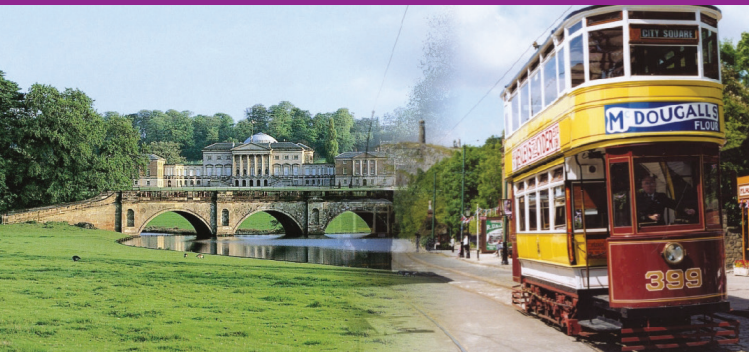


Amber Valley

The Heart of Derbyshire



Places to visit



www.visitambervalley.com



Here in Amber Valley we have such a varied selection of attractions, it means that there is always plenty for everyone to discover.

Visitors to Lea Gardens can enjoy one of the Country's largest collections of rhododendrons and azaleas. Why not call in during early Spring to mid-Summer to see the stunning gardens at their best. A few miles away at Shipley, the Country Park has miles of footpaths and bridleways to follow.

An entirely different attraction is the Midland Railway — Butterley, where visitors may enjoy the nostalgic atmosphere of this remarkable heritage railway with its unique collection of restored locomotives and rolling stock. Also on the transport theme, at Crich Tramway Village, home of the National Tramway Museum, you can take a trip down memory lane on one of the beautifully restored trams that run through a period townscape to open countryside high above the Derwent Valley. At nearby Heage you are able to discover the only working stone-towered, multi-sailed windmill in England.



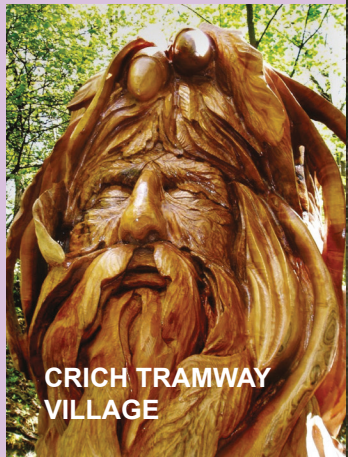
MIDLAND RAILWAY — BUTTERLEY



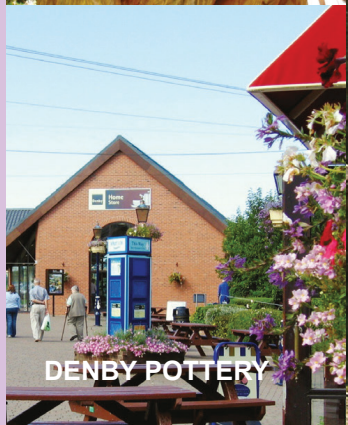
The National Trust's superb Kedleston Hall is stunning with its beautiful paintings, sculpture and fine furniture in a setting of 800 acres of landscaped parkland, well known from film and television. At South Wingfield, visitors may also admire the dramatic ruins of Wingfield Manor which stand high above the Amber Valley countryside.

The beautiful scenery forms the setting for tranquil villages and vibrant towns, some with weekly markets and regular farmer's markets. A growing number of antique and craft shops are becoming ever more popular with locals and visitors alike.

If you enjoy shopping visit the individual Factory Shops and manufacturing outlets offering a huge variety of products. Denby Pottery is made here, and thousands of visitors come every year to tour the factory and enjoy a unique day out.



CRICH TRAMWAY VILLAGE



DENBY POTTERY



HEAGE WINDMILL



Enjoy your visit...

As the River Derwent passes through the County of Derbyshire the route it follows has been established as the National Heritage Corridor®. Meanwhile, industrial history is celebrated with the mills that have been designated as a World Heritage Site. Here visitors can see different sites and gain a fascinating insight into industrial and social life during the 18th and 19th centuries. At Belper, Strutt's North Mill has examples of early cotton spinning machines amongst its exhibits. The Mill is located adjacent to the beautiful River Gardens which form the setting for band concerts during the summer months.

Visit Amber Valley in the Heart of Derbyshire and you will find an ideal destination whatever time of year you choose to visit.

Amber Valley is centrally situated and easy to reach with excellent transport links and has so much to see and do. So why not stay a while and relax, we offer a wide range of inspected accommodation with something to suit all tastes and price ranges, from farmhouse B&B's and country house hotels to unique self-catering properties.



**BELPER RIVER
GERDENS**



**BELPER
EAST MILL**



Alfreton

Legend says that Alfreton took its name from Alfred the Great who is said to have occupied a house in King Street. One of Alfreton's most famous sons was Robert Watchorn who became Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island, New York and

bequeathed funds to his home town to build the Watchorn Church and Abraham Lincoln Library.

Special places not to be missed:

- **Alfreton House** The oldest house in the town, built mid 1600s
- **The House of Confinement** Alfreton lock up dating from the early 19th century
- **Alfreton Park** You can enjoy big open spaces as well as wooded areas where there is an abundance of wildlife
- **Alfreton Heritage Centre** Browse through the photographic exhibitions, memorabilia, and books
- **Indoor Market Hall** Granted in 1252 and the town is still well-served by its indoor market hall offering variety and value. The indoor market is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday



Heanor

The author DH Lawrence based many of his stories in and around the countryside he grew up in. The former hall at Shipley is believed to feature in Lady Chatterley's Lover. The elaborate gates from the Hall can be seen at the entrance to the towns Memorial Park,

which includes a bandstand and paddling pool for use in summer months.

Special places not to be missed:

- **Heanor Memorial Park** An oasis of peace and calm, tucked away behind the historic imposing iron gates from Shipley
- **Heanor Splash Pad** Open Late Spring and throughout Summer
- **Shipley Country Park** Whatever the season, there's always lots to see and do in the park
- **Heanor Antique Centre** 4 floors packed with an amazing variety of retro items, antiques, quirky household items. As seen on television!
- **Heanor Outdoor Market** – From fresh food to garden and household items visit us Friday & Saturday



Ripley

Ripley is famous for its large Autumn Fair and there are small weekly markets established by Royal Charter in the 13th Century. Several famous industrialists are associated with the town, including Jessop and Outram

who established the Butterley Company. The world's first rotating boat lift, the Falkirk Wheel, was built in the town. Ripley is also the birthplace of Sir Barnes Wallis, the great aviation engineer.

Special places not to be missed:

- **Crossley Park** Green Flag town park, bandstand & play water splash area. Musical entertainment at the bandstand in the summer months
- **Midland Railway**, Butterley Heritage Railway, museum, model railways, shop, children's playground and country park
- **Butterley Reservoir** Members of the public can visit the reservoir for a circular walk.
- **Ripley Market** Weekly Fridays & Saturdays
- **Ripley Music Festival** takes place in July with genres from classical to rock
- **Ripley Charter Fair** takes place in October All the fun of the Fair



Belper

Belper is rich in history and is now recognised as the market town located at the heart of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Once famous for nail making; it was the genius of the Strutt family who changed the face

of the town. Jedediah Strutt built one of the world's earliest water-powered cotton mills. Later, a fireproof mill was built by his son William and this had a significant impact on future industrial developments. An apprentice Samuel Slater worked at the mill and emigrated to America. Later he became known as the Father of American Industry.

Special places not to be missed:

- **Belper River Gardens** Picturesque riverside gardens offering peace and tranquillity
- **True High Street Experience** Ranging from fashion, jewellery, furnishings, gifts, butchers, and bakers
- **Strutts North Mill** UNESCO world heritage site and one of the world's first iron frame "fireproof" buildings built in 1804
- **Vibrant Belper Food Festival** Hosted July & December
- **Belper Farmers Market** Second Saturday of each month





Alport Stone

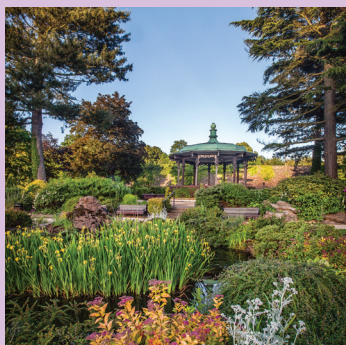


The area has some wonderful viewing points. From Alport Stone you can see for miles and miles. Administered by the National Trust, it is the occasional venue for events such as kite flying.

Open: All year.
Alport, Wirksworth SK304515
www.visitambervalley.com



Belper River Gardens



These unique riverside gardens offer visitors a tranquil setting to view the River Derwent and to look at the beautiful gardens and shrubberies. After your walk, stop off at the newly modelled Swiss Tea Rooms for hot and cold meals, drinks or a light snack.

Rowing boats may be hired in the summer to take a trip along nearly three miles of the river and catch sight of a variety of bird life. Throughout the summer months there are band concerts, outdoor theatre, and other events.

Open: All year.

Matlock Road, Belper, DE56 1BE

Tel: 01773 841485 | www.visitambervalley.com

Crich Stand

This is perhaps the most famous landmark in Derbyshire. Situated over 340 metres above sea level, the war memorial of the Sherwood Foresters Regiment is dedicated to the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment and the Mercian Regiments. The spiral staircase with fifty-eight steps takes the visitor to the viewing gallery from where, on clear days, visitors can pick out 7 counties and various landmarks over the surrounding countryside.



Open: All year (subject to weather).
Plaistow Green Road, Crich, DE4 5DP
Tel: 01773 852350 | www.crich-memorial.org.uk

Crich Tramway Village



This is the home of the National Tramway Museum, which offers a family day out in the relaxing atmosphere of a bygone era. Here you may take a walk through the woodland walk and sculpture trail and literally take a trip down memory lane on one of the beautifully restored

trams. There are depots to explore, displays to discover and the exquisitely restored vintage tram fleet to fascinate visitors of all ages.

Open: March to November.
Crich, DE4 5DP
Tel: 01773 854321 | www.tramway.co.uk



Croots Farm Shop & Kitchen



Visit the award winning Farm Shop, set in an rural farmyard and complete with resident shire horses. The shop offers a range of home-grown and local food; fresh and locally produced including shop made sausages, pies and pastries. Sample the delicious products in The Shires Eatery or take home and enjoy.

Open: All year.

Croots Farm Shop, Farnah House Farm, Wirksworth Road, Duffield, DE56 4AQ

Tel: 01332 843032 | www.croots.co.uk

De Bradelei Shopping Village



De Bradelei Shopping Village sits within a historic hosiery manufacturing mill just off the A6. With up to 70% off big name clothing and designer brands, customers flock to the stores for discounted shopping with a difference.

Open: All year.

Chapel Street, Belper, DE56 1AR

Tel: 01773 882442 | www.debradelei.com

Denby Pottery Visitor Centre

Whether you have a few hours or want to enjoy a full day out, go and visit the friendly Pottery Village for a wealth of family-friendly activities that all ages will enjoy.



Experience the new Denby Experience Packages, where you can learn a little more about the Denby you love, get immersed in their fascinating history, see how they hand-craft their versatile beautiful and durable ceramics and even get creative yourself. With great savings, upgrades and some complimentary extras to help make your visit extra special.

Open: All year.

Derby Road, Denby, DE5 8NX

Tel: 01773 740799 | www.denbyvisitorcentre.co.uk

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site



The importance of the development of the cotton spinning mills along the Derwent Valley during the Industrial Revolution has been recognised by inscription by UNESCO. The principle sites concerned are the mills at Masson, Cromford, Belper, Milford, Darley Abbey

and Derby Silk Mill. The mills, their communities and the innovators who built them are acknowledged as key to the early industrial development of the world.

Open: All year.

Tel: 01773 880474 or 01629 536831

www.derwentvalleymills.org

Hayes Conference Centre

The Hayes was built in the 1850's for the maternal great, great-grandfather of the Duchess of York. During the Second World War the house was used as a prisoner of war camp and gained fame through the film "The One That Got Away". Now recognised

as one of the largest residential venues of its type in Europe, it is ideally placed for National Conferences with a capacity for up to 400 delegates.



Open: Please telephone for booking details.

Hayes Lane, Swanwick, Alfreton, DE55 1AU

Tel: **01773 526000** | www.cct.org.uk

Heage Windmill



This unique six sailed, stone towered mill has been restored to enable it to grind corn into flour for the first time in nearly 100 years. Known locally as Ned's Mill, the wooden machinery and picturesque position make a visit a must.

Open: Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays. Groups by arrangement. April to October.

Chesterfield Road, Heage, Belper, DE56 2BH

Tel: **01773 853579** | www.heagewindmill.org.uk

Heritage Centres

Reflecting the history and cultural past of the Amber Valley area, there are a number of local history groups and Heritage Centres. Please contact them directly.

Alfreton and District Heritage Trust, Rodgers Lane, Alfreton, DE55 7FF Tel: **01773 832349**

Belper Heritage Centre, St John's Chapel, The Butts, Belper, DE56 1HX Tel: **01773 822116**

Heanor Historical Society Tel: **01773 762011**

Ripley Historical Society Tel: **01773 841485**

Kedleston Hall



Kedleston Hall is a breathtaking neo-classical house set in landscaped parkland. The house was built between 1759 and 1765 for Sir Nathaniel Curzon to house his collection of fine paintings and furniture, and has the most complete and unaltered examples of Robert Adam

interiors in England. In the 18th Century, the housekeeper, Mrs Garnett, showed you around and today her likeness welcomes you to the property with regular presentations in the huge Marble Hall. Kedleston Hall is administered by the National Trust.

Open: House/Gardens: March to October. Park: All year.
Tel: 01332 842191 | www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston

Lea Gardens

During the spring and early summer, you will find one of England's finest collections of rhododendrons and azaleas.

The spectacular colours have to be seen to be believed.

The gardens also include many rare trees, shrubs and alpine plants. Visitors may

wander through the gardens, which are recognised internationally, or relax and admire the spectacular views across the Derwent Valley, and enjoy the homemade refreshments in the tea garden.



Open: March to end of June. Tea Garden: All summer.
Long Lane, Lea, Matlock, DE4 5GH

Tel: 01629 534380 | www.leagarden.co.uk

Lea Green

Lea Green was once the home of John Marsden-Smedley, owner of the internationally famous knitwear company situated in the village of Lea. This historic 18th Century stone building is set in 25 acres of parkland. Group visitors are able to enjoy a wide range of sporting, artistic and environmental activities in this relaxing setting.



Open: Please telephone for booking details.

Groups welcome.

Lea, Matlock, DE4 3GJ

Tel: 01629 534561 | www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leagreen

Midland Railway — Butterley



The Midland Railway was one of the most pre-eminent railway companies of its time. The Midland Railway-Butterley has a unique collection of railway locomotives and rolling stock including both the Princess Margaret Rose and the Duchess of Sutherland. There's lots to

see and do for all of the family, including wonderful train rides through 3.5 miles countryside to the Swanwick Junction Station where you will discover the West Shed Experience, Demonstration Signal Box, Narrow Gauge Railway and the Tin Tabernacle Victorian Railwaymen's Church all set in the Country Park.

Open: All year.

Buttlerley Station, Ripley, DE5 3QZ

Tel: 01773 570140

www.midlandrailway-butterley.co.uk

The National Heritage Corridor ®

The River Derwent bisects Derbyshire from the dams above Bamford in the north, meandering through some of the richest built and natural heritage in the world. During the early years of the Industrial Revolution, the Derwent was England's hardest working rivers, now it is one of the most interesting. The Derwent Valley Heritage Way follows the path of the River, and whether you are a keen walker or just want a short stroll, the route allows you to enjoy the beauty and splendour of Derbyshire.



www.nationalheritagecorridor.org.uk

Shipley Country Park



Located near to Heanor, Shipley Country Park is surrounded by 600 acres of attractive landscape, with leafy pathways, tranquil lakes, large woodlands and wildlife meadows. You can walk or ride on 18 miles of footpaths and bridleways through the park. There are a wide range of activities for all

seasons from bird watching, angling and photography to kite flying.

Open: All year.

Slack Lane, Heanor, DE75 7GX

Tel: 01773 719961 | www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside

Take a look at the attraction websites for full information and opening times. For further attractions in the area, accommodation and events, go to www.visitambervalley.com

Strutt's North Mill

Home of the Derwent
Valley Visitor Centre



Situated in the North Mill at Belper, which has been described as the most beautiful, sophisticated and technologically advanced building of its era, the Centre opens a window to the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Displays include the finest

collection of silk and cotton stockings, highlighting the local art of chevenning, a form of exquisite embroidery. In addition there are a variety of original and model machines showing the evolution of cotton spinning processes and much more.

Open: Summer: Wednesday to Sunday plus Bank Holidays. 11.00pm – 4.00pm and Winter (from 1 Nov) Saturday and Sundays 11.00pm – 4.00pm.

North Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper, DE56 1YD

Tel: 01773 880474 | www.belpernorthmill.org.uk

Wingfield Manor



The dramatic ruins of Wingfield Manor stand on a hill above the village of South Wingfield. Built around 1439 the Manor became the prison of Mary Queen of Scots on three occasions. Enjoy the stunning views from adjoining footpaths around the manor. The Manor is administered by English Heritage but is privately owned and is currently not accepting visitors. Please check the English Heritage website before visiting.



South Wingfield, Alfreton, DE55 7NH

Tel: 0870 333 1181 | www.english-heritage.org.uk

Famous People

Over the years, many famous people have lived and worked in the Amber Valley area. These include Jessop, Outram and Strutt. Probably the most well known is Florence Nightingale whose family had links with the villages of Lea and Holloway. It was here that Florence first became interested in nursing and returned after the Crimean War. The First Astronomer Royal, John Flamsteed, was born in Denby and he founded the Greenwich Observatory in London.

Actors involved in films, TV and the theatre have local links including Timothy Dalton (James Bond), Simon Groom (ex Blue Peter Presenter) and John Tams (Sharpe). The world record-breaking yachtswoman, Ellen MacArthur, grew up in Whatstandwell, ironically, about as far from the sea as you could be in England!

Twinning

The Amber Valley is twinned with the Blackstone Valley in Rhode Island, USA, and Belper is twinned with the town of Pawtucket. These links are based on the heritage of the two areas. The Borough also has links with Glogow in Poland and Laholm in Sweden. The town of Ripley is twinned with Chateau Renault in France.

Well Dressing

Every year the ancient custom of well dressing is celebrated in the towns and villages of Derbyshire. During this time, springs and wells are decorated with pictures made from natural materials, such as flower petals and seeds. There are well dressings at several Amber Valley villages during May.

www.visitambervalley.com/welldressing



Find out more...



A Visitor Information Centre is on hand to answer your enquiries and help you to make the most of your visit to the area. The staff and volunteers of the Strutt's North Mill will be happy to answer your questions and tell you all about the borough and the World Heritage Site.

Whether you are looking for accommodation, ideas of where to eat or to go for a lovely walks then head for the Centre at Belper, where the knowledgeable staff will be able to point you in the right direction.

Strutt's North Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper, DE56 1YD

Open: Wednesday - Sunday plus Bank Holidays.

11.00am – 4.00pm (March — October).

Saturday and Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm (Nov — March).

Tel: 01773 880474 or 0845 5214347

www.belpernorthmill.org.uk



New to the area?

Come inside and we'll answer your questions on what to see and do

We're visitor friendly!

The Derwent Valley
The Valley that changed the World

Alternatively take a look at the official tourism website

www.visitambervalley.com

You will also find lots of friendly independent shops across the borough who will welcome your enquiry.

In Belper look for the **We're Visitor Friendly** signs in the shop windows and call in.

Planning a short break

Take a look at the tourism website to discover a range of places to stay from traditional farmhouse, B&B's to contemporary hotels and country inns.

www.visitambervalley.com

Gorgeous Galleries and Inspirational Shopping

Gorgeous gifts can be found in a number of stylish galleries and designer boutiques around the towns and villages of the borough. At the galleries you will discover many visiting artists and changing exhibitions by Derbyshire and British artists and craftspeople.

Monthly Farmers Markets offer you the chance to purchase directly from the supplier and to tempt you as you try before you buy, or why not visit the Antique Centres if you are looking for something a little more unusual. Take a look at the website for a full list of wonderful places.



Stylish Shopping Arcade in Belper

The ethos behind the 1924 is to create a community for people to come together with the same ideas and values. Customers

are invited to shop, eat and drink and be part of the wonderful community



Leabrooks Gallery

Situated in a secluded garden courtyard setting, Leabrooks Gallery offers original art works in oil, watercolour and mixed media together with limited and open edition prints. The gallery also stocks hand made greetings cards, silver jewellery and a range of pottery.

36 Leabrooks Road, Somercotes, Alfreton, DE55 4HB
Tel: 01773 602961 | www.leabrooksgallery.co.uk

You will find more artists, potters and crafts people demonstrating their skills and beautiful work by visiting the website **www.visitambervalley.com**

Car Parking and Leisure Centres

For full details visit the Amber Valley Council website. www.ambervalley.gov.uk

Leisure Centres

Alfreton Leisure Centre, Church Street, Alfreton, DE55 7BD Tel: **01773 523325**

Belper Leisure Centre, John O'Gaunts Way, Belper, DE56 0DA Tel: **01773 825285**

William Gregg VC, Hands Road, Heanor, DE75 7HA Tel: **01773 537940**

Ripley Leisure Centre, Derby Road, Ripley, DE5 3HR Tel: **01773 514727**

Getting here

By road From the north and south, the M1 runs parallel to the eastern boundary with access at junctions 26 and 28. The A6 gives access to major trunk roads via the A52 and the Borough is crossed by the A38.

By rail There are stations at Alfreton, Ambergate, Belper, Duffield, Langley Mill and Whatstandwell. Tel: **National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950** | www.nationalrail.co.uk

By bus Amber Valley is served by direct frequent bus services from surrounding towns and cities including Derby, Chesterfield, Nottingham and Manchester. For public transport information Tel: **0871 200 2233** www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses

By air East Midlands International Airport Tel: **0871 919 9000** Birmingham Airport Tel: **0871 222 0072** Manchester Airport Tel: **0871 271 0711**

By coach National Express coaches serve Derby, Belper and Chesterfield. Tel: **National Express Coaches 08717 818 178** | www.nationalexpress.com

By sea Hull — P&O Ferries Tel: **08716 64 2121** Harwich — Stena Line Tel: **08447 707070**

Events and Shopping

Individual Factory Shops

Amber Valley is a haven for bargain hunters. There are many leading manufacturers working in the area who have factory outlets. These include Denby Pottery, David Nieper and John Smedley as well as smaller individual companies. The factory outlets offer excellent value for money and you may be able to find items that are not available elsewhere. At Belper the superb De Bradelei store is located in part of the mills originally used by the Brettles company.

Events

Throughout the year there is a varied events programme. Often the location is one of the many attractions in Amber Valley, or there may be fairs, carnivals or village fetes to attend. If you enjoy learning about the area you are visiting, then why not follow in the footsteps of a Local Walks Guides. In addition, the beautiful scenery can be admired by walkers enjoying one of numerous walks often linking into the history and heritage of the area. For up to date details and “What’s On” listing visit www.visitambervalley.com

Market Days and Farmers Markets

Alfreton Indoor	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday
Heanor Outdoor	Friday and Saturday
Ripley Outdoor	Friday and Saturday
Belper Farmers	2nd Saturday in the month

Information on accessible attractions, facilities and holidays

Accessible Derbyshire

www.accessiblederbyshire.org

Derbyshire Coalition for Inclusive Living, Park Road, Ripley, DE5 3EF

Tel: 01773 740246 | www.dcil.org.uk

Minicom: 01773 748452



Further information can be obtained from
tourism@ambervalley.gov.uk or call 01773 841485

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Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this guide, Amber Valley Borough Council cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. (2022)



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



HM Government

