

DERBY:

all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

FEBRUARY 2026

LATEST NEWS

Seventh heaven as Derby is named as “one of the best places to visit in 2026”

According to *Time Out*, [these are the greatest cities, towns and streets to explore in Britain this year](#)... And it's excellent news for the likes of Derby, which is in with a bullet at No. 7 - on the back of it being not only “well-established as a base for visiting the stunning rugged hills of the Peak District”, but also as “an exciting destination in its own right (with) plenty more scheduled for 2026”. Rubbing shoulders with the likes of Stirling and Edinburgh in Scotland, Anglesey in Wales, Cirencester in The Cotswolds, London and Birmingham, Derby is one of just eight English destinations to feature in this year's list. *Time Out* loved Ultra Warehouse, the city's new 3,500 capacity warehouse club, which opened its doors on New Year's Eve. Wright of Derby, the subject of a major exhibition at The National Gallery, was also highlighted, alongside news of “Derby-born” Lara Croft's 30th birthday in 2026, and The Coach House boutique guesthouse.

The way we live in the world we've made

Visitors to Derby are being invited to explore a world of chickens, cats, loo roll, bin bags, precious stones and fine old coats. [Human Natures](#) at Derby Museum & Art Gallery is an exhibition about people and the ways we live with nature: “It's not a sad story. But it is a little strange...”. This new show has come about through a big experiment. Five museums across the UK came together to tell a single story. Together, they met people in our local communities, looked at different collections, and asked what they all had in common. Piece by piece, they built an exhibition that no-one was expecting. Once it ends in Derby on 22 February, Human Natures will visit Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Norwich and London.

Happy 30th, Lara Croft

Lara Croft, born in Derby, turns 30 on 14 February. And on 6 January of this year, Amazon MGM Studios announced the actors set to star in the new Prime Video series of *Tomb Raider*. Newly revealed cast members include Sigourney Weaver, Jason Isaacs, Celia Imrie, Bill Paterson, and more. “Tomb Raider boasts a plethora of iconic characters,” said co-showrunner Phoebe Waller-Bridge. “I am thrilled to have been able to bring some personal and fan favourites to the screen while also introducing a few new rascals of our own to the mix. This cast is beyond my wildest dreams!” The series is based on the iconic Tomb Raider video game franchise - originally created in Derby - and which follows the adventures of Lara Croft. “I've been a long-time fan of Tomb Raider and the character of Lara,” said actress Sophie Turner, who will play the world-famous archaeologist and adventurer. “She has always felt, for me, very emboldened in a male-dominated world. She's a fierce female role model!” Watch out for further announcements - from Visit Derby - about how they plan to take full advantage of the set-jetting travel trend which could draw even more visitors into the city to follow in the footsteps of Lara.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Oooh, la, la

8 February to 8 March, 2026

To coincide with the release of Richard Linklater's *Nouvelle Vague* all about the making of Jean-Luc Godard's *A Bout De Souffle (Breathless)*, QUAD Essentials is set to take visitors to Derby back for [five highlights of the New Wave](#). First-up is Francois Truffaut's second film *Shoot the Piano Player*, followed by the man of the hour Jean-Luc Godard's seismic debut *A Bout De Souffle (Breathless)* - both 1960. Agnes Varda's *Cleo From 9 to*

5, Eric Rohmer's *My Night at Maud's* (1969) and Alain Resnais' *Hiroshima Mon Amour* round-off the selection.

Junior shepherds required...

14-22 February, 2026

Bluebells Farm in Derby reopens for a new season on 14 February, when its opening event will be a lively [Junior Shepherd Week](#). Featuring Lambing Live, Lambing Lessons Milking Demonstrations and Farmer Role Play, it's all set to be "a family day out filled with discovery, interaction and unforgettable farmyard fun". Visitors can save £2 per ticket by booking in advance, online; and admission starts from £10.

Japanese movies hit the big screen in Derby

15 February to 29 March, 2026

The UK's largest festival of Japanese cinema, the [Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme](#) (JFTFP), returns this month. JFTFP 2026 showcases some of the most unmissable Japanese films nationwide across the UK. And Derby QUAD is screening 21 films from the programme, starting with special Q&A screening on Sunday 15 February and then a further 20 films screening across two weekends later in February and in March.

The UK Ghost Story Festival

27 February to 1 March, 2026

The [UK Ghost Story Festival](#) returns to Derby in 2026, for a spirited weekend in a new home. Regarded as one of the UK's most haunted cities Derby QUAD will be hosting three days of author interviews, talks, workshops, panels - with book and merchandise sales running throughout the weekend. A full list of what's on at the festival can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Tickets are now on sale, with weekend passes priced at £80, and a Saturday event pass at £35.

"This is going to be history in the making"

28 February, 2026

The next major event at Derby's huge new ULTRA WRAEHOUSE is its [Bassline Festival](#) - the UK's biggest Bassline Tour featuring the Sound of Bassline & Cru2. "Bassline Ravers are you ready?!", says ULTRA. "This is going to be history in the making". Located on the old Cattle Market site in Derby, ULTRA opened its doors to ravers for a sold-out evening on New Year's Eve. The venue's flagship warehouse space accommodates up to 2,700 people indoors, supported by a secondary indoor room of 500 capacity and an expansive external yard capable of hosting daytime and festival-style events of up to 6,000 attendees.

Joseph Wright: Life on Paper

14 March to 17 May, 2026

Largely as a result of this being dubbed [The Year of Wright](#), thanks to a major exhibition of his work at The National Gallery in London, *Life on Paper* returns to Derby Art Gallery to once again reveal an intimate and lesser-seen side of Joseph Wright through his drawings, sketches and studies. While Wright is celebrated for his dramatic oil paintings, drawing was the foundation of everything he created. This exhibition brings together a remarkable selection of works on paper, including early studies, personal sketches and experimental pieces rarely displayed to the public.

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BLOGS & FEATURES

It's all the rave: Ultra Warehouse opens in Derby

[Ultra Warehouse](#), a new high-capacity events venue, is set to redefine the city's live music, nightlife, and the cultural landscape of Derby. Located on the edge of the city centre, it brings together industrial architecture, cutting-edge production, and flexible event design to create one of the Midlands' most ambitious new spaces. Purpose-built for electronic music, live performances, brand activations, and large-scale cultural

events, Ultra Warehouse offers multiple configurable spaces under one roof. The venue's flagship warehouse space accommodates up to 2,700 people indoors, supported by a secondary indoor room of 500 capacity and an expansive external yard capable of hosting daytime and festival-style events of up to 6,000 people.

www.visitderby.co.uk/listings/ultra-warehouse

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For further details, visit:

<https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

For all media enquiries, interview opportunities and images, please contact:

Michelle Booth, Tourism Officer

Tel: 01332 643414

Email: michelle.booth@derby.gov.uk