

Welcome to *shbourne*

shbourne is one of Derbyshire's finest and most vibrant market towns. It combines a wealth of historic buildings and high quality shops and is surrounded by beautiful countryside. The cobbled market place, hidden alleys and yards are a delight to explore, and the wide and elegant Church Street is considered to be the finest street of Georgian buildings in Derbyshire.



Step into the Past...

The town became a busy and fashionable social centre for the wealthy during the Georgian period, with six coaching roads meeting here, including the route from London to Carlisle. The legacy of over 200 listed buildings, fine coaching inns and mellow town houses combine to create a unique atmosphere.



A stroll down the main street takes you past historic almshouses, the 16th century Elizabethan Old Grammar School and The Mansion House where Dr Samuel Johnson visited his friend Dr Taylor. The lovely parish church of St Oswald, with its graceful 212ft spire, dominates the view west. Follow the Heritage Trail around the town and don't miss Ashbourne Heritage Centre at 13, Church Street (open Thursday to Sunday plus Bank Holiday Mondays, April to September).



Enjoyable Shopping...

Ashbourne is renowned for its independent shops - clustered around the historic market place and along the main streets of the town they offer a delightful shopping experience.

A wide range of high quality food outlets range from delicatessens, small bistros and cafes to award-winning restaurants. Antique lovers will find a wealth of shops to please them too - a walk down Church Street takes you past the many antique dealers. Fashion outlets range from designer boutiques to high street names and specialist art galleries and craft shops make the town an ideal place to find that unusual gift. The Tourist Information Centre is another focal point for locally produced goods and souvenirs and a market takes place every Thursday and Saturday throughout the year - continuing a tradition dating back to 1257.



Don't Miss...

Ashbourne hosts many different activities and events throughout the year, including:

Royal Shrovetide Football
Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday

Peak District Walking Festival
April - May www.visitpeakdistrict.com

Ashbourne Market
In the Market Place, Thursdays & Saturdays

Ashbourne Festival
June - July www.ashbournefestival.org

Ashbourne Highland Gathering
July www.ashbournegathering.com

Ashbourne Agricultural Show
Mid August www.ashbourneshow.co.uk

Christmas festivities
Including late night shopping



Ashbourne Royal Shrovetide Football...

The famous medieval Shrovetide Football game is an ancient Ashbourne tradition that now enjoys international status. It is played on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.



Contested by those born on the north side of Henmore River (the Up-ards) and those of the opposite bank (the Down-ards), the goals are three miles apart at Sturston and Clifton Mills.

The football is "turned Up" in Shaw Croft (now the main car park) and the object of the game is to move or "hug" the ball towards the goal, generally in a scrum of twenty or more players. The game is boisterous and fiercely competitive, and local shops often board up their windows for protection.

Ashbourne – Gateway to the Peak District...

Ashbourne is ideally situated for visiting the Peak District, with its superb countryside, picturesque towns and villages and wealth of grand country houses.

Walkers can enjoy an unrivalled network of waymarked footpaths - stride out in the hills or enjoy a gentle woodland stroll, inspired by the special landscape of the Peak District National Park. Just north of Ashbourne is lovely Dovedale, where stepping stones cross the river at the start of one of the most popular riverside walks. Tranquil limestone valleys and meadows give way to the gritstone 'Dark Peak' further north, where rocky outcrops and heather moorlands offer a different type of walking.

Cyclists have a choice of safe traffic free routes along former railway lines and a network of quiet lanes to explore. The Tissington Trail comes right into the centre of the town, with cycle hire available, so you can easily leave your car behind on a day out from Ashbourne.

If you enjoy stately homes, you are spoilt for choice - with stately Chatsworth, medieval Haddon Hall and the time capsule Calke Abbey all within easy reach of Ashbourne. Or if you're interested in history and heritage visit the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site ('home of the Industrial Revolution') or the 'plague village' of Eyam to take a trip back in time.



Dovedale



Osmaston



Chatsworth



Masson Mills

Around Ashbourne...

Ashbourne is surrounded by beautiful countryside and within easy reach of several major attractions. Here are just a few suggestions of places to visit...

Sudbury Hall

A beautiful 17th century house and gardens owned by the National Trust, built of mellow red brick, with fine carvings, plasterwork and paintings. Also the home of a fascinating Museum of Childhood.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Tissington Hall

A fine Jacobean manor house in a picture-postcard village, just a few miles north of Ashbourne. Home to the Fitzherbert family for over 500 years. Nearby is the Old Coach tearoom.
www.tissington-hall.com



Carsington Water

This reservoir between Ashbourne and Wirksworth covers over 700 acres and offers a variety of watersports surrounded by paths for walkers and cyclists. Visitors can enjoy the rich wildlife and different habitats throughout the year.
www.moretoexperience.co.uk



Alton Towers

Britain's premier theme park is just a few miles from Ashbourne. Well known for scary big rides and a waterpark, it also has superb gardens and some parts of the original stately home to explore.
www.altontowers.com



Kedleston Hall

Set in historic parkland between Ashbourne and Derby, Kedleston Hall is a superb neo-classical mansion dating from the 1760s, designed by Robert Adam. Cared for by the National Trust, it offers a glimpse back in time.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



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A Rich Heritage...

www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk



Ashbourne has a fascinating history and architectural heritage and attracts many visitors who come to enjoy a scene which has changed little in appearance since the 18th century. The town developed from the original medieval settlement of "Esseburne" – thought to mean "brook by the ash tree". It is known that an Anglo-Saxon church existed on the site of the current parish church as early as the time of the Domesday Book in 1086.

The Heritage Trail, shown as arrows on the map, is a self-guided walking tour designed to introduce you to the town's history and offer intriguing glimpses into the many yards and alleyways. Starting in the market place it concentrates on the features close to the town centre and takes about an hour – but allow yourself plenty of time if you want to browse the interesting shops along the way.



- 1 Shrovetide Hug Monument
- 2 Former Gas Works (1840)
- 3 Old Ashbourne Hospital (1848) formerly the Poor Law Workhouse.
- 4 Old Railway Tunnel (1899) and access to the Tissington Trail.
- 5 Old Grammar School (1585 – 1610) founded by Queen Elizabeth I, now private residences, this dignified building combines the Gothic tradition of gables and arched lights to the upper mullioned windows with doorways of Renaissance character.
- 6 St Oswald's Parish Church consecrated in 1241 by the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, much of the church was paid for by wealthy local wool merchants. It contains splendid monuments of the Cokayne and Boothby families, who lived at Ashbourne Hall. The Effigy of Penelope Boothby, carved in white Carrera marble, is carved by Thomas Banks. The Turnbull window by Christopher Whall is one of the finest pre-Raphaelite windows in the country.
- 7 Spalden's Almshouses (adjoining Church Yard) founded by Nicholas Spalden in 1723.
- 8 The Mansion an important town house built circa 1680 for Benjamin Taylor, whose grandson was visited here by Samuel Johnson.
- 9 Pegge's Almshouses (1669) built as a single storey in local sandstone and Owfield's Almshouses (1615-1625) enlarged by adding an upper storey in 1848.
- 10 Church Street the oldest part of Ashbourne, with distinguished 18th century town houses of prosperous merchants and the local gentry.
- 11 Smiths Yard
- 12 Old Derbyshire Constabulary building (1857)
- 13 Clergy Widows Almshouses (1770) built to provide "four neat and pretty houses for entertaining the widows of four clergymen of the Church of England".
- 14 Old Police Lock-up (1844)



- 15 Tiger Yard and Victoria Square formerly The Shambles or the Butchery. The Lamp Light restaurant, once the Tiger Inn, is a 16c timber framed house.
- 16 St John's Church (1870)
- 17 Market Place dating from the 13c this was formerly the scene of every kind of entertainment – bull baiting, travelling shows and wandering preachers. The memorial to Francis Wright, a prominent figure in Ashbourne, was erected in 1874.
- 18 Green Man Hotel (1750) is a former coaching inn with an unusual gallows sign over the road carrying the name 'Green Man & Black's Head Royal Hotel'.
- 19 The Town (Market) Hall (1861)
- 20 The Ginger Bread Shop with its wattle and daub walls is one of the few timber framed buildings in Ashbourne and the home of the original gingerbread recipe.
- 21 Shrovetide plinth where the street football match starts on Shrove Tuesday.
- 22 Ashbourne Hall (1785)
- 23 Bust of Catherine Booth 'mother of the Salvation Army'.
- 24 War Memorial Gardens formerly the park of Ashbourne Hall, were purchased by public subscription as a memorial for those who fell in the Great War.
- 25 Henmore Brook
- 26 Dig Street & Compton the Cheddar Gorge shop on Dig Street is one of the best preserved 17th century buildings in the town. Over the river on the wider street of Compton (a medieval trading area that competed with Ashbourne c1200) is the Lloyds Bank building, built in the late 18c as the town house of the Beresford family of Fenny Bentley.
- 27 13 Sturston Road (1829) birthplace of Catherine Mumford who married William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army.
- 28 Cooper's Almshouses (1800)
- 29 New Derby Road was originally cut in 1783 by the Turnpike Trust to provide a more gradual slope for coaches.
- 30 Former railway goods building (1852)



Learn more about the fascinating history of Ashbourne on a **walking tour** with one of the knowledgeable town guides.

Tours are FREE and last up to one and half hours; booking is essential (at the Tourist Information Centre) and times vary throughout the year. Pre-booked group bookings are also available at other times (small charge applies) – contact: ashbournepartnership@btconnect.com

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