

Belper

Visitor Guide

The historic town at the Centre
of a World Heritage Site

Welcome to Belper



Located in the Derwent Valley countryside, Belper is the world's first Cotton Mill town. From history and heritage to the town centre of the modern day, the area has something to offer everyone.

Stroll through the beautiful riverside gardens and around the historic streets of mill workers cottages at Long Row and The Clusters; view the notable sites of this heritage town, or enjoy the river vista of the valley and take a rowing boat up stream.

As the River Derwent passes by, the history is celebrated as designated as part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Strutt's North Mill provides the perfect venue to gain a fascinating insight into the mills' history, its associations to the valley and the development of the market town.



Belper - Heart of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Stretching 15 miles down the river from Matlock Bath to Derby, the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site contains a fascinating series of historic mill complexes, including some of the world's first "modern" factories. One of those communities that lies at the heart of the World Heritage Site is Belper. Belper is home to some of the oldest surviving mills in the area, together with the ground breaking technology for water powered manufacturing.

**For more information on the World Heritage Site
please visit www.derwentvalleymills.org**



Great Hospitality

The town is renowned for its independent traders who go out of their way to welcome visitors. Look out for the **We're Visitor Friendly** stickers in the shop windows. Staff at these stores have lots of knowledge about local history and ideas of what there is to see in the Belper area, they are able to point you in the right direction and help make your visit to the town more enjoyable

If you are looking for something specific, or just want to be sure of a warm welcome, pop into the stores.

The independent shops often stock items unique to the town or tasty food which they produce in house.



Visit Belper for award winning food and drink

Belper has an impressive choice of places to eat and drink and has won Derbyshire Life's food and drink awards for best newcomer, presented to Arthur's, while Beaupaire patisserie was awarded best tearoom/café.

Belper boasts some talented chefs who are passionate about locally sourced produce and creating innovative menus. The town has also embraced emerging trends with vegan and vegetarian cafés now adding to an already vibrant choice with something to suit everyone's tastes and budgets.

Belper Annual Events

Special events throughout the year welcome you to the town to shop, relax and enjoy!

- Belper Arts Trail (May)
- Belper Fringe including art, drama, literature, dance, music and film (May)
- Belper Open Houses (May)
- Derwent Valley Mills Walking Festival (May)
- Belper Open Gardens (June)
- Pride in Belper (June)
- Belper Food & Real Ale Festival (July)
- Belper Well Dressing and Well Dressing in the Making (July)
- Larks in the Park & summer entertainment in the Belper River Gardens and Memorial Gardens (June - August)
- Autumn Footprints Walking Festival (Sept)
- Belper Pumpkin Trail (October)
- Discovery Days in the World Heritage Site (October)
- Belper Christmas Food Fayre & Festive Events (December)
- Look out for the Strutts Centre & Strutt's North Mill events where a full range of activities and events take place throughout the year
- Belper Walks depart from the Strutt's North Mill throughout the year, including traditional
- Boxing Day and New Year's Day festive walks with warming refreshments
- You will also find a full programme of blockbuster movies to art house classics at the award winning Ritz cinema

**Take a look at the website for more events,
further information and dates
www.visitambervalley.com**

Around Belper...

Belper is centrally located and very close to a range of visitor attractions.

Crich Tramway Village

Home of the National Tramway Museum, offering a family day out in the relaxing atmosphere of a bygone area. Here you may take a trip down memory lane and travel on a restored tram or take a woodland walk through the sculpture trail.

Open: March - November
Crich, Derbyshire DE4 5DP

Tel: 01773 854321 | www.tramway.co.uk

Heage Windmill

Visit this six sailed, stone towered mill and find out how the miller grinds the corn into flour. Known locally as Ned's Mill, the wooden machinery and picturesque position make this visit a must.

Open: April - October
Chesterfield Road, Heage, Belper. DE56 2BH

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

Denby Pottery Visitor Centre

Tour the working factory and see how the famous Denby Pottery is made. There is a choice of Pottery Tours; from full factory tours to hands on, making a clay souvenir and browse the centre shops including the Denby Factory Shop, cookery, garden, home and gift shops.

Open: All Year
Denby, near Belper DE5 8NX

Tel: 01773 740799

www.denbypottery.com/denby-pottery-village-shop

Midland Railway-Butterley

Visit this impressive collection of railway locomotives and rolling stock including the famous Duchess of Sutherland. Trains run regularly through seven miles of the countryside. The site includes lots to see including narrow gauge railway and country park.

Open: All year

Butterley Station, Ripley, DE5 3QZ

Tel: 01773 570140

www.midlandrailway-butterley.co.uk

Lea Gardens

During the spring you will find one of England's finest collections of rhododendrons and azaleas. There are spectacular colours in these alpine gardens and impressive views across the Derwent Valley.

Open: March - June. Tea Gardens all summer.

Lea, Matlock, DE4 5GH

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

Kedleston Hall (National Trust)

Breath-taking neo-classical house set in landscaped parkland. Built to house a fine collection of paintings and furniture, it has the most complete and unaltered example of Robert Adam interiors in England.

House open: March - October. Parkland all year.

Kedleston, DE22 5JH

Tel: 01332 842191 | www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Take a look at the websites for full information and opening times. For further attraction in the area and full opening times, view www.visitambervalley.com

A Rich History

Belper has a fascinating history and attracts many visitors to enjoy the town which played an important part in the story of the industrial revolution.

Jedediah Strutt built one of the world's first waterpowered cotton spinning mills here in 1776 and the area flourished. The original village of Belper was transformed from a nail making and framework knitting community and the World Heritage Site was born.

This leaflet introduces you to the town's history, interesting buildings and visitor attractions. Allow yourself time to browse the shops along the way and sample the refreshments.

Strutt's North Mill - Home of the Derwent Valley Visitor Centre

The historic North Mill is one of the oldest surviving examples of an iron-framed waterpowered cotton spinning mills in the world.

Built in 1804 the North Mill is described as the most beautiful, sophisticated and technologically advanced building of its era. The Visitor Centre opens a window on the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Displays include a fine collection of silk and cotton stockings highlighting the local art of chevening, a form of exquisite embroidery and spinning machinery located in this fascinating building.

Open: All year. Specific days.

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

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

To Matlock

To Derby



Belper River Gardens

The picturesque riverside gardens offer visitors a tranquil setting to view the River Derwent, wildlife

and beautiful floral displays. Features include a children's play area and rowing boats and pedalos that may be hired throughout the Summer.

Special summer events include Well Dressings, outdoor theatre and musical band concerts at the bandstand.

Open: All year. Daylight hours.

Matlock Road, Belper, DE56 1BE

www.visitambervalley.com

Swiss Tea Rooms

Situated within the River Gardens, this modern interpretation of the former 1906 café is a perfect stop for delicious refreshments whilst enjoying the tranquil view of the Derwent and beautiful gardens.

www.visitambervalley.com

Horseshoe Weir & Calder's Corner

View the powerful River Derwent and 1797 weir from the viewing platform on Calder's Corner, Bridgefoot.

Long Row & The Clusters

Here you will find the former mill worker's cottages from three storey, back to back and blocks of four square properties, some complete with pigsty.

Nail Makers Workshop

Nail making was Belper's earliest industry. See the workshop built in the early 19th century.



St Johns Chapel

The oldest building in Belper dating from 1250, now houses the Belper Heritage Centre and Town Council office.

Open: All year. Specific days.

Tel: 01773 822116

Unitarian Chapel

Built in 1788 by the local mill owner, the Chapel features tiered box-pews and arched catacombs where members of the Strutt family are interred.

Open: Special events and regular services.

Unitarian Chapel, Field Row, Green Lane, Belper, DE56 1DH

Tel: 01773 822383

www.belperunitarians.org.uk

Memorial Gardens

Founded by George Herbert Strutt in 1922, the Memorial Gardens offer a delightful green space in the centre of the town. Relax and enjoy the award winning gardens and visit Andy Mayer's sculpture 'Sacrifice' which commemorates the town's fallen from the First World War. The Memorial Gardens hosts events throughout the year.

Open: All year

King Street, Belper



The Ritz Cinema

Award winning independent cinema, restored to its art deco former glory and offering a luxury cinematic experience. From art house screenings to

blockbuster movies enjoyed in plush surroundings.

Open: All year

Ritz Cinema, King Street, Belper, DE56 1QA

Tel: 01773 822224 | www.ritz-cinema.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 discount shopping with a difference.



Open: All year

Chapel Street,

Belper, DE56 1AR

Tel: 01773 882442

www.debradelei.com

The Strutt Centre

Community centre based in a former Strutt legacy building brings music, theatre and events all year round to the town.

Open: All year

Strutt Centre, Derby Road, Belper, DE56 1UU

Tel: 01773 599993 | www.strutts.org.uk

Beth's Poetry Trail

Follow Beth's Poetry Trail around the town to discover a number of poems inspired by their locations. Stop for a moment to take in the verse and view the wonderful poems around the town.

Open: All year

Town Centre locations

Tel: 01773 827274 | www.bethspoetrytrail.co.uk

Wyver Lane Nature Reserve

Discover the bird hides and wetland nature reserve of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Lying next to the River Derwent it is a lovely place to visit to see the resident and migrating birdlife.

Open: All year

Hides by membership or special events only.

Wyver Lane, Belper

Tel: 01773 881188

www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk

Belper Parks Local Nature Reserve

A green jewel in the town centre, the 50 acres of parkland and open space of the former Deer Park allow public enjoyment; includes wildflower meadow, grassland and Coppice Brook.

Open: All year

Belper Parks, Coppice Car Park, Belper

www.belperparks.info

Whether you enjoy browsing around market stalls or want to be the first to enjoy new designs, the town offers a range of independent and speciality shops waiting to be discovered.

Hidden gems nestle in the streets and offer a range of great independent little shops, from Artisan bakeries, hand made chocolatier to delicious delis; the unique stores which the town has to offer create a true high street experience.

Local foods, seasonal and straight from the producers can be found at the monthly Farmers Market and several award winning cafes and gastro pubs provide speciality foods to tempt you.

For evening enjoyment the town offers a relaxed atmosphere with restaurants, real ale, cocktail lounges, live music and a delightfully restored art deco cinema at the Ritz.



King Street

The main high street of Belper offers a range of independent shops, friendly service and unique goods. From hand created jewellery, individual giftware and furnishings to beautiful leather products, you will discover lots of quality shops making your visit to the town worthwhile. There are a range of fashion stores including boutique and independent lines to national names and accessory stores plus florists, electrical stores, confectioners, delis, butchers and bakers.

For your refreshment stops you will find a wide range of eateries offering locally produced food in a variety of settings from bisto style service to relaxed café atmospheres.

Bridge Street, Chapel Street, Derwent Street

This area of the town offers a range of eclectic shops from vintage clothes, antiques, quality jewellers to a traditional ironmongers shop.

Derwentside Antiques offers original, bespoke and reproduction furniture in its three storey showroom including vintage, period and antique furniture.

Some of the towns oldest shops including Frearsons giftware are located here, along with the designer names in De Bradelei Shopping Village.

Market Place & The Butts

High on the Butts, Sweetings interiors is worth the walk to discover period antiques, interior furnishings and giftware. The country decor store of Primsister offers a range of unusual country

style giftware and at Colledges Furnishers you will find one of the oldest stores in the town, run by the fourth generation of the family.

There has been a market here for over 200 years. Belper Market Place is home to the thriving Belper Farmers Market. Held on the second Saturday of the month you will find all kinds of goodies to taste and purchase direct from the supplier and there are special events during the year.

Strutt Street

Bringing a great selection of independent boutique fashion and artisan stores offering lots of opportunities to enjoy quality refreshments from delicious pastries to handmade artisan chocolates.

Campbell Street

The retail and food and drink offer extends down Campbell Street. Why not visit the 1924 shopping arcade which houses a fantastic selection of local independent businesses under one roof, offering a great place to shop, eat and drink.



Guided Walks & Walking Festival

A number of guided walks are offered throughout the year and a Belper Trail Walks leaflet can be purchased from Strutt's North Mill. Contact 01773 880474 for dates, further information and reservations.

Welcome to Amber Valley

The Heart of Derbyshire

Here in the Amber Valley, we have such a varied selection of attractions, there is always plenty for everyone to do and to discover.

Visitors can enjoy beautiful scenery at the colourful Lea Gardens or promenade the Edwardian Belper River Gardens and visit the Swiss Tea Rooms for some light refreshments whilst taking in the views of the River Derwent.

History and heritage abound at the Crich Tramway Village and Midland Railway-Butterley where you can ride on period transport and take in the stunning views. At Heage Windmill watch the sails go round and see how the flour is milled in the traditional manner.

National Trust and English Heritage properties include the fine collections of Kedleston Hall and dramatic ruins of the Wingfield Manor.

Set in rolling Derbyshire countryside, the Amber Valley is the perfect place to find lots to do, within an easily accessible distance.

On the edge of the Peak District, the region includes the four market towns of Alfreton, Belper, Heanor and Ripley, each with their own character. For those looking for a bargain, a number of individual factory shops and famous names including Denby Pottery, David Nieper and John Smedley ensure that a visit to the Amber Valley is a must for bargain hunters.

Take a look at the www.visitambervalley.com

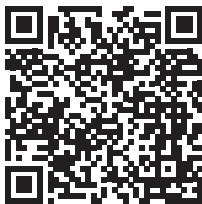
What makes Belper special?

Belper has been crowned a Champion High Street Award Winner at the Great British High Street Awards. The only town to win twice, Belper is celebrating its success for the recognition of its true high street experience and go to destination for locals and visitors. The town has been further praised for its accessibility, inclusivity and sustainability.

Take a look at the website www.accessiblebelper.org prior to your visit and look out for Accessible Belper signs in the shop windows where the stores will go the extra mile to help and allow you to make the most of your visit.



Take a look at <http://www.visitambervalley.co.uk/shopping-and-towns/towns/belper.aspx> (or scan QR code below) to find out why visitors and residents love the town and discover why so many people love to return, time and time again.



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

Getting here

Amber Valley and Belper are centrally situated, easy to reach, and with excellent transport links.

By Car: The A6 provides major trunk road access directly through the town and gives direct road links to the North and South linking with the A52 and M1. The A517 and A609 cross the valley from the East to West.

By Public Transport: There is a mainline station at Belper bringing you directly into the town centre on the Derwent Valley Line and connecting to mainline rail services including Derby, Nottingham and London. www.nationalrail.co.uk

Amber Valley is served by frequent bus services from surrounding towns and cities including Derby, Nottingham and Manchester. For public transport enquiries www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses

Car Parking

Car Parks can be found on Bridge Street, Derwent Street, Field Lane, Green Lane, River Gardens, Shortlands and The Coppice. Look out for the signs.

For full details go to the Amber Valley website.
www.ambervalley.gov.uk

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 town. The staff and volunteers will be happy to answer your questions and tell you all about the World Heritage Site.

Looking for accommodation, ideas of where to eat or go for a lovely walk? Then the knowledgeable staff at the centre will be able to point you in the right direction. Head for the big red mill and look out for the wooden door of the North Mill, close to the horseshoe weir of the River Derwent.

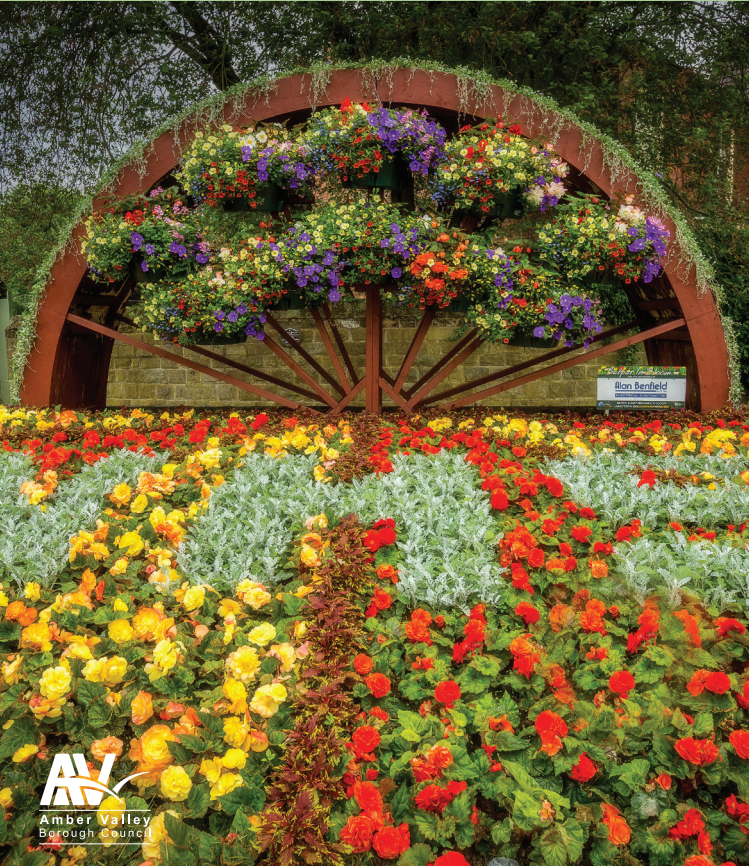
Open: Wednesday - Sunday plus Bank Holidays.
1.00pm - 5.00pm (March - October)
Saturday & Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm (Nov - March)

Strutt's North Mill, Bridgefoot, Belper, DE56 1YD
01773 880474 or 0845 5214347
www.belpernorthmill.org.uk

Information leaflets can be collected from the
De Bradelei Stores, Chapel Street, Belper.
Open seven days a week.

You will also find lots of friendly independent shops in the town of Belper who will welcome your enquiry.

Look for the **We're Visitor Friendly** signs in the shop windows and call in.



Produced by Amber Valley Borough Council,
Town Hall, Market Place, Ripley DE5 3BT
Printed by Forty Five Degrees Design & Print

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

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European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



HM Government

