

# DERBY: all the latest news, upcoming events and blogs

NOVEMBER 2025

## LATEST NEWS

### **World Travel Market 2025**

Derby will be a part of the presence on a Visit Peak District & Derbyshire booth on the [UKinbound](#) stand at this year's World Travel Market at ExCel from 4-6 November. The Visit Peak District & Derbyshire in-house PR, Amy Norton, will be on UKinbound Stand N8-220 within the Britain presence at WTM, and will have plenty of media information for all travel editors, writers and influencers attending the show. Visit Derby's own external tourism & travel PR, Ian Weightman, will also be at this year's World Travel Market on Tuesday 4 November. He'll be in, or near, to the Media Centre, so please get in touch if you're going and would like to arrange a time to meet him.

### **For the first time in its 150 years history: get tattooed in Derby Museum..!**

Looking for something very different to the usual Halloween offerings? Forget pumpkins, marshmallows and trick-or-treating. This is Halloween, but not as we know it. The second day in a two-day weekender at the beginning of November, [Tattoos at the Museum: 25 Years of Lifetime Tattoo](#) will be held in The Wardwick, a part of Derby Museum which was once the city's Central Library. It features a reunion of artists from Derby's legendary Lifetime Tattoo studio on Monk Street, who will be producing artwork inspired by the collections housed across Derby Museums' three sites - the Museum and Art Gallery, Museum of Making and Pickfords House.

### **Derby's Master Chef**

The Pepperpot Restaurant in Derby has announced that its Head Chef, Dan Fincher, has been officially accepted into the Master Chefs of Great Britain - a prestigious organisation celebrating the country's most accomplished and respected culinary professionals. Distinct from the popular TV show of a similar name, this long-established association recognises only those chefs who have reached the pinnacle of their profession through exceptional ability and commitment. Fincher now stands among an elite group of chefs that includes the esteemed John Williams MBE of The Ritz London, Darron Bunn of the iconic Gleneagles Hotel, and Galton Blackiston, Michelin-starred chef-owner of Morston Hall in Norfolk. This recognition comes shortly after another major milestone. In March 2025, just over a year after first opening, [The Pepperpot](#) (located in the former Derbyshire Royal Infirmary building on London Road in Derby) was awarded an AA Rosette for Culinary Excellence under Fincher's leadership.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **See Ward Thomas in the intimate setting of Derby Cathedral**

7 November

Ward Thomas are an English modern country-pop duo, composed of twin sisters Catherine and Lizzy Ward Thomas. The band has been called [Britain's first country stars](#). *Cartwheels*, their second studio album, became the first album by a UK country act to reach number one on the UK Albums Chart. Tickets from £33.75.

### **Read all about it**

13 to 16 November, 2025

The 10th [Derby Book Festival](#) is scheduled to take place in the city centre in November. Amongst the many highlights of this autumn edition are appearances by Paul Morley, author of *Far Above the World: The Time and Space of David Bowie*; Sir Tony Robinson, author of *The Lone Wolf*; Paula Byrne, author of *Six Weeks by the Sea: The Summer Jane Austen Fell in Love*; and Iain Dale, author of *Margaret Thatcher*.

## **Bustler's Winter Feastival is back**

22 November, 2025

Bustler's Winter Feastival returns to Derby city centre, to kick off the season of eating and drinking for "one magical day". Derby's favourite street food party is the perfect destination for foodies, families and groups of pals looking for a day/night out. "Expect winter warmers, mulled favourites and plenty of cosy vibes - perfect for foodies, families and friends"!

## **Come and see the UK's largest light-up Santa!**

26 November to 31 December, 2025

Christmas is coming to Derby city centre, giving visitors the chance to walk from The Spot to Cathedral Green, where an array of stunning light installations will create a trail leading towards the UK's largest light-up Santa. Another highlight of the trail is a Rudolph arch. The Festive Derby Light Trail also includes an Ice Rink and Nordic Bar.

## **Ditch the "Bah Humbug" and join the festive fun**

27 November, 2025

One of the most historic streets in the city centre of Derby will be brimming with over 60 artisan stalls, as the Sadler Gate Market makes another pre-Christmas appearance. Renowned for its range of independent shops, all of which will be open for the event, the night will also feature a range of delicious street food and festive drinks.

## **Nordic Bar invites visitors to Derby to come in from the cold**

29 November to 31 December, 2025

Wooden benches, festive foliage arrangements, disco balls and twinkling lights and a warming firepit are all part of a Nordic Bar that will "pop-up" in Derby Market Place this winter. Serving hot and cold drinks - including cocktails, mocktails, mulled wine and hot chocolate - it will also feature and a full programme of entertainment.

## **Spooky stories and terrifying tales**

27 February to 1 March, 2026

It has been announced that the UK Ghost Story Festival will return to Derby in 2026. Dubbed the "dead centre of England", and famous for being one of Britain's most haunted cities, Derby will host three days of author interviews, talks, workshops and panel discussions - with the first confirmed headline speaker being Catriona Ward (*The Last House on Needless Street, Looking Glass Sound, Nowhere Burning, Sundial*). Full weekend prices from £80; Saturday event pass £35.

## **A Gothic Christmas at Pickford's House**

5 December, 2025

Everyone is cordially invited to experience an exclusive after-hours viewing of Dracula Returns To Derby: 101 Years and Counting at Pickford's House. Visitors to the city can explore the exhibition and the house as night falls and remember, this festive season. And remember - there are such things as vampires! Suitable for adults only, with booking essential and costume encouraged, tickets are priced at £10, including a drink on arrival.

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## **BLOGS & FEATURES**

### **'Tis the season...**

Visit Derby has compiled a list of the Top 6 Christmas Markets, which will be taking place in and around the city centre this year. from an ethical Christmas Market on 29 November, through to Haddon Hall's Mercatum Christmas Artisan Market from 12 November to 14 December, full details can be found on the Visit Derby website.

### **A culinary caper in Derby**

Derby, a city known for its rich history and vibrant culture, is also a haven for food enthusiasts seeking delightful and diverse street food experiences. As you stroll through the pavements, the city's street food offering will beckon you to embark on a culinary

journey like no other. This blog explores [five must-visit street food destinations](#) in Derby - BOA Derby, OMOMO, Chi, The Souvlaki and the Derby Bustler Market.

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**For further details, visit:**

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

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