

DERBY GREAT PLACE, GREAT BASE

Classification: OFFICIAL

A Derby Six-Pack

Derby has once again been named the UK's *Real Ale Capital* after the city's "Annual Beer Census" was undertaken by members of the Derby branch of the Campaign for Real Ale.

The census reported that Derby has a record-number of real ales available on any given night, with 334 counted across 213 different varieties; and it comes just ahead of the city's 39th Summer Beer Festival from July 6-10.

For anyone tempted by the prospect of a pub crawl around the city, here's a special Six Pack of Things You Never Knew About Derby...

1. Recent figures show that British pubs are closing at the rate of 31 a week. But Derby appears to be at the very forefront of a real ale revival. Dubbed the "Real Ale Capital of Britain", the city is able to boast the largest number of real ales per head of population, more than 120 real ale pubs, several micro-breweries, a Be A Brewer For The Day experience, an annual CAMRA Beer Festival...not to mention, Britain's first and only "Beer King", Les Baynton. Derby will host its 39th annual [Summer Beer Festival](#) in 2016 from July 6 to 10.
2. Located just four miles from its city centre, Derby now has a 5-bedroom Country House hotel to offer its visitors. [The Kedleston Country House](#) boutique hotel enjoyed a successful 'soft opening' at the end of last year. Everything in the hotel is done with a twist, and the emphasis is on individuality, history and quality. The interiors offer a hunting lodge atmosphere; and the five bedrooms are all luxuriously appointed, with a larder of goodies ranging from fine wine to sherbet dib-dabs! Each visitor also gets a miniature of The Kedleston No.7 Country House Gin. As well as being just a 10 minute drive or taxi-ride from Derby's city centre, the hotel is perfectly placed as a base for exploring The Peak District, and to visit the neighbouring National Trust property, Kedleston Hall. B&B prices for an overnight stay for two start from £150 per room.
3. Firmly established as one of the top events of its kind in the UK, as well as one of the biggest in the Midlands, the 10th Derby Festé will this year take place over the weekend of September 23 and 24. First staged in 2007 as a way of helping to showcase the changes to the city brought about by more than £2-billion worth of regeneration, [Derby Feste](#) now transforms the whole of the city centre into a world-class festival site with performances for the whole family to enjoy. Organisers of the event have announced that this year's arts spectacular will see the return of the stunning giant fire-breathing dragons that took the city by storm at the first ever Festé in 2007.
4. Derby! Who'd have thought it? A delicious destination. Somewhere you'd actually consider going to if you wanted to enjoy a day out, an overnight stay, or a weekend break while grazing on some fantastic food. Pubs, clubs, boutique hotels, an impressive city centre Shopping Centre, and a multi-million pound Arts Centre have all popped-up in recent times in a city which already boasted a couple of excellent theatres, and the largest collection of Joseph Wright paintings in the world. And several bright-eyed and bushy-tailed restaurateurs and café owners have now been inspired to turn their gastronomic visions and food philosophies into reality here. VisitDerby currently highlights [16 of the best places to eat in Derby](#) in 2016 on its website.



Derby City Council

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5. The next [Derby Night Market](#) takes place on Thursday, June 30. That's when more than 200 stalls will be erected from 5 to 10pm, as Derby hosts its fifth Night Market in the streets, and various other pop-up locations, throughout city centre. Derby has effectively cornered the Night Market concept within the UK. Popular in Europe, but still a relatively new idea in this country, they are occasionally held in some of the more fashionable areas of London. In Derby, they feature local artists, craftspeople and makers selling everything from chocolate brownies and home brewed ales, to independent clothing labels and jewellery made from the best grade of silver...95% of it hand-made, and 90% of it made locally. Following the Derby Night Market on June 30, there will be a special food, drink and live music event called 'Derby bEATs' on October 6 - as well as the 2016 pre-Christmas Night Market on Thursday, November 17.

6. Derby is making a strong claim to be recognized as one of the most cycle-friendly cities in the UK. The campaign - now being promoted via Twitter @CyclingDerby - coincided with the opening last year of the UK's newest Velodrome, at the £28-million Derby Arena on Pride Park. Derby itself is being promoted as a '[cycling hub](#)' - as well as a great base for exploring the surrounding Peak District and Derbyshire countryside on two wheels. As former professional cyclist, and Olympic athlete, Bryan Steel says: "The history of having the perfect roads for riding in Derbyshire has been good, but with the opening of the Velodrome at Derby Arena, the city will soon become a cycling hub for the whole country."

For all tourist information, visit <http://www.visitderby.co.uk>.

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