

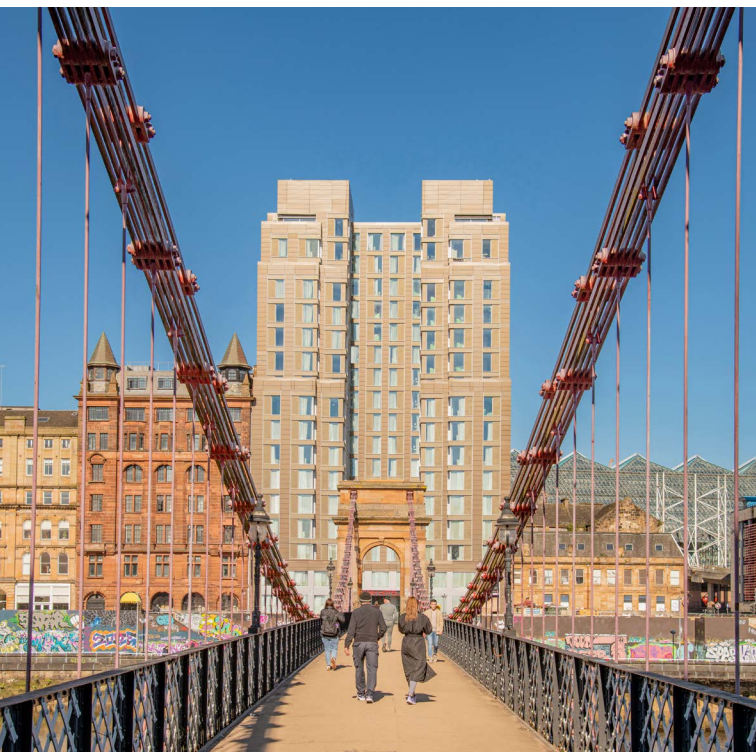


POCKET ROUGH GUIDE

# GLASGOW

written and researched by  
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*Glasgow Life / Paul Watt Photography*



# Glasgow

Set on the banks of the mighty River Clyde, Glasgow is a city bursting with creativity, energy and cultural richness. Recognised as a UNESCO City of Music, Scotland's largest city offers legendary live music venues, renowned festivals and an electric atmosphere. Visitors can explore world-class museums, marvel at striking street art and admire the work of the city's most famous architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Meanwhile, Glasgow's thriving food scene caters to all tastes, from Michelin-starred dining to independent brunch spots and cosy whisky bars. Glasgow is an ideal base from which to explore further afield and there are numerous wonderful day trips accessible from the city. With regular TransPennine Express services into Glasgow from Manchester and Liverpool, it's an easy city to get to by train. Find out more about travelling to Glasgow by **TransPennine Express**.

## Glasgow's music scene

Various locations [visitglasgow.com](https://www.visitglasgow.com).

Charges vary

As the UK's first UNESCO City of Music, Glasgow is a haven for music lovers. Iconic venues such as King Tut's Wah Wah Hut, where Oasis was discovered, and the

The Barrowland Ballroom

Visit Scotland/Luigi Di Pasquale

legendary Barrowland Ballroom host world-class acts year-round. The OVO Hydro, frequently ranked among the world's top entertainment venues, welcomes global superstars. Visitors can take a music-themed walking tour to explore Glasgow's rich musical heritage, while festivals like Celtic Connections, TRNSMT and Piping Live ensure the city's music scene is always alive with energy.

## Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

Argyle St, Glasgow, G3 8AG

[glasgowlife.org.uk/museums](https://glasgowlife.org.uk/museums). Free

One of Scotland's most visited attractions, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum houses an eclectic collection of art, history and natural science exhibits. Highlights include Salvador Dalí's *Christ of Saint John of the Cross*, a stunning display of Scottish Colourists and artefacts from ancient Egypt. The museum's grand central hall hosts daily organ recitals, adding to its cultural charm. Set within the picturesque Kelvingrove Park, it's the perfect





## Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

### *Glasgow Life*

place to combine history with a relaxing outdoor stroll.

### **The Burrell Collection**

**Pollok Country Park, Glasgow, G43 1AT**

📍 [burrellcollection.com](http://burrellcollection.com). Free

Winner of the Best Building in Scotland award, the Burrell Collection reopened in 2022 following a major refurbishment. This outstanding museum showcases over 9,000 objects, from medieval tapestries to Chinese ceramics, collected by shipping magnate Sir William Burrell. Nestled in the stunning Pollok Country Park, it stages world-class art in a serene setting. Visitors can explore immersive exhibitions, learn about the museum's commitment to sustainability and enjoy the scenic woodland trails nearby.

### **Glasgow's street art**

**Various locations**

📍 [citycentremuraltrail.co.uk](http://citycentremuraltrail.co.uk). Free

Glasgow's dynamic street art scene has transformed the city into an open-air gallery. The City Centre Mural Trail takes visitors on a journey past colourful large-scale

murals, depicting everything from local legends to imaginative, thought-provoking works. The ever-evolving artwork brightens Glasgow's lanes and hidden corners, showcasing the talent of Scottish artists. Exploring the mural trail offers a fresh perspective on the city and its creative spirit, making it a must-do for visitors interested in contemporary urban culture.

### **The Mackintosh Trail**

**Various locations** 📍 [crmsociety.com](http://crmsociety.com).

**Charges vary**

Glasgow is the best place in the world to explore the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Scotland's most celebrated architect and designer. Visitors can follow the Mackintosh Trail to admire his iconic buildings, including the Mackintosh at the Willow tearooms, the House for an Art Lover and The Lighthouse. The Mackintosh House at the Hunterian Art Gallery provides an intimate look at his distinctive interior designs, while the beautiful Mackintosh Queen's Cross is the only church he ever designed.

## Glasgow's food and drink Scene

Various locations [visitglasgow.com](https://www.visitglasgow.com).

### Charge

Glasgow is an eclectic haven for food lovers, with options ranging from fine dining to street food. Michelin-starred restaurants serve up innovative Scottish cuisine, while family-friendly eateries offer something for all tastes. The city's brunch scene is thriving, with stylish cafés serving up creative dishes in trendy surroundings. Whisky enthusiasts can explore cosy pubs and dedicated whisky bars, sampling drams from Scotland's finest distilleries. With a growing focus on local produce and sustainability, Glasgow's food scene is as diverse as it is delicious.

## University of Glasgow

University Ave, Glasgow, G12 8QQ

[gla.ac.uk](https://www.gla.ac.uk). Free

Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow is one of the UK's oldest and most prestigious institutions. Its stunning Gothic architecture makes it a popular visitor attraction, with buildings reminiscent of the Harry Potter films. The university's

cloisters and historic quadrangles provide a picturesque setting, while the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, located on campus, offer fascinating exhibitions on archeology, art and natural history. The university is a must-see for architecture lovers and those keen to explore Glasgow's academic and cultural legacy.

## Day trips from Glasgow

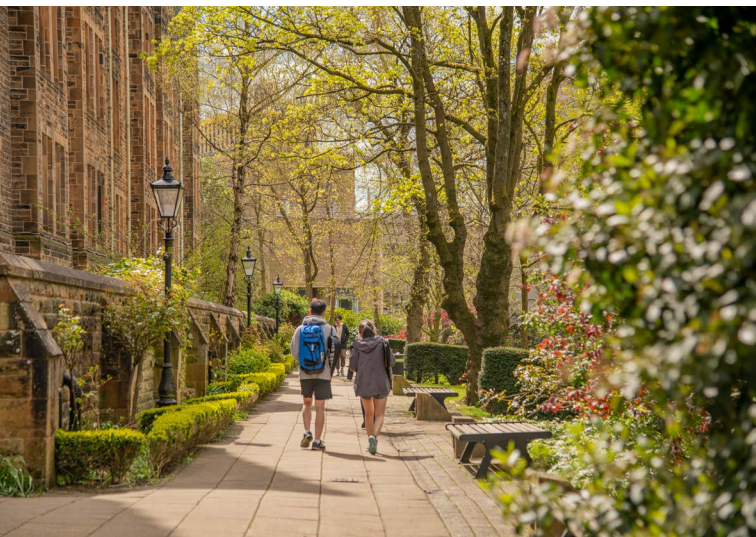
Various locations [visitscotland.com](https://www.visitscotland.com).

### Charges vary

Glasgow's location makes it an ideal base for exploring Scotland's breathtaking landscapes. Within easy reach, visitors can explore Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, known for its stunning scenery and outdoor adventures. Historic towns like Stirling, with its famous castle and the beautiful Ayrshire coast, home to Robert Burns' birthplace, are just a short journey away. The option of embarking on day trips to whisky distilleries, scenic train journeys through the Highlands and island-hopping adventures to places like Arran make Glasgow the perfect starting point for a wider Scottish adventure.

University of Glasgow

*Glasgow Life / Paul Watt Photography*





# Shops

## Duds

711 Great Western Rd, G12 8QX

📍 [instagram.com/duds\\_vintage.com](https://www.instagram.com/duds_vintage.com)

A must-visit for vintage lovers, this West End gem is packed with carefully curated fashion from the '50s to the '90s. From retro jackets to timeless accessories, every item is handpicked for style and quality. If you're hunting for a unique statement piece or a classic staple, this store should serve up something special.

## The Good Spirits Co.

23 Bath St, G2 1HW, 📍 [thegoodspiritsco.com](https://www.thegoodspiritsco.com)

Whisky fans and cocktail lovers alike will enjoy browsing this specialist shop, which stocks a superb selection of Scotch, craft gins and fine rums. Knowledgeable staff are on hand to offer recommendations and regular tasting events make this a great stop for anyone keen to explore Glasgow's thriving drinks scene.

# Restaurants and cafés

## Laboratorio

93 West Nile St, G1 2SH 📞 0141 353 1111

The "Lab" is a terrific little bolthole with cement board walls and recycled wood panelling, staffed by super-friendly baristas who really do know their beans. There's typically a single-origin espresso and a guest espresso on the go at any one time. Sit-down and takeaway.

## Cail Bruich

725 Great Western Rd 📍 [cailbruich.co.uk](https://www.cailbruich.co.uk)

This Michelin-starred restaurant is under the helm of Lorna McNee, a protégé of the late Andrew Fairlie, and currently the only female Scottish chef to hold a star. Five- and seven-course tasting menus dazzle with plates like Gigha



Laboratorio  
Kirsty Anderson

halibut with Jerusalem artichoke and beurre noisette, and Orkney scallops with crème fraîche and sauce Albuféra. The restaurant itself looks gorgeous.

## Gamba

225a West George St, G2 2ND 📍 [gamba.co.uk](https://www.gamba.co.uk)

Continental contemporary sophistication prevails in this super basement restaurant where fish is king: once you've devoured the signature fish soup (Portland crabmeat and prawn dumplings), perhaps try some crisp-fried red mullet and crayfish tails with melon and goat's cheese. A beautifully refined interior and outstanding service.

## Paesano

94 Miller St, G1 1DT 📍 [paesanopizza.co.uk](https://www.paesanopizza.co.uk)

In a city bursting with great Italian restaurants, this authentic Neopolitan pizzeria is a real standout. Rustled up in wood-fired ovens made in Naples, there are eight different pizzas to choose from, each made using a hybrid yeast and sourdough recipe and with the freshest ingredients from Campania.

## Trans Europe Café

25 Parnie St, G1 5RJ 📞 0141 552 7999

Named after the legendary Kraftwerk album, this fun, railway-style diner – with 1980s-style bus seating – takes culinary inspiration from various European capitals. Thus, you will find gourmet sandwiches like the Madrid (chorizo sausage, pesto and mozzarella) and the Monte Carlo (tuna melt with cheddar and mayonnaise). On weekend evenings it serves bistro-style dishes.

## The Ubiquitous Chip

12 Ashton Lane, G12 8SJ

🌐 [ubiquitouschip.co.uk](http://ubiquitouschip.co.uk)

Opened in 1971, *The Chip* led the way in headlining upmarket Modern Scottish cuisine and it's still up there among the best restaurants in the city; expect mouthwatering plates such as Shetland plaice with wild garlic, gnocchi, clams and Vermouth sauce, and Newtonmore red deer celeriac and BBQ maitake, kale and pickled squash.

The Ubiquitous Chip

Visit Scotland/Luigi Di Pasquale



## University Café

87 Byres Rd, G11 5HN 📞 0141 339 5217

This institution dates back to the 1910s and has been adored by at least three generations of students and West End residents, with its Formica tables in snug booths, etched-glass partitions and cinema-style pull-down seating. The favourites are fish and chips or mince'n'tatties, rounded off with an ice-cream cone – you won't spend more than a tenner.

## Bars

### Drygate

85 Drygate, G4 OUT

🌐 [drygate.com](http://drygate.com)

Injecting a welcome dollop of life into the East End, this small but progressive brewery has a ground-floor restaurant and bar, serving small plates and pub grub, plus an upstairs beer hall leading to a rooftop terrace. It offers five of its own craft beers on tap and a dozen or so guest ales, plus a regular programme of live music and comedy. Well worth the short trek from the city centre.

### The Gate

251 Gallowgate, G4 0TP

🌐 [thegateglasgow.com](http://thegateglasgow.com)

Opposite the Barrowland Ballroom, this cosy joint champions Scottish spirits with over 160 whiskies and a standout cocktail list. Toasties are a menu staple, while regular chef takeovers keep things fresh.

### Òran Mór

Byres Rd, corner of Great Western Rd, G12 8QX 🌐 [oran-mor.co.uk](http://oran-mor.co.uk)

This capacious bar-club venue and performance space are all located within the tastefully restored Kelvinside parish church. However, perhaps the best reason to visit, is for the perennially popular *A Play, A Pie and A Pint* lunchtime theatre programme (🌐 [playpiepint.com](http://playpiepint.com)).