

DERBY – GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

Being Ale and Hearty in Derby

Derby will be hosting the 2015 National Winter Ales Festival from February 11th to 14th...and offering overnight accommodation in the city centre from £20.15 per person per night.

The Festival is one of CAMRAs flagship events, and the decision to hold it in Derby is the Real Ale equivalent of “raising a glass” to the city which has been dubbed one of the Beer Capitals of Britain.

The Festival itself showcases a selection of the very best real ales from around the UK, including real ciders and perries, meads, and a variety of continental beers. But it will also give visitors the chance to take a gentle stroll, or crawl, around the city’s 120-plus real ale pubs - and to be amongst the first to take advantage of some special hotel rates through the Visit Derby website.

Overnight stays based on two people sharing a room during the Festival are now on the VisitDerby website at <http://www.visitderby.co.uk/whats-on/national-winter-beer-festival-hotel-offers/>

Prices at the Derby Conference Centre for example, start from £20.15 per person per night, B&B, based on two people sharing; rising to £55 per room at the Hallmark Inn, £60 per room at the Holiday Inn Derby Riverlights, and £65 at the Hallmark Hotel.

While British pubs are currently said to be closing at the rate of around 31 per week, Derby appears to be at the forefront of a real ale revival - and can boast the largest number of real ales per head of population, several micro-breweries, two annual CAMRA Beer Festivals, Britain's first and only "Beer King", and an accolade from *Lonely Planet* magazine, describing the city as the "best place to drink real ale in the world".

The Brunswick Inn (the first railwaymen's hostelry in the world) and Ye Olde Dolphin (dating back to 1530) are just two of the historic pubs in the city worth including on any real ale pub crawl of Derby.

But, elsewhere, The Exeter Arms (www.exeterarms.co.uk) - owned by former AntiPasti punk rock band member Martin Roper - is arguably the first pub to offer its guests a full “British Tapas” alongside its carefully kept rack of real ales. Roper has also opened the Silk Mill Ale and Cider House in the city.

For further information, visit <http://www.visitderby.co.uk/whats-on/national-winter-ales-festival/>.

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