



GROUP BOOKINGS



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 01298 72190 OR VISIT
BUXTONOPERAHOUSE.ORG.UK

**BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
& PAVILION ARTS CENTRE**

Dear Group Leader

Welcome to Buxton Opera House & Pavilion Arts Centre

Lovingly restored to its former glory in 2001, Buxton Opera House is an exquisitely beautiful Edwardian theatre and one of the country's finest examples of Frank Matcham theatre design. We are also home to the Pavilion Arts Centre and Studio Theatre, our two smaller auditoriums in the Pavilion Gardens complex.

The theatre plays an important part in the town's activities – beyond its varied programme of events in the theatre there are many festivals throughout the year, covering opera, literature and music. We're delighted that The Big Session now has its new home in Buxton – three nights of fabulous folk music in Spring. The Festival Fringe in Buxton is the largest in England and second only to the Edinburgh Fringe in the UK, many other venues join in during the festivals adding to the town's lively, fun-filled atmosphere.

Although there is no on-site parking, coaches can drop off right outside the Opera House and there is coach parking in town.

Our bar areas are quite small, but we can help you can beat the queues by offering pre-ordered interval drinks. Refreshments are available at a discounted price for group bookings and can be pre-ordered seven days in advance.

We offer Group rates on many shows and events, please visit our website for up to date information. To make a booking, please call the Box Office on: 01298 72190.

We've included information that might be useful when arranging a group visit, but please get in touch if you have any further questions.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes



*Emma Oaks
Head of Marketing & Audiences*

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*“Frank Matcham’s glorious Opera House at Buxton, with its warm and intimate design, always guarantees a night to remember for theatregoers”
Knutsford Guardian*

What's On:

Although we are an opera house, we have so much more than just opera! Below is a small sample of the type of shows we have on stage, but to find out more check our website: www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk.

Comedy: If you're looking for a belly laugh we have stand-up comedians, comedy dramas and our informal Buzz Comedy Club.

Drama: We have a varied programme of drama, with adaptations from classical literature and popular stories to Shakespeare and whodunits.

Music: Almost every genre puts in an appearance; from popular performers, recitals, choirs, and tribute acts, to brass bands, folk music, gala concerts, musicals and our increasingly popular Jazz sessions. Not forgetting the Big Session folk festival in the Spring that has its new home in Buxton.

Family: Buxton Opera House offers a great way to introduce your children to the magic of theatregoing, with adaptations of children's books and TV shows, Beanbag story time sessions, Children's comedy, holiday activities and not forgetting our yearly pantomime.

Adventure: We host a celebration of the very best speakers and films from the world of adventure-travel with stories of intrepid expeditions, challenges and

races paired with epic films for outdoor enthusiasts, weekend warriors and armchair adventurers.

Dance: If you love dance we have everything from classical ballets to Irish dancing and contemporary dance to choose from.

Theatre Tours: Take a look behind the scenes at one of the country's finest examples of a Frank Matcham theatre. In our new series of Back Stage Pass tours, discover the fascinating history of this iconic building, from its Edwardian beginning right up to the present day. Starting from the Dress Circle bar, the tour will take you through to the auditorium and backstage where you will get a glimpse of the inner workings of the theatre. Back Stage Pass Tickets: £10 per person with a free group leader place for every ten tickets sold.

Opera: Ah, yes, Opera. Where better to see it than in one of Matcham's glorious theatres? After all, the man who designed the London Palladium must have known how to present Opera at its very best...

For a full listing of what's on visit: www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk or call our box office on: **01298 72190**

"There is no better place for a panto than this gilded fairy palace, especially filled with hundreds of clap-happy, singalong children"

Manchester Evening News

How to get here:

Buxton is easy to reach from the A6, A515 and A53. The theatre is well sign-posted once you reach the town centre.

If you are using a Sat Nav to help you get to Buxton, please use the postcode SK17 6XN for Buxton Opera House and SK17 6BE for the Pavilion Arts Centre.

Buxton Opera House

Water Street
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 6XN

Pavilion Arts Centre

St John's Road
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 6BE

Parking: There is free parking after 6pm in the car park behind Pavilion Gardens, a short walk from both venues (Please note: the covered area of the car park closes at 6pm). There is also free on-street car parking after 6pm close to the theatre, but please make sure that you avoid the Residents Parking Scheme areas.

There is additional evening and weekend parking at St. Thomas More School, Palace Fields, Buxton SK17 6AF – please leave some money in the honesty Box!

Trains: A train service is available from Manchester Piccadilly Station to Buxton. For further information on all available services and connections call 03457 48 49 50.

Coach drop off: Although there is no on-site parking, coaches can drop off right outside the Opera House and there is coach parking in town.

Coach Parking:

Burlington Road

There are four free coach bays on Burlington Road (2 minutes' walk away)

Sylvan Coach Park is a small coach park located next to the roundabout at the intersection of the A6/A53. Charges: £5 for up to 4 hours, over 4 hours £10.

With prior agreement, coaches can be parked on the promenade at Pavilion Gardens if you use the facilities. Free £5 meal voucher for the driver for parties of 20+. For more information call: 01298 23114.

Access:

Registered Disabled customers are eligible for discounts on many performances, please see the information about each show in the brochure or on our website for more details.

The Opera House

The Opera House is an Edwardian building and only partially accessible to wheelchair users. The wheelchair entrance is 72cms at its narrowest point. We have three wheelchair spaces in the Stalls at ground floor level, and a specially adapted toilet. We can arrange wheelchair transfers if booked in advance with the Box Office.

Unfortunately the Stalls bar is not accessible by wheelchair, but a member of staff will gladly bring refreshments to your seat.

The Opera House Foyer and Box Office counter are not wheelchair accessible, but there is now wheelchair access to the side Box Office door (in Water St), with an intercom system to alert staff. The Dress Circle and Upper Circle levels are not wheelchair accessible and can only be reached by climbing the stairs. The building is not accessible by motorised scooter.

The Pavilion Arts Centre:

All parts of the Pavilion Arts Centre, except the Main Room balcony, are accessible by wheelchair.

Companion tickets:

In both venues your safety is paramount. In an emergency, if you would have difficulty making your way out of the building on your own, we strongly advise that you bring a companion.

Hearing Impairment:

We have passive infra-red (PIR)

systems in both the Opera House & Pavilion Arts Centre for people with

hearing impairments. This works through a special headset rather

than your hearing aid, and is available from the theatre. Please reserve one when you book your tickets (a £10 cash deposit on the night is required). There is also an induction loop system at both Box Offices.

Marketing:

The information in our brochure is available in other formats. Please contact the Marketing Department on: 01298 72050.

Assistance Dogs:

Assistance dogs are welcome

For more information visit:

www.buxtonoperahouse.org.uk
If you have any further questions please get in touch on: 01298 72050

Something extra:

We can arrange:

- *Refreshments*
- *Pre/post performance talks*
- *BSL interpreted performances*
- *Relaxed Performances*
- *Theatre tours*

If there is anything else that may be of interest to your group please get in touch on: 01298 72050.

About Buxton - England's Leading Spa Town

Buxton's rich history features Romans, royal prisoners and outlaws, alongside a vibrant local arts/music scene, literary festivals and the much loved 'theatre in the hills', The Dome – built to house the Duke of Devonshire's horses, and the Pavilion Gardens built in Victorian times and now restored to its former glory.

The Crescent & Spa is undergoing a £36m refurbishment, a model of the plans and exhibition board is on display in the Tourist Information Centre and will, from Spring 2015, be on show in the Pump Room, where visitors will once again be able to access this historic building and take the waters.

Take the Tour: The inland resort of Buxton resonates with Victorian splendour and this gentle guided walking tour, lasting approximately three hours, offers the opportunity to become immersed in the history of this beautiful spa town. Booking essential, contact Netta on: 01298 79648, netta@discoverbuxton.co.uk or Buxton Tourist Information Centre on: 01298 25106.

St Anne's Well

Buxton Water is one of the purest natural mineral waters in Europe and you can fill your own bottles from the permanent flow at St Anne's Well in front of the Crescent.

Don't miss the well dressing in early July, a stunning sight not to be missed. The age old custom of well dressing is unique to the Peak District and many towns and villages proudly create and display their floral masterpieces next to wells and water features throughout the summer.

The Dome

Formerly a hospital and now the

University of Derby's Devonshire campus – amazingly, this vast space was built to house the Duke of

Devonshire's horses. The slate dome is the largest unsupported dome in the UK, with a diameter of 174ft.

The Dome is home to many events, fairs, and concerts open to the public, more details can be found online www.atthedome.co.uk. Visitors can access the main dome, read the history of the building and enjoy coffee and lunch in the café.

Take the Tour: From Horses to Courses - ask at the Tourist Information Centre about tours of the building.

Pavilion Gardens

With an increase in tourism during Victorian times, the Pavilion Gardens complex was built to provide entertainment, with 23 acres of gardens and serpentine walkways as well as outdoor and indoor promenades. At one end, the Octagon was a favourite dance hall and is now host to many fairs and exhibitions throughout the year, and still holds afternoon tea dances (Please note: due to essential repairs, the Octagon will be closed until Dec 2016. There is a marquee on the promenade that is housing the events until the Octagon re-opens). The main part of the building now houses a restaurant and Art Café, along with the Tourist Information Centre and a local artists' gallery.

Regular festivals & events:

April/May: *The Big Session Folk Festival*

May: *Buxton Spring Fair*

July: *Buxton Festival, Buxton Festival Fringe, Buxton Military Tattoo*

August: *Buxton's Family Festival*

October: *Great Peak District Fair*

December: *Opera House Pantomime*

There are more festivals being added all the time, visit the website for more details!

Relax at The Pavilion Gardens, plus great adventure play for kids. Lunch in the Pavilion and experience one of the many events held inside each month, find out more online at www.paviliongardens.co.uk. Take time to relax in the Conservatory and take in the fantastic aerial photography of the Peak District. The complex hosts over 75 fairs, events, and markets each year, including the Great Peak District Fair in October, which showcases local food, craft, and produce.

Cavendish Arcade

The Grade II Listed arcade was originally developed by the Duke of Devonshire in the 1820s as a thermal/hot baths to complement the natural baths. The complex is now a boutique shopping mall, with fine independent shops. Don't miss the information boards painting a picture of the arcade's past and one of the country's largest stained glass ceilings!

Buxton Market Place

A short walk up past the Slopes reveals the traditional market place, with 80 independent shops, services and places to eat. Walk down to Scriveners, possibly one of England's best second-hand bookshops. Look out for great new boutiques leading the revival of this historic area.

Poole's Cavern

Poole's Cavern has attracted curious visitors to this underground treasure house in the High Peak spa town of Buxton for thousands of years. Our Stone Age ancestors sheltered here, Romans concealed gifts to the gods of the underworld and medieval outlaws sought refuge. 17th century explorers named the cavern the 'Wonder of the Peak'
www.poolescavern.co.uk

Markets:

Higher Buxton Market:

There is a market at Higher Buxton every Tuesday & Saturday. This is a small general market from 6.30am to 5pm - times may vary depending on the weather.

Farmer's Market:

There is usually a Farmer's Market in the Pavilion Gardens on the first Thursday of every month, between 9.30am and 2pm. Stalls include fresh produce and locally-made crafts. For dates and more information call: 01298 23114.

More information:

The Buxton Town Guide which includes a town map showing car parks, toilets and a calendar of major events in the town is available on the Visit Buxton website:
www.visitbuxton.co.uk

A video about Buxton is available here: www.visitbuxton.co.uk/buxton-video

Tourist Information

Buxton Tourist Information Centre,
Pavilion Gardens, St Johns Road,
Buxton, SK17 6BE. Tel: 01298 25106
Email: tourism@highpeak.gov.uk
www.visitbuxton.co.uk
www.visitpeakdistrict.com

Accommodation

Buxton has a great range of accommodation including hotels, guest houses and B&Bs.