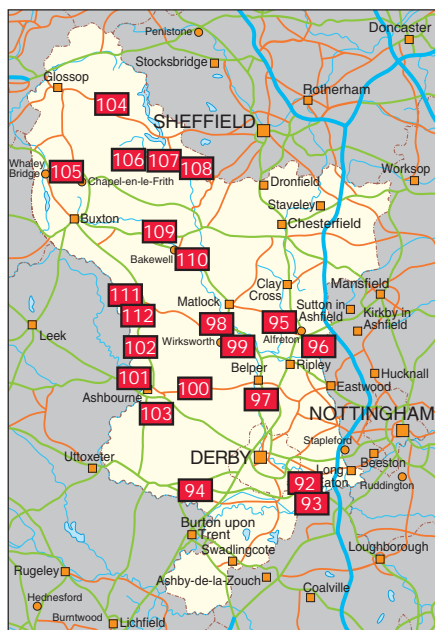


DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire was at the forefront of modern thinking at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, and the chief inheritor of this legacy is the county town of Derby, the home of Rolls-Royce and Royal Crown Derby porcelain; and now to many wonderful museums plotting this age of production. Derby attracts many paranormal enthusiasts due to its status as most haunted town in the UK, and the many eerie stories and haunted locations to be discovered are of interest to any visitor.

Ruins are abound through the county, remaining as mournful relics of the ages. Those such as the Norman ruins of Peveril Castle above Castleton, manage to remain and offer some gorgeous locations for visitors to enjoy; less fortunate however are ruins such as Riber Castle in Matlock, which become too dangerous and expensive to maintain and so are demolished or, in Riber Castle's case, are converted into apartments. An unusual case is that of Calke Abbey owned by the National Trust, which has been allowed to fall into gradual disrepair since 1924, preserved in the exact state the last occupant left it in; it must be seen to be believed!

Much of the county is dominated by the Peak District National Park, the first of the ten National Parks, whose landscape changes from deep limestone valleys to bleak, desolate moorland. Along with numerous attractive villages and small towns, ancient



monuments and caves, the Park is home to two of the finest stately homes not just in Derbyshire but in the whole country - Haddon Hall and Chatsworth. There are two impressive Bronze Age stone circles in this area; Arbor Low and the Nine Ladies; the name of the latter comes from a story told of nine ladies who were turned to stone in punishment for dancing on a Sunday.

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Accommodation

- 105 Navigation Inn, Buxworth *pg 67, 385*
 - 106 Causeway House, Castleton, Hope Valley *pg 67, 386*
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Food & Drink

- 92 Shakespeare Inn & Restaurant, Shardlow *pg 61, 375*
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Food & Drink

- 103 The Saracens Head, Shirley, Ashbourne *pg 65, 383*
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DERBY

As you would expect from a city officially voted the most haunted in the UK, Derby has a rich, and sometimes dark, history - which is gloriously illuminated for visitors through its many museums and heritage centres. For anyone coming to the city with an interest in its ghostly reputation, the first place to visit should be the **Derby Gaol**, which has been restored as close to the original Gaol as possible; with two cells which have the original doors, complete with the prisoners' original 'graffiti' - names, dates, and day markers etched into the wood, marking down

how many days the prisoner had until execution. The Gaol also runs very popular "ghost walks" around the city at night, which they do year round.

Beneath the **Guildhall**, now a theatre which attracts big names in music, comedy and drama, is a labyrinth of tunnels and catacombs. One of the tunnels used to link the old police lock-up to the Assize Courts (at that time in the Guildhall). Many prisoners would have trudged along those dark, dank tunnels, where they were sentenced, and then trudged back to be taken away and executed, transported, or imprisoned. It is no surprise then, that there have been many reports of ghostly apparitions and disembodied footsteps inside these tunnels.

Further trips into Derby's past, including a vibrant history of industry, can be found at a number of brilliant museums. The **Museum of Industry and History** is on the site of the world's oldest factories, the Silk Mills built by George Sorocold in 1702 and 1717. The foundations and parts of the tower from the 1717 mill are still visible. Rolls-Royce is of particular interest here; the city being famously linked to the name since the first of their motor-cars was built here (a Silver Ghost!). Among the exhibits are some great displays on the development of the Rolls-Royce aero engine.

Another famous name associated with Derby is Royal Crown Derby china; guided tours round the **Royal Crown Derby** factory, museum and shop offer an intriguing insight into the high level of skill required to create the delicate flower petals, hand-gilt plates and



Derby Guildhall at Night

hand-painted porcelain, which is so instantly recognisable.

The city's **Cathedral of All Saints** possesses a fine 16th century tower, the second highest Perpendicular tower in England. Its treasures include a beautiful wrought iron screen by Robert Bakewell.

One of Derby's most interesting museums is **Pickford House**, situated on the city's finest Georgian street. Built in 1770 by the architect Joseph Pickford as a combined family home and place of work, the house offers an insight into the everyday lives of a middle-class family during the 1830s.

AROUND DERBY

ILKESTON

8 miles NE of Derby on the A6007

The third largest town in Derbyshire, Ilkeston received its royal charter for a market and fair in 1252 and both have continued to the present day. Once a mining and lace-making centre, its history is told in the **Erewash Museum**, which is free to enter.

OCKBROOK

4 miles E of Derby off the A52

In this quiet village, a Moravian Settlement was founded in the mid-18th century when a congregation of the Moravian Church was formed. The Settlement has several fine buildings, including **The Manse**, built in 1822, and the **Moravian Chapel**.

To the north are the ruins of **Dale Abbey**, founded by Augustinian monks in the 13th century. The **Church of All Saints**, at Dale, is surely the only church in England that shares its roof with a farm.

MELBOURNE

6½ miles S of Derby off the B587

Melbourne's most famous son is **Thomas Cook**, who pioneered personally conducted tours and gave his name to the famous worldwide travel company. In 1841 Thomas Cook organised a trip from Leicester to



Melbourne Hall

Loughborough for a temperance rally. 570 passengers each paid one shilling (5p).

The birthplace of the 19th century statesman **Lord Melbourne**, and also the home of **Lady Caroline Lamb**, **Melbourne Hall** is another fine building in this area of Derbyshire. The hall is surrounded by beautiful gardens, whose most notable feature is a wrought-iron birdcage pergola built in the early 1700s by Robert Bakewell.

To the south is the large Baroque mansion of **Calke Abbey** (National Trust) that has been dubbed the 'house that time forgot' as, since the death of the owner **Sir Vauncy Harpur-Crewe** in 1924, the house has been kept as he left it. In an exception to their usual policy, the Trust decided not to restore the house to its state of former grandeur; instead, they are simply preserving it in the exact state in

92 THE SHAKESPEARE INN AND RESTAURANT

Shardlow

Located by the marina in historic **Shardlow**, this inn offers up real ale and fine food in its own restaurant.

See entry on page 375



93 THE OLD CROWN INN

Cavendish Bridge, nr Shardlow

Beautiful olde worlde family run inn known for its large array of real ales, beer festivals and delicious food.

See entry on page 376



which they found it, as a sort of monument both to the eccentric family that lived there, and to all the other historic houses that were lost due to the massive cost of maintaining them. Sir Harpur-Crewe was an obsessive collector, and as so the rooms are brimming with stuffed birds and other taxidermy, preserved botanical specimens, child memorabilia, and paintings. The extensive gardens include a restored orangery.

REPTON

7 miles SW of Derby off the B5008

Repton, on the banks of the Trent, was established as the capital of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia in the 7th century, and a monastery founded. The parish Church of St Wystan is famous for its chancel and crypt, which claims to be one of the oldest intact Anglo-Saxon buildings in England.

MATLOCK

Essentially a Victorian town, Matlock nestles in the lower valley of the River Derwent and is the administrative centre of Derbyshire as well as being a busy tourist centre bordering the Peak District National Park. Matlock once had the steepest gradient tramway in the world: the Depot can still be seen at the top of Bank Street. **Peak Rail** is a rebuilt, refurbished and now preserved steam railway running between Matlock Riverside station to its other terminus Rowsley South.

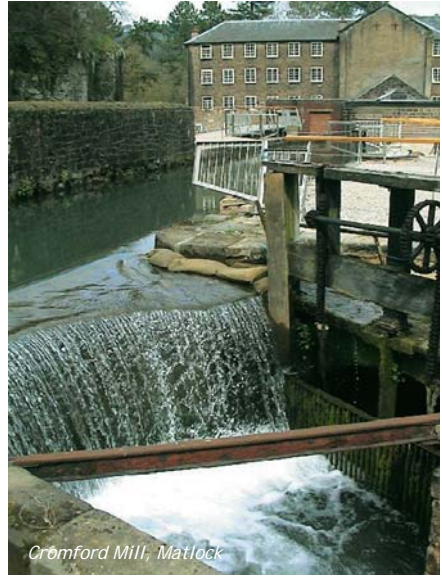
High up on the hill behind the town is the brooding ruin of **Riber Castle**, built in the 1860s by John Smedley, a local hosiery manufacturer who became interested in the hydropathic qualities of Matlock.

94 HILTON HOUSE HOTEL

Hilton

Handsome family run Georgian hotel offering fine en suite accommodation and traditional seasonal food.

See entry on page 377



Cromford Mill, Matlock

Unfortunately it is no longer possible to see inside the castle, as after years of debate and an uncertain future for the deteriorating building, it has been decided it will be converted into apartments; though it still makes for an affecting sight.

To the south of Matlock lies **Matlock Bath**, which developed into a spa town and by the early 19th century had become a popular summer resort. Many buildings connected with its heyday as a spa can still be visited. Down by the riverbank is the **Peak District Mining Museum** and **Temple Mine** that tells the story of lead mining in the surrounding area from as far back as Roman times.

High Tor Grounds, some 400 feet above Matlock, offer spectacular views along with nature trails, and on the opposite side of the valley are the **Heights of Abraham Country Park** and **Caverns**, featuring steep rocky gorges, vast caverns, fast-running rivers, woodland walks and refreshment areas. A cable car runs from Matlock railway station up to this unique attraction.

To the south of Matlock Bath is **Cromford**, the world famous 'model' village that was developed by Richard Arkwright into one of the first industrial towns. **Cromford Mill** and

the associated buildings and attractions are now an International World Heritage Site.

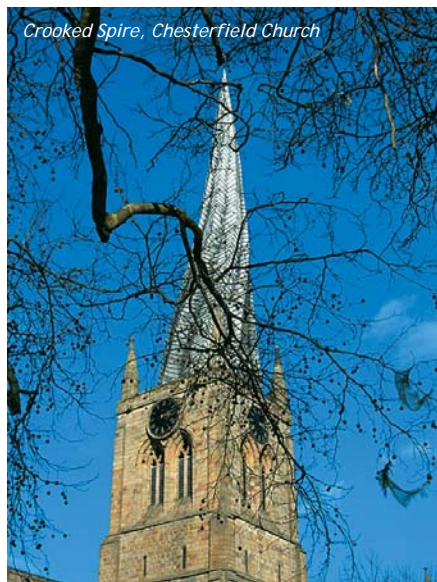
The **High Peak Trail**, which stretches some 17 miles up towards Buxton, starts at Cromford and follows the trackbed of the Cromford and High Peak Railway.

AROUND MATLOCK

CHESTERFIELD

9 miles NE of Matlock on the A61

A friendly, bustling town on the edge of the Peak District National Park, Chesterfield grew up around a market that was established over 800 years ago. The town centre has been conserved for future generations by a far-sighted council, and many buildings have been saved, including the Victorian Market Hall built in 1857. The town's most famous landmark is the **Crooked Spire of St Mary & All Saints' Church** - the magnificent spire rises to 228 feet and leans over 9 feet from its true centre point. The spire has eight sides, but the herringbone pattern of the lead slates tricks the eye into seeing 16 sides from the grounds. There are several tall tales as to



Crooked Spire, Chesterfield Church

how the spire became so twisted; one tells that a maiden getting married in the church was of such beauty and purity that the spire twisted itself trying to catch a glimpse of her, or another tells of a blacksmith persuaded to shoe the Devil, but was so nervous that he drove a nail into the Devil's foot causing him to shoot up in the air in pain, catching hold of and twisting the tower as he went.

Chesterfield owed much of its prosperity during the industrial age to the great railway engineer George Stephenson. His home, Tipton House, lies just outside the town; he retired here and carried out work and experiments in horticulture. His death was announced in one local newspaper under the headline 'Inventor of the straight cucumber dies.'

BOLSOVER

12½ miles NE of Matlock on the A632

Above the town on a limestone ridge stands **Bolsover Castle**, a fairytale folly built for Sir Charles Cavendish during the early 1600s on the site of a ruined 12th century castle.

AULT HUCKNALL

11 miles NE of Matlock off the A617

Situated on a ridge close to the Nottinghamshire border, this village is home to the magnificent Tudor house, **Hardwick**

95 THREE HORSESHOES

Wessington

Interesting 18th century pub, known best for its unbeatable hospitality and traditional Sunday roast.

See entry on page 378



96 THE MOULDERS ARMS

Riddings

Lively local thatched pub that prides itself on offering great pub food, real ale and local entertainment.

See entry on page 377

