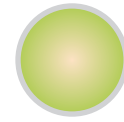


Trail Guide:



Fountains, fishponds, springs and cascades. . . water, water everywhere.

The walk itself is about one hour but visiting the Heights of Abraham and the various museums will make it last about a half day.

Easy although there are some steep sections up to the Temple Hotel, the Heights of Abraham allow the option of a cable car trip.

Lovers Walks have some high drops.

The 'Fancy That' Factor

The Heights are named after a famous battle on the Heights of Abraham, Quebec, Canada. It was the last major battle between the French and British. Guess who won?

In 1698 a small establishment called "The Matlock Bath" was opened using the thermal waters that spring from the rocks 2000 ft below as a remedy for the aches and pains of the times, and thus was born the name of the village. This first spring supplied what became the Old Bath Hotel, later the Royal.

The "New Bath" was opened in 1745 and the "Fountain Bath" opened in 1786. As the "cure" became more popular the town expanded rapidly and many shops, hotels and places of entertainment were built. The combination of the setting in the picturesque

gorge and its constant 20°C mineral waters made it a very fashionable spa resort on a par with Buxton, Tunbridge and other resorts of the period. Princess Victoria visited as a teenager, gaining the village 'royal' title, John Ruskin loved it and Byron too. The coming of the railway in 1849 drew day trippers from the mill towns and led to even more spas and amenities. The place has often been affectionately referred to as 'Little Switzerland'. The coming of the railway in 1849 brought many thousands of visitors adding the title of 'Little Blackpool' to its list of aliases!

Trail Key:



Walking



Car



Bus



Cycling



Scenic



Historic



Time



Distance

Difficulty Rating for walks:



Easy



Moderate



Strenuous

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

On this trail which starts from the Tourist Information Centre in the Pavilion, the site of the stables of the Old Bath, you will see:

1. **The Derwent Gardens** – at both the start and finish of the trail. These wonderful gardens are full of pools, fountains and grottos all fed naturally by the warm spring water. The pools therefore never freeze and the goldfish thrive in them. The water comes from the springs used originally by the very first bath house – the 1698 Old Bath - and the Old Bath Hotel.
2. **The Pavilion.** This was built in 1905 by a team of German contractors and was given a German name – The Kursaal – which literally means the ‘cure room’. There were many such fashionable German spa towns of the time. After the outbreak of World War I the name was changed to “The Pavilion”. Now it houses the Mining Museum, which is well worth a visit, and the Tourist Information Centre where you will find one of the original drinking fountains from the pump room is preserved.
3. **The Well and Fishpond.** This small pond is again fed by a thermal spring and supports the most enormous carpe! It was originally where the horses and carriages from the Old Bath Hotel were washed.
4. **Royal Well Fountain.** This delightful pond, with its cascades and fountain, is fed from the Royal well. In cold weather it steams and you can feel how warm the water is by running your hands through it.
5. **The Temple Road Car Park.** This was the site of the first purpose built spa hotel – the Old Bath Hotel. It was rebuilt in 1884 as the Royal Hotel but was severely damaged by fire in 1929 and eventually demolished. Some of the brickwork and walls still form part of the car park.
6. **The Royal Pavilion.** From the car park look up to what is now “Gulliver’s Kingdom”. This was the site of the very grand Royal Pavilion built in 1884, at the height of the town’s popularity, but demolished in the 1960’s. Pictures of this hotel and the Royal Hotel in their heyday can be seen in the Matlock Bath Aquarium exhibition.
7. **The Royal Well and Grotto.** This is the original spring first used in 1698 by the Wolley family. They built a lead-lined bath here where 8 -10 people could both bathe in and drink the waters.
8. **The Temple Hotel.** This has been known by a variety of names, first Solomon’s Temple and then the Temple Coffee House. It was extended to its present size in 1773 and in the garden is a small thermal spring.
9. **Matlock Bath Aquarium or Fountain Baths.** This building of 1786 was the third Spa Hotel to be opened here. The once magnificent glass-roofed swimming pool is now an open-air fish pond. The spring here has an output of over 2 million litres a day at a constant temperature of 20°C. It now contains an aquarium and various exhibits about the village’s history. You also have the chance to see the last petrifying well, a once common type of attraction in the village. People would pay a penny to see artefact turned to stone by the rich mineral waters. Should you wish, the trip can now be extended to see Jacob’s Well in the Great Rutland Cavern on the 60 acres of the Heights of Abraham. Walk further up North Parade and turn left up Home Road or if you prefer to walk up or for the cable car, continue 70 metres past the railway station entrance and turn right over the footbridge to reach the cable car base station. The views from the top are magnificent and there are various exhibitions and 2 show caves to see. Be warned though that the walk down to the Rutland Cavern (and more importantly back up) is very steep. Despite this the trip is well worth it and you will discover much about the early days of the area and its lead mining heritage as well as enjoy wonderful views over the Derwent Valley. Otherwise, after the Aquarium cross over Jubilee Bridge and walk along the Lovers Walks – which are high with steep drops in places, to enjoy the views over the river and the town. Cross back over the New Bridge, not far from Willersley Castle, built by Sir Richard Arkwright of Cromford fame, and loop round the southern end of Derwent Gardens. Not far from here is
10. **The New Bath Hotel.** The only hotel left where you can still take a mineral bath, in their plunge pool fed by the mineral spring. Not quite on the route but if you want to pamper yourself come back and spend a few days here!

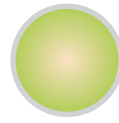
Matlock Bath Trail No. 21

Spas, Springs and Cascades

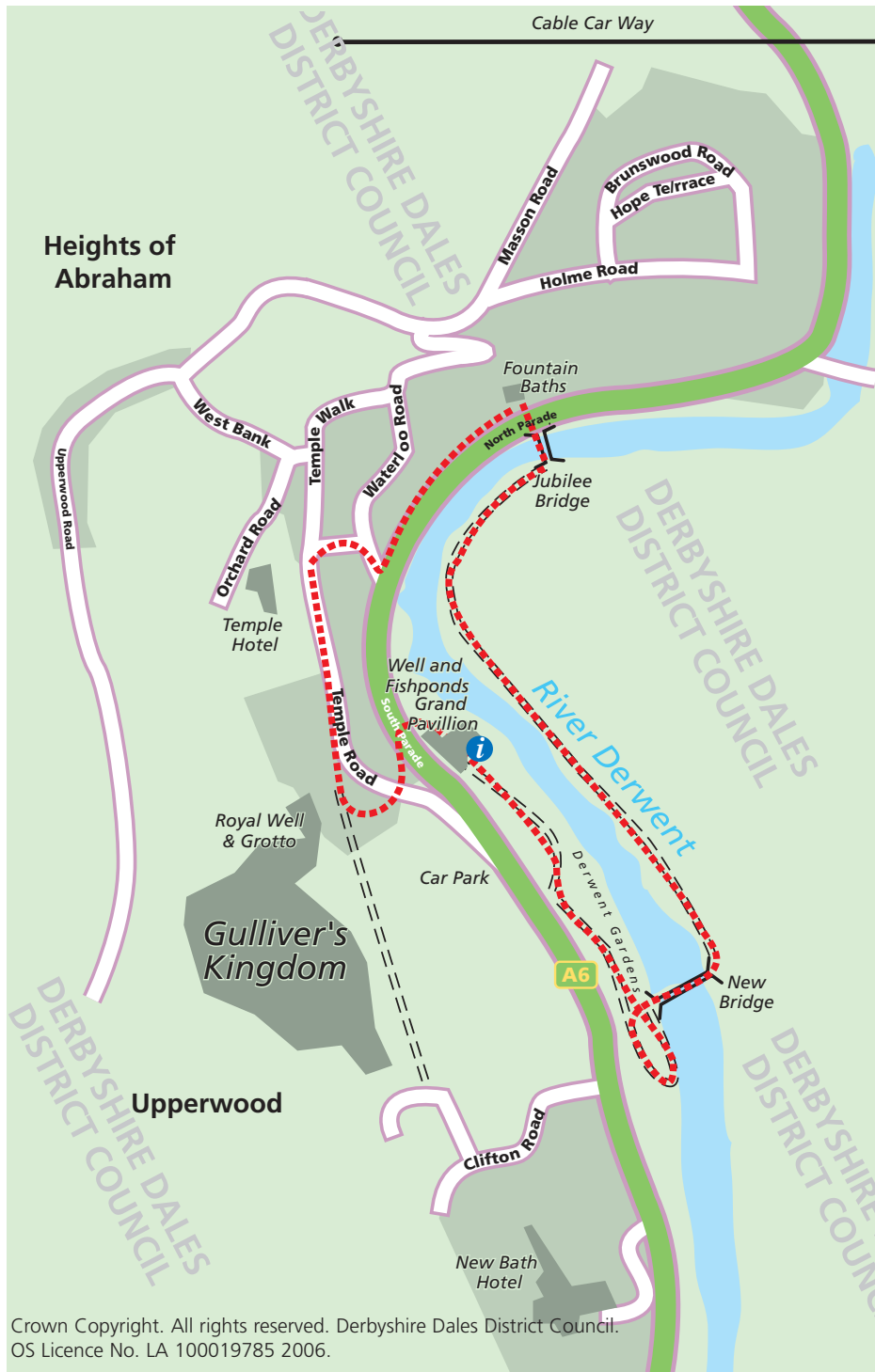
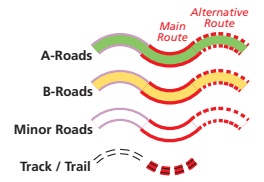


2 km
1 miles

1-6hr



Key



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