



# ThamesMOG Peak District Tour 2026



## Peak District Drive Break — Summary

*31 August – 4 September | Base: Palace Hotel, Buxton | 5 days of scenic loops, villages & short walks*

*The cost is £59 per person per night for Bed, Breakfast & Evening Meal. There is a supplement for single occupancy.*

Itinerary at a glance			
Day	Theme	Key stops	Typical timing
1	Arrival & settle in	Palace Hotel & Spa, Buxton • <i>Optional:</i> Pavilion Gardens lunch / stroll	Flexible
2	East Loop — scenic warm-up	Monsal Head & Viaduct mini-loop • Bakewell • Ashford-in-the-Water • Haddon Hall	Depart 09:30–10:00 • Return ~16:00–16:30
3	South Loop — dales & villages	Hartington • Tissington • Dovedale stepping stones • Dog & Partridge, Swinscoe (lunch)	Depart ~09:30 • Return ~17:00
4	Northern Peaks — big views	Castleton • Winnats Pass • Mam Tor • Hope • <i>Optional:</i> Peak/Speedwell cave visit	Depart ~09:30 • Return ~16:30–17:00
5	Western Moorlands — reservoirs & moorland	Leek • Rudyard Lake • Tittesworth Reservoir • Flash • Pack Horse Inn, Crowdecote (lunch) • Return home	Depart ~09:30 • Return ~17:30

### Key details

- **Base hotel:** Palace Hotel & Spa Buxton, Palace Rd, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6AG
- **Day 1 optional:** Pavilion Gardens (St John's Road, Buxton, SK17 6BE) — ~0.5 mile walk from hotel
- **Lunch stops (planned):** Day 2 The Ashford Arms (Ashford-in-the-Water) • Day 3 Dog & Partridge (Swinscoe) • Day 4 Castleton (Cheshire Cheese Inn noted) • Day 5 Pack Horse Inn (Crowdecote)
- **Driving distances:** approx. 39–60 miles per day (loops start/finish Buxton)
- **Walks:** short, optional and flexible (e.g., Monsal Head mini-loop ~1.8 miles; Mam Tor viewpoint ~1 hour)
- **Parking:** mix of village car parks and National Trust / pay-and-display sites; capacity can be limited at peak times—arrive early where possible
- **Good to bring:** comfortable shoes, light waterproof, layers, water/snacks, contactless card/coins for parking

*For full routes, timings, maps/photos and stop-by-stop detail, see the day-by-day itinerary pages that follow*



# ThamesMOG Peak District Tour 2026



31<sup>st</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September  
Palace Hotel, Buxton

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## Day 1 - Arrival



### Arrival — Palace Hotel & Spa Buxton

Full address: Palace Rd, Buxton, Derbyshire. SK17 6AG

Bed, Breakfast & Evening Meal @ £59 PP per Night (Supplement for single occupancy)

### Optional Lunch — Pavilion Gardens (Buxton)



Address: Pavilion Gardens, St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6BE

From the hotel: walk ~0.5 miles (about 6–12 minutes) or a short drive/taxi (allow ~5 minutes, depending on parking and traffic).

**Food options (on-site):** Pavilion Gardens has multiple places to eat, ranging from sit-down lunch and afternoon tea in the **Restaurant & Bar** to quick, casual options in the **Pavilion Kitchen** (hot drinks, pastries, sandwiches, hot snacks and stone-baked pizza). There's also an **Ice Cream Parlour** (snacks, cakes/scones, hot drinks and ice cream), plus seasonal/weekday options like the **Coffee Van** and **Lakeside Hut** for grab-and-go refreshments. Opening times for individual outlets can vary with events and weather, so it's worth checking on the day.



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## Day 2 - East Loop Scenic Drive



**Route: Buxton → Monsal Head → Bakewell → Ashford-in-the-Water → Hadden Hall → Buxton**

### Overview

**Start End: Palace Hotel, Buxton**

**Distance (total): ≈ 48 miles**

**Departure: 09:30–10:00**

**Return: 16:00–16:30**

**Theme: Gentle scenic warm-up day with viewpoints, coffee stop, lunch, and relaxed driving.**

### Route Flow with segment distances & times

**Buxton → Monsal Head (≈ 11.4 miles / ~19 mins) → Bakewell (≈ 3.2 miles / ~7 mins) →**

**Ashford-in-the-Water (≈ 2.2 miles / ~5–6 mins) → Haddon Hall (≈ 3.7–3.8 miles / ~7–11 mins)**

**→ Buxton (≈ 25.5 miles / ~36 mins)**



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## Stops & Details

### Monsal Head 10am



- Drive time: ~20 minutes from Buxton
- Highlight: Famous viewpoint over Monsal Dale and the viaduct
- Parking: Large car park suitable for 10 car

1-Hour Monsal Head → Viaduct → Waterfall Mini-Loop

**Distance:** ~1.8 miles (2.9 km) **Time:** 50–70 minutes at a normal pace **Effort:** Moderate (steep descent + steady climb back)

#### Route Summary:

- **Start:** Monsal Head car park
- Walk down the steep path to **Monsal Dale**
- Turn **left** at the bottom to follow the river towards the **waterfall / weir**
- Continue along the riverside path to the **Monsal Viaduct**
- Climb the steps up onto the viaduct
- Follow the Monsal Trail back towards Monsal Head
- Final short climb back to the viewpoint and car park
- Monsal Head Hotel – Hobb's Café -Coffee Stop



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## Bakewell 11:15am – 40 Mins

Monsal Head → Bakewell: ≈ 3.2 miles and ~7 minute drive (typical).



- Parking options: Bakewell Bridge Car Park; Smith's Island Car Park; Bakewell Station Car Park
- Visit Bakewell Bakery and buy a Bakewell Tart!

## Lunch — The Ashford Arms (Ashford-in-the-Water) 12AM – 2Hrs

Bakewell → Ashford-in-the-Water: ≈ 2.2 miles and ≈ 5 minutes



- Notes: Large car park, newly refurbished



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## Hadden Hall (House or gardens visit) 14:15 – 2 Hrs.

Ashford-in-the-Water → Haddon (Hadden) Hall: about 4 miles and ~7 minutes



Allow: 2–3 hours (minimum 2 hours) for the Hall and terraced gardens.

Over 900 years old, Haddon Hall is one of England's best-preserved medieval manor houses — a fortified home set above the River Wye with a remarkable mix of medieval rooms, Tudor details and Elizabethan spaces. Much of its character survived because it was left largely untouched for nearly 200 years, so a short visit feels like stepping into a genuine time capsule of early English life.

Gardens: Haddon's Elizabethan walled gardens are laid out as a series of stone terraces that step down toward the River Wye, with wide views across the estate and the Peak District beyond. Expect a mix of formal structure (terraces, lawns and topiary) softened by colourful herbaceous borders and roses; the Fountain and Bowling Green terraces were replanted in recent years, drawing on historic patterns and planting for a distinctly romantic feel.

Notes: Large car park



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## Day 3 - South Loop Countryside Drive

Route: Buxton → Hartington → Tissington → Dovedale → Dog & Partridge (Swinscoe) → Buxton



### Overview

Start End: Palace Hotel, Buxton

Distance (total): ≈ 55 miles

Departure: 09:30

Return: 17:00

Theme: Rolling lanes, limestone dales, village stops, short walks and a riverside pub lunch.

### Route Flow with segment distances

Buxton → Hartington (≈ 12 miles – 20 mins) → Tissington (≈ 4 miles 10 mins) → Dovedale (≈ 8 miles 15 mins ) → Dog & Partridge, Swinscoe (≈ 6 miles – 15 mins) → Buxton (≈ 25 miles – 40mins)



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## Stops & Details

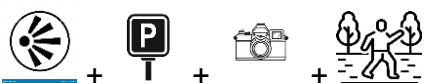
### Hartington (Coffee Stop / Cheese Shop) 1Hr



10am



- Venue: Hartington Tea Rooms / Hartington Cheese Shop
- Drive time: ~10 minutes from Tissington
- Parking: Small public car park near the village centre
- Notes: Good for quick refreshments and local cheese purchases; ideal mid-morning stop, so Dovedale remains a relaxed walk before lunch in Tissington 11am -1hr



- Drive time: ~10 minutes from Hartington
- Highlight: Picturesque village green and stone cottages; short circular walk option
- Parking: Village car park; limited spaces



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## Dovedale (Scenic Stop and Walk with Coffee Options) 1hr 12am



- Drive time: ~15-20 minutes from Tissington
- Highlight: Stepping stones, limestone gorge, riverside photo opportunities; combine short walk with on-site refreshments or picnic
- Parking: National Trust car park (may charge; space varies)

## Dog & Partridge (Swinscoe) — Lunch 1pm - 2hr



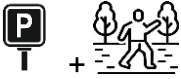
- Drive time: ~10–15 minutes from Dovedale (short rural lanes)
- Parking: Pub car park / nearby village parking (check capacity for groups)
- Notes: Full pub menu; booking recommended for larger groups



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## Short Scenic Stretch



- Route: After lunch, scenic lane via Thorpe back toward Buxton



### Parking Summary

- Notes: Mix of village car parks and National Trust parking; Hartington and Dovedale have limited capacity on busy days — recommend arriving early and using contactless where available



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## Day 4 - Northern Peaks Loop

Route: Buxton → Castleton → Winnats Pass → Mam Tor → Hope → Castleton → Whaley Bridge → Buxton



### Overview

Start End: Palace Hotel, Buxton

Distance (total): ≈ 39 miles

Departure: 09:30

Return: 16:30–17:00

Theme: Dramatic limestone scenery, short hill walks, classic passes and a village pub lunch.

### Route Flow with segment distances & times

Buxton → Castleton (≈ 10.4 miles / ~21 mins) → Winnats Pass (≈ 1.1 miles / ~5–10 mins) → Mam Tor (≈ 3 miles / ~10 mins) → Hope (≈ 4.7 miles / ~13 mins) → Castleton (≈ 1.5 miles / ~3–5 mins) → Whaley Bridge (≈ 10.4 miles / ~17 mins) → Buxton (≈ 7.7 miles / ~15 mins)



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## Stops & Details

### Castleton 10am approx.



- Drive time: ~21 minutes from Buxton
- Highlight: Village base for caves and Mam Tor; shops and visitor info

### Winnats Pass (Scenic Drive / Photo Stop) 10:30 - 30 mins



+

- Drive time: ~5–10 minutes from Castleton
- Highlight: Narrow limestone gorge; excellent photo viewpoints
- Parking: Lay-bys and small pull-ins; limited space



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## Mam Tor (Short Walk / Viewpoint) 11:15 - 1 hr.



- Drive time: ~10 minutes from Winnats Pass
- Highlight: Ridge walk with panoramic views over Hope Valley.
- With **1 hour at Mam Tor**, you've typically got time for:

- ~10–15 min up
- ~20–30 min on the top / along the ridge a short way
- ~10–15 min back down

Parking: National Trust car park

Hope Village 12:30



- Drive time: ~13 minutes from Mam Tor (via A6187)
- Carry on to Castleton for Lunch



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**Castleton — Lunch 12:45 - 2 Hrs.**



- Drive time: ~5 minutes from Hope (via A6187)

**- Venue: Local pub Cheshire Cheese Inn**



- Parking: Village car parks; larger coach parking available nearby



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## Optional Cave Visit 14:45



- Notes: Peak Cavern or Speedwell Cavern visits can be slotted after lunch if time allows  
**From Hope (drive, approx.)**

Destination	Distance	Drive time
Castleton (village centre)	≈ 1.5 mi (2.4 km)	≈ 3–5 min
Peak Cavern	≈ 2.0 mi (3.2 km)	≈ 3–5 min
Speedwell Cavern	≈ 2.25 mi (3.62 km)	≈ 5 min
Treak Cliff Cavern	≈ 2.51 mi (4.04 km)	≈ 6 min
Blue John Cavern	≈ 3.67 mi (5.91 km)	≈ 11 min

### Parking Summary

- Notes: Mix of village and National Trust parking

Return Back to Palace Spa Hotel in Buxton





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## Day 5 - Western Moorlands Loop

Route: Buxton → Leek → Rudyard Lake → Tittesworth Reservoir → Flash → Longnor → Buxton



### Overview

Start End: Palace Hotel, Buxton

Distance (total): ≈ 60 miles

Departure: 09:30

Return: 17:30

Theme: Moorland reservoirs, village markets, short lakeside walks and a pub or café lunch.

### Route Flow with segment distances & times

Buxton → Leek (≈ 12 miles / ~23 mins) → Rudyard Lake (≈ 8 miles / ~17 mins) → Tittesworth Reservoir (≈ 6 miles / ~10 mins) → Flash (≈ 10 miles / ~15 mins) → Longnor (≈ 8 miles / ~15–20 mins) → Buxton (≈ 16 miles / ~25–30 mins)



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## Stops & Details

### Leek (Market / Coffee Stop)



- Drive time: ~25 minutes from Buxton
- Highlight: Market town with independent cafés, antique shops and a good central car park
- Parking: Town centre car parks (e.g., Union Street / St Edward's) — suitable for short stops and shopping

### Rudyard Lake (Lakeside Walk / Photo Stop)



- Drive time: ~15 minutes from Leek
- Highlight: Lakeside promenade, boating, and picnic benches; short circular walk option (30–45 minutes)
- Parking: Rudyard Lake car park; limited spaces at peak times



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## Tittsworth Reservoir (Scenic Stop / Short Walk)



- Drive time: ~10 minutes from Rudyard Lake
- Highlight: Reservoir views, visitor centre, accessible paths and café (seasonal)
- Parking: Reservoir car park (pay & display); accessible facilities

## Flash (Scenic Moorland Drive / Photo Stop)



- Drive time: ~20 minutes from Tittsworth (scenic lanes)
- Highlight: Highest village in Britain; dramatic moorland panoramas and quiet lanes for relaxed driving
- Parking: Lay-bys and small village parking; limited space



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## Crowdecote - Pack Horse Inn (Lunch / Village Pub)



- Drive time: ~10 minutes from Flash
- Venue: Local pub Pack Horse Inn
- Parking: Village car park and roadside bays; check capacity for larger groups

### Parking Summary

- Notes: Mix of town car parks, reservoir pay & display, and small village car parks; recommend contactless payment where available

## Return Home



After lunch, you're free to roam at your own pace — take a gentle village stroll, enjoy a final scenic stop on the way back, or head home whenever you're ready.