

Derby Tourism

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

Derby Walking Festival 2011 - From the Perfect Pub Crawl to The Black Death

The 2011 Derby Walking Festival – featuring a wide selection of themed urban walks and tours – is scheduled to take place between September 17th and October 15th.

The walks programme is part of the larger Peak District Walking Festival, but has been carefully designed to appeal to anyone who prefers to explore a city's history and heritage on foot while also pursuing other leisure pastimes - such as shopping, fine dining, and a night or two in a town centre boutique hotel.

The walks themselves, meanwhile, also manage to focus on Derby's highly distinctive history and character, and range from ghostly strolls to real ale trails, and following in the footsteps of famous artists to walking-by some of the city's architectural gems.

The full programme kicks off on September 17th with a "Right Royal Real Ale Trail" - a leisurely two-mile walk starting from the award-winning Brewery Tap on Derwent Street. The same route was dubbed "the perfect pub crawl" by Britain's 2011 Good Beer Guide. As well as meeting England's only Beer King, participants will get the chance to stretch their legs between such distinguished watering holes as The Olde Dolphin Inn, The Old Silk Mill, The Flower Pot, and The Standing Order.

The final walk on the programme, meanwhile, features another of the city's unique selling points – "Derby's Railway Heritage Walk Including Derby Roundhouse". This walk gives participants a chance to explore Derby's rich and extensive railway history, which has been in the news so much recently. The Roundhouse is a renovated engine shed and carriage shop built in 1839 by George Stephenson and famous railway architect Francis Thompson.

In all, there are 14 walks in the Walking Festival, ranging from just one mile in length, through to four miles. All walks are described as "leisurely", as well as informative. Some walks are free to join. Most cost £5, or are free. The City Centre Ghost Walk, however, costs £21 per person to join, and takes in Derby's haunted and gory past, with tales of the Black Death, brutal murders, and hauntings, not to mention a visit to the old tunnels beneath the Guildhall. Also included in the price is a Ghost Hunter's Supper.

Full details of the 2011 Derby Walking Festival can be found at <http://www.visitderby.co.uk/derbywalkingfestival>.

Advance booking on the walks is highly recommended (Tel: 01332-255802).

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For further information, please contact:

Maggie Tillson

Maggie.Tillson@derby.gov.uk

Telephone: 01332-256201

Michelle Booth

Michelle.Booth@derby.gov.uk

Telephone: 01332-256201