



COCKTAILS AT LOOM & SHUTTLE

Insider's GUIDE TO DARWEN



YOUR GUIDE TO VISITING DARWEN

What to see, what to do
and where to go

CHECK INSIDE FOR
GARY ASPDEN'S TOP PICKS



Welcome TO DARWEN

Darwen is a bustling Lancashire market town, nestled between a dramatic moorland valley. The town gets its name from the River Darwen, which flows under the town centre and can be spotted in Shorey Bank park.

DARWEN MARKET SQUARE

Darwen Market Square is the central point in the town centre and is where the majority of events take place.

It's also home to The Weaver Bird - a tribute to Darwen's major role in the North West's textile industry. This unique public art was inspired by the peregrine falcons that nest in the iconic India Mill Chimney to the south of the town centre.

DARWEN'S HISTORY

Darwen has a rich history and an important role in many cultural stories. It's the homeplace of the pioneers of professional football, the UK's biggest free music festival and of several shining examples of UK craftsmanship, such as the Herbert Parkinson textile factory. Visitors can drop into Darwen Heritage Centre to find out more.

EAT, DRINK AND SHOP

There's no shortage of spots to eat, drink and shop in Darwen.

Whether it's speciality coffees lovingly made at **1617 COFFEE HOUSE**, fresh full English breakfasts at **MARIA'S DELI**, afternoon tea at **SWEET VINTAGE**, homemade pies and sausage rolls from aptly named **PIE HOLE**.

Enjoy a delicious authentic curry at **AKASH** or **ANAZ**, a Sunday Roast at **DOLLY'S BAR** and **GRILL**, or a fresh steak at **FLAMES STEAKHOUSE**, you won't be left hungry here in Darwen.

And if you're after a great night out, look no further. Head to **SPITFIRE** for live sports, **TIKI TAPS** for a tropical vibe, **THE BANK** for bottomless brunch, and **SUNBIRD RECORDS** for discovering new artists.



DARWEN MARKET



SHOREY BANK



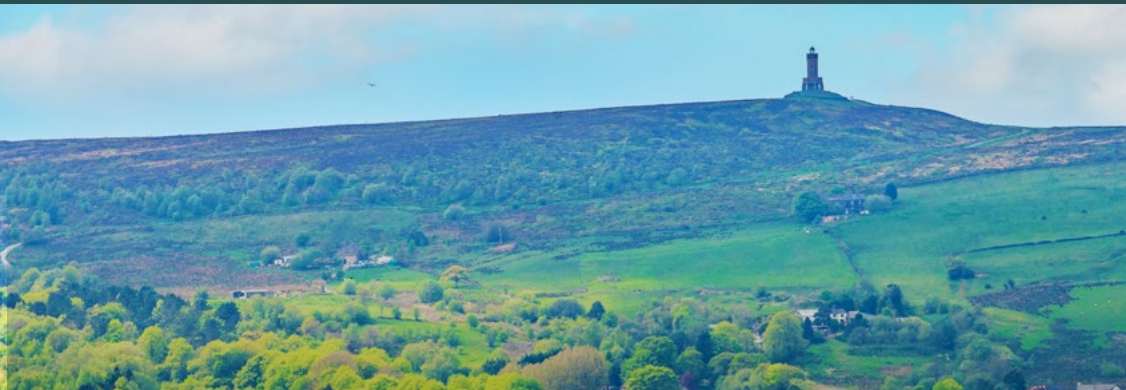
AN "INDEPENDENT" TOWN CENTRE

It's easy to support independent businesses in Darwen. The town centre is home to an array of independent shops, including **DARWEN MARKET** and its friendly traders selling everything from butchers to pet supplies. Darwen Market is open 8:30am till 5pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 8am till 4pm on Saturday.

Once you've visited the market, head to Bridge Street, Market Street, Duckworth Street and Railway Road for more retail therapy. Highlights include **MIMI & BEE** for fabric and craft materials, **BY ERIN** for beautiful gifts and pottery painting, **WILLOW TREE** and **SUNSET AMORE** for ladies clothes and accessories, and **THE DOULA PLACE** for all things baby and child.

#SHOPDARWEN AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Check out the #shopdarwen scheme for more independent shopping inspiration. When you spend £5 or over at a participating retailer, you are eligible for an entry form to the monthly prize draw. The prize is £50 worth of vouchers to spend at any Shop Darwen business - the more you shop small, the more entry forms you can get, and the bigger your chance of winning the prize draw!



Be social with us



Find out more at

darwentowncentre.co.uk

GARY ASPDEN'S *Top Picks*



Proud Darrener, Gary Aspden, is the mastermind behind the iconic adidas Spezial range.

Gary continues to put Darwen on the map by hosting exclusive events helping to raise funds for local homelessness charity, Nightsafe.

Here are Gary's top picks from Darwen Town Centre's plethora of eateries, bars and music venues.

1 DELI CARLO SALUMERIA ITALIANA

For fresh mediterranean style paninis, wraps and coffee.

2 LOOM & SHUTTLE

For handcrafted cocktails/mocktails, craft ale, live music and top vibes.

3 BIRD IN TH'HAND

For craft, bottled and cask beer from all over the globe.

4 ARTISAN CAFE & WINE BAR

For drinks and casual dining in modern surroundings.

5 CIN CIN

For a tempting selection of gins and cocktails/mocktails, plus late night dancing.

6 SOUND LOUNGE

For live music, DJ sets and a great ambience.



ENJOY DARWEN TOWN CENTRE & BEYOND

There's plenty for the whole family to see and do in Darwen Town Centre, and you don't have to venture far for beautiful countryside, either.

THINGS TO DO WHEN IN DARWEN:

- 7 Check out **FOURTEEN** at 14 Market Street, an exciting new cultural hotspot - find out more via our website and social channels
- 8 Chill out at **DARWEN LIBRARY** - free Story & Rhyme Time for children on Wednesday at 2pm and Friday at 10:30am
- 9 See a live show, stand up comedian or band at **DARWEN LIBRARY THEATRE**
- 10 Burn off some energy or take a dip at **DARWEN LEISURE CENTRE**
- 11 Take part in free family activities at **DARWEN MARKET** during school holidays

- 12 Enjoy the **MONTHLY ARTISAN MARKET** on Darwen Market Square during the last Saturday of every month
- 13 Visit the **HERITAGE CENTRE** for all things Darwen history and culture
- 14 Join the **DARWEN HERITAGE HEALTH WALK** for a tour of the town's architecture and blue plaques - every Wednesday at 11am, meet on the market square
- 15 Walk to **DARWEN TOWER** via Bold Venture Park - it's not as far away as it looks! (Find the route on the "Useful Info" page of our website)

There's so much more we could include!

Visit our website, for further ideas and for more information on upcoming events.

darwentowncentre.co.uk/darwen-events

