

Cromford - Matlock Bath & Matlock Bath - Matlock: Walks 9 to 12

1. Matlock

Matlock is overlooked by two dominant buildings, both built by the same person, John Smedley. To the north of the town on Bank Road, which once carried a spectacular tramway, lies Smedley's Hydro.

Construction on this began in 1853. Here Matlock's spa waters were taken for health reasons. It is now the headquarters of Derbyshire County Council.

The impressive form of Riber Castle is silhouetted against the town's south east skyline. This folly was John Smedley's house until he died in 1874. It has had a number of uses since, including a zoo, and was rescued from ruin to become accommodation.



2. St John's Chapel

This unusual building was designed by the architect Sir Guy Dawber. It was commissioned as a private chapel by the residents of Rock House which stands below.

3. Heights of Abraham

Alpine style cable cars from the Heights of Abraham to Matlock Bath were installed in the early 1980s giving a spectacular ride across the Derwent Gorge. Entry to the show caves beneath the hill is included in the admission price for visitors reaching the top by cable car.



4. Scarthin

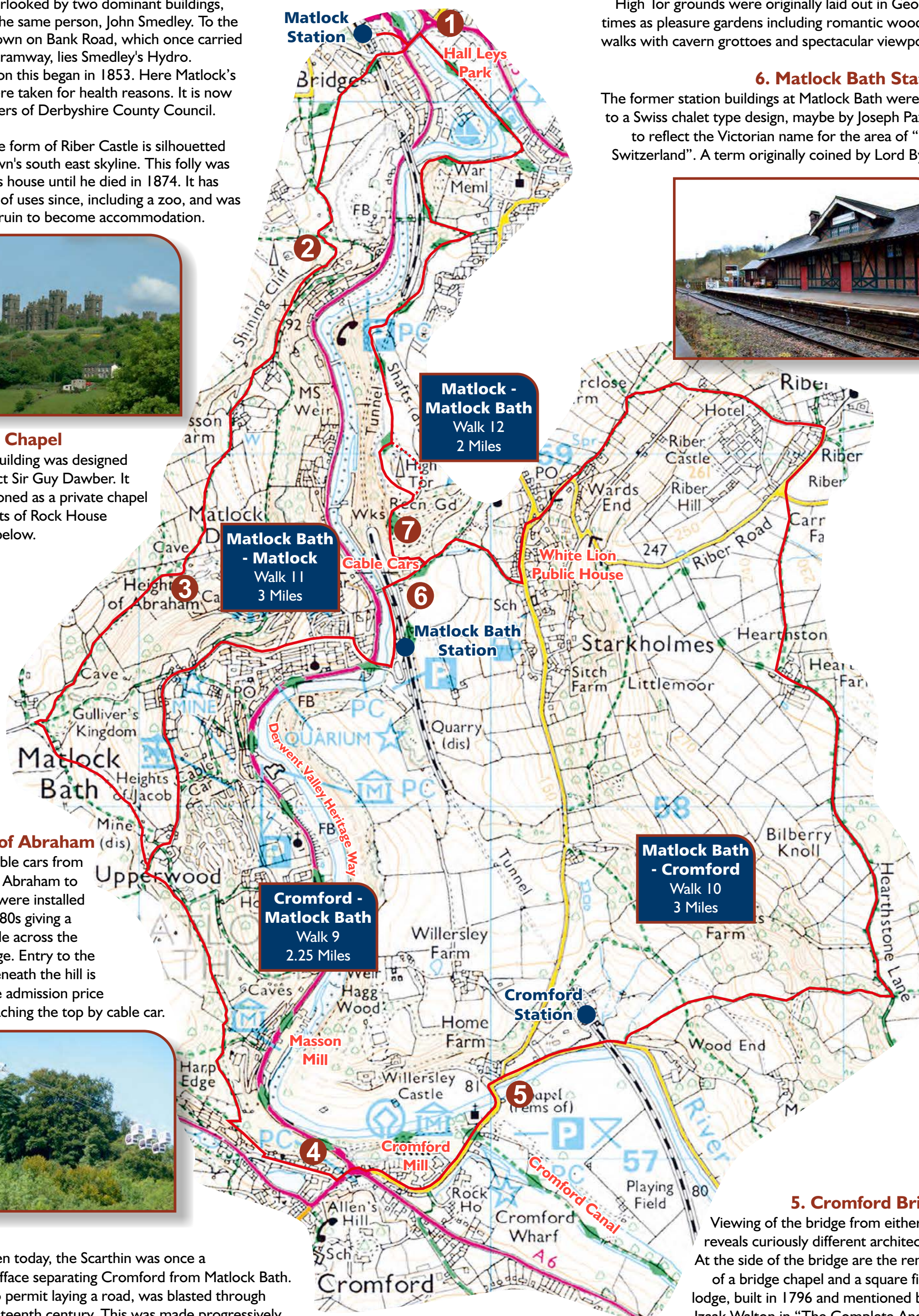
Impressive even today, the Scarthin was once a continuous cliff face separating Cromford from Matlock Bath. A small gap, to permit laying a road, was blasted through in the late eighteenth century. This was made progressively larger to accommodate the building of the A6.

7. High Tor

High Tor grounds were originally laid out in Georgian times as pleasure gardens including romantic woodland walks with cavern grottoes and spectacular viewpoints.

6. Matlock Bath Station

The former station buildings at Matlock Bath were built to a Swiss chalet type design, maybe by Joseph Paxton, to reflect the Victorian name for the area of "Little Switzerland". A term originally coined by Lord Byron.



Matlock Bath - Cromford
Walk 10
3 Miles

Cromford - Matlock Bath
Walk 9
2.25 Miles

Matlock Bath - Matlock
Walk 11
3 Miles

Matlock - Matlock Bath
Walk 12
2 Miles

5. Cromford Bridge

Viewing of the bridge from either side reveals curiously different architecture. At the side of the bridge are the remains of a bridge chapel and a square fishing lodge, built in 1796 and mentioned by Sir Izaak Walton in "The Complete Angler".

CROMFORD - MATLOCK BATH WALK 9 DISTANCE 2.25 MILES

An easy walk taking in the historic village of Cromford and a beautiful woodland path.

Take the driveway out of the station car park, turn right at the road and continue over the river bridge, past the church and Arkwright's Mill to find the A6 road.

Cross the A6 at the Pelican crossing and then turn right at the Market Place up to the Scarthin and past the mill pond on the left.

Turn right opposite an old chapel, up a steep cobbled "jitty" leading into woodland. After 150 yards, the path turns back on itself on a waymarked path by two large beech trees. At the two forks in the path keep left uphill and on reaching Upperwood, continue on the track until reaching a tarmac road (a turn left here would lead to Matlock Station).

The walk now continues for approximately three quarters of a mile down the road to Matlock Bath station situated on the far side of the A6.



MATLOCK BATH - CROMFORD WALK 10 DISTANCE 3 MILES

After an initial steep climb to Riber Castle, a hilltop walk with magnificent views, descending through woodland to Cromford.

From the station follow the track below the Whistlestop Café towards High Tor and the cable cars. Do not enter the grounds, but turn right and head uphill. At the fork in the path bear right to emerge opposite the White Lion pub. Bear left on the road, and right up the steps in front of Owl Cottage on the Riber Road. Continue up the road and, at the next bend, take the footpath between the cottages. Follow this path. as it joins a stone flagged path, uphill towards Riber Castle.

A tarmac road leads to a junction. Turn right past Riber Hall. Turn left at the pond and take the path on the right by way of squeezer stiles across fields to Hearthstone Farm.

Turn left on the road for approximately 200 yards then bear right up Hearthstone Lane by a cattle grid. Approaching Bilberry Knoll, the summit of this ancient trackway, magnificent views of the Derwent Valley can be enjoyed.

Continue downhill and, after passing a stile on the left, turn right through a stone gateway down the edge of the beech wood. Emerging into fields bear right. Following a line of poles, cross a wall stile and track, and continue downhill to a stile on the left and on down to the road. Turn right under the railway bridge then immediately right up steps to Cromford Station.

MATLOCK BATH - MATLOCK WALK 11 DISTANCE 3 MILES

A walk out of Matlock Bath on to Masson Hill rising steeply at first then descending gently through woods and fields directly into the centre of Matlock.

Leave the station car park via the bridge, cross the main road and go directly up Holme Road beside the County and Station public house. Follow the road as it bears left and enjoy wonderful views over Matlock Bath and the Derwent.

Bear right continuing up Upperwood Road, pass the entrance to the Heights of Abraham then on to where the road dips down and becomes a track. Turn right uphill to find a much worn squeezer stile and up the zigzag path to emerge into fields.

Cross the track and climb up through the field keeping near the left side before bearing right to pass through a farm gate and on to a corner of the wood. Do not turn left but go straight on through the stone stile, signposted Matlock, into the wood and gradually descend to open fields above the Heights of Abraham. At this point, the grounds can be entered for the use of the restaurant and coffee shop.

Continue downhill over two stiles and then left above Masson Farm. Follow this path down to St John's Road. Turn left down the road and just past the unusual chapel bear left along a footpath emerging into a field.

Follow this path as it sweeps round to find a gate in the wall at the end of the trees on the right. This path crosses fields and descends via steps and a farm road into Matlock just above the railway station.

MATLOCK - MATLOCK BATH WALK 12 DISTANCE 2 MILES

An easy walk alongside the Derwent River with a moderate climb to High Tor grounds with its spectacular views.

From Matlock follow the fingerposts towards the town centre. Immediately after crossing the river bridge, take the wide path into Hall Leys Park. Continue through to the end of the park and into Knowlstone Place.

Turn right over the footbridge and right again to follow the path alongside the Derwent. At the end of the path, turn left under the railway bridge and go uphill until the sharp right turn into the entrance of High Tor grounds.

The path now leads gradually uphill towards the summit of High Tor. There are sheer drops close by so please keep children and dogs under close supervision, especially at the top where the drops are huge!

For those not wishing to take the highest path, fork off left down the track well before the summit. Follow this as far as an exit gate and then take the waymarked footpath on the right down through the trees to the main exit by the terminus of the cable cars. (This route is shown on the map by a dotted red line).

The more intrepid walker must follow the path uphill to the summit and then downhill to the exit near the cable cars. Either descent passes the "Roman Cave", the result of centuries of lead mining.

Leave the grounds next to the cable car station and follow the path between the river and railway back to the station.

GENERAL INFORMATION

These walks in the beautiful Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site have been designed to link together the stations along the scenic Derwent Valley Line. Choose one or more walks to create a circular route or use the train to get back to the start.

The train service through the Derwent Valley provides a great opportunity to leave the car at home, relax and enjoy the great views along the way. Trains on the Derwent Valley Line operate a frequent service between Nottingham, Beeston, Attenborough, Long Eaton, Derby and the local Derwent Valley Line Stations.

However, if you do travel to the Derwent Valley by car, there are car parks at each of the stations, from where you can start your circular or linear walk and travel back by train or on various bus services.

For train times call National Rail Enquiries 03457 48 49 50 or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk
Alternatively, for local bus times, call Traveline 0871 200 22 33 or visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/buses



All walks have been carefully waymarked by green discs bearing a coloured arrow. Yellow indicates footpath status to be used by walkers. Blue arrows indicate bridleway status and can be enjoyed by walkers, cyclists and horseriders. All the discs bear the legend Derwent Valley Walks.



The four walks in this leaflet are part of a collection of 12 walks exploring the Derwent Valley. The other eight walks are detailed in two more leaflets.

HAPPY WALKING!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Middleton Top Visitor Centre,
Tel: (01629) 533298

This leaflet was produced by Derbyshire County Council for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site

Explore THE DERWENT VALLEY

