

Explore & Learn

Sketching and walking tour of Derby



Introduction: In the Notice Nature Feel Joy gallery at Derby Museums, we encourage visitors to; Take Notice, Be Active, Keep Learning, Connect and Give when out in the natural world. What does this mean? It could be something as small as taking time to listen to some bird song or walking home through a park, or it could be a bigger project, like trying to spot and identify different insects or planting some flowers.

Even in the city centre there is lots of nature to see and sketch, whether you are a keen artist or not. Go on, block out some time to notice nature by exploring and sketching some of Derby's beautiful nature!

You will need:

- A clipboard
- Rubber tip pencil
- Paper / sketchbook

Recommended route:

- Begin at Derby Museum and Art Gallery on The Strand (DE1 1BS)
- Next, walk up Sadler Gate towards Derby Cathedral on Iron Gate (DE1 3GP)
- Then, head to the Museum of Making on Silk Mill Lane (DE1 3AF)
- Take the path to Exeter Bridge to walk along the stretch of the River Derwent behind Derby Council House (DE1 2FS)
- Follow the river to take you back towards the city centre.

SEE – Did you know Derby Cathedral is home to Peregrine Falcons? Can you spot them?



Derby Cathedral

SKETCH – Look around and take in all of the wildlife: river fowl, birds, little rodents, reptiles, trees and shrubs.

River Derwent

LEARN – Visit the Nature Gallery to see creatures and specimens from all over the world. What is familiar and what is unfamiliar?

NOTE – Jot down any facts you find interesting. You might want to do a quick drawing to refer back to you on your walk.

COMPARE – Notice the contrast between the buildings and the nature that surrounds it. Can you compose a sketch that captures both these elements?

STOP - Take a closer look at Exeter Bridge with its Bas relief sculptures showing some of the famous names of Derby's history:

William Hutton

Herbert Spencer

Erasmus Darwin

John Lombe

OBSERVE – Look up and see if you can spot any birds perched on rooftops. You're most likely to see pigeons, with their grey and brown feathers and short scaly legs.

LISTEN - Pigeons have a very distinct cooing sound.



Derby Museum and Art Gallery



The Museum of Making at Derby Silk Mill

Exeter Bridge