

SIR RICHARD ARKWRIGHT'S
**CROMFORD
MILLS**



Visitor Guide 2022



Visit cromfordmills.org.uk

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Explore Cromford Mills and step into history



**A place that truly
shaped the world
we know...**

1771 - 2022

Visit Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills and surrounding area for a full day out. The Northern Gateway to the Derwent Valley Mills UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cromford Mills has something for everyone – indoors and out.

Built in 1771 to house the world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill, Cromford Mills became the birthplace of the modern factory system.



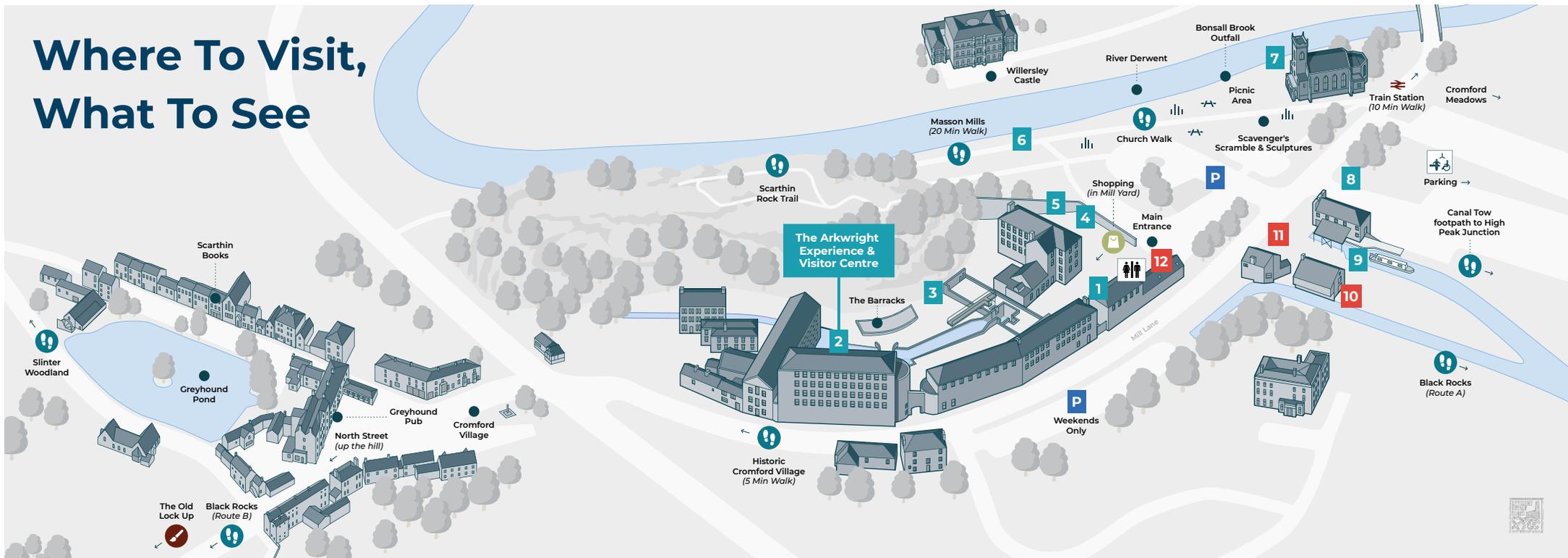
Start your day by exploring the mill yard, where you'll see Arkwright's original buildings and discover the captivating story of how the Derwent Valley changed the world in the 18th century with the growth of the British cotton industry.

Have a great day out!

Cromford Mills is home to three cafés, numerous shops, a visitor centre and the Arkwright Experience. It is a dog-friendly site and welcomes well behaved dogs inside and out. *Retail shops on site operate individual dog policies.*



Where To Visit, What To See



1 Mill Shop

Start your visit here and find out more about our Visitor Centre, The Arkwright Experience, tours and tickets.

2 The Arkwright Experience & Visitor Centre

Immerse yourself in the site's history, find out more about the Derwent Valley, and see Sir Richard Arkwright come to life in his first mill.

3 Second Mill Viewpoint

Experience the vastness of Arkwright's second mill building and its internal wheel pit. Once a 7-storey building that was 120 feet long and an ambitious project, now it lies in ruins.

4 Education Room

Education visits, workshops and events are held in this room. Find out more about educational visits at cromformills.org.uk/learning

5 Exhibition & Tour Room

A dual-purpose room for exhibitions and tours. Meet outside the Mill Shop for the start of your tour and learn more about the mill's history. A great chance to see a small scale, replica water frame and learn more about the process of spinning cotton.

6 Beyond the Mill Walls

A great area to take a riverside stroll, discover local wildlife, follow our Scavengers' Scramble Sculpture trail and enjoy a family picnic. There's something for everyone!

7 St Mary's Church

Explore the church where Sir Richard Arkwright was interred and see beautiful Victorian wall paintings by A. O. Hemmings. This family chapel was started by Arkwright in 1786 and completed by his son in 1797.

8 Gothic Warehouse

Built in 1794, the canal warehouse was designed for goods coming into Cromford. It is now used for a variety of events throughout the year.

9 Canal Boat Trips & Towpath

Book a canal trip with Birdswood or explore the canal by foot on the Towpath Walk to High Peak Junction. The walk is suitable for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Visit birdswood.org for bookings and times.

See inside for Ticket Options



Scavenger's Sculptures

Picnic Tables

Shop Local

To complete your day out at Cromford Mills, you may want to buy a memento of your visit - or perhaps you'll find that special present for someone who appears to have everything?

Opening times may vary. See website for more details.

There's never been a better time to 'shop local' and support small businesses, and shopping at Cromford Mills offers something unique and personal.



WeaveKnitit



Cromford Mill Cheese Shop



The Cromford Mill Antique Centre



Susanna Greening Designs



The Old Lock Up



WeaveMadelt



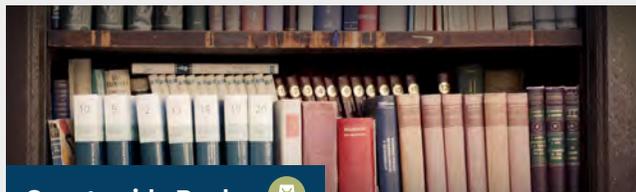
Arkwright's Attic



Rachel Emmerson Jewellery



The Mill Shop



Countryside Books



YES Bridal Studio



Overton Clocks Ltd



Heritage Antiques



Arkwright Repair Shop



Food & Drink

10 Wheatcroft's Wharf Café

A great place to take a break while exploring the famous Derwent Valley. Take in the picturesque views from our canal-side cafe and relax with a lovely slice of cake and a coffee.

11 Counting House Coffee Stop

Ready to hit the trail or looking to grab a sandwich on the go? Visit our new coffee stop, a great place to find tasty treats while you are on the move.



12 Arkwright's Café



Soak up the history of the mill in our licensed café and experience the best scones in Derbyshire! Enjoy a lovely breakfast, light bite or a range of seasonal dishes. Indoor and outdoor seating is available. **Well-behaved dogs are welcome at all our cafés.**

Plan Your Day

Nestled in the heart of the Derbyshire Dales, Cromford Mills and the surrounding area are among the UK's best-loved places to visit. There's something for everyone from family-friendly nature trails, wild-play and picnic areas through to a gentle stroll along Cromford Canal, once the hub of Derbyshire's industry.

Beyond the Mill Walls



Scavenger's Scramble with wooden sculptures and more, in our riverside meadow area. It is a great place to enjoy wildlife and nature while having a picnic near the River Derwent or adventure up the steps to Scarthin Rock.

Cromford Canal

Last used as a working waterway in 1944, the canal is now a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Take the 5 mile walk along the canal from Cromford Wharf to Ambergate. Sites of particular interest along the way include Leawood Pumphouse, built in 1849 and still in pristine working order and Aqueduct Cottage, once part of Florence Nightingale's family estate and poised for restoration. Don't forget to look out for Arkwright's ducks, furry water voles, moorhens and many other birds along the way.



Black Rocks

Originally mined for lead, Black Rocks offers fantastic views of Matlock Gorge, Cromford Mills, Carsington Reservoir and the Derwent Valley. Start your walk at Cromford Canal and follow the High Peak Trail to Black Rocks (Route A). You can then head across Cromford Moor with its woodland trails and heather moorland. Alternatively, take Route B from Cromford Village. (See map for routes).

Some of our walks are out in the open, some are deep in the valley, and some are set in woodland, but wherever they are, there's no getting away from the fact that they are stunning.

Dunsley Meadows

The meadows, which adjoin the Slinger Woodland, consist of seven small fields that once were part of the upland commons of Cromford and Middleton villages on which the villagers had grazing rights.

Cromford Village

Arkwright developed the village by building houses with a well-lit third storey for spinning, many of which survive today. By 1782, there were 5,000 people involved in spinning locally. There are a number of shops and places to eat and drink. Guided audio tours are available from the Mill shop



Slinger Woodland

A beautiful landscape of ancient ash woodland and rich flowering woodland floor. Take the path that follows the famous Bonsall Brook (which powered Arkwright's Mill) and discover old water features, the corn mill and more. This area is abundant with wildlife and is a Special Area of Conservation.

What You Need To Know

Please refer to our website for up to date information and how you can enjoy your visit safely.

Cromford Mills is usually open all year round (except Christmas day). Admission to the site is free, with ample pay and display car parking. There is a small charge for access to the Arkwright Experience and for audio and guided tours.



Sir Richard Arkwright's Cromford Mills

Mill Lane, Cromford, Matlock Derbyshire, DE4 3RQ

Email us at info@arkwrightsociety.org.uk
Or call us on **01629 823 256**

By Car

Cromford Mills is located just off the A6 and is within walking distance from Cromford village. We are approximately 16 miles north of Derby and within easy reach of the M1 (approx. 20 mins).

By Bike

We have bike racks on-site and

shower facilities.

By Train

We are a 10-minute walk from Cromford train station. Call National Rail for more information 03457 48 49 50.

By Bus

Convenient bus stops are located just outside the mill. Visit traveline.info for bus timetables.



The Arkwright Society is a registered charity (no. 515526). The Arkwright Society Ltd. is a company registered in England and Wales (Company no. 01630237). Registered with Entrust as an approved environmental body no. 337946. Cromford Mills are part of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.



Book Online

Ticketed Attractions

Immerse yourself in the remarkable history of Cromford Mills and discover what life was like in the 18th century. A catalyst for the birth of the Industrial Revolution - there's something here for everyone!



New for 2022

Guided Tours & Arkwright Experience

The ultimate setting for **two unmissable stories** as you watch history come to life courtesy of the award-winning Arkwright Experience and ground breaking CGI technology.

This year, Jedediah Strutt joins Sir Richard and our cast with the launch of our new film **"When Arkwright Met Strutt"**. *Pre-booking recommended! See our website for details.*

Our tour guides take you back in time as they explain why Arkwright chose Cromford and how he used revolutionary techniques to turn the site into an unrivalled, international success.

Self-Guided Audio Tours

Available from the Mill Shop, our one and a half hour extended tour of the mills and Cromford Village traces the footsteps of hundreds of Mill workers and explores 18th century village life.

Visitor Centre

Find out more about our Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and its global cotton connections.



Looking for something to do in the school holidays?



Don't miss our family-friendly activities, pond-dipping and special trails during the Derbyshire school holidays. Travel back in time with a Time Travellers' Tour and enjoy a game-based adventure around the mill. See the website for more information and how to book.

For up-to-date information, please visit cromformills.org.uk.

A DERBYSHIRE DAY OUT DISCOUNT

Explore Derbyshire and get more for your money.

Present a valid 2022 ticket from any participating attractions and receive a discount during your visit.*



BAKEWELL

£1 OFF ADULT TICKETS (Normally £6)



WIRKSWORTH

£1 OFF ADULT TICKETS (Normally £5)



MATLOCK BATH

£1 OFF ADULT TICKETS OR £3 OFF FAMILY TICKETS (2 adults & 3 children)

Valid for the Museum, the Mine or both.



AMBERGATE

£2 OFF ALL ADMISSION TICKETS



CROMFORD

10% OFF GUIDED AND AUDIO TOURS

Mill entry is free, passes are needed for the Arkwright Experience, Tours, and the Visitor Centre.



CRICH

DISCOUNTED ENTRY PRICES

Adults £17, Senior £15.50, Family £41 (2 adults & 3 children)

Discounted tickets are valid only for purchase date.



BELPER

£1 OFF THE NORMAL TICKET PRICES



DERBY

2 FOR 1 ON HOT DRINKS IN THE COFFEE HOUSE

at Derby Museum & Art Gallery



*One discount per transaction may be used against reciprocal tickets. Offers cannot be combined.

Visit individual attractions website for further details.



What's On

Looking for a great day out?

Whether you're a local, new to Cromford, or just visiting, we've got a packed calendar of events for everyone this year!

Artisan Markets 10 - 4pm

Third Sunday of every month

20 March	19 June	18 Sept
17 April	17 July	16 Oct
15 May	21 August	20 Nov

Antiques Fairs & Bazaars 10 - 4pm

First Sunday of every month

06 March	Antiques Fair	03 April	The Bazaar
01 May	Antiques Fair	05 June	The Bazaar
03 July	Antiques Fair	07 August	The Bazaar
04 Sept	Antiques Fair	02 October	The Bazaar
06 Nov	Antiques Fair		

Wedding Fair

Sunday 10 April

Planning a wedding or looking for inspiration? An exciting **new event** and a must for your diary! To find out what we have in store, check our website.



Cromford Mills' Dog Show

Sunday 24 April 10 - 4pm



Derbyshire Angling Fair 2022

From Saturday 30 - Sunday 31 July



Georgian Re-enactment

Saturday 28 - Sunday 29 May
Saturday 10 - Sunday 11 Sept



Cromford Millennium – Sci Fi Display

Sunday 14 August



Theatre at the Mill

[Buy tickets online](#)

14 June	Three Inch Fools - Gunpowder Plot
23 July	Handlebards - Twelfth Night
29 July	Notice this Notice - Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
05 Aug	Wild Geese Theatre Company - Boudica & The Green Knight



Adventure Weekend

Saturday 27 - Monday 29 August



STEREO MC's

[Buy tickets online](#)



1771 FESTIVAL

Friday 08 - Sunday 10 July

Derbyshire's newest music festival, **1771**, brings together an exciting line up with headlines including the **Stereo MC's** and **Mark Radcliffe's UNE**.

See website for full line-up.

[Visit the website for further event details.](#)

Stories from the past ...

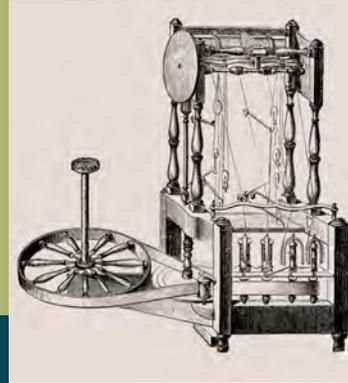
#DYK

Before Arkwright founded his mills, he was a barber and a wig maker.

During this time he developed a waterproof dye which became famous and was later used in his mills.



#DYK



Arkwright patented the water frame in 1769 & a carding machine in 1775.

These inventions made mass manufacturing possible.

FACT

Rumour has it... Margaret Biggens, Arkwright's second wife, was so irritated by his obsession with spinning machines, she once destroyed all his development models hoping to force him back to working with hair.

#DYK

He amassed a fortune of over £100 million in today's money.

By 1775 Arkwright had interests in over a hundred cotton mills through leasing, shares and financing.



FACT

Arkwright employed more than 600 people at Cromford Mills, many of whom relocated to the Cromford area and lived in houses built by Arkwright.



FACT

Arkwright built a community in Cromford. Between the 1770s and 1790s, the Greyhound Public House, market place and many houses including North Street were commissioned to support his workers.

#DYK



Arkwright threw a village party every September!

During the annual candle lighting festival, workers paraded from the village to the mills, eating buns and drinking ale.

FACT

Growing their own!
Mill workers were provided with allotments and space for keeping pigs which can still be seen behind the houses on North Street.

(Visit the grade II listed pig sty located next to the Bear Pit).

FACT

Arkwright employed more than 600 people at Cromford Mills, many of whom relocated to the Cromford area and lived in houses built by Arkwright.

Getting Involved



As a Member

Enjoy free car parking, exclusive events and special offers.

Joining the Arkwright Society is a fantastic way to support local heritage and community. Now in its 51st year, our members underpin the restoration and protection of Cromford Mills, as well as our wider estates, for future generations.



As a Volunteer

Enjoy special discounts, social events, free parking and more.

Spend time in a fantastic setting, meet new people and learn more about the history of the mills. We have a wide variety of roles available across our sites. Check our website for more details.