

Derbyshire and the Peak District

Stunning backdrop for *Pride And Prejudice*

Enjoy dramatic landscapes, charming market towns and beautiful stately homes. You could even imagine you're meeting Mr Darcy!



The Peak District

Jane Austen made Derbyshire the home of the smouldering hero of her most famous novel *Pride And Prejudice*.

Now Mr Darcy – much lusted after following Colin Firth's brooding TV portrayal – is back this autumn in a new movie version. Matthew MacFadyen will play him, opposite Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Bennet.

Many scenes have been shot in Derbyshire, a county of vast stately homes,

castles and country houses graced with priceless works of art and ornate gardens.

There are lush parklands, woods and dales – and the breathtaking Peak District National Park with its rolling farmland, bluebells, windswept moors and fascinating limestone caves.

The region has formed

the backdrop to numerous movies and TV dramas, including *Women In Love*, *Moll Flanders* and ITV's *Peak Practice*.

Aside from the big cities of Derby, home to Royal Crown Derby porcelain, and Chesterfield, known for its crooked church spire, there are charming

smaller market towns where cafés and restaurants serve the delicious food of the region.

Get there this summer – before all those film fans.

Where is it?

The county of Derbyshire is at the heart of England. Part of the National Forest falls within its boundaries in the south and in the north you'll enter the popular Peak District National Park, which boasts 500 square miles of captivating and dramatic landscape.

Best sightseeing

● Chatsworth, the seat of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, is believed by some to have been Jane Austen's inspiration for Pemberley, Mr Darcy's fictional stately home.

And in the new *Pride And Prejudice* movie, its

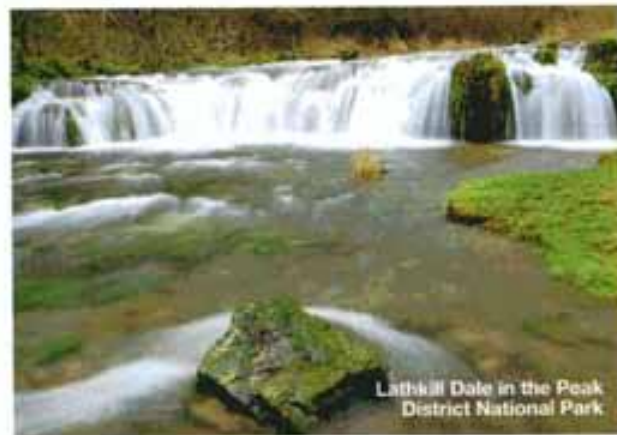
sculpture gallery, sweeping parkland and impressive exterior are beautifully shot to represent Pemberley in all its glory.

Spend all day at Chatsworth where splendid rooms are the setting for prestigious works of art and the gardens are home to some major pieces of British 20th-century sculpture as well as water features and follies.

Shop for souvenirs in the stables courtyard, then devour poached salmon in the restaurant next to the gardens.

● Haddon Hall, the home of Lord Edward Manners, is a medieval manor house that has been virtually unchanged since Tudor times. It has oak floors and panelled galleries with roaring log fires.

The beautiful banqueting hall, which has a tapestry





Chatsworth house

that belonged to King Henry VIII, became the local tavern for the *Pride And Prejudice* movie. Absorb the history, then take a cream tea in the old stable block restaurant.

● Bakewell is a pretty market town famous for its sweet pudding, reputedly first made by accident around 1860 when the cook put the egg mixture for a strawberry tart on top of the jam instead of in the pastry.

Tour the Old Original Bakewell Pudding Shop, a 17th-century cottage, then

try the delicious pudding, which is still made by hand from the old recipe. Locals hate you confusing it with Bakewell tart – the pudding has a lighter, puff pastry case and there's no flour in the filling.

● Buxton is a former spa town perched high in the Peak District. The Victorians built thermal baths here. See the Pump Room and St Ann's Well, a spring said to have healing powers.

The town is also famous for its opera house, where you can sip pre-show drinks outside in the Victorian Pavilion Gardens on the banks of the River Wye.

● Castleton village has holes and caverns that burrow deep underground and are ripe for exploring.

Peak Cavern is a spectacular cave in a limestone gorge with 280ft high vertical cliffs, while Blue John Cavern is where the beautiful ornamental Blue John stone is mined.

Take a boat along an underground canal to see

Speedwell Cavern.

Top nosh

Pack a picnic or buy local bread, meats and cheeses from the Chatsworth Farm Shop, about a mile and a half away from the stately home. Then eat among the free-range chickens in the gorgeous grounds at Chatsworth.

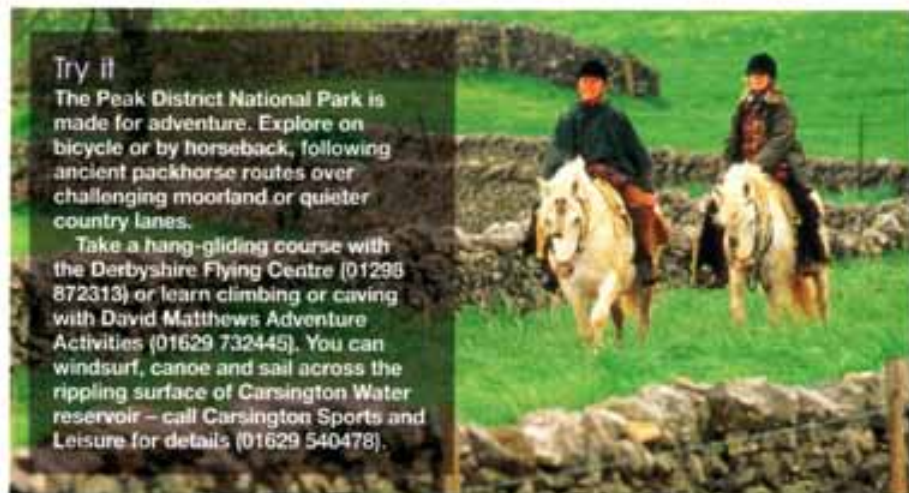
In the evening enjoy fillet of beef,

trout, duck breast or cannon of lamb followed by chocolate fondant or a trio of brûlées at The Peacock at Rowsley, named Restaurant of the Year in the 2004 Derbyshire Food and Drinks Awards.

Three courses will cost around £35-£40 for two people without wine (01629 733518).

Kids' stuff

Children will love the cows and pot-bellied pigs at the Chatsworth farmyard and



Try it

The Peak District National Park is made for adventure. Explore on bicycle or by horseback, following ancient packhorse routes over challenging moorland or quieter country lanes.

Take a hang-gliding course with the Derbyshire Flying Centre (01298 872313) or learn climbing or caving with David Matthews Adventure Activities (01629 732445). You can windsurf, canoe and sail across the rippling surface of Carsington Water reservoir – call Carsington Sports and Leisure for details (01629 540478).

enjoy swinging and climbing in the adventure playground. Admission is £4.25 for adults and children (under-threes get in free).

Miles of former railway lines in the Peak District have been converted into safe, traffic-free cycling routes that are suitable for children. Call Peak Cycle Hire (01298 84493).

Don't go home without...

Some of the delicious local foods, such as damson jam, game pie, Buxton mineral water, Bakewell pudding, Hartington Stilton, Derbyshire oatcakes, hot-smoked salmon and trout, mead and cherry wine.

The Original Farmers' Market Shop in Bakewell is good, as is Jaquest Specialist Foods in Bolsover.

The place to shop for Blue John stone ornaments, jewellery and trinkets is Castleton.

Your holiday

Take a break at The Peacock at Rowsley, where Matthew MacFadyen and Keira Knightley stayed while filming *Pride And Prejudice*. A double room for two costs from £130 (per room) including breakfast. Call 01629 733518.

Or Hornbeam House at Hasland (three miles from the M1) has B&B starting at £27.50 per person. A splendid three-course meal cooked just for you by arrangement costs from £22.50, including chocolates and coffee.



The famous Bakewell pudding



Bakewell

Five things to know

1 Another location in the upcoming *Pride And Prejudice* film is Stagnage Edge, the largest and most impressive of the Peak District's gritstone edges.

Rising from the moors north of the lovely village of Hathersage, in the Hope Valley, Stagnage Edge stretches for four miles. It's bracing walking and climbing territory.

2 In Jane Austen's *Pride And Prejudice* it's written: 'There is not a finer county in England than Derbyshire.'

3 Shopping is brilliant because of the many factory outlets – there are around 30 on the Amber Valley's easy-to-follow factory shopping trail. The stores sell goods ranging from designer lingerie to Denby pottery. Ripley Tourist Information Centre has a leaflet (01773 841488).

4 Buxton Saturday Market is a bustling array of stalls spread across the pavements, selling sweaters, rugs, fruit and wild mushrooms.

5 For more info contact the Chesterfield Tourist Information Centre (01246 345777). For details of the Peak District call the Bakewell Tourist Information Centre (01629 813227).