



Tour Information



James Watt – The Father of The Industrial Revolution





The tour commences and concludes at the **Delta Hotels by Marriott Birmingham**.

12 Hagley Road

Five Ways

Birmingham

B16 8SJ

Tel: 0121 4521142

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

If you are travelling by car:

From the South: At junction 19 of the M1, take the M6 exit to Coventry/Birmingham and continue on M6 for approx. 36 KM. Take the exit toward A38(M), Keep left, follow signs for A38(M)/Birmingham (Cent.) and merge onto A38(M), Continue onto Aston Express Way/A38, and after approx. 2 KM, take the exit toward New Street and continue onto Suffolk Street Queensway. At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Holloway Head/B4127, turn left onto Wheelleys Ln/B4127, turn right onto Islington Row Middleway/A4540. At Five Ways Roundabout, take the 2nd exit and your destination will be on the left.

From the North: Leave the M1 at junction 11A and follow the M6 for Birmingham M5. Continue onto M6 and take the exit toward A38 (M). Keep right, follow signs for A38(M) and merge onto A38(M), continue onto Aston Express Way / A38 and keep right and continue on Great Charles Street Queensway/A38. Take the exit toward New Street and continue onto Suffolk Street Queensway. At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit onto Holloway Head/B4127, continue to follow B4127. Turn left onto Wheelleys Ln/B4127. Turn right onto Islington Row Middleway/A4540 and at Five Ways Roundabout, take the 2nd exit. Destination will be on the left.

If you are travelling by train: The nearest train station is Birmingham New Street station – 3.5 KM away



Accommodation

Delta Hotels by Marriott Birmingham

Relax and unwind in one of the spacious, well-appointed hotel rooms, which include plush pillowtop bedding, a flat-screen TV, high-speed Wi-Fi, 24-hour in-room dining and more. Additional amenities for your stay in Birmingham city centre include a leisure club with a fully equipped gym and an indoor pool, as well as a tranquil spa and expertly crafted American-style cuisine at the signature Brew Bar Lounge.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/bhxbh-birmingham-marriott-hotel/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15:00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will finish at approximately 17:15 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11:00

Dining

On the first night, a private dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the second evening, dinner will be provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on all days of your stay plus one light lunch at Bistro No.19 is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Places Visited

Lunar Society Heritage Trail

This walk highlights the leading role Birmingham played in the creation of the modern world through the scientific discoveries, shared conversations and informal meetings of a remarkable group of friends. The city centre walk takes in the surviving historic sites most closely associated with the Society's members, together with the places where one can still see examples of their work and influence. Highlights include the statues of Watt and Priestley in Chamberlain Square, Centenary Square and the Birmingham Library where Dr Malcolm Dick will show you some special material relating to James Watt.

<https://www.lunarsociety.org.uk/the-lunar-society-heritage-trail/>

St Martin's Church

St Martin's is the most ancient of Birmingham's churches and has been the focal point of the markets area since the 12th century. Inside is the oldest monument in the city, a 1325 effigy of the Lord of the Manor Sir William de Bermingham. The present building, with a stained glass window by Burne-Jones, dates from 1875. The church is also home to the world's first change ringing peal of 16 bells.

<https://www.bullring.org/>

Birmingham Library

James Watt papers in the Library of Birmingham archives have been placed on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World register – the documentary equivalent of World Heritage Sites.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/636/james_watt_papers_at_library_of_birmingham_placed_on_unesco_register

Thinktank Science Museum

Thinktank is Birmingham's unique and award-winning science museum housed at Millennium Point in the heart of the city. This exciting attraction offers ten galleries of historical artefacts, modern interactives and fantastic futuristic facts. One of the jewels in Thinktank's collection is the oldest working steam engine in the world – the Smethwick. It was the first engine in the world to use both the expansive force of steam and a vacuum at the same time.

<https://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk/thinktank>

Samuel Johnson Birthplace Museum

Both Johnson and Boswell visited the Soho Manufactory. There were significant changes taking place in society and in the economy during the seventeenth century and we can get glimpses of these in both the writings of Boswell and Johnson and of their contemporaries. Johnson had early links with Birmingham where he would visit friends and sell his books with his father. He had an interest in promoting innovation and industry including new inventors.

<https://www.samueljohnsonbirthplace.org.uk/>

Erasmus Darwin House

After Samuel Johnson, Darwin is the most significant of 18th century Lichfeldians. Darwin settled in Lichfield in 1756, living in the large house by the West Gate entrance to the Close in Beacon Street. He established a reputation as a doctor, scientist, inventor and literary man and his scientific and technological studies contributed much to the work of the Lunar Society. This group - which also included Josiah Wedgwood, James Watt and Matthew Boulton - was one of the intellectual forces behind the Industrial Revolution. They would meet in Lichfield and discuss and challenge and evaluate a range of subjects of the time.

<https://www.erasmusdarwin.org/>

Lichfield Waterworks Trust & Sandfields Pumping Station

The original Sandfields pumping plant 1858-1866 was equipped with two single cylinder 46 inches diameter x 8 feet stroke double-acting condensing, rotative beam engines (nos. 1 & 2 engines) supplied by James Watt & Company of the Soho Foundry, Smethwick, in 1858. In 1866, a third Watt engine was installed and then in July 1871, William Vawdry, the Company Engineer, recommended that the existing engines were supplemented by the installation of a fourth engine, due to the inadequacy of the existing pumping capacity.

The Lichfield Waterworks Trust, successor to the Friends of Sandfields Pumping Station, was formed in March 2015, at the time when a house building company became owners of a site that included the pumping station. The Trust negotiated an access licence, and from 2017 volunteers have maintained the engine and building.

<https://lichfieldwaterworkstrust.co.uk/>

St Mary's Church, Handsworth

St Mary's Church, Handsworth, also known as Handsworth Old Church, is a Grade II listed Anglican church in Handsworth, Birmingham, England. Its ten-acre grounds are contiguous with Handsworth Park and it is just off the Birmingham Outer Circle and south of the former Handsworth Wood railway station. It is noteworthy as the resting place of famous progenitors of the industrial age and has been described as "the cathedral of the Industrial Revolution".

<http://handsworthstmary.org/history/>

Your Speaker

Dr Malcolm Dick is Director of the Centre for West Midlands History and Lecturer in Regional and Local History at the University of Birmingham, UK. He is also Editor-in-Chief of History West Midlands: www.historywm.com and co-director of the Centre for Printing History and Culture www.cphc.org.uk. He ran two lottery-funded history projects between 2000 and 2004: Millennibrum and Revolutionary Players: www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk The latter, which focussed on the West Midlands during the Industrial Revolution introduced him to the Lunar Men. Subsequently, Malcolm edited books on Joseph Priestley (2005), Matthew Boulton (2009 and 2013) and Erasmus Darwin (2010) and wrote books and articles on Birmingham and ethnic community history. Two edited publications with Liverpool University Press include Birmingham - the Workshop of the World (2016) with Carl Chinn and John Baskerville - Art and Industry in the Enlightenment (2017) with Caroline Archer.

Dr Malcolm Dick will give the following talk during the tour:

'James Watt: The Enlightenment, Invention and Birmingham.'

Your tour manager

Dr Scott Anderson is a Senior Lecturer in the History of Art and Design, who was a professional archaeologist for ten years before his interests shifted to the world of art, antiques and auctioneering. In 1994 he joined the team at Southampton Institute (now Southampton Solent University) as a Lecturer in Fine Arts Valuation, the only BA (Hons) degree course of its kind to look at the commercial art world. He also has a particular interest in architecture and in recent years has taught courses on the history and theory of interior design, and art and design history. Now, as a Senior Lecturer, he concentrates on teaching, research and publication. Scott has written extensively, in learned journals and popular magazines, on both ancient and 19th-century ceramics, Roman archaeology, and Victorian and Edwardian art and design. He is an Honorary Fellow of the National Association of Valuers and television credits include BBC's Flog It!

Scott will give the following talk during the tour:

'The Industrial Revolution – A Story of Context and Evolution'

Practical Information

Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Grading – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



Emergencies

Emergency Numbers

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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