

Trail Guide:



A half to full day's drive around the attractive area surrounding Matlock Bath.

The 'Fancy That' Factor

See a stationary steam pumping engine built in 1849

Visit the village in which Florence Nightingale spent much of her childhood

Enjoy spectacular views from the 'Crich Stand' a memorial tower dedicated to the fallen of World War I and later wars

Step back in time at the Crich Tramway Museum

Turn left out of the Tourist Information Centre, look out for the **Masson Mills Shopping Centre** on the left, perfect for shopaholics! It has four floors of the historic 1783 historic mill, packed full of everything from furniture to clothes and has a nice tea shop/restaurant on the ground floor. It also contains a superb and comprehensive Museum collection of working mill machinery and textile history. Discover what it was like to work in the cotton spinning industry and look out for Sir Richard Arkwright's ghost which is said to still walk the wooden floors of the old mill! He lived in Wirksworth for some time, which you will visit later on this trail.

At the traffic lights as you are turning left, you will see signs for the **Leawood Pumphouse**, which is a stationary steam pumping engine, built in 1849. It is spectacular to visit when it is 'in steam', so for further

information please call 01629 823204. You can also stop and visit the Cromford Mill or Canal.

As you continue you will reach Lea Bridge and John Smedley's Mill. Next you will come to **Holloway**, a picturesque village which is where Florence Nightingale spent much of her childhood. She lived in Lea Hurst a charming 17th century gabled house. She also returned to Holloway after serving as a nurse in the Crimean war.

As you come into **Crich** you will see **Crich Tramway Village Museum** on the left hand side, so do stop here and take the opportunity to step back in time! It is a reconstruction of a delightful village with cobbled streets, old fashioned buildings with teashops and a restaurant. There is also a museum and workshop. For more information and opening times please call 01773 854321.

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Matlock Bath Trail No. 23

Nostalgia, Nurse Nightingale and a Nicety of Villages

Just round from the Tramway Museum is the **Memorial Tower or 'Crich Stand'**, built on the site of a signal beacon in 1923 and dedicated to the fallen of World War I, and subsequent wars. It is well worth a visit as the views are breathtaking. The memorial is open daily and there is a small charge for entry to the car park and tower.

Heading down to **Crich Centre** you will come to a junction of the **B5035**. Turn **right** following signs to Wirksworth, you will then see signs to Fritchley.

Both Crich and Fritchley may look quite familiar to you because they were both used in the filming of the popular television series Peak Practice.

After a brief stint on the **A6** coming into Belper it is back to the countryside, turning right onto the **A517** until you come to a right turn taking you on to the **B5023**. You will come to the village of **Idridgehay**, which was once a farming community. Now most of its farms have been converted into delightful country houses. The village church is the Church of St James, dating back to 1845 and the Black Swan public house, which dates back to 1840.

Further along the **B5023** you come to **Wirksworth**, a charming town, with intriguing alleyways and cobbled courtyards. It was once the most important lead mining centre in the country, going back to Roman times. It is a town packed full of history, so if you have time stop and explore the area for yourself. The Moot Hall contains the ancient 'Brazen Dish' by which the measures of ore in the low peak are regulated, and has the following inscription: "*This dishe was made the iiij day of October the iiij yere of the Reigne of Kyng Henry the VIII (1512) before George Erle of Shrowesbury Steward of Kyng . . .*"

Perhaps, the most impressive building in the town is the church of St Mary's. It dates back to the 13th century and is an amazing 152ft long. Inside the church is a Saxon coffin lid which dates back to around 800 AD and makes it one of the earliest Christian monuments in the Peak District. The aunt of writer George Elliot, (Mary Ann Evans) is buried there.

Well-dressing takes place in the town every spring Bank Holiday, an unbroken tradition since 1827 when water was first piped around the town.

There are some delightful, quaint tearooms that really make you feel like you have gone back in time, with china tea cups and saucers and intriguing chatter from the locals. A town walk leaflet is available from Matlock Bath Tourist Information Centre. **The Heritage Centre** is situated close to the Market Place; it is full of useful information and has a museum dedicated to the history of the town. For more information and opening times, please call 01629 825225.

On leaving Wirksworth you will pass the **National Stone Centre**, which is built on the site of a disused quarry and tells the 'Story of the Stone'. For more information please call 01629 824833. You will also see the **Steeple Grange Light Railway**, call 01246 205542 for more information.

Finally you will end up back in **Matlock Bath**, where your journey ends.

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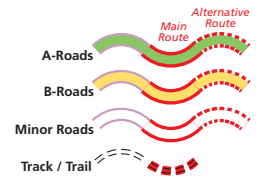
Matlock Bath Trail No. 23

Nostalgia, Nurse Nightingale and a Nicety of Villages



28.8 km
18 miles

Key



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