Group Travel and Coach Driver Information Pack 2015

www.visitbuxton.co.uk
Welcome to Buxton – set in the heart of the Peak District approached through stunning scenery within an hour’s drive of Manchester, Derby, Stoke-on-Trent and Sheffield.

Buxton’s rich history features Romans, royal prisoners and outlaws, alongside a vibrant local arts and music scene, literary festivals and the much loved ‘theatre in the hills”, The Dome - built to house the Duke of Devonshire’s horses, and the Pavilion Gardens built in Victorian times and now restored to its former glory.

Pavilion Gardens

Pavilion Gardens is a wonderful, historic venue situated in the heart of Buxton. Nestled within 23 acres of beautiful gardens, it is a natural hub for the many visitors to the town with a Cafe, Coffee Bar, Conservatory and various conference and meeting rooms. The bright and spacious Gift Boutique is home to the Buxton Tourist Information Centre and the Gallery in the Gardens showcases the work of over 40 local artists.

The Octagon, accommodating up to 1200 for a variety of different events can ensure that the Pavilion Gardens can cater for almost any request. Each year Pavilion Gardens play host to a variety of events, weddings, parties, meetings, seminars, performances, exhibitions and more. The friendly staff enjoy nothing more than giving customers a professional and unforgettable experience. Dependent upon your requirements, they are able to offer a range of catering and refreshment options, as well as technical equipment and assistance. www.paviliongardens.co.uk.

The Crescent

Buxton Crescent, one of the nation’s most important buildings, was created by the Fifth Duke of Devonshire with John Carr of York, one of the leading architects of the 18th century to challenge Bath as a thermal water spa resort. Linked to the Natural Baths, the building with ingenuity included two hotels, one of which accommodated a majestic ballroom and between them six lodging houses. Over 200 years ago, the Duke and his architect’s vision foresaw today’s international plethora of spa hotels but Buxton has a special advantage - we are blessed with Grade 1 Georgian Architecture and Natural Thermal Water.
Buxton Opera House

An Edwardian building recently restored to its former glory. The theatre plays an important part in the town's activities in town – beyond its varied programme of events in the theatre there are many festivals throughout the year, covering opera, literature, puppets, rock, pop and Gilbert & Sullivan. The Festival Fringe in Buxton is the largest in England and second only to the Edinburgh Fringe in the UK, many other venues join in during the festivals already adding to the town's lively, fun-filled atmosphere.

The Pavilion Arts Centre and Studio Theatre have added two new auditoriums for a growing cultural programme, discover more at www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk

The Dome

The Devonshire Dome dominates the Buxton skyline and a visit inside is breathtaking. It was constructed in 1880 and the building became fully utilised as the Devonshire Royal Hospital. It sits atop a Georgian building (1789), designed as stabling by John Carr for the 5th Duke of Devonshire to complement the magnificent Crescent. In 2001 the University of Derby acquired the hospital building and the transition from ‘Horses to Courses’ was complete. Tours are available as part of www.discoverbuxton.co.uk heritage experiences however members of the public are free to explore all the Dome has to offer from fine dining restaurant, relaxed café to contemporary spa and hair and beauty salons. A truly unique venue, the Devonshire Dome is licensed for civil weddings and hosts some of the country’s premier events and banquets.
For more information visit www.devonshiredome.co.uk

Poole’s Cavern and Grin Low Country Park

Take a journey beneath the earth with expert guides, explore the vast limestone caverns and see how crystal stalactites have lined the chambers over millions of years. Stroll through beautiful woodland trails to a panoramic Peak District hilltop viewpoint. www.poolescavern.co.uk

Buxton Museum and Art Gallery

Visit Buxton Museum and Art Gallery to discover the geology, archaeology and history of the Peak District in our Wonders of the Peak time tunnel. There's always something new to see in the changing programme of exhibitions and new things to experience in the events and workshops.
For more information www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/buxton_museum
**Go Ape**

Within walking distance of the historic spa town of Buxton, in the beautiful Grin Low Country Park. Visit Go Ape and trek through the treetops via rope bridges. Tarzan swings and zip slides up to 35 feet above the forest floor.

www.goape.co.uk/days-out-in/derbyshire/buxton/the-course

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**St Anne’s Well**

Buxton Water is one of the purest natural mineral waters in Europe and you can fill your own bottles from the permanent flow of at St Anne’s Well in front of the Crescent.

Don’t miss the well dressed in early July, a stunning sight not to be missed. The age old custom of well dressing which is in its 175th year is celebrated to the Peak District and many towns and villages proudly create and display their floral masterpieces next to wells and water features throughout the summer.

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**Shopping - The Springs & Cavendish Arcade**

**The Cavendish Arcade** is a Grade II Listed arcade which was originally developed by the Duke of Devonshire in 1820s as thermal baths to complement the natural baths. The complex is now a boutique shopping mall, with fine independent shops. Don’t miss the information boards painting a picture of the arcade’s past (and one of the country’s largest stained glass ceilings!)

**Spring Gardens**, including the indoor shopping centre The Springs, is the principal shopping street with many independent retailers offering a wide range of furniture, home accessories, interior design, flowers, fashion & jewellery along with various national retailers, including Waitrose and M&S. There is ample customer parking and easy access to the train station and bus stops. For more information visit www.thespringsshoppingcentre.co.uk

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**Where to eat and drink**

Buxton is a great place to eat out, thanks largely to the many independent establishments which are unique to the town. Buxton has its own Brewery ‘Buxton Brewery’ where the hand pulled pints and bottles can be found in many places around town. There is a refreshingly good variety of choice, both in price and cuisine, ranging from English to Continental and from Thai to Indian. Pre and after theatre suppers are widely available.

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**Where to stay**

Situated in the heart of England Buxton is an ideal place to stay. Buxton has more than its share of top quality hotels, from the historic Old Hall Hotel which housed Mary, Queen of Scots in the 1500’s, to the Palace Hotel, built in the style of the grand spa hotels, the Best
Western Lee Wood Hotel and the many other complimenting guest houses and bed and breakfasts

For a list of places to eat, drink and stay please contact the Tourist Information Centre, details below. Or download our Town Guide from the Visit Buxton Website.

Conference Centre

Only 25 miles from Manchester and the gateway to the beautiful Peak District Buxton has a long tradition as a conference centre. Most hotels have the experience to tailor an event to your personal needs however few towns can boast the Devonshire Dome one of the grandest 18th century locations in the UK, with 44 pillars and more than 1300 square feet of exhibition space. Or perhaps you would prefer The Octagon hall at Pavilion Gardens a beautiful Victorian room which can hold up to 1200 guests standing and up to 450 in a formal seated style. There are a range of state of the art meeting rooms throughout the town. Buxton offers a prestigious location within easy reach of many of the UK’s major cities with a rail line and the flexibility to meet all the requirements of your event.

Coming soon.....

The Crescent is currently under a £45 million project to restore, update and reinterpret to the highest of contemporary standards the concept borne of a great Georgian partnership. The developers hope to open the first hotel of its kind and certainly the first to open its doors in Buxton for over a century. The heart of Buxton will beat once more and the Town will really be “Buxton Spa” attracting visitors from across the world.

Take the tour

Guided tours and Heritage experiences
A guided tour of Buxton is the best way of seeing our beautiful town either on foot or aboard our unique Victorian tram. Make the most of your time here and let one of our experienced local guides show you all the highlights. A variety of sightseeing tours, living history/heritage experiences and themed walks are available all year round for both groups and individual visitors.

Contact [www.discoverbuxton.co.uk](http://www.discoverbuxton.co.uk) 01298 79648

Festivals and Events

Buxton is regionally and nationally renowned for its Festivals and events. The Buxton Opera House offers a year round programme of music, drama, dance, comedy and Family shows and the Pavilion Gardens hosts over 100 events each year including antique, book and toy fairs, classic car auctions and seasonal shopping events.

May
- Buxton Spring Fair featuring over 100 stalls and music across the town
- Folk Festival

July
- Buxton Wells Dressing and Carnival
- Buxton Festival featuring opera, music and literature
- Buxton Festival Fringe
- Buxton Spa Prize Art Exhibition
- Military Tattoo

August
- Buxton Family Festival and Puppet Festival
September  Bandstand Marathon
October   Great Peak District Fair
November  Christmas Shopping Weekend at the Devonshire Dome
December  Christmas Bazaar, light switch on and Christmas Events at Poole’s Cavern.

For further details on events call the Buxton Tourist Information Centre on 01298 25016 or visit

www.visitbuxton.co.uk
www.paviliongardens.co.uk
www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk
www.buxtonfestival.co.uk
www.buxontattoo.co.uk
www.buxtonwelldressing.co.uk

Group Visitor Information
Coach Parking and Drop Off Point

The Pavilion Gardens allows coaches to drop their passengers off on the Promenade and there are four coach bays on Burlington Road (2 minutes walk away)

http://www.paviliongardens.co.uk  Email: paviliongardens@highpeak.gov.uk  T: 01298 23114

With prior arrangement coaches can be parked on the promenade at Pavilion Gardens free of charge if you use the facilities. Additionally, for parties of 20 or more using our facilities, we provide the coach driver with a free £5.00 meal voucher.
The Sylvan Coach Park is situated off the roundabout at the intersection of the A6/A53 and have a limited number of spaces available for coach parking. Charges for up to 4 hours are £5.00 and over 4 hours are £10.00

Tourist Information
Buxton Tourist Information Centre, Pavilion Gardens, St Johns Road, Buxton, SK17 6BE
Tel: 01298 25106
Group Travel Specialists - Luke and Anne
Email: tourism@highpeak.gov.uk
www.visitbuxton.co.uk
Alternative contact - info@marketingbuxton.com
COACH BOOKING

Name of Organisation: ____________________________________________

Name of Coach Company: ____________________________________________

Date of Visit: ____________________________________________

Approx Arrival Time: ___________________________ Approx Departure Time: ______

Contact Name: ____________________________________________

Contact Address: ____________________________________________

Contact Telephone Number: ____________________________________________

Meet and Greet Service: YES I NO No. of Passengers expected: _____

Driver: Name ____________________________________________

Mobile Number: ____________________________________________

No. Town Guides (if required) _____

Guided tours if required:

Guided walking tour of town _____ Guided tram tour (8 per trip) _____

Living History Experiences:

Promenade with Mr. Milner the Victorian landscape architect genius, invites you to explore the history, architecture and natural history of his masterpiece, Buxton’s Pavilion Gardens”.

Lady Mary Seton invites you to hear her tale of the imprisoned Mary Queen of Scots at the Old Hall, Buxton. _____

If your plans change prior to your visit please contact the Tourist information Centre
Tel: 01298 25106 Email: tourism@highpeak.gov.uk