



## Peak District and Derbyshire Fact File

- The Peak District and Derbyshire is right at the centre of England and can be reached by train in less than two hours from London, Birmingham, Manchester and other major UK cities.
- The Peak District is home to Britain's first National Park, designated in 1951 to conserve and enhance the area's natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage.
- The national park covers 555 square miles/1,435 kilometres – about the size of Greater London.
- It consists of two main areas – the Dark Peak (gritstone), with rugged, heather-clad moorland and soaring stone edges, and the White Peak (limestone), a gentler landscape of lush pastures, dales and winding river valleys.
- Both areas are ideal for walking, cycling and other outdoor activities (horse riding, climbing, caving, water sports) for people of all ages and abilities. There are lots of safe, traffic-free cycling trails on former railway lines.
- Wealth of historic houses – including one of England's finest, Chatsworth, ancestral home of the Dukes of Devonshire. Also Haddon Hall, one of England's best-kept medieval houses. Both famous in films such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Jane Eyre*, *Elizabeth*. Also several National Trust properties – Hardwick Hall, Sudbury Hall, Calke Abbey, Kedleston Hall, Lyme Park.
- Quintessentially English villages (Ashford in the Water, Hartington, Eyam, Edensor) and vibrant market towns (Ashbourne, Buxton, Belper, Matlock/Matlock Bath, Glossop, Wirksworth). Specialist shops, markets and events, pubs, tea rooms and restaurants. Accommodation ranging from cosy inns to boutique hotels, lodges and glamping pods.
- Fine, locally-produced food and drink – including Buxton water, Hartington Stilton cheese, farm-reared Derbyshire lamb and beef, ice cream, Derbyshire Oatcakes, Ashbourne Gingerbread and Bakewell Pudding, unique to the area. Many places to enjoy leisurely lunches, traditional afternoon tea and gourmet dinners.
- Lots of attractions suitable for groups, including The Heights of Abraham, Matlock Bath (cable cars and caverns); Crich Tramway Village (vintage transport); historic houses; The Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site – including Cromford Mills, the birthplace of the world's first factory system; fascinating show caves in Castleton (the only place in the world where the semi-precious stone Blue John is found).
- Ancient art of Well Dressing, unique to the area. Living art installations made of flower petals and other natural materials, inspired by religious scenes and special anniversaries. Created by communities across the area between May and September to give thanks for the area's abundant fresh water springs.

### **How to get here**

- Located at the heart of the UK, the Peak District and Derbyshire is easily accessible by air, road.
- It is less than one hour by car or train from Manchester and is less than two hours by train from London.
- The Peak District and Derbyshire has an extensive public transport network, enabling you to have a full day out exploring the area without using the car. Getting to the area couldn't be easier, and regular services link many of the area's most popular destinations.
- You can find itineraries for public transport and car-free adventures [visitpeakdistrict.com/visitor-information/getting-here/by-train](https://www.visitpeakdistrict.com/visitor-information/getting-here/by-train)