



# Tour Information



## Industrial Heritage of the Black Country





The tour commences and concludes at the **Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill, Dudley**

The Waterfront,

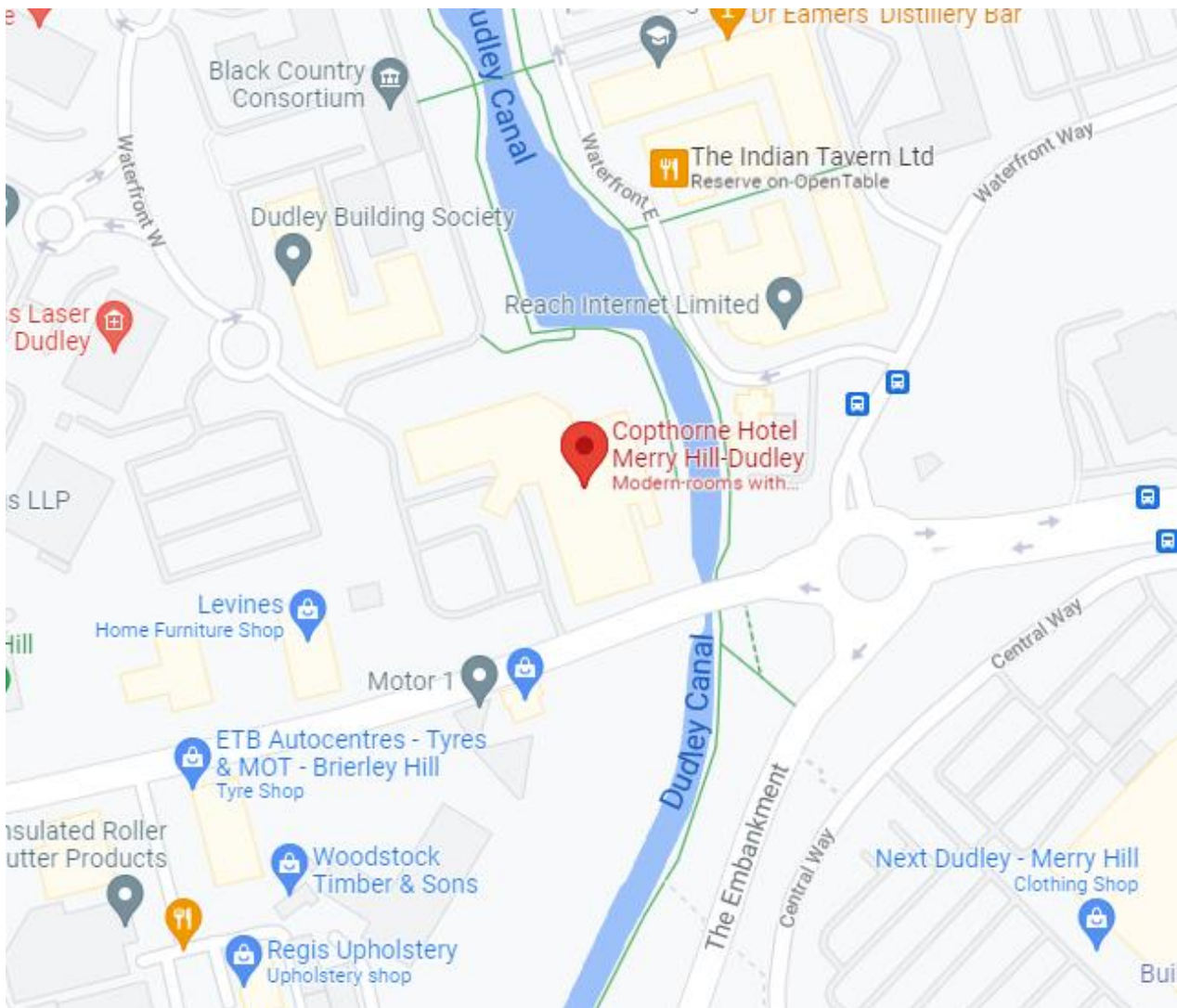
Level Street,

Brierley Hill,

DY5 1UR

Tel: 01384 482882

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



## **Transport**

### **If you are travelling by car:**

Take exit 4 from the M5, A38/Birmingham (SW)/Stourbridge. Follow A491 and A4036 to Brierley Hill. At Lydiate Ash Interchange, take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit onto Sandy Lane/A491. Continue over the next 3 roundabouts, staying on the A491. Turn left onto Stourbridge Road/A491 and at the roundabout, take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit onto Ham Lane /A4036. Turn left onto The Boulevard and continue through the next roundabout and remain on The Boulevard. At the next roundabout, take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit onto The Embankment and continue through the

next roundabout. Then at the following roundabout take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit onto Level Street. Then turn right and turn right again and you will have reached your destination.

**If you are travelling by train:** The nearest train station is Stourbridge Town – 3 miles away.



## Accommodation

### Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill, Dudley

Set in the heart of Dudley's historic canal marina, the four-star Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill Dudley has a lovely waterfront location and provides modern facilities including a restaurant, bar, fitness centre, spa and indoor swimming pool. Bedrooms are comfortable and of a generous size with en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, wifi and tea/coffee making facilities.

Car parking: Complimentary off-street parking available at the hotel.

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

<https://www.millenniumhotels.com/en/dudley/copthorne-hotel-merry-hill-dudley/#home>

### Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in to the hotel from 14.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until 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 a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 12.00.

### Dining

On the first night, dinner with wine is provided in the hotel restaurant 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 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

### Stourbridge – Red Cone Glass House Museum

The Red House Glass Cone lies in the heart of the Stourbridge glassmaking industry and is next to the Stourbridge Canal. Built at the end of the 18th Century the Cone was used for the manufacture of glass until 1936 and is now one of only four cones left in the United Kingdom. Reaching 100 feet into the sky, the Cone enclosed a furnace around which men made glass for 140 years and was originally built for the purpose of making window glass.

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums/red-house-glass-cone/>

### Leather Museum

Walsall Leather Museum was opened in 1988 in a Victorian factory building. It tells the story of the leather trade in Walsall, charting the town's rise from a small market town into an international saddle-making centre. Walsall Leather Museum celebrates the great achievements of local leather craftsmen and women and tells the story of the Walsall leather trade and the local people who have been making some of the world's finest saddles and leather goods for over two hundred years. The museum displays feature splendid examples of historic craftsmanship and exciting contemporary designs.

<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/leathermuseum>.

### Stourbridge Glass Museum

This new museum at the heart of Stourbridge's Glass Quarter, opens to the public for the first time in April 2022. The museum will be housed in the Grade II listed former Stuart Crystal Glassworks, which has been creatively and imaginatively adapted for the purpose. Combining both permanent and temporary exhibition galleries and a hot glass making studio with a hands-on activities space for visitors. For over 400 years, state of the art glass in every fashionable style has been made in the Stourbridge area, and Stourbridge glass is collected and admired world-wide. The Stourbridge Glass Collection housed at the museum is one of the finest world-wide holdings of British and international 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th century glass.

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

### Black Country Living Museum

An immersive experience from start to finish, the Black Country Living Museum is an award-winning open-air museum that tells the story of one of the very first industrialised landscapes in Britain. Set across 26 acres, you'll explore over forty carefully reconstructed shops, houses and industrial areas that represent the Black Country's story. You'll learn how steam power, human ingenuity and an increasingly interconnected world transformed this region into a manufacturing powerhouse. The Black Country is often seen of a collection of 20 or so towns falling within the four Metropolitan Boroughs of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. While no one quite agrees on the exact boundaries of the region, one thing is known for certain: Black Country folk changed the world. They built world's first successful steam engine; put the first steam train (the Stourbridge Lion) on US soil; fuelled the introduction of the first minimum wage; produced the anchor for the Titanic; practically built the Crystal Palace and so much more. From the early 20th century onwards, the Black Country region became one of the most industrialised parts of the UK with coal mines, iron foundries, glass factories, brick works and more dominating the landscape.

<https://www.bclm.co.uk/>

## Canal Cruise

Discover a magical world deep under the heart of Dudley. Limestone mines and rocks date back 428 million years and the knowledgeable skippers take you back through the ages to talk about the formation of the area, its impressive Industrial Revolution legacy and the formation of the Dudley Canal Trust in the 60's as they set about preserving this unique environment for future generations.

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

## Your Speakers

**Dr Malcolm Dick** is Director of the Centre for West Midlands History and Senior 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](http://www.historywm.com)). He ran two lottery-funded history projects between 2000 and 2004, Millennibrum and Revolutionary Players ([www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk](http://www.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk)). Malcolm has written and edited books on the West Midlands during the Industrial Revolution including histories of Birmingham and biographies of the Lunar Men. A recent publication is *The Black Country: a History in 100 Objects* (2019). Malcolm served as a trustee of the Black Country Living Museum for seven years. He is also Chairman of the Black Country Society. In 2019 he was awarded an OBE for outstanding services to History in the West Midlands.

**Malcolm will accompany you during the tour and give the following talk on the first evening:**

*'Emergence of the Black Country during the Industrial Revolution.'*

**Paul Atterbury** Well-known TV personality, antiques expert and inland waterways enthusiast Paul Atterbury will be your speaker for this tour. Paul is a steam and canal enthusiast who has been a member of the Antiques Roadshow's team for over 20 years

**Paul will give the following talk on the second evening of the tour:**


*'At the Heart of Industry: the canals of Birmingham and the Black Country'*

## 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.

**Walking Content** – This tour has been graded a 4 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

**Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:**

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobblestones etc)	

## 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

**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

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

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3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB  
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