

iPod Traveller

"The Best in European Travel"



▲Glasgow is well known for its beautifully preserved Georgian Architecture that can be seen all over the city

Glasgow – Scotland with style

Overview

Glasgow, situated on the River Clyde alongside Scotland's stunning West Coast, is one of the most impressive revivals of post-millennium Britain. Once an important trading ground for tobacco merchants between Europe and North America, the city is now undergoing sweeping transformations of former industrial land and warehouses, whilst celebrating what Glasgow is best known for; grandiose Georgian architecture, and of course Glasgow's most famous inventor and architect, Charles Macintosh.

A visit to Scotland isn't complete until you've pulled yourself away from the hordes of tourists flocking to see Edinburgh Castle. Take some time out to see this altogether more easy-going part of Scotland. Glasgow holds festivals and events throughout the year, including the international bagpipe festival which takes place in the city's main square. Glasgow is currently in the race to host the 2010 commonwealth games.

5 top things to see and do in Glasgow

George Square This huge square is where many of Glasgow's world famous festivals take place. Adjacent to the City Hall (where you can arrange yourself a private tour of the building) and just a stones throw from the hustle and bustle of Buchanan Street, the square, which has recently been dramatically improved, forms the centre-piece for Glasgow and a starting point from where you can admire some of the city's magnificent architectural wonders.

Glasgow Cathedral The city's impressive cathedral is also known as St. Mungo's, after the alleged founder of the city itself. This sacred 12th century place of worship will not overwhelm you by its size, but rather by its charm. The first stone was laid by King David 1 in 1136 and building, renovations and improvements have been taking place ever since.

Shopping in Glasgow "Second best shopping city in the UK after London", is a title we found branded all over the net. True or false, IPT can certainly vouch for that. The main shopping areas are Buchanan Street and the Buchanan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, Argyle Street, St Enoch, the West End and many more.

After a walk around some of the more exclusive shopping galleries it will be clear why the city is nicknamed by its own tourist board "Scotland with Style".

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum This is arguably the best art gallery's or museums anywhere in the UK. Like many Glaswegian places of interest, this too has recently undergone extensive renovation and is now fully re-opened to the public.

If you don't have the time or patients to walk around one of the biggest and most impressive museums in Britain, then at least take time to stroll and absorb the tranquility of Kelvingrove Park.

Glasgow – Scotland with style

City Break Whilst Glasgow does feature as one of iPT's hottest most worthwhile cities in the UK to visit, we can't stress how worthwhile a short day-trip out of the city will be. Nearby you can visit the beautiful Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, the World Famous Royal Troon golf club and many others. The Western Isles are also just a short combined rail-sail ticket from Central Station.



▲ Every year the International Bagpipe festival takes places in George Square

Getting there

Glasgow has a particularly well integrated transport network, with a combination of buses, long and short distance trains, and a large choice of Intercontinental and European flight destinations, flag-carrying and low-cost.

The recent emergence of Scottish airline Globespan has seen fares to Canada slashed with return tickets starting at around £100 / \$200 each way.

If you are planning on visiting Edinburgh whilst you're North of the Border, there are trains every 15 minutes during peak hours and taking just 50 minutes between the two cities.

Rail

Glasgow has two main railways stations; Glasgow Central and Glasgow Queens Street. Glasgow is well connected with most major cities in England by GNER and Virgin services which both terminate at Glasgow Central. For those who want a more leisurely journey, the Caledonian Sleeper will take you from London to Glasgow overnight with bargain berths from £19.

Local services to Ardrossan Harbour leave Central Station frequently and travel down the Ayrshire coast. Continue a little further towards Ayr and witness some of the spectacular world famous golf courses that Ayrshire is so famous for.

Bus

There are a variety of long and short distance bus services connecting Glasgow with all the major and small towns in Scotland. Buchanan bus station is located near Queens Street station. City Link (<http://www.citylink.co.uk>) is the main provider of services in Scotland and they also provide affordable tours of the Lomand national park.

Air

Glasgow is the main international airport for Scotland and most major European and World cities are connected with regular flights.

The airport is connected with two competing bus services which cost approximately £5 to reach the city centre and take 20 minutes.

Admiring the architecture

Charles Macintosh was one of Glasgow's most celebrate men. As a world renowned architect and inventor, much of his influence and designs can be seen throughout the city.

Visit Glasgow hold many organised Macintosh tours throughout the year, which include amongst others a visit to The Lighthouse and tea at the famous Willow Tea Rooms, which are designed inside and out entirely by Macintosh.

Click on www.visitglasgow.com for a full PDF downloadable guide to Macintosh, which includes a comprehensive walking tour.

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