



Press Release
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New offer for 2021: Discover the beautiful valley that changed the world.

There's now a new and exciting way to discover Derbyshire's Derwent Valley.

The Arkwright Society at Cromford Mills and the Belper North Mill Trust are working together to bring visitors face-to-face with the valley's World Heritage Site and its history. Join us on an escorted tour exploring the beautiful Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site and learn how Industry and nature combined to create a globally unique environment.

The Derwent Valley is an area that is rich in history thanks to the work of industrial pioneers Sir Richard Arkwright, Jedediah Strutt, the Evans family and the Lombe brothers, who transformed the valley into the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. Visit key historical locations and hear stories about the people who created and transformed the Derwent Valley Mills, shaping the communities we see today.

Choose from three exciting tour options: Derwent Valley Highlights, Cromford Explorer, and Belper Explorer. Each tour is tailored to give you an inspiring piece of history from the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The tours will enable visitors to enjoy a full day's tour by minibus; starting in either Derby or Matlock, led by experienced volunteer guides. Tours are available from June to September and they can be booked online.

The new tours have been made possible by a grant received from the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Great Place Scheme, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England. Trevor Griffin, Derwent Valley Tours Project Manager commented that, "We appreciate the support of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site Great Place Scheme to help deliver such an exciting project. Our aim is to increase the visitor offer in the World Heritage Site and to spread the message about the global significance of the Derwent Valley. Derwent Valley Tours will connect sites and stories across the valley."

To find out more and book your place visit www.derwentvalleytours.co.uk

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Notes to editors: Please find attached in the email photos of the Derwent Valley by Ashley Franklin.

For more information about Derwent Valley Tours contact Tricia Trice at ttrice@arkwrightsociety.org.uk or call 078336 14942.

More information is available from the World Heritage Site Office – contact Alison Vasey at Alison.vasey@derbyshire.gov.uk or Adrian Farmer at Adrian.farmer@derbyshire.gov.uk.

About The Great Place Scheme

The Great Place Scheme is a pilot programme funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, supported by Historic England to ensure that investment in arts and culture also has the biggest possible impact on local economies, jobs, education, community cohesion and health and wellbeing. 16 schemes have been chosen across England. The Scheme for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site's is designed to inspire and enable people to have a sense of pride in and belonging to this special place.

About Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

In December 2001, the Derwent Valley Mills in Derbyshire were inscribed on the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) World Heritage List. This is the only World Heritage Site in the East Midlands.

This international designation confirms the outstanding importance of the area as the birthplace of the factory system where in the 18th century waterpower was successfully harnessed for textile production.

Stretching 15 miles (24km) down the river valley from Matlock Bath to Derby, the World Heritage Site contains a fascinating series of historic mill complexes, including some of the World's first 'modern' factories.

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