



VISITOR GUIDE

---

# DERWENT VALLEY MILLS

WORLD HERITAGE SITE

---

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













# From Spirit to Place

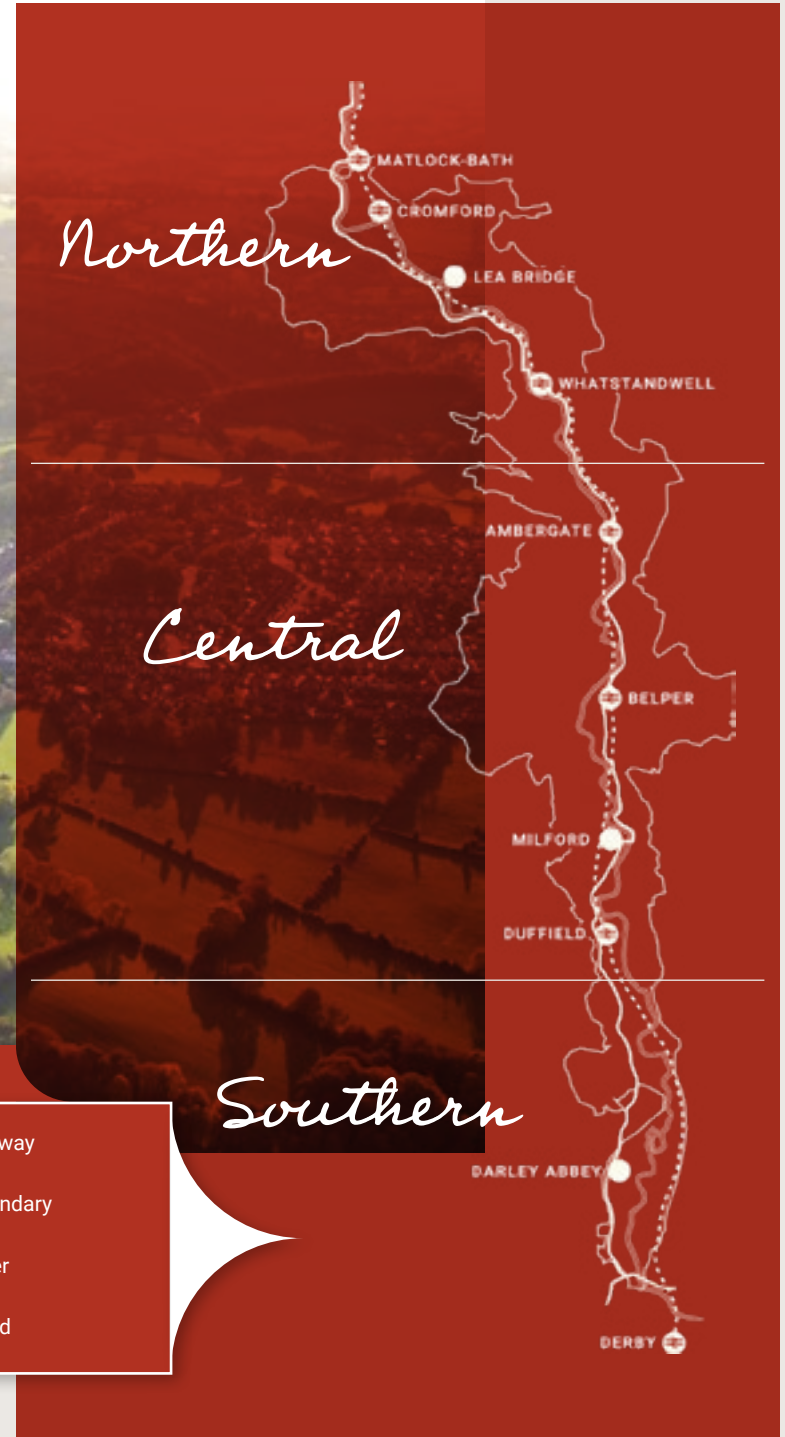
## Welcome to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

This guide gives you a taste of what to discover and where to visit as you explore the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. More detailed maps and information are available from our website - [www.derwentvalleymills.org/visit](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/visit).




Amid breath-taking countryside in the heart of rural Derbyshire, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site follows the mighty River Derwent, which in the 18th century powered the world's first 'modern' factories, for 15 miles from Matlock Bath in the north, to the City of Derby in the south. It includes a series of historic mill complexes, river weirs, associated settlements and transport networks, all providing a fascinating insight into life at the time of the Industrial Revolution.

The icons below will help you find out what facilities are available at each of our attractions -

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Toilets           |  Assistance Dogs       |
|  Wheelchair Access |  Conference Facilities |
|  Accessible Toilet |  Tours Available       |
|  Audio Guide       |  Refreshments          |
|  Parking on Site   |  Gift Shop             |



**KEY**

	Railway
	Boundary
	River
	Road





### NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Cromford Mills
- 2 Cromford Village
- 3 Masson Mills
- 4 Willersley Castle
- 5 Cromford Wharf
- 6 Cromford Canal
- 7 Birdsworth
- 8 High Peak Junction
- 9 Leaward Pumpouse
- 10 Aqueduct Cottage
- 11 John Smedley's Mill



## NORTHERN

This is a place of natural beauty and calm, where pioneering industrial buildings nestle in a dramatic landscape - its river and resources were once harnessed to create mills, railways, canals and new communities. Industries have come and gone, but their structures remain as testimony to the visions of Arkwright and his 18th century contemporaries who led the world with their innovations. It is a place of contrasts – of dramatic river gorge and wider valley, of natural light and factory darkness, of owner’s mansions and mill workers’ cottages, of old and new ways of labour, and of the different lives of master and worker. Where ancient industries flourished, new ideas and technologies now thrive, alongside 21st century makers and creators.

Quietly, nature has reclaimed its presence amongst the iron and stone – providing havens for wildlife and for generations of people to find peace and tranquillity amongst the imprints of the past.



Click on link for more information



Peace and  
Tranquillity





1

**CROMFORD MILLS**



[www.cromfordmills.org.uk](http://www.cromfordmills.org.uk)

Visit the birthplace of the modern factory system and the first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill established in 1771 by Sir Richard Arkwright. Make the most of your visit with a tour, meet Arkwright in his first mill, browse a variety of independent shops and enjoy one of the best scones in Derbyshire.

2

**CROMFORD VILLAGE**



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'.

3

**MASSON MILLS**



[www.massonmills.co.uk](http://www.massonmills.co.uk)

Sir Richard Arkwright's showpiece mill built on the banks of the River Derwent to harvest a power source ten times greater than his first mill at Cromford. The 1783 mill is home to a textile museum with an extensive collection of machinery from the 19th & 20th centuries and includes demonstrations of working 19th century looms and doubling machines.

4

**WILLERSLEY CASTLE**

Willersley Castle was the mansion built by Sir Richard Arkwright but he died before completion. It is not open to the public but you will catch glimpses from Church Walk and Cromford Bridge, or the top of Scarthin Rock.



*Scarthin Books...*

*One of Britain's finest and quirkiest bookshops, beautifully positioned by the village pond*





Where ancient industries flourished...

new ideas and technologies now thrive

NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Middleton Top Engine House
- National Stone Centre
- Wirksworth Heritage Centre
- Peak District Mining Museum
- Heights of Abraham
- Crich Tramway Village
- Crich Stand
- Chatsworth House
- The Peak District

5

CROMFORD WHARF



Cromford Wharf is the historic terminus of Cromford Canal. Built at the end of the 18th century, the wharf still has many of its early features, including a warehouse which has been converted into a cafe with seating by the water.

Take 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. Here you may well see little grebes, dragonflies, and maybe a water vole. Heritage features include High Peak Junction, Leawood Pumphouse, Aqueduct Cottage, Wigwell aqueduct, and Gregory's tunnel. The towpath is a wonderful way of exploring the valley between Cromford and Ambergate.

The Friends of the Cromford Canal – a partner charity – offer a wonderful alternative to walking the towpath: their trip boat 'Birdswood' runs from April to October and the boat is entirely run by volunteers. Come and enjoy a peaceful journey along the canal, introduced by a booming announcement from the Friends' President, Brian Blessed.

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. Here there are refreshments and further information on the surrounding area.

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. Run by a dedicated team of volunteers, it's open certain weekends in the summer.

Aqueduct Cottage is one of Derbyshire's hidden gems. Located on the Cromford Canal, it was originally built as a "lengthman's cottage" in 1802 by Peter Nightingale, Florence's great uncle. Recently restored, with help from local volunteers, the charming cottage is now a visitor information centre for the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

John Smedley are creators of The World's Finest Knitwear. Since 1784, the mill at Lea Bridge is where they have crafted their luxury knitwear. Rooted in history and designed to last, their iconic styles and contemporary collections can be found in the Factory Shop, open 7 days a week 10am – 4pm.

6

CROMFORD CANAL



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/cromfordcanal](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/cromfordcanal)

7

BIRDSWOOD



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

8

HIGH PEAK JUNCTION



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/highpeakjunction](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/highpeakjunction)

9

LEAWOOD PUMPHOUSE



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leawoodpumphouse](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leawoodpumphouse)

10

AQUEDUCT COTTAGE

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/aqueduct-cottage](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/aqueduct-cottage)

11

JOHN SMEDLEY'S MILL



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

\*All information correct at time of production



## CENTRAL

This is an area of friendly and welcoming communities, home to people with a strong sense of place and a deep pride in their heritage. With a tradition of entrepreneurs, creatives and independent traders, these are vibrant towns and villages which celebrate their history and community spirit through festivals of arts, music and food. Here, the Strutt family created new industrial communities in a pastoral landscape, much of which still remains. The legacy of these pioneers is everywhere to be seen – in stone-built mills, weirs, workers' cottages, allotments and public buildings – their revolutionary ideas reaching out across the globe.

Today, the community's connection with landscape is strong. This place of wide valley views, rolling hills and a river which constantly shifts its mood – from powerful to serene - provides havens for wildlife and a sense of awe for the many who visit.



Click on link for more information



### CENTRAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Belper River Gardens
- 2 Strutt's North Mill
- 3 Belper Town Centre
- 4 Milford
- 5 Heage Windmill

*Friendly and Welcoming Communities*



# THE LEGACY OF PIONEERS

*Is Everywhere to be Seen*



## NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- St John's Chapel
- Denby Pottery
- Midland Railway Centre
- White Peak Distillery
- Great British Car Journey
- Shipley Country Park

### 1 BELPER RIVER GARDENS



Enjoy the stunning views and riverside promenade of the gardens that have been offering a tranquil setting for over 100 years. Adjacent to Strutt's historic mills the flat and easy access offer a beautiful garden featuring a central bandstand, formal gardens with ducks on the mill leat pond, children's play area and a delightful riverside tea room.

### 2 STRUTT'S NORTH MILL



[www.belpernorthmill.org.uk](http://www.belpernorthmill.org.uk)

Take a guided tour of this historic mill site and marvel at the pioneering iron framed 'fire proof' North Mill. Learn how the Strutt family harnessed water power to mechanise cotton spinning in the heart of the Derwent Valley, transforming Belper into the world's first cotton mill town.

### 3 BELPER TOWN CENTRE



There's lots to do and see in this historic town, twice winner in the Great British High Street Awards. 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.

### 4 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.

### 5 HEAGE WINDMILL



[www.heagewindmill.org.uk](http://www.heagewindmill.org.uk)

With spectacular views towards the World Heritage Site, the windmill was lovingly restored in 2002 and looks as good as when first built in 1797. It is the only working six-sailed stone tower windmill in England.





## SOUTHERN



This is a place of ancient settlements, natural beauty, making and Enlightenment. It is the birthplace of the modern factory, in a city which has been a powerhouse of creativity and manufacturing for over 300 years - where new ideas and technologies follow in the footsteps of pioneers who transformed the industrial world with their ingenuity and vision.

It is the site of an ancient community, rich in legends and a gateway to the open countryside of the north, where the Derwent once powered a model industrial village of mills and homes – now transformed, cherished by its residents and thriving with new businesses and entrepreneurs.

The river's rushing waters which once powered the mills widen and slow in this place. It is a serene haven for wildlife alongside Darley Park - a peaceful green breathing space for the city, ever changing with the seasons and loved by generations who have joined here to celebrate nature and life through music and song.



Click on link for more information



## SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

1. Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill
2. Derby Cathedral
3. Derby Museum and Art Gallery
4. Darley Park
5. Darley Abbey
6. Darley Abbey Mills



*Rich in Legend*



1

### MUSEUM OF MAKING AT DERBY SILK MILL



[www.derbymuseums.org/museum-of-making](http://www.derbymuseums.org/museum-of-making)

Celebrating the area's rich history of innovation, the Museum of Making is a contemporary space telling Derby's 300-year history of making to inspire new creativity. Designed and made by the people and industries of Derby with exhibits, workshops, activities and events, there's something here for everyone.

The Cathedral Church of All Saints was founded in 943, and holds many important monuments of Derbyshire's past. Treasures include the tomb of Bess of Hardwick, a memorial to Florence Nightingale and the impressive wrought iron screen by Robert Bakewell.

2

### DERBY CATHEDRAL



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

3

### DERBY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY



[www.derbymuseums.org/museum-and-art-gallery](http://www.derbymuseums.org/museum-and-art-gallery)

At the Museum and Art Gallery, the works of Joseph Wright of Derby are the crown jewels of the collections. Wright's paintings and sketches embody a spirit of discovery, stimulated by the 18th century Enlightenment. He painted scenes of science, experimentation and exploration as well as enlightened men of industry and learning.

4

### DARLEY PARK



Enjoy the open space of unspoilt parkland, once part of the Evans family estate, with fine views of Derby. Pause for refreshments on the terrace before exploring the national hydrangea collection in the former walled garden.

5

### 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. Darley Abbey was once the location of a religious community in medieval times.

6

### DARLEY ABBEY MILLS



Darley Abbey contains the most complete 18th century cotton mill complex in the world, built by the Evans family. Nestling by a picturesque weir and with views of the River Derwent, the many buildings have found new uses now, including cafés with seating on the riverbank, and a wedding venue.

### NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

- Derby Riverboat
- Pickfords' House
- Derby Gaol
- Markeaton Park
- Derby Market Hall
- Kedleston Hall
- Elvaston Castle
- Electric Daisy

*Powerhouse of Creativity*





## GET INSPIRED



### ACCESS FOR ALL

Due to the historic nature of the World Heritage Site and the requirements to carry out improvements which do not negatively impact the World Heritage Site, there is still some way for us to go to say that we really have Access for All to all areas. But we are working on it! And there have been many improvements to some of the sites over the last few years.

On our website you can find detailed information to help you plan your visits to each area so that you and your family, whatever their access needs, can know what to expect, and can fully enjoy your visit to the World Heritage Site in a safe and relaxed way.

[www.derwentvalleymills.org/access-for-all](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/access-for-all)



### GET ACTIVE!

Walking, cycling, jogging, horse-riding, canoeing, climbing – whatever your age and fitness level, there are plenty of ways to GET ACTIVE whilst you enjoy the Derwent Valley and discover more about its history, culture and wonderful natural landscape.

In Belper, Milford and Darley Abbey look out for the the interpretation panels and waterwheel plaques which will help you explore and find out more about the significance of these areas.

You can download some of the many leaflets which detail delightful walks around the area from our website, or pick them up from any of the sites.

[www.derwentvalleymills.org/visit/where-to-visit-in-the-derwent-valley/walks/](http://www.derwentvalleymills.org/visit/where-to-visit-in-the-derwent-valley/walks/)



### EVENTS

With a diverse range of craft markets, food festivals, carnivals and seasonal events throughout the year, there's always something happening in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

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



### PLACES TO STAY

With so much to see and do, you'll want to stay longer than a day. Discover a unique choice of self-catering accommodation, including cosy cottages, friendly B&Bs and guest houses as well as luxury log cabins and local campsites. Find a range of places to stay at [visitpeakdistrict.com](http://visitpeakdistrict.com) and [visitderby.co.uk](http://visitderby.co.uk)





## HOW TO GET HERE

### 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, the 6.1 hourly between Derby, Belper, Cromford and Matlock via Wirksworth and the X17 from Sheffield and Chesterfield to Matlock and Cromford also runs every hour.

More frequent bus services operate between Derby and Belper.  
For bus times, call: 0871 200 22 33 or visit [www.travelderbyshire.co.uk/journey](http://www.travelderbyshire.co.uk/journey)

### BY TRAIN

Derby is well served by the national rail network.  
East Midlands Railway operate regular train services from Nottingham and Derby along the Derwent Valley Line to Matlock, serving all local stations including Belper and Cromford.  
[www.derwentvalleyline.org.uk](http://www.derwentvalleyline.org.uk)

For train times, call National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 or visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)



## TOURIST INFORMATION

### Derby

#### Derby Sales and Information Centre

Telephone: 01332 255800

E-mail: [tourism@derby.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@derby.gov.uk)

### Matlock Bath

The Peak District Mining Museum

Matlock Bath DE4 3NR

Telephone: 01629 583834

E-mail: [tourism@derbyshiredales.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@derbyshiredales.gov.uk)

[www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk)



VISIT  
PEAK DISTRICT  
& DERBYSHIRE