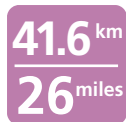


Trail Guide:



The 'Wow' Factor

Is it a bird, is it a plane . . . no it's a UFO! Visit Bonsall, a village famous for its reported UFO sightings
Drive through a ford to visit the Tissington Estate - picture perfect!
Visit Ashbourne a historic market town which was a Royal Borough before the Domesday book
Learn about the 'Story of the Stone' at the National Stone Centre

Turn left out of Matlock Bath Tourist Information Centre and look out for the Masson Mills Shopping Centre on the left side of the road, perfect for shopaholics! Four floors in Sir Richard Arkwright's historic 1783 Mill are packed full of everything from furniture to clothes, with 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's ghost which is said to still walk the wooden floors of the old mill!

At the traffic lights **turn right** and then take an **immediate right**, sign posted to Newhaven and Via Gallia the ancient Roman Road. Once you have passed English Stone Quarry on the left, look out for a **right** turn to **Bonsall**.

Head up a delightful winding road to the village of **Bonsall**, neatly nestled in the hillside. It is very picturesque, with bending lanes and alleyways. The church of St James is high above the village and commands wonderful views. It was built in the 13th century and throughout the centuries has had many renovations. The village has two public houses, one of them the Kings Head, which dates back to 1677. You may notice that there are several field barns in the surrounding area but not many farmhouses! This is because, 150 years ago some local farmers did not live on their farms but instead lived in Bonsall and walked to the farm everyday.

Whilst you are in Bonsall, keep your eyes peeled for strange objects hovering in the sky! Believe it or not over the past 30 years there have been well over 100 UFO reported sightings, the most famous being by a

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.

local lady who was able to make a recording with her video camera which lasted for 6 and a half minutes. The UFO phenomenon attracts visitors from all over the world to learn more.

Leaving Bonsall you follow a fairly straight but narrow road through the beautiful countryside, you will pass through the village of Brightgate, keep going until you come to the **B5056, turn left** onto the **B5056** and continue until you come to the crossroads at Grangemill, the Hollybush Inn is on the right, go straight ahead passing quarries at Longcliffe.

Next you need to look out for a **right hand turn** sign posted to the village of **Tissington**. Ahead of you, you will see a ford. Don't be afraid to cross it - it is a great experience. (If you find the water level too high or you do not wish to cross the ford continue down the B5056 and turn right onto the A515 after a mile you will come to the entrance of the **Tissington Estate** on the right). This is the east entrance to the Tissington Estate, which is one of the most picture perfect villages you will have ever seen. It dates back to 1086 when it was mentioned in the Domesday book but some people believe it could go back earlier than that, as Bronze Age, Anglo-Saxon and Celtic remains have all been discovered over the years. The Estate has been owned by the Fitzherbert family for over 400 years and is still occupied by members of the same family. The Hall is only open to the public on special occasions or by prior arrangement. There is a delightful tearoom in the village in the old school, overlooking the duck pond. Tissington church dates back to Norman times and still has much of its Norman décor and several monuments to the Fitzherbert family.

For five centuries 6 wells have been dressed in the village, so look out for the well-dressings which take place for 7 days from Ascension Day every year.

The 'Tissington Trail' on the track of the old Ashbourne to Buxton railway starts from the village and a leaflet is available from Matlock Bath Tourist Information Centre.

Coming out of the estate you join the **A515** heading towards **Ashbourne**, which is a historic market town, granted its charter in 1257. It still has a market today, in the original market place, which runs on Thursdays and Saturdays each week. St Oswalds Church is a striking landmark, with its 212ft spire. Inside the

church are several medieval memorials to local families and perhaps the most poignant is that of Penelope Boothby a five year old girl who died in 1791, with a very lifelike marble statue of her and a loving inscription from her saddened parents.

Ashbourne is perhaps most famous for its celebrated Shrovetide Football Game – held on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday every year. This is an ancient tradition involving the whole town, which continues despite many attempts to stop it – and a separate leaflet in this series explains its history and contains a trail – **Number 25**.

Heading out of Ashbourne on the **B5035** you will come to **Kniveton**, a quaint village with a charming church. The church of St Michael dates back to the 13th century and on its chancel windows, it depicts the arms of the Kniveton family. In the churchyard is an ancient yew tree, believed to have been used by archers to sharpen their arrows, as grooves still exist in its bark.

Further along the road you will see a large reservoir on the right hand side, this is **Carsington Water**, so if you stop here, go straight to the Visitor Centre to find out about the reservoir, its history and all the activities and trails on offer. There are also delicious food and enticing craft and specialist shops, a licensed restaurant and one of the best children's adventure playgrounds ever, for all abilities. And try spinning the one tonne "Kugel Stone" with one hand!

The waterscape is delightful, there are open air performances throughout the year and all generations can enjoy what's on offer. For further information and opening times, please call 01629 540696 or see **Trail 27** of this set for an exciting adventure around the reservoir.

Next 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 lead measures of ore in the low peak are regulated, and has the following inscription: "*This dishe was made the iiii day of October the iiii 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 Marys. 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.

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.

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

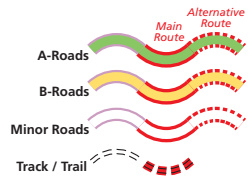
Matlock Bath Trail No. 24

Flora, Fauna and Flying Saucers!



41.6 km
26 miles

Key



Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Derbyshire Dales District Council. OS Licence No. LA 100019785 2006.



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

