

   Sir Richard Arkwright’s 1779 Masson Mills, at the northern gateway to the World Heritage Site, are the finest surviving, and best preserved, Arkwright cotton spinning mill. Working textile museum illustrating Arkwright’s legacy.

   Opening Times:
   - Monday to Saturday: 10am to 4pm, Sunday: 11am to 4pm
   - Closed: 25 & 26 December

   Admission:
   - Adults £3.75, Child £1.15, Family £8.00
   - Concession £2.30, Rail Pre-Purchased Groups and Students £2.80 per person

   Railway Station: Cromford or Matlock Bath.

2. **Cromford Canal**
   - Location: Cromford
   - Telephone: 01629 533298

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

3. **Willeysley Castle**
   - Location: Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 5JH
   - Telephone: 01629 822710

   A countryside visitor centre housed in one of the world’s oldest textile buildings. 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 for fine art, natural history, archaeology, military history, ceramics and more.

4. **Cromford Mills and World Heritage Centre**
   - Location: Mill Lane, Cromford, Derbyshire DE4 3PY
   - Telephone: 01629 823026

   Built for Sir Richard Arkwright, Willeysley Castle provides unique insight into the story of the Derwent Valley. Set in expansive parkland, the house retains many original features, including the striking ‘Weld Gallery’ with its glass ceiling by the Victorian artist, A. O. Hemming.

   Opening Times:
   - Open daily throughout the year, 10am to 4pm

   Admission:
   - Free

   Railway Station: Cromford.

5. **St Mary’s Church**
   - Location: Cromford

   Located on the site of John Lombe’s Silk Mill of the early 1720s – the world’s first ‘modern’ factory.

   Opening Times:
   - Open daily throughout the year

   Admission:
   - Free

   Railway Station: Cromford.

6. **Belper River Gardens**
   - Location: River Derwent

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

   Opening Times:
   - Open daily throughout the year

   Admission:
   - Free

   Railway Station: Cromford.

7. **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 real market’s work and more. Group tours can be booked at Strutt’s North Mill.

8. **Birdswood**

   ‘Birdswood’ is the Friends of Cromford’s canal boat, entirely run by volunteers. There are trips throughout the year. Come along and enjoy the beautiful canal, introduced by a booming announcement from the Friends’ Brian Blake.

   Opening Times:
   - 11am to 2pm, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from March, plus Thursdays from Easter, unless horse-drawn.

   Admission:
   - Free (excluding special events).

   Railway Station: Cromford.

9. **Strutt’s North Mill Museum**
   - Location: Derwent Valley Visitor Centre

   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.