

Derby Tourism

Assembly Rooms, Market Place, Derby DE1 3AH
t: 01332 255766 e: tourism.marketing@derby.gov.uk
www.visitderby.co.uk

City's First Ever Walking Festival

Twelve guided walks and leisurely strolls are on offer this year in the first ever Derby Walking Festival, which is also scheduled to coincide with one of the UK's biggest outdoor street festivals of the year.

The Walking Festival will run from 18th September, to 17th October – and features a world famous artist, a World Heritage Site, one of the finest Cathedrals in England, the world's first railway roundhouse, and professional street theatre artists.

A guided four miles walk, commemorating Joseph Wright of Derby on Saturday 18th September, led by a Blue Badge Guide, will follow in the footsteps of the world-renowned artist who immortalised the great industrialists of the area.

A two-miles guided walk on Saturday 25th September is designed to help visitors to the city get the most from Derby Festé. The pre-event walk "with a difference" will describe the key activities with a special insight into the artists who will be performing in one of the UK's biggest street festivals both later that day, and on the Sunday. The "difference" is that Derby street theatre artists, Maison Foo, will be joining the tour as Alien Tourists...and other unlikely and unpredictable characters!

Derby's Railway Heritage Walk, meanwhile, is a fascinating stroll back in time, through the old Railway "Village" in Derby, taking-in the newly restored Roundhouse. Built in 1839, and a key component of the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site, it was Britain's very first railway roundhouse.

Other walks which have been lined-up for the Walking Festival include a World Heritage City Riverside Walk, Darley Abbey Circular Walk, Markeaton Park Tree Walk, Derby Cathedral Tour, Nature's Harvest, and Earls and Trees.

The Festival draws to a close on Sunday, October 17th with a Mushrooms and Toadstools two-miles leisurely guided stroll and foray with experts from the WildDerby Project at Allestree Park local nature reserve.

Booking is essential for all Festival walks. Further details can be obtained by telephoning Derby Tourist Information Centre on 01332-255802, or by going to www.visitpeakdistrict.com/walkingfestivals

The full programme of walks can be seen at <http://bit.ly/99ew4h>.

For further details, visit www.visitderby.co.uk.

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For further information, please contact:

Michelle Booth Michelle.Booth@derby.gov.uk
Maggie Tillson Maggie.Tillson@derby.gov.uk

Telephone: 01332-256201
Telephone: 01332-256201