

GUIDED WALKS AROUND CROMFORD

Walk One.

Duration 2 - 3 hrs

This circular walk around the bottom end of the village, includes stops at: the Allen Hill lead mine; Cromford Mill and the canal wharf; the site of the original village; the ford which was once used by travellers to cross the River Derwent before the building of the bridge; the bridge and its chapel. From the bridge can also be seen the slab of stone that was once used to measure the level of the Derwent to make sure the Lea wood pumping engine was not lifting too much water into the canal and by doing so starving the mills at Belper of the water supply, and also, the stone plaque commemorating the leap of Benjamin Heywood in 1697, which is built into the bridge wall.

A visit will be made to St Mary's church, which was built on the site of a former lead smelter. The return route is via church walk; a path made by Arkwright to take his visitors in to Cromford without them seeing how he made his money, taking a look at Willersley Castle on the way. Crossing the A6 trunk the walk continues through Scarthin Nook passing Cromford Dam onto Water Lane, to the site of the former corn mill, this was later used by the Cheadle Brass works to process calamine which was used in the brass making process. Walking back towards Cromford passing a mill now occupied by Home Products complete with its overshot water wheel. Although it no longer drives any machinery, the mill was at one time used to grind barytes. One last stop will be made on the corner of Cromford Dam to site where water from the Cromford Sough enters the dam from here a short walk leads us back to the starting point.

Walk Two.

Duration 3 - 4 hrs

This circular walk will go out of the village via Water Lane and Alabaster Lane up to the Rose End Meadows, skirting around the edge of Dene quarry. From where there is good vantage points of the surrounding area. The path leads to the site of the Dove Gang mines and a stop will be made to explain their history.

By following the path the Brandrix mine is reached and after a short distance it is necessary to cross the busy Cromford to Wirksworth road passing the site of the former Steeple Grange smelt mill along the way. Black Rocks is the next stopping point to take a look at the Cromford & High Peak railway, which one ran from Cromford Wharf to the Peak Forest canal at Whaley Bridge. Bole Hill was originally where lead was smelted (a bole being an early type of lead furnace). The next stopping point is the site of Cromford Moor Mine, also known as Godbehere (pronounced Godber) the shaft here is 400 feet deep. By following a series of paths a descent will be made back to Cromford.

Once back in the village a stop will be made on North Street. These houses were built by Richard Arkwright to house some of his mill workers. A short walk from here leads us past the former pig sty's to the Bear Pit which is the outfall of Cromford Sough, started in the mid 1600's it drained the mines on Cromford Moor, the water coming from sough was later used by Arkwright to power his mills. The next point of interest is the former lock up which is located just around the corner from the Bear Pit and a stop will be made here to explain its history. Continuing along the alley way eventually emerges out onto Cromford Hill and back to the starting point.

Please Note: The two walks can be merged together to make a full days walk if need be, with a lunch stop at the Greyhound along the way.

