

# TRAVEL

## A HISTORIC CITY THAT'S YOUNG AT HEART

DON'T DISCOUNT DERBY FOR A WEEKEND BREAK, SAYS ANNIE GOUK

### TRAVEL REPORT DERBY

LET'S be honest, Derby isn't necessarily the first place that comes to mind when you think of a weekend away. But don't be fooled - there's much more to this city than meets the eye.

Originally a Roman settlement, Derby is jam-packed with history, with hundreds of listed buildings that lend the area its unique character. In fact, it's home to more ghosts than even York - a sure sign of a city with an interesting past.

However, while offering all the heritage and pedigree you might expect from what was once an ancient town, the relatively new city is actually very much young at heart.

After rising fast on the tide of the industrial revolution - the after-effects of which are evident across the city - Derby first gained city status in 1977.

Since then, it has become renowned for its real ale, and was even named the best place to drink real ale in the world by the Lonely Planet travel guide.

All those pubs and craft breweries contribute to a bustling nightlife, and various festivals throughout the year only add to

the sense of vibrancy in the city.

With plenty of culture to sink your teeth into, some fantastic shopping districts and more drinking holes than you can shake a stick at, there's truly something for everyone in Derby. Why not visit for a long weekend and see for yourself?

### WHAT TO DO

Derby is steeped in history, so there's plenty on offer for the culture vulture in you.

The gothic cathedral is a particular highlight, and it's definitely worth getting a tour up the bell tower for the fantastic views at the top.

A tour of the Roundhouse near Derby station will give you insight into a fantastic piece of local history - and a chance to explore the oldest turning shed in the world.

There's also the Derby Museum and Art Gallery, which holds an impressive collection of work by local artist Joseph Wright, alongside treasures such as a bronze age logboat and even an Egyptian mummy.

Unfortunately, the Silk Mill museum in the city is currently



Shopping in the Cathedral District

closed for development, and isn't due to be reopened until the summer of 2020.

However, if you end up staying in Derby after that date, it will be well worth a visit.

If you're not much of a history buff, however, don't worry - there's plenty of other activities to get up to in the city.

There are several shopping districts in Derby.

Perhaps the most famous is the Cathedral Quarter, which is perfect for a stroll if you want to admire the historic buildings as well as visit the high street shops.

There's also the intu Derby shopping centre for more high street brands all under one roof, and Sadler Gate for high-end, designer shops.

Meanwhile, if you can time your visit to coincide with one of the many festivals held in the city, it's well worth doing so - from book and film festivals to celebrations of beer and food, there's routinely something exciting happening in Derby.

Derby Festé is a particular

highlight, filling the city with light, colour and family entertainment - although it won't be on again until September 2018.

Finally, while there should be plenty in the city itself to entertain you, it should also be noted that Derby is an excellent base from which to explore the surrounding Peak District - perfect for any ramblers out there.

### FOOD

As you might expect of any modern city, Derby is home to all kinds of world cuisine, and whether you're after a late night curry, some authentic sushi or a favourite Mexican dish, you can easily find it here.

In particular, if you're in town for one of the festivals make sure to keep an eye out for pop up street food vans up and down the city, serving dishes from around the globe.

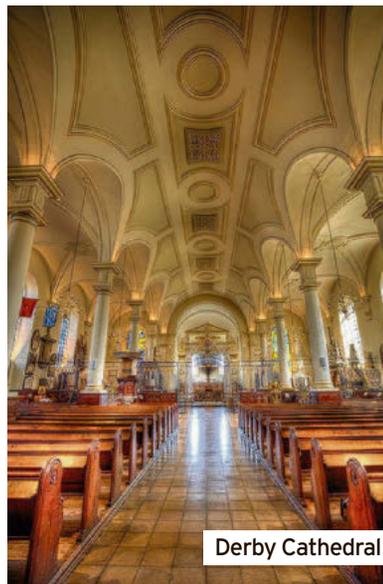
You'll be able to find authentic Neapolitan pizza rubbing shoulders with modern twists on a Chinese



Garba celebration at Derby Festé



British tapas at the Exeter Arms



Derby Cathedral