

Derby's 10 out of 10

1. Past. Present. Future. Derby's history of innovation will be celebrated at a new £17m Museum of Making opening in 2020. Within the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site, on the site of the world's first factory, the museum will profile the city's 300-year history of "making", displaying over 50,000 objects. Revealing the whole building to the public for the very first time, the transformation of this striking and historic building will be one of the most significant heritage developments in the UK when it opens in the autumn.

2. Florence Nightingale turns 200... and appears on the streets of Derby again. Florence Nightingale will be back in Derby once more as one of the 'stars' of a new virtual tour – 200 years after her birth. Born on 12 May 1820, the nursing pioneer spent her early years in Derbyshire, where her family owned a large estate. Florence is part of a new augmented reality walk of fame, which superimposes a computer-generated image of 10 famous names at locations across Derby city centre, via a smart-phone. Her 'star' is close to Derby Cathedral, which has a plaque commemorating her life, while for her anniversary year you can even stay the night in her old bedroom at her much-loved family home Lea Hurst, a 30 minute drive from the city.

www.visitderby.co.uk/Florencenightingale200

3. Discover how Derby gave 'birth' to Laura Croft and helped bring Batman to life. Earning her own locally-forged cast iron star plaque on Derby's walk of fame, Made in Derby, is worldwide icon, Lara Croft. Video game character Lara Croft, who already has a road named after her in the city, may be fictional, but the English archaeologist - beloved by millions in games and films - was "born" at Core Design in Derby. Or 'meet' local lad Liam Sharp, whose talent for art was spotted at his school in Derby, and is now a British comic book artist, writer and publisher whose fame increased dramatically when he began working in the United States on books including Superman and Batman for DC Comics as well as X-Men, Hulk and Spider-Man for Marvel Comics.

www.visitderby.co.uk/madeinderbyii

4. Derby Cathedral towers above the city and has the second highest perpendicular church tower in England. Listen out for the bells too - they are the oldest set of 10 bells in the world, one of which was cast in 1520 during the reign of Henry VIII, and is still in use almost 500 years later (making it one of the oldest working objects in Derby). Among its many treasures are the tomb of Bess of Hardwick – designed by the powerful lady herself - and the intricate Bakewell Screen. Climb the 189 steps to see spectacular views of Derby. Meander through historical streets with arcades and hidden entrances and discover a myriad of specialist stores and independent retailers and cafes in the surrounding Cathedral Quarter. www.visitderby.co.uk/derbycathedral

5. It's the 'Year of the Ram' in Derby. From June 2020 follow in the hoof-prints of brightly painted animal sculptures celebrating the close association between the city and an ancient mythical beast when a flock of five-foot high ram sculptures spring up as part of a new free, walkable art sculpture trail. No animal is more closely associated with any city, as the ram is to Derby. Walk anywhere in the city, and you will spot a statue, a plaque, a radio station or an entire football club, which has put its name alongside that of an animal of almost mythical proportions. The origins of Derby's Ram - which, according to legend, was ten yards high with enormous horns and a huge flowing fleece - are believed to stretch back as far as the 16th century.

6. Derby Museum & Art Gallery. Joseph Wright of Derby was one of the most interesting and important painters of the late 18th century, whose paintings grace the walls of world famous galleries in St Petersburg, New York, London and Australia – but it's Derby where you will find the world's largest collection of Joseph Wright paintings at the free-entry Museum & Art Gallery. Born in Derby in 1734. Wright remained closely involved with his home town, where he lived and worked for most of his life. Hosting longstanding and temporary exhibits, the Museum and Art Gallery boasts paintings and artefacts that are of local and international significance. www.visitderby.co.uk/Josephwright

7. Go on a boat ride - through a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A fully accessible, electrically-powered leisure cruiser is set to offer scenic tours from a new landing stage close to Derby's Exeter Bridge, a stone bridge built in the mid 1800s, along the River Derwent to Darley Abbey Mills. Stretching 15 miles along the river valley from Derby to Matlock Bath, the World Heritage Site contains a fascinating series of historic mill complexes, with one of the site's most significant buildings being The Silk Mill, where water power was first used for silk throwing machines.

8. Derby is the "Real Ale Capital of Britain". Lonely Planet describe Derby as the "best place to drink real ale in the World" and CAMRA reckon there is more real ale choice in Derby than anywhere else. There's certainly plenty of choice when it comes to ale and where to drink it. Try The Flowerpot, a landmark Real Ale pub and nationally recognised live music venue, in the heart of the city's Cathedral Quarter, or The Greyhound, a historic Grade II listed pub dating back to 1734, while The Exeter Arms offers lots of snug little rooms to explore and the locally brewed Dancing Duck Ales. The Dolphin Inn is Derby's oldest pub, dating back to 1530, with 16th century beams, stone flooring and etched leaded windows. www.visitderby.co.uk/realale

9. Hot Dog! Who knew that Derby was the home of the inventor of this legendary American snack, but that's the claim for Harry M Stevens, who put his catering skills to use after immigrating to the USA in the 1800s. Credited with designing the baseball scorecard, and with pioneering soda drinking through a paper straw, the story goes that he came up with the idea of putting 'dachshund' sausages into rolls to warm up fans at his baseball concession in New York. The rest, as they say, is history. Celebrate by visiting Annie's Burger Shack - a little piece of Rhode Island, USA, inside a beautiful 1937 Grade II listed building at Friary Street - which was voted the Best Burger Bar in England 2019. <https://anniesburgershack.com/restaurants/derby>

10. Derby's fantastic festivals. Visit in September and experience one of the UK's biggest annual street-fest events, Derby Festé, which has earned a reputation for bringing something new to the city each year, while the FORMAT Photography Festival, the UK's leading festival of International Photography, is staged every two years. Although not returning until 2021, the festival will host a smaller 'off year' programme in 2020. There's also the annual Derby Film Festival, Derby Folk Festival and winter CAMRA Beer Festival. Full details of all events throughout the year will appear at <https://www.visitderby.co.uk>.