Augustus W N Pugin is regarded as one of the greatest architects of the nineteenth century. Although famous for his work at the Palace of Westminster in London, many believe his finest work is found here in Staffordshire.

Begin your tour walking from the Pugin Heritage Centre (Lulworth House), Cheadle to:

**1. ST GILES’ CATHOLIC CHURCH, CHEADLE**

“Cheadle, perfect Chadele, my consolation in all my afflictions.”

A W N Pugin.

St Giles’ Church is affectionately known as ‘Pugin’s Gem’.

Working with almost unlimited funds, Pugin was commissioned in 1840 by John Talbot, the 16th Earl of Shrewsbury, to create a church that “would have no rival.” St Giles’ epitomises Pugin’s work in its grandest form with a richly decorated interior and is one of the finest examples of Victorian Gothic architecture in the country. St Giles’ is open daily. On entering the church, put a £1 in the meter to light up this church and enjoy its beauty in all its magnificence.

www.stgilescatholicchurch.co.uk

**2. COTTON COLLEGE, NEAR OAKAMOOR**

With the original building dating back to 1630, The Earl of Shrewsbury bought Cotton Hall in 1843 and the following year, Pugin was commissioned to make alterations. Following the Earl’s death, large debts had accumulated and the building was sold. Pugin’s son, Edward Welby, was involved in later alterations.

Pugin also designed St Wilfred’s Church adjoining the college (built 1846-8), which remains today much as he planned it.

The building is now closed and in private ownership but can be easily viewed from the roadside or see this beautiful building nesting in the valley by the following Woods & Ways countryside walk downloaded from: www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

**3. ALTON TOWERS, ALTON**

Although known today as the UK’s favourite theme park, Alton Towers has had a rich and varied history. Originally home to the Earls of Shrewsbury, Pugin’s influence was increasingly felt when the Castle Chapel roof is embellished with sparkling gilded tiles.

In early 1847 on the grounds of the ruined fortress. Sadly, Pugin died before its completion and the castle was never finished in its original form. It is believed that his son Edward Welby carried on after his father’s death.

The Castle Chapel roof is embellished with sparkling gilded tiles.

Adjoining the Castle is a group of Pugin buildings: chapel, hospital and school.

www.altoncastles.co.uk

Enjoy spectacular views across the Churnet Valley and see the outside of the Castle. Please note the Castle is now a Catholic Retreat and closed to visitors. It does have an open day each year. For further information, please see website or contact Alton Castle.

Tel: 01538 703224

If time allows, there are many old stone cottages and an ancient parish church in the village of Alton.

**4. ST MARY’S CHURCH, UTTOXETER**

St Mary’s was one of Pugin’s earliest designs. From working on this church, he would learn a lot that would then influence his later work. Consecrated in 1839 it was built with money donated by the 16th Earl of Shrewsbury.

The exterior was extremely plain and inside the roof darkly stained. The focus of the church was enrichment in richness by three windows.

For more information contact: Leek Tourist Information Centre, 1 Market Place, Leek, Staffordshire ST13 1HH

Tel: 01538 483741

Email: tourism@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk

Web: www.enjoystaffordshire.com

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Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Thomas Eivers, Mark Titterton.
Follow the Pugin Trail starting from 1 at St Giles’ and ending at 5 in Uttoxeter. The trail is approximately 20 miles; by car allow at least one hour, plus time to enjoy the sites and Staffordshire walk. By bus you can comfortably do the entire route with stops in a day.