

Discover Dudley



visit

www.discoverdudley.org.uk

There's lots to see and do in the
borough of Dudley



@DiscoverDudley



@DiscoverDudley




Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

April 2019



Welcome

Welcome to Dudley, the heart of the Black Country. The borough includes the towns of Dudley, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill and Halesowen and is about 30 minutes west of Birmingham in the West Midlands. The Black Country derives its name from its industrial past of coal mines and blast furnaces during its heyday of iron and steelmaking. Today it is built on proud traditions, industry and rich culture.

With a wide range of events and activities across our visitor attractions to locally brewed ales and beers in our historic pubs, there is something for everyone.

There are 16 miles of navigable canals, including several walks, cycle routes and moorings for boaters. With seven local nature reserves, one national nature reserve and a number of local parks there are plenty of outdoor leisure activities for all ages.

Dudley is associated with famous faces including Sir Lenny Henry, Duncan Edwards, James Whale, Billy Dainty and Dorothy Round; to mention a few.

Further information can be found at Dudley Council Plus or at **www.discoverdudley.org.uk** where you can also subscribe to the Discover Dudley e-newsletter filled with information on events taking place across the borough.

Enjoy your visit. Expect the unexpected.



Archives & Local History Centre

Want to discover more about yourself and your area?
This is the place to start.

This fabulous centre allows you to explore the wonderful heritage preserved there. The fantastic collections include the Papal Bull (over 800 years old!); parish records; historic photographs and plans; glass recipe and pattern books, wonderful maps and even a walking stick!

Find out what the inspiring collections can reveal; join in at amazing events; explore one of the illuminating exhibitions; or book a fascinating behind the scenes tour. Pop in to reveal more than just your history; discover more about your area, your family and ultimately yourself. The centre is also home to Dudley Museum at the Archives and the headquarters of the aspiring Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark.

Discover Dudley, discover yourself!

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | Tipton Road, Dudley West Midlands DY1 4SQ |
| Telephone | 01384 812770 |
| Web | www.better.org.uk/library/dudley/archives-and-local-history-centre |
| Admission | Free entry |
| Opening hours | Monday closed, Tuesday 9.30am to 5pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30am-4pm, Saturday 10am-4.30pm |



Black Country Living Museum

Visit the award-winning Black Country Living Museum and join in with 300 years of history like no other. Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the past as you explore period shops and houses and discover what it was like to live and work in one of the world's most industrialised landscapes.

Ride a bus or take a tram down to the museum's canal side village. Explore the past as you step inside the shops and houses that were once in the Black Country. Discover weird and wonderful treatments of the past in Emile Doo's Chemist; indulge yourself in the Victorian sweet shop; test your times tables in the school or watch a film in the 1930s Lime Light Cinema. Once you've worked up an appetite, grab a bag of traditionally cooked fish and chips or quench your thirst in the Bottle & Glass Inn where a warm welcome awaits.

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| Location | Tipton Road, Dudley DY1 4SQ |
| Telephone | 0121 557 9643 |
| Web | bclm.com |
| Admission | Charges apply |
| Opening hours | Please visit the website for opening times and prices |



The Black Countryman canal trips

The Black Countryman offers organised canal boat trips along the Stourbridge Canal, visiting many locations such as Stourton and Kinver. Special cruises and music nights operate throughout the season.

| | |
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| Location | Canal Company Office 2 Canal Street Stourbridge DY8 4LU |
| Telephone | 01384 375912 |
| Web | thebondedwarehousestourbridge.co.uk |
| Admission | Charges apply, please book in advance |
| Opening hours | April to October: monthly trips run on selected Sundays leaving at 2.30pm Bank holiday Mondays: all day cruise 10am to 5.30pm |



Dudley Borough Halls

Dudley is home to three magnificent and historic venues - Dudley Town Hall, Stourbridge Town Hall and Halesowen Cornbow Hall - collectively known as Dudley Borough Halls.

These unique venues present top quality performances throughout the year featuring a variety of comedy, music, theatre, cinema screenings and other live entertainment, as well as being home to a diverse range of community events.

Dudley Borough Halls are also available for hire, offering well-equipped and comfortable facilities at extremely competitive prices. Each of the venues has a range of different rooms to suit any occasion, including wedding receptions, parties, meetings, conferences and concerts.

All of the Borough Halls buildings have good disabled access and the friendly staff will be happy to discuss any special requirements you may have.

Please visit **boroughhalls.co.uk** for further information.

Twitter: @BoroughHalls

Facebook: Dudley Borough Halls



Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust

Enjoy a family-friendly canal boat trip into the heart of the geologically significant limestone caverns under Dudley town centre. The 45 minute boat trip retells the history of Dudley's mining and canal heritage. The visitor centre houses a café restaurant with balcony overlooking the boats arriving and departing, educational space, function room for private hire and Biffa Award exhibition gallery. Special events are held throughout the year including ghost trips and Santa's grotto.

| | |
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| Location | Birmingham New Road Dudley DY1 4SB |
| Telephone | 0121 557 6265 |
| Web | dudleycanaltrust.org.uk |
| Admission | Charges apply |
| Opening hours | Boat trips run Wednesday to Sunday from 10.30am to 3pm, November to February and daily from 10.30am to 4pm, March to October Please call for Christmas and New Year closing times |



Dudley Museum at The Archives

Follow Dudley's story from pre-history to the present day.

As well as the fantastic selection of fossils and geology displays, collections include Dudley Castle Finds, Dudley Local Heroes gallery with a small collection of Duncan Edwards memorabilia and local glass. Art work from our collection includes Dudley landscapes and in focus display of Sir Frank Short.

Free parking

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Location | Tipton Road, Dudley West Midlands DY1 4SQ |
| Telephone | 01384 815460 |
| Web | dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums |
| Admission | Free entry |
| Opening hours | Monday to Saturday 10am to 4pm |



Dudley Zoological Gardens

There are lions and tigers, snakes and spiders. Go wild at Dudley Zoo! Come face-to-face with lemurs as they roam in the trees. Watch amazing birds of prey. Meet friends on the farm and look out for ghosts in the castle. Gift shop, restaurant, face painting and land train are all available.

The 11th Century Dudley Castle is situated at the heart of the zoo and is home to Castle Creatures - an interactive medieval experience featuring live animals. The £250,000 exhibit tells the story of the Earl of Dudley's family and explains the history of the castle. It also houses animal exhibits showing how medieval folk lived in close proximity with species, such as rats and bats, as part of everyday life.

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| Location | Castle Hill, Dudley DY1 4SQ |
| Telephone | 01384 215313 |
| Web | dudleyzoo.org.uk |
| Admission | Charges apply |
| Opening hours | Every day at 10am except Christmas Day Last admission in Winter 3pm Easter to September 4pm |



Himley Hall & Park

Himley Hall is an 18th Century Grade II* listed building set in 180 acres of 'Capability Brown' landscaped parkland. Former home to the Earl of Dudley, it is now host to a variety of exhibitions and events in the hall & park including craft fayres and bridal fayres, classic car shows and Dudley's annual bonfire celebration. The 'Indulgent Afternoon Tea' is something of a highlight. Our South Wing Coffee Lounge and galleries welcome visitors to enjoy a light bite and explore our changing display of exhibitions.

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| Location | Himley Park, Dudley DY3 4DF |
| Telephone | 01384 817817 |
| Web | www.himleyhallandpark.co.uk |
| Admission | Free entry to the park (small car parking charge applies) |
| Opening hours | The hall is open throughout the year Wednesday to Sunday: 11am-4pm Bank Holiday Mondays and school holidays. Check website for opening hours. The park is open every day of the year and closes at dusk |



intu Merry Hill

intu Merry Hill is the largest shopping centre in the West Midlands, with a superb mix of over 200 major retailers including Debenhams, Next, Primark and M&S all under one roof.

With an Odeon Cinema, an external retail park, over 10,000 free parking spaces and extended opening hours, intu Merry Hill is a must-visit destination for day-trippers. There is plenty of family fun available too, with school holiday events, Fun Buggy hire and state-of-the-art parent's rooms.

From a quick bite to eat to a three course meal, enjoy day-long dining at over 50 eateries in Eat Central food court and throughout the centre, with family favourites including Five Guys, Nando's and Pizza Express.

intu.co.uk/merryhill

| | |
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| Location | Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 1QX |
| Telephone | 01384 487960 |
| Web | intu.co.uk/merryhill |
| Opening hours | Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm Saturday 9am to 7pm Sunday 11am to 5pm Check the website for Christmas and Bank Holiday opening hours |



The Lace Guild

Situated in the heart of the Glass Quarter, halfway between the Glasshouse Heritage Centre and the Red House Glass Cone, this modest Edwardian building houses a large collection of lace items and artefacts depicting the fascinating history of this heritage craft.

The Exhibition Room boasts a changing display of antique and contemporary lace. In addition there is a comprehensive library of lace and allied textile books, for Lace Guild members to borrow and for textile students to research on site.

There is the opportunity to purchase second hand bobbins, equipment and vintage lace; items donated for sale to benefit the Guild.

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| Location | The Hollies, 53 Audnam Stourbridge, DY8 4AE |
| Telephone | 01384 390739 |
| Web | www.laceguild.org |
| Admission | Free entry, donations gratefully received |
| Opening hours | Exhibition Room open Wednesday to Friday 10am until 3pm and the first Saturday of the month February to November. |

On the first Saturday in February, May, August and November, a museum curator is present to identify lace bought in by visitors. As we rely on volunteers to welcome visitors, please check in advance to ensure that we will be open. To view lace from our reserve collection or our extensive Archive, currently being catalogued, please contact us to make an appointment.



Libraries

Dudley libraries free services include the loan of books, wi-fi, internet and free use of computers four hours per day, ebooks, emagazines, CDs and DVDs plus a wide range of community information.

Dudley libraries are places where you can learn new skills, make new friends, find and book your dream holiday, delve into your family history or just pick up your emails! They've got books, information on places to go and things to see, activities including Rattle & Rhyme sessions for babies, toddlers and their parents and carers, reading groups, craft sessions as well as local history talks. There's something for everyone.

With convenient opening hours, including weekends, and a programme of events throughout the year, libraries provide a single access point for many services and also offer 24/7 information and library services via **www.better.org.uk/library/dudley** or telephone **01384 815557**.





Dudley Museum Service

Juniors at Museums (JAM Club)

A programme of family friendly activities. Craft workshops, fused glass sessions, free trails and other fun events occur every school holiday and some weekends. Activities include holiday school, Youth & Crafts Market and Santa.

Dudley Museums Service are an Arts Award Centre and Children's University Learning Destination.

'Let's do this' Adults in museums

'Let's do this' is a programme of adult sessions including craft, art, glass, textiles, walks, talks and a reading group! Relaxed and informal, no experience necessary or artistic flair required, just a desire to meet people and give it a go. Participants enjoy chatting and getting away from the stresses of everyday life for a few hours of 'me' time.

Admission is free - enjoy a look around our exhibitions, visit the museum shop and don't forget to bring along your children and grandchildren.

Small charge for some activities.

These events are based at the Red House Glass Cone and Dudley Museum at the Archives.

See dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums



Stourbridge Glass Quarter

Home to glassmaking for over 400 years, Stourbridge Glass Quarter not only enjoys a wealth of glassmaking heritage but is also home to a vibrant community of glass companies and innovative studio glass artists.

Red House Glass Cone, Glasshouse Heritage Centre are at the heart of the Stourbridge Glass Quarter. Each venue brings a different dimension to the visitors' exploration of glass, past and present.

Admission is free. Visitors can watch on-site glass makers at work across the Quarter, subject to availability. All sites offer a special shopping experience, for that unique gift. Visit [glassquarter.org.uk](https://www.glassquarter.org.uk) for more information on everything the Glass Quarter has to offer.

The Stourbridge Glass Quarter hosts the International Festival of Glass and British Glass Biennale every two years. Visit [ifg.org.uk](https://www.ifg.org.uk) for details of the next festival.



Red House Glass Cone

Reaching 100ft into the sky this glass heritage visitor attraction is an impressive site on the Stourbridge landscape and an integral part of the historic Stourbridge Glass Quarter.

Built at the end of the 18th Century, the Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley was used for the manufacture of glass until 1936 and is now one of only four cones left in the United Kingdom.

Family-friendly events including trails and activities take place throughout the year. There are free glassmaking demonstrations at weekends and scheduled demonstrations during school holidays. The gift shop and craft studios offer a range of locally produced glassware and handcrafted items that would make a special gift.

The Red Cone Coffee House offers an extensive menu including freshly ground coffee, real Belgian hot chocolate and a menu for children. Highlights include sandwiches, baguettes and homemade cakes. The Cone is the ideal choice for a fun and interesting day out.

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| Location | High Street, Wordsley DY8 4AZ |
| Telephone | 01384 812750 |
| Web | www.dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/museums |
| Admission | Free entry |
| Opening hours | Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm Saturday & Sunday 11am to 4pm |



Glasshouse Heritage Centre

The Glasshouse is home to Ruskin Glass Centre and the Glasshouse Heritage & Arts Centre.

Ruskin Glass Centre is home to 23 craft businesses with retail units to browse and an organic café.

The **Glasshouse Heritage Centre** celebrates 100 years of glassmaking with a Glass Heritage Officer on site to bring artefacts and exhibitions to life through guided tours.

The **Glasshouse Arts Centre** boasts a 400 capacity auditorium, studio theatre and meeting rooms. It hosts a range of activities from theatre and music performance to meetings, conferences and seminars.

An events programme includes demonstrations and workshops for all ages and interests.

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| Location | Wollaston Road, Amblecote Stourbridge DY8 4HF |
| Telephone | 01384 399400 |
| Web | ruskinglasscentre.co.uk |
| Admission | Free entry to glass and visitor centres |
| Opening hours | Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4pm & Saturday 10am to 4pm |
| Café | Food served until 2pm |
| Glasshouse Heritage Centre | Opening hours Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am to 3pm. First and last Saturday of the month 10am to 3pm. This facility is run by volunteers, so please check before visiting |
| Keep in touch | twitter.com/ruskinglasscentre facebook.com/ruskinglasscentre |



The countryside in Dudley

The borough of Dudley has seven local and one national nature reserves. They provide you with the opportunity to explore the countryside.

The wardens offer a wide range of education, interpretative and instructive walks, talks and organised events for all ages, the majority of which are free across the nature reserves.

For more information visit

dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/parks-open-spaces

| | |
|--|---------|
| Barrow Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) 01384 812780 | DY5 4JH |
| Buckpool & Fens Pools LNR 01384 812780 | DY5 4NE |
| Bumble Hole & Warrens Hall LNR 01384 814100 | DY2 8HU |
| Cotwall End Valley LNR 07799 070125 | DY3 2UL |
| The Leasowes 01384 814642 | B62 8DH |
| Saltwells LNR 01384 812795 | DY5 1TF |
| Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve 01384 812785 | DY1 3SB |



Shopping

Town centres

The four town centres of Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Brierley Hill offer a wealth of fascinating history and a variety of shops for you to visit. Architectural trail guides are available.

The £6.7 million regeneration of Dudley's historic market place has transformed the town. High quality paving, feature lighting and new street furniture have been installed, as well as a brand new market. A welcome new element for Dudley is the addition of several new artworks which celebrate Dudley's rich heritage. Medieval passageways have been conserved, the beautiful Victorian fountain has been restored, statues renovated, and a history trail introduced.

Linking the marketplace is Castle Hill, comprising Dudley Zoological Gardens, Black Country Living Museum, The Archives and Local History Service and Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust. The nearby Castlegate complex contains restaurants, Costa Coffee, Bowlplex and a Showcase Cinema. There is plenty to entertain locals and visitors alike.

Further details can be found at www.dudley.gov.uk



Leisure in Dudley borough

There are three leisure centres and a sports stadium offering a range of leisure activities. Whether it's swimming, running, enjoying the gym or playing badminton, it's all here for you to enjoy. There are also many coaching schemes, soft play sessions and catering for birthday parties.

Go to **www.dudley.gov.uk/sport** or call **01384 812800** for more information.

Castlegate Leisure Park

Why not spend some time at Castlegate Leisure Park in Dudley? It's home to Bowlplex, Showcase Cinema and includes numerous eateries such as Pizza Hut, Nando's and Frankie & Benny's.

Parks

There are five staffed parks and many other parks within the borough. Further details are available at **dudley.gov.uk/see-and-do/parks-open-spaces/**

Let's Get

The Let's Get website promotes weekly short walks, lap walking, longer walks and walks that take in local history and visitor attractions, as well as Nordic walking in the dark and running for health and fitness. To find out more visit **www.lets-get.com**



Accommodation

If you are looking for somewhere to stay while visiting, then Dudley borough has a wide variety of B&Bs, guest houses, hotels and pubs as well as camping and caravan sites, all within a 20 minute drive of Dudley.

Further details of accommodation including bed and breakfasts can be found at **discoverdudley.org.uk** or call Dudley Council Plus on **0300 555 2345**.



The Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill

The Copthorne Hotel Merry Hill-Dudley is one of the finest hotels in Dudley. It overlooks the canal marina and adds contemporary comforts and modern amenities to a waterfront location.

This fine modern Dudley hotel offers elegant guest rooms with contemporary amenities, dining options, a health club & spa and friendly service. There are also impressive conference and banqueting facilities available, which are able to host 600 delegates for meetings, weddings and conferences.

- 138 guest rooms, including 7 stunning suites
- Wifi access throughout the hotel
- Free car parking for guests
- Leisure Club & Imagine Spa
- Faraday's Restaurant & Bar, perfect for every occasion
- Meetings and events facilities for up to 600

Location The Waterfront, Level Street
Brierley Hill DY5 1UR

Telephone 01384 482882

Web www.millenniumhotels.com/en/dudley



Village Hotel Club Dudley

Village Hotel Club Dudley is ideally located within walking distance to the best of Dudley's tourist attractions. Dudley has lots for the family to see, do and enjoy.

Village Hotel Club offers you everything under one roof:

- Cool room, big bed
- 25m pool you can actually swim in
- Gym and spa you can relax in
- Stylish dining
- Starbucks™
- FREE car parking

124 rooms all modern and contemporary in style and include FREE wifi which is also available in all public areas. Double, twin and family rooms along with interconnecting rooms for larger families are available.

Ideal location for group bookings and tours with great rates.

Why not upgrade to a Club room - the must-have room with genuinely good extras!

Location Castlegate Drive
Dudley DY1 4TB

Telephone 01384 888830

Web village-hotels.co.uk

VILLAGE
HOTEL CLUB



Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark

Geoparks are a unique collection of special sites around the world, recognised for their geology, all of which are internationally important.

The Black Country is a place where coral seas, steamy swamps, scorching deserts, icy wastelands, mines and furnaces created unique and wonderful landscapes over 430 million years of geological time.

Between 1600 and the 1960s intensive heavy industry covered most of the area and earned this region international recognition as 'The Workshop of the World', where anything could be designed and made.

This industrialisation saw much of the landscape 'black by day and red by night': due to the coal mining wastes, furnace slag heaps and glow of the furnaces at night.

Today it is an amazing place to explore with many 'hidden gems' of world class natural and man-made wonders. These are classed as individual geosites such as Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve within the aspiring Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark.

If you are looking for information, or wish to become an ambassador to support the work, visit www.blackcountrygeopark.org.uk



Visitor information in the Black Country

**Places to visit? Where to eat? What's on?
Where to stay? Travel information?**

Dudley Council Plus

259 Castle Street, Dudley DY1 1LQ

Tel: 0300 555 2345

Open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm

Saturday 9am to 12 noon

tourism@dudley.gov.uk

discoverdudley.org.uk

NX Dudley Travel Card & Information Centre

Dudley Bus Station, Fisher Street, Dudley DY2 7AD

Tel: 0121 254 7272 Customer relations

nxbus.co.uk/west-midlands/

Why not download the NX bus app?

Walsall Central Reference Library

01922 653110

walsall.gov.uk

West Bromwich Central Library

0121 569 4904

sandwell.gov.uk

Wolverhampton Art Gallery

01902 552055

wolverhampton.gov.uk

Visitors with disabilities

Information on access to attractions mentioned within this guide is available from

Dudley Council Plus on **0300 555 2345**

or by emailing **tourism@dudley.gov.uk**

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of details included in this guide.

Dudley Council and the attractions featured cannot guarantee the accuracy of the details included and accept no responsibility for this. Visitors should check details with attractions before travelling.

Further details available at **discoverdudley.org.uk**

Should you have any comments about this guide, email **tourism@dudley.gov.uk**

Buses

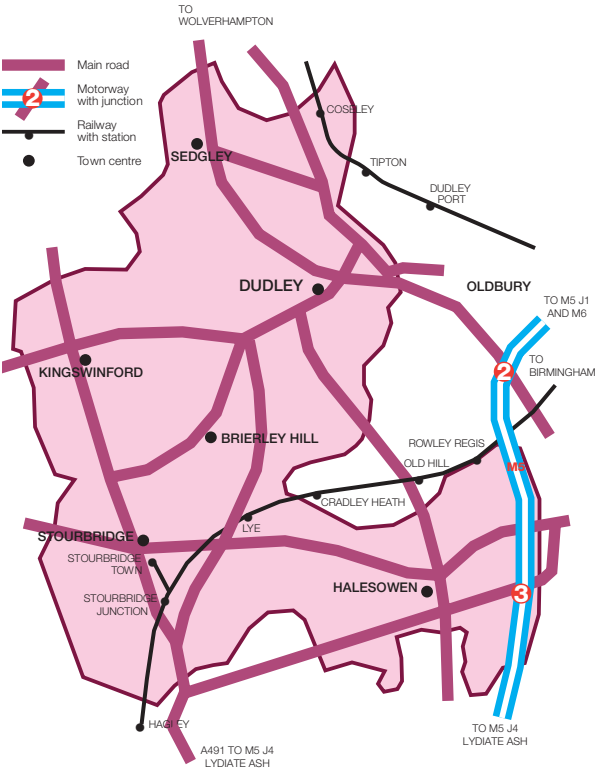
Bus numbers across the borough

Dudley to Brierley Hill - 6
Dudley to Halesowen - 18
Dudley to Kingswinford - 5
Dudley to Oldbury - 87
Dudley to Sedgley - 1
Dudley to Stourbridge - 16, 17

Bus numbers to visitor attractions

Barrow Hill Local Nature Reserve - 2, 5, 6
Blackcountryman boat trips - 6, 8
Black Country Living Museum - 11, 11A
Buckpool & Fens Pool Local Nature Reserve - 6
Castlegate - 11, 11A, 74, 87
Cotwall End Valley Local Nature Reserve - 1, 27, 27A
Dudley Archives & Local History Service - 11, 11A
Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust - 11, 11A
Dudley Zoo - 11, 42, 87, 126, X7
intu Merry Hill - 2, 7, 8, 18, 81
Lace Guild - 16, 17
Leasowes - 19
Red House Glass Cone - 16, 17
Ruskin Glass & Glasshouse Heritage Centre - 16, 17
Saltwells Local Nature Reserve - 81
Village Hotel - X7, 74, 87
Wren's Nest National Nature Reserve - 8, 82

Road and rail routes



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