

# The Ultimate Peak District & Derbyshire Bucket List: 101 Great Things To Do

1. Embrace the great outdoors in the UK's first National Park Established in 1951, the Peak District is the country's oldest National Park. If you love the outdoors, this protected area of natural beauty - which covers 555 square miles in total - offers over 200 square miles of stunning open access land to explore.

# 2. Visit the 'jewel in the Peak District's crown' at Chatsworth House

Home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Chatsworth is one of the UK's favourite stately homes. Discover over 30 magnificent rooms, a 105-acre garden, parkland, a farmyard and playground, and one of Britain's best farm shops.

## 3. Conquer the tallest 'Peak' in the Peak District

At 636 metres above sea level, you'll feel like you're standing on top of the world when you conquer the Kinder Scout plateau. It's the highest point in the National Park and was also the site of the 1932 Mass Trespass, a landmark event which sparked a debate about the right to roam in the countryside, leading to the establishment of the Peak District as the first National Park two decades later.

#### 4. Discover the UK's oldest Ice Age cave art at Creswell Crags

Walk in the footsteps of Ice Age hunters, uncover the secrets of early man, discover incredible Ice Age cave art and marvel at the UK's largest discovery of ritual protection marks at this picturesque limestone gorge on the Derbyshire/Nottinghamshire border.

#### 5. See the summertime spectacle of Well Dressing

From May to September each year, over 80 towns and villages across the Peak District and Derbyshire come together to create natural art installations known as Well Dressings. Handmade using natural materials pressed into a clay frame, Well Dressings are displayed at local springs or wells as part of this unique custom which dates back to Celtic times.

# 6. Pamper your palate at the birthplace of the Bakewell Pudding

Said by many to be the heart of the Peak District, the market town of Bakewell is brimming with independent shops, riverside walks, charming courtyards and plenty of places to eat and drink. It's also home of the famous Bakewell Pudding – a mouth-watering sweet treat made to a top-secret recipe.

#### 7. ...then make your own Bakewell Pudding to take home

Discover the history of the town's eponymous delicacy on a Bakewell Pudding making experience at the Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop. Learn how the Pudding was invented by accident in the 18<sup>th</sup>

century, before getting hands on and creating your own.

## 8. Find the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill in Cromford

Built by Sir Richard Arkwright in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Cromford Mills was the birthplace of the modern factory system. Visit Cromford village to see historic millworkers' cottages, take a tour of the original mill site and see Arkwright's family home, Willersley Castle. This site is part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, stretching from Cromford to Derby.

# 9. Walk part of the Pennine Way - the UK's first National Trail

Get your adrenaline pumping on a hike along the southern end of the Pennine Way, which stretches for 268 miles from Edale in the Peak District to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. Highlights include picturesque Jacob's Ladder and an ancient packhorse bridge.

#### 10. Discover the Dambusters history of the Upper Derwent Valley

The Upper Derwent reservoirs - Howden, Derwent and Ladybower - played a vital role in WWII, as the ideal training ground for the 617 'Dambusters' Squadron. The famous 1955 war epic (starring Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd) was also filmed here.

#### 11. Purchase cheese from the world's smallest Stilton producer in Hartington

The Parish of Hartington has a long history of cheese-making and Hartington Creamery has the unique title of the world's smallest Stilton producer. Purchase locally-made Stilton (and other locally-made cheese) from the picturesque Old Cheese Shop, then wander through idyllic nearby Beresford Dale and Wolfscote Dale.

## 12. Order a pint in the 'real ale capital of the UK'

If you're serious about real ale then Derby is right up your street. Described by Lonely Planet as the 'best place to drink real ale in the world', and crowned the UK's Real Ale Capital by CAMRA, it's said Derby's pubs have a bigger choice of ales than anywhere in the country.

#### 13. Sample the 'healing waters' at Britain's leading spa town

The town of Buxton is famous for its mineral-rich water, its spectacular architecture and its location at 1,000 feet above sea-level, making it the joint highest market town in the UK! Explore the Pavilion Gardens, spend the night at the oldest hotel in England (the Old Hall), fill your water bottles at St Anne's Well, and admire the Grade I listed Georgian Crescent, soon to reopen as a luxury 5-star hotel and spa.

#### 14. Climb to the top of the Crooked Spire in Chesterfield

Legends states that the twist of the 228-ft Crooked Spire at St Mary and All Saints Church was either caused by a lack of unskilled craftsmen in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, or a curse from the Devil. Whatever you believe, climb to the top of the tower for breathtaking views of the town below. At nearby Chesterfield Museum, see the medieval builders' wheel used in its construction.

#### 15. Visit 'the Stonehenge of the North' at Arbor Low

The most important prehistoric site of the East Midlands, Arbor Low is a Neolithic henge monument set amid high moorland. You'll discover an earthen bank and ditch, a circle of some 50 white limestone slabs, all now fallen, and a central stone 'cove' – a feature found only in major sacred sites.

#### 16. Discover the home of Blue John Stone

Head underground at Castleton's show caverns – famed as the only place in the world where you can find unique Blue John Stone – and discover an underground wonderland of stalactites, stalagmites and the famous Blue John. At Treak Cliff Cavern, you can even polish your own piece of the precious mineral to take home!

## 17. Enjoy a scenic hike along The Great Ridge in Castleton

This classic Peak District route – voted one of Britain's best walks – stretches for three miles from Mam Tor in Castleton to Lose Hill, traversing beautiful landscapes and offering far-reaching views

across the Hope Valley.

## 18. Uncover incredible stories at the 'Plague Village' of Eyam

The village of Eyam was almost wiped out during an outbreak of the Plague in the 1660s. But thousands more in nearby settlements were saved by the villagers' decision to quarantine themselves from the outside world. Visit the museum and see the plaques on local cottages to uncover the incredible story of the 'villagers who refused to run'.

## 19. Pretend you're a knight on a 'cavalier catwalk' at Bolsover Castle

Stroll along Bolsover Castle's wall walk to soak up the views and pretend you're a Stuart courtier wanting to see and be seen. If you'd like to pretend you're a knight, this fairytale Stuart mansion (run by English Heritage) is the perfect place to do it.

## 20. Cross the famous Stepping Stones at Dovedale

This idyllic part of the White Peak is famous for its rolling dales and Stepping Stones across the River Dove. Stroll along the riverbank, make your way across the stones then relax and admire the scenery, before scrambling to the top of Thorpe Cloud for amazing views.

## 21. Play pooh sticks at picturesque Ashford in the Water

Winnie the Pooh's favourite game of floating sticks on fast-flowing water is the perfect pastime at Ashford in the Water's Sheepwash Bridge, spanning the River Wye just north of Bakewell. In fact, the much-photographed medieval bridge was named by VisitEngland as the best place in the country to pay pooh sticks!

## 22. Recreate your own Pride & Prejudice moment at Stanage Edge

Famed as the scenic spot where Elizabeth Bennet (played by Keira Knightley) daydreamed of dashing Mr Darcy (played by Matthew Macfadyen) in the 2005 blockbuster Pride & Prejudice, this dramatic rocky outcrop has equally dramatic moorland views. Recreate your own movie moment then share it with us on Twitter and Instagram using #UniqueDistrict.

23. Relive your childhood memories at Sudbury Hall and the National Trust Museum of Childhood Wander the 17th century country home of the Lords Vernon before visiting the National Trust Museum of Childhood which delights visitors young and old with its interactive displays, vintage toys and brilliant costumes.

# 24. Discover a watery woodland paradise at Padley Gorge

Enjoy an amazing woodland amble through the pretty Padley Gorge, starting from the Longshaw Estate car park, before refuelling with a 'proper' chip butty from Grindleford Café. Woodland glades and tumbling tributaries make this of the most magical places in the Peak District.

# 25. Follow in the footsteps of film stars at Haddon Hall

Described as 'the most perfect house to survive from the Middle Ages', Haddon Hall near Bakewell has graced cinema and TV screens in films and dramas including Mary Queen of Scots (2018), Pride & Prejudice (2005), The Princess Bride (1987), The Other Boleyn Girl (2008), Elizabeth (1998) and various adaptations of Jane Eyre. The hall's medieval Long Gallery is not-to-be-missed!

# 26. Soak up the atmosphere in a Peak District pub

Following a long walk in the hills, there's nothing better than retreating to a cosy country pub for a roast dinner and a refreshing pint of local ale by a roaring open fire. The Peak District is scattered with pubs – many villages have at least one and there are many others located around Derbyshire. See www.visitpeakdistrict.com/food-and-drink/pubs-and-bars

# 27. Explore the Monsal Trail on two wheels...

Starting just north of Bakewell, this traffic-free route along a former railway line is a haven for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. Hire bikes at Hassop Station or Blackwell Mill and cycle the 8.5 miles from Coombs Road to Chee Dale. A highlight is travelling through four well-lit railway tunnels!

## 28. ...Then marvel at the views from Monsal Head

Directly above Monsal Dale, Monsal Head is one of the most famous and photographed viewpoints in Derbyshire. The combination of the winding River Wye at the bottom of the dale and the famous Headstone viaduct cutting through make it the perfect spot to watch the world go by.

## 29. Take a cable car ride to The Heights of Abraham

Enjoy a thrilling cable car journey across a deep limestone gorge, before exploring a hilltop country park set in 60 acres of woodland at The Heights of Abraham. Discover show caverns, scenic wooded walks, play areas and great places to eat and drink - with stunning views all around.

## 30. Ride on a vintage tram at Crich Tramway Village

Soak up the atmosphere on the charming period street at the home of the National Tramway Museum, before taking a vintage tram ride and stopping for refreshments in the vintage tearooms and traditional English pub.

## 31. Watch a quirky World Championship sport

Nothing beats the exhilaration of a local sporting event, especially one as unique as World Championship Hen Racing at the Barley Mow Inn in Bonsall (August) and World Championship Toe Wrestling at the Bentley Brook Inn, Ashbourne (June). Yes, these are real sports!

## 32. Enjoy a riverside ramble along Lathkil Dale

About three miles from Bakewell, Lathkil Dale is one of the prettiest and most peaceful of the Derbyshire dales. Stoll on quiet paths to enjoy the river's crystal-clear waters, pretty waterfalls and weirs, and wide variety of flora and fauna.

## 33. Watch the sun rise over Winnats Pass

Not only is it one of the most picturesque roads in the Peak District, but Winnats Pass at Castleton is also one of the most photographed locations for sunrises in the UK. Set your alarm, pack a flask, find a comfy spot and watch the magic unfold.

# 34. Glide through the treetops at Poole's Cavern and Buxton Country Park

Explore country park woodlands or head to the underground cave system at Poole's Cavern, before gliding through the trees at the GoApe zip-wire adventure. It's one of the highest courses in the UK, so you'll be climbing, clambering and conquering the course at an amazing 1,200ft.

# 35. Take a factory tour and paint a plate at Denby Pottery Village

Go behind the scenes at the historic working factory and meet the skilled craftspeople who have been producing quality Denby for over 200 years. Then, paint your own piece of Denby and make the iconic Denby frog to take home.

# 36. Spot amazing rock formations - including the Winking Man - at The Roaches

Overlooking the A53 Leek to Buxton road, the prominent rocky outcrop of the Winking Man resembles a face sticking out of the hillside and – if you catch the right angle as you pass by – locals say he will appear to wink at you! The Roaches is also one of the most atmospheric spots for walks; on a clear day you can see as far as Wales.

# 37. Discover fascinating facts at Strutts North Mill in Belper

Learn how Jedidiah Strutt helped spark the Industrial Revolution - and understand how the North Mill inspired the construction of skyscrapers! This site is part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, stretching from Cromford to Derby.

#### 38. Find Lyme Park's Pride & Prejudice lake

One of TV's most recognisable backdrops, the National Trust's Lyme Park was the location of *that* scene where Mr Darcy (Colin Firth) emerges fully clothed from Pemberley's lake. Hunt down the famous spot, then explore the magnificent stately house and estate.

## 39. Dine in the area's only Michelin-star restaurant at Fischers Baslow Hall

For a fine dining experience to remember, visit Fischer's Baslow Hall. The award-winning hotel and restauant has held the prestigious Michelin-star for 25 years. Situated in beautiful surroundings at the end of a winding chestnut-tree-lined driveway, the kitchen team uses only the finest, freshest seasonal ingredients in its inspirational dishes.

## 40. Be moved by world-class shows at Buxton Opera House

One of the country's finest examples of Frank Matcham theatre design, Buxton Opera House provides a stunning backdrop to around 450 performances each year, ranging from dance and comedy to drama, music and opera. It's also the focal point for the world-renowned Buxton International Festival of opera, music and literature each summer.

## 41. Conquer the 'Dragon's Back' at Chrome Hill and Parkhouse Hill

Commonly known as the 'Dragon's Back', the rugged ridge of Chrome Hill is said to resemble the 'plates' along the spine of a stegosaurus dinosaur. The views from the top are especially breathtaking – as is the fact the area was a former coral reef, formed 340 million years ago!

## 42. Take a tour of Derbyshire's vibrant vineyards

Think of wine and France or New Zealand might spring to mind, but did you know there's a thriving wine scene right here in Derbyshire? Two great local vineyards can be found at Amber Valley Wines near Wessington and Renishaw Hall Vineyard near Sheffield - once the most northerly vineyard in the world and home to 100% natural 'wild wine'.

## 43. Sleep under the stars on a camping or caravanning trip

Few things are more memorable than camping or caravanning in the great outdoors. Escape the hustle and bustle of daily life at one of the Camping and Caravanning Club's eight beautiful sites in the Peak District and Derbyshire – at Ashbourne, Bakewell, Leek, Hayfield, Crowden, Conkers, Teversal and Alton, The Star.

# 44. Embrace the countryside at a country show or fair

Unsurprisingly for an area with such incredible scenery, the Peak District and Derbyshire has no shortage of country shows and events celebrating the farming year. For a fantastic family day out with main ring attractions, quality stalls, livestock classes and tasty local food and drink, highlights include Hope Show, Ashbourne Show, Ashover Show, Bakewell Show and Chatsworth Country Fair.

#### 45. Hack on horse-back along the High Peak and Tissington Trails

Admire the views and explore the scenic variety of the traffic-free Tissington and High Peak Trails on horse-back. These routes are also a haven for cyclists and walkers, forming part of the Pennine Bridleway, which starts at Middleton-by-Wirksworth in Derbyshire and stretches 205 miles to Cumbria!

## 46. Uncover local legends at Lud's Church

Legend has it that Robin Hood, Friar Tuck and Bonnie Prince Charlie have all hidden in this deep, moss-covered chasm on the edge of the Staffordshire Peak District. Brimming with mystery and intrigue – plus great walks – it's also thought Lud's Church was used as a secret place of worship in the 15th century.

#### 47. Discover nine ladies 'turned to stone' at a Bronze Age stone circle

According to local lore this early Bronze Age stone circle on Stanton Moor, near Birchover, is believed to depict nine ladies turned to stone as a penalty for dancing on Sunday. Nine Ladies Stone Circle is part of a complex of prehistoric circles in the area, with beautiful moorland views.

#### 48. Discover the Devil's Arse at Peak Cavern

Deep in the gorge below Peveril Castle in Castleton is Peak Cavern's imposing entrance chamber – the largest natural cave entrance in Britain. Take a cave tour to the notorious 'Devil's Arse', see historic rope-making works and experience one of the year-round musical events in this unique natural amphitheatre.

## 49. Marvel at brightly-lit rowing boats at Matlock Bath Illuminations

A kaleidoscope of brightly-lit rowing boats make their way along the River Derwent during this spectacular local event, which takes place at weekends in September and October. See rowing boats of all shapes and sizes saunter down the waters – and enjoy fireworks on selected nights.

## 50. See how fine bone china is made at Royal Crown Derby

Established in 1750, Royal Crown Derby is one of England's oldest surviving manufacturers of fine bone china. See how they work their magic on a factory tour and watch in wonder as skilled artisans create the beautiful pieces that are cherished throughout the world. Did you know Royal Crown Derby was used in the first-class restaurant on the Titanic's ill-fated maiden voyage?

## 51. Watch the flower-filled parade at Castleton Garland Day

For centuries Castleton has celebrated Oak Apple Day on 29th May (28th May if the 29th is a Sunday) with a Garland Day procession that sees the Garland King, buried under an enormous floral headdress, parade through the village on horseback.

## 52. Photograph the sun setting over Bamford Edge

Few things are more memorable than watching the sun set – but watching the sun go down from Bamford Edge is a not-to-be-missed experience. Walk up to the rocky ledge for a stunning vantage point over Ladybower Reservoir, and get your camera at the ready. Share your pictures with us on Twitter and Instagram using #UniqueDistrict.

## 53. Spot wildlife and watch the windsurfers at Carsington Water

Derbyshire may be a land-locked county, but there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy watersports. Carsington Water is surrounded by wildflower meadows, native woodlands, ponds and reedbeds. It's also a honeypot for sailors, anglers, birdwatchers and cyclists.

## 54. Explore a heather-clad Higger Tor

For a brief period in late summer, the moors of the Peak District reach the apex of their beauty when the heather that covers them is in full bloom. Higger Tor stands at 1,410ft (430m) above sea-level – and from this lofty viewpoint you can admire one of the best local heather displays.

# 55. Watch an ancient Shrovetide Football match

Witness a 16-hour football match in the streets of Ashbourne, an eccentric sporting event that's been played locally on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday since the 17th century. Unlike a conventional football match, the Ashbourne Royal Shrovetide Football Match is played over two eight hour periods, the goals are three miles apart and there are very few rules!

## 56. Take the plunge in the outdoor pool at Hathersage

Forget Iceland's Blue Lagoon, Hathersage's heated open air pool takes scenic swimming to another level. Take a year-round dip whilst soaking up views of surrounding hills, Stanage Edge and Hathersage Church.

#### 57. Tour a gin distillery and create your own bespoke gin

Drink up the authentic English gin experience on a tour of White Peak Distillery in Ambergate, or head to Forest Gin in Macclesfield Forest, where you can join a foraging walk to gather wild botanicals, before flavouring your own bespoke gin to take home.

#### 58. Visit the home of one of the most powerful women in Elizabethan England

The National Trust's Hardwick Hall – 'more glass than wall' – was built by Bess of Hardwick who, largely through her own endeavours, became one of the richest and most powerful women in Elizabethan England; builder of great houses and founder of multiple dynasties.

#### 59. See up-and-coming talent and huge headliners at a local music festival

Y-Not Festival at Pikehall provides a melting pot of emerging and established live music against a

stunning countryside backdrop, whilst other popular local festivals include the family-friendly Bearded Theory Festival at Walton-on-Trent.

## 60. Explore the Cathedral of the Peak in Tideswell

Dominating the former lead-mining village of Tideswell, the massive parish church of St John the Baptist – aka the Cathedral of the Peak – is virtually unchanged since the 14th century. Look out for the wooden panels inscribed with the Ten Commandments.

## 61. Take an underground boat trip to Speedwell Cavern

Offering an amazing sensory experience, this incredible underground cave is reached by an amazing boat ride through flooded tunnels, emerging by a huge subterranean lake called the Bottomless Pit.

# 62. Immerse yourself in Georgian life at Pickford's House Museum in Derby

Experience domestic life up close and learn about how the Pickford family and later occupants used each fascinating room of this Georgian townhouse on Friar Gate. From the lavish dining room to the humble servant's bedroom, you're bound to find something that piques your interest.

## 63. Experience the thrill of a steam train ride through the Derbyshire countryside

Enjoy a steam train ride on preserved railways operating between Rowsley and Matlock at Peak Rail, or Wirksworth and Duffield at Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. Then discover the railway museum, historic locomotives and country park at Midland Railway Butterley, or see Britain's last surviving working roundhouse at Barrowhill.

## 64. Wander through Derby's picturesque parks

You'll find plenty of glorious green spaces around Derby city, including Britain's first-ever public park and the inspiration of New York's Central Park at Derby Arboretum. Other glorious green spaces include Darley Park, near Darley Abbey, and Markeaton Park.

## 65. Meet the 'Old Man of Calke' at the National Trust's Calke Abbey

Once the stately home of eccentrics, Calke Abbey's former glory has faded, but there are plenty of surprising discoveries to be made in the beautiful park grounds - including the Old Man of Calke, which was growing here before the Norman Conquest.

# 66. Admire architectural delights in Ashbourne

With characterful streets, alleyways and a cobbled market place, Ashbourne is a charming backdrop to an array of beautiful buildings. You'll find over 200 listed buildings in the town, known as 'the Gateway to Dovedale' including Georgian town houses and the finest mere parish church in England'.

## 67. Discover a quintessentially English estate village in Tissington

An unspoilt estate village surrounding Tissington Hall – home of the FitzHerbert family for 500 years – Tissington is described as being 'as near perfection as you can get'. In recent years its picture-perfect looks have been enhanced by a range of interesting businesses including a tea room and vintage sweet shop.

#### 68. View the world's largest collection of Joseph Wright paintings

In Derby's cultural Cathedral Quarter area, Derby Museum and Art Gallery houses a dedicated gallery to world-famous artist Joseph Wright of Derby, alongside a programme of temporary exhibitions and displays of local archaeology, natural history, and military history.

#### 69. Go behind the scenes on a brilliant brewery tour

Derbyshire and the Peak District has a thriving craft beer scene – and you can learn all about how tasty local brews are made on behind-the-scenes brewery tours. Two of the best are at Peak Ales on the Chatsworth Estate and Thornbridge Brewery at Ashford in the Water.

#### 70. Go mountain biking on miles of traffic-free trails

The area isn't just a paradise for walkers: there are plenty of off-road routes for two-wheeled adventures. Some of the most popular mountain biking spots are at Hayfield, Ladybower and

Macclesfield in the Dark Peak, an area covered in rocky gritstone tracks that make for fun and challenging riding.

## 71. Spot wildlife on a walk along Cromford Canal

A haven for watervole, dragonflies, moorhens and coots, Cromford Canal – part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site - can be explored from the towpath between Cromford Wharf and Ambergate, a distance of just over 5 miles. Birdswood, a restored narrow boat, runs from Cromford throughout the year - sometimes towed by heavy horses.

## 72. Climb one England's tallest Cathedral towers

At 212 feet and with 189 steps, Derby Cathedral on historic Irongate is one of the tallest cathedral towers in England. Climb to the top for an amazing bird's eye view of the city below – and listen to the oldest ring of ten bells in the world.

## 73. Uncover Hathersage's links to literature and legends

At the eastern end of the Hope Valley, Hathersage is renowned for its literary associations and legends. Former local landowners, the Eyre family were immortalised by Charlotte Brontë, who visited the village. Jane Eyre's Thornfield Hall was also reportedly based on Hathersage's North Lees Hall, whilst the local churchyard reputedly holds the grave of Little John, of Robin Hood fame.

## 74. Shop on one of Britain's best high streets in Belper

Named 'High Street of the Year' in the 2014 Great British High Street Awards, Belper's vibrant high street has a proud history – brimming with independent retailers selling everything from clothes and gifts to great food and drink.

## 75. Look out from stunning Surprise View

High above Hathersage, this idyllic spot is a great starting point for several walks and a popular spot for astronomer's – it's an official 'Dark Sky Discovery Site'. You'll find the curiously shaped Mother Cap stone and the Over Owler Tor stones nearby. It's also one of the official 'Dark Skies' stargazing spots.

# 76. Visit a one-of-a-kind windmill in Heage

Surrounded by spectacular views, and looking picture-perfect with its elegant white sails, Heage Windmill is the only working, stone-towered, six-sailed windmill in England. Visit at weekends and Bank Holidays from April to October, purchase freshly-milled flour, and attend a range of events.

# 77. Tantalise your tastebuds at a local food festival

Offering the perfect recipe for a fun, foodie day out for the whole family, Derbyshire's food and drink festivals are a great chance to tuck into tasty local food and drink made by passionate producers. Some of the best are at Bakewell, Tideswell, Belper, Bolsover and Hardwick Hall. *For more foodie inspiration follow @eatdrinkexplorepdd on Instragam* 

#### 78. Admire Alpine cottages and amazing scenery in Ilam

Visit the picture-postcard village of Ilam, nestled beside the River Manifold in the Staffordshire Peak District, to admire idyllic Alpine-style cottages, wander Ilam Park (National Trust) and soak up stunning views to Bunster Hill, Thorpe Cloud and Dovedale.

# 79. Take in views of the Cheshire Plain from Tegg's Nose Country Park

This intriguingly-named country park in the Cheshire Peak District offers exhilarating views over the Cheshire Plain - and on a clear day you can see Liverpool's cathedrals and the Welsh hills beyond.

#### 80. Enjoy elegant afternoon tea at the World of Wedgwood

Few things are more quintessentially English than afternoon tea, and it's a particularly special affair at the World of Wedgwood at Barlaston – just a stone's throw from the Peak District. Discover over 260 years of Wedgwood history and heritage on a factory tour, before sampling a delicious selection of sweet and savoury dishes served on the finest Wedgwood china.

## 81. Discover your creative side at a local arts festival

Recognised nationally and internationally as one of the UK's leading arts festivals, Buxton International Festival is a summer celebration of the very best opera, music and literature each July. Other unmissable celebrations of art, literature and street theatre can be found at Ashbourne in July, and at Derby Feste, New Mills Festival, Wirksorth Festival and Melbourne Festival in September.

## 82. Tackle the Derwent Valley Heritage Way

Passing through the whole length of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, this route follows paths, tracks, and some sections of road through the valley's beautiful and heritage rich landscapes – following the River Derwent from Ladybower Reservoir to its mouth near Shardlow.

## 83. Join a lantern parade through Bolsover

November might signal the start of fireworks and bonfire displays in the rest of the country, but for over 25 years Bolsover has lit-up with a magical lantern parade through the streets, starting at Bolsover Castle and winding its way through the town.

## 84. Come face to face with exotic animals at Peak Wildlife Park

Whether you love lemurs, have a passion for penguins or want to wander with the wallabies (and feed them with your hand!) Peak Wildlife Park near Leek offers the chance to get up close to endangered animals for an entertaining, exciting and educational day out.

## 85. Have fish and chips at the 'seaside town without the sea' in Matlock Bath

Matlock Bath was developed as one of the country's first tourist destinations and, with its Alpine-style landscape, was referred to as 'little Switzerland'. Famed in Victorian times for its spa waters, today visitors flock to enjoy the amusement arcades, riverside walks and fish and chips.

## 86. Explore the opulent interiors of Kedleston Hall

Step inside the National Trust's Kedleston Hall near Derby to discover an 18th century show palace, designed by famous architect Robert Adam. Intended as 'a temple of the arts', it was built to showcase the finest paintings, sculpture and furniture. It also houses Lord Curzon's 'Eastern Collection', an eclectic mix of treasures he amassed whilst Viceroy of India.

# 87. Order a food hamper filled with local produce

Whether you're packing a picnic, preparing a hearty breakfast, light lunch or flavourful evening meal, you can enjoy the freshest local produce delivered straight to your door through Peak District Deli – a locally-based online shopping service that also offers pop-up food experiences and private dining services.

# 88. Get to grips with climbing on Froggatt Edge

Watch climbers get to grips with one of the places where modern rock climbing was born and soak up scenic views from this rugged gritstone escarpment. See if you can spot the partly-finished millstones left by local stonemasons hundreds of years ago – now the symbol of the Peak District National Park. Other incredible edges can be found at Curbar, Millstone, Stanage, Derwent and Baslow.

# 89. Scramble up to Thor's Cave for scenic views of the Manifold Valley

Just off the picturesque Manifold Trail walking and cycling route, Thor's Cave rears up out of the hillside in dramatic style. With a 60ft limestone opening, the cave was occupied as long as 10,000 years ago, making it one of the oldest sites of human activity in the Peak District.

## 90. Dine on local delights at a characterful restaurant, café or eatery

Fresh, local ingredients and seasonally-inspired dishes are highlights of dining in the Peak District and Derbyshire's cafes. For fantastic food specials in a well-connected location, the 'kitchen, bar and minicinema' at Hathersage Social Club offers a memorable and delicious dining experience.

#### 91. Learn about South Derbyshire's once-prolific pottery industry

From bricks and toilets to elaborate art pottery, learn about Swadlincote's vital role in the UK's

pottery industry from the 16th to the 21st century at Sharpe's Pottery Museum. You'll discover fascinating nuggets of knowledge – like the fact the flushing toilet was invented here!

## 92. Saddle up for a horse-trekking experience at Matlock Farm Park

Hit the open countryside on horse-back at Matlock Farm Park on a trek through scenic farmland and adjoining forests. See superb landscapes in a new light, then enjoy a well-earned rest and delicious lunch in the Farm Park café.

#### 93. Get football fever at a local game

From stadium tours at Pride Park (home of Derby County Football Club), to electric local games at Chesterfield, Bakewell, Buxton and Matlock, Derbyshire is a great place to be a football supporter! Rub shoulders with the locals at Matlock Town's 'Causeway Lane', renowned for being one of the most picturesque grounds in the English Football League.

#### 94. Lift up, up and away on a hot air balloon ride

Take a hot air balloon flight and drift along with the breeze whilst enjoying stunning landscapes from a new perspective. Admire iconic local sights and scenery, and appreciate the Peak District's rugged moorland from the basket of your balloon.

#### 95. Savour ice cream straight from the farm

What better way to while away an afternoon than umming and ahhing over a selection of ice cream flavours fresh from the farm? Sweeten up your day with a visit to a local ice cream parlour such as Bluebells Dairy in Spondon, Matlock Meadows in Matlock, Hope Valley Dairy in Hathersage and Tagg Lane Dairy at Monyash.

#### 96. Follow the Five Pits Trail from Grassmoor to Tibshelf

This 5.5 mile long rail trail offers easy access for all, linking Grassmoor Country Park to Tibshelf Ponds on a gentle route ideal for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The trail mostly follows the route of the Great Central Railway, which served the five main coal mines in the area.

#### 97. Tour the decadent rooms and gardens of Renishaw Hall

Wander round immaculate gardens and artistic rooms at this historic house - home to the Sitwell family for nearly 400 years. Don't miss the carefully landscaped Italianate gardens.

#### 98. Admire the night skies on an Astroglamping adventure

Marvel at the stars and brush up on your astronomy on an Astroglamping adventure at Dovestone Holiday Park in Greenfield. Discover the wonders of the night sky from the comfort of your glamping pod, as expert astronomers join you with their telescopes to give you an exclusive tour of the night sky!

#### 99. Cycle in style at Eroica Britannia

Handlebar moustaches and sepia filters at the ready, the 2019 Eroica Britannia is set to be a small, one-off version of the 'World's Most Handsome Bike Ride' – with 500 riders touring the Peak District on pre-1987 bikes in August.

#### 100. Watch paragliders soar high above the Peak District

Pack a picnic and settle down to watch adventure-lovers take to the skies above Mam Tor, known as the 'Shivering Mountain'. Mam Tor is the sport's famous local hotspot and on a clear day the skies will be filled with colourful parachutes winding through the air.

#### 101. Stock up on delicious produce at a local farmers' market

Spend a day exploring vibrant market towns such as Wirksworth, Matlock, Ashbourne, Belper, Buxton, Bakewell, Glossop, Chesterfield and Swadlincote, where you'll find streets brimming with independent shops and places to eat and drink, plus traditional weekly markets selling fresh, local produce.

Compiled by Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire, the area's official tourist board.

For accompanying high res images see: <u>https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CZEglvxwzmQueTc6X0iS7DV90F\_8xbNN</u>

For more inspiration on things to do in the Peak District and Derbyshire, see <u>www.visitpeakdistrict.com</u>.