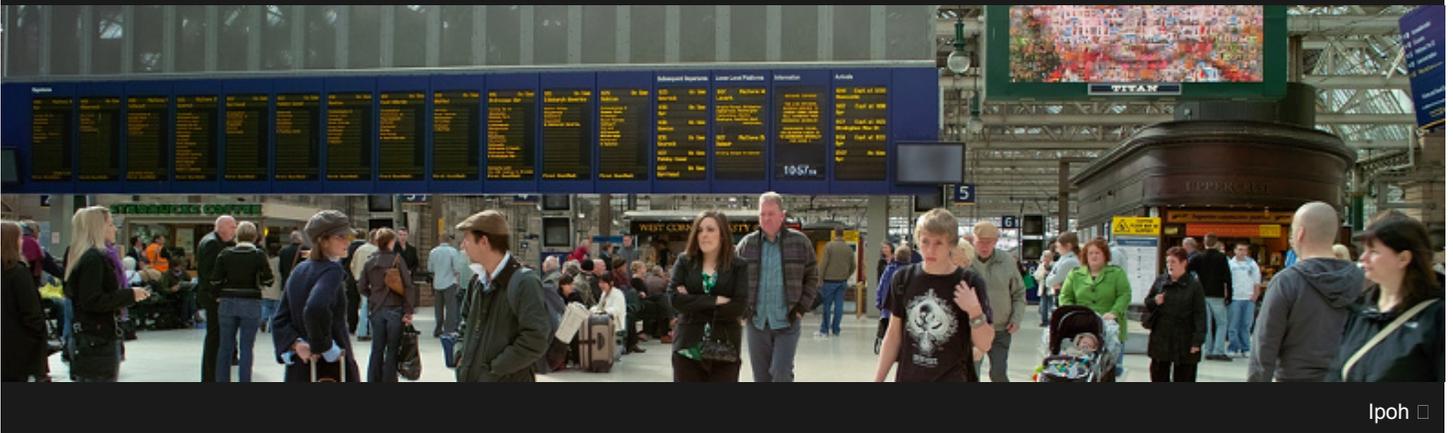




nileGUIDE

ALL YOU NEED TO PLAN YOUR PERFECT TRIP



Things to do in Glasgow with kids

Glasgow, 2 Days

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Guide Description



AUTHOR NOTE: There are heaps of things to do in Glasgow with kids. However what you do very much depends on the weather. I have not included many of the outdoor places in this guide ...just to be on safe side. But do check our kid friendly list for even more inspiration!

Itinerary Overview

things to do
restaurants
hotels
nightlife

Day 1 - Glasgow

DAY NOTE: Plenty of eating places at Xscape and Science Centre. Imax cinema is highly recommended (screen bigger than a 5-a-side football pitch with a digital 12,000 watt sound system). Centre closes at around 5pm but Imax is opened till late...phone before you head out!



Hilton Glasgow Hotel

Fine city views and under 18's go FREE



Glasgow Science Centre

Fun Science for kids



SNO!zone Braehead

Chilly Entertainment

Day 2 - Glasgow

DAY NOTE: If it is chilly in Glasgow Green park just head into People's Palace(it's in the park) To visit the Clydesdale horses in the stables phone 0141 276 0924 to confirm



Seaforce Boat Trips

Fast Powerboat Rides From The Heart Of Glasgow!



People's Palace and Winter Gardens

Working Life in Glasgow



Glasgow Green

The Capital of Glasgow Parks



Dino's

"For the love of Food - Italian style!" Dinos



TGI Friday's

Thank God it's Friday

Day 1 - Glasgow

QUICK NOTE

DAY NOTE: Plenty of eating places at Xscape and Science Centre. Imax cinema is highly recommended (screen bigger than a 5-a-side football pitch with a digital 12,000 watt sound system). Centre closes at around 5pm but Imax is opened till late...phone before you head out!

contact:

tel: +44 141 204 5555
fax: +44 141 204 5004
<http://www.hilton.co.uk/glasgow>

location:

1 William Street
Glasgow G3 8HT

1 Hilton Glasgow Hotel

Hotels.com

DESCRIPTION: The Hilton Glasgow enjoys a central location hotel, is only minutes away from Glasgow's shopping district and 8 miles from Glasgow Airport. Popular Glasgow attractions are also within easy reach, such as Glasgow Science Centre Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre. However it is situated just off the M8 motorway at the edge of the city centre! Executive Rooms; enjoy sweeping views of Glasgow and access to the Executive Lounge. All rooms at the Hilton Glasgow hotel offer high-speed internet access. (Not free on avg £15.00 for 24 hours)
Enjoy a meal in style at Camerons restaurant or opt for international cuisine from the New York style Brasserie, Minsky's. Then you can head on over to the 15-metre swimming pool or fully equipped fitness centre or just indulge your senses with a luxury treat from The Ocean Rooms Spa. The Glasgow Hilton proudly offers 16 meeting rooms for up to 1000 people, a business centre, Executive Lounge and wireless internet access in the meeting rooms and lobby (service charges apply).
Kids under-18s sharing with 2 adults stay free at the Glasgow Hilton and kids can enjoy, on-demand movies in every room.
M&D's Theme Park is nearby.
© NileGuide

contact:

tel: +44 871 540 1000
<http://www.gsc.org.uk/>

location:

50 Pacific Quay
Glasgow Scotland G51 1EA

hours:

Daily 10am-5pm

2 Glasgow Science Centre

DESCRIPTION: This futuristic building is credited with rejuvenating the look of Glasgow's dilapidated docks lands. Exploring Glasgow's contributions to science (among other things), the museum offers fun interactive displays for the whole family (like creating and starring in your own digital video) plus Scotland's only IMAX theater.
© NileGuide



Science Centre

contact:

<http://www.xscape.co.uk/snow/braehead>,<http://www.snozonebraehead.com>,<http://www.snozoneuk.com/html/snozone-scotland>

location:

Kings Inch Road
Braehead PA4 8XQ



SNO!zone Braehead

DESCRIPTION: Xscape projects across the country have provided great leisure and entertainment facilities for everyone. SNO!zone Braehead is one such attempt to have unlimited fun. There are Ski slopes to slide from, rocks to climb on, great food to relish, drinks to sip, games to play, cinema to watch, parties to attend and also, some work to be done at the conference venues within. The Snow Bar and Sky Park are places not to be missed. And add to all these, golf can be tried at the 'Paradise Island' or rides on the thrilling 'Robocoaster.' All said, this is a place to be experienced without further delay. For further details, call at +44 871 222 5672. © wcities.com

contact:

tel: +44 141 332 0626
http://www.dinosglasgow.co.uk/

location:

39-41 Sauchiehall Street
Glasgow G2 3AT

4 Dino's

OUR LOCAL EXPERT SAYS:

The spaghetti marinara and pizza are highly recommended!

DESCRIPTION: The huge neon sign ensures that everyone who passes by Dino's will remember where it is. It's worth remembering too - for the charming, largely Italian staff, the atmosphere more reminiscent of Rome or Milan than rainy Sauchiehall Street, and the reliably excellent menu (over 100 dishes) which features fantastic pizzas with a thin, crispy and herb-infused base. If you're in a hurry or just want to sample something without the full sit-down experience, there's a takeaway section too. © wcities.com



wcities

contact:

tel: +44 141 221 6996
fax: +44 141 248 8495
http://www.tgifridays.co.uk/

location:

113 Buchanan Street
Glasgow G1 3HF

hours:

Mo to Th from 11:30 AM to 11:00 PM, Fr to Sa from 11:30 AM to 11:30 PM, Su from 11:30 AM to 10:30 PM

5 TGI Friday's

DESCRIPTION: Bright, brash and breezy - don't come here for a romantic dinner for two. Friday's is the place for office parties, birthdays or indeed any kind of celebration. The clientele tends to be as loud as the decor and staff rise to the challenge energetically. Food ranges from the American standards of burgers and steaks to Cajun, Creole and Hawaiian, and the cocktails are numerous enough to be listed on their own menu. Portions are generous to a fault. It can feel at times as if you're eating at a theme park, but a meal here is always an entertaining experience. If conversations drag, you can laugh at the silly hats the poor waiters have to wear. © wcities.com



wcities

Glasgow Snapshot

Local Info

Glasgow has gathered some of the most inspiring art collections in the UK, outside London, as well as work from Scottish Art and the famed Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

This offers great things to do in the city. Visitors and locals alike can head to places, such as,

The Burrell Collection
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

The People's Palace and Winter Garden.

The University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, boasts nationally important art and history collections. They even have a fantastic reconstruction of Mackintosh's own house. The Mitchell library is home to a noted collection of works by Robert Burns and a large family history and genealogy centre. This is a great port of call for American and Canadian visitors who have roots in the city.

Glasgow's major museums offer a year-round itinerary of classy exhibitions. Contemporary art is represented by the Gallery of Modern Art, Tramway and the Centre of Contemporary Arts. Glasgow has also produced two winners of the Turner Prize and 30% of Turner Prize nominees since 1985. The city continues to evolve, new or renovated places of art and culture include,

The Riverside Museum
Science Centre
Kibble Palace

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Glasgow is proud of its rich architectural legacy (named as UK City of Architecture and Design in 1999). The internationally-renowned artist, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh, has provided buildings, furniture, designs and artworks, that continue to inspire the local and international art pack. The city has some of the greatest examples of Victorian architecture in Scotland, including Alexander "Greek" Thomson's magnificent churches, shopping arcades and mansion houses.

Eclectic music and performing arts go hand in hand with Glasgow and provide great things to do in the city. The Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the restored City Halls and the Old Fruitmarket boast a broad range of music genres. The theatre scene in Glasgow is vibrant. The Theatre

Royal, together with, The Kings Theatre, attracts audiences of over 500,000 every year (glasgoweconomicfacts.com). The city hosts crowd pulling performances in the Arches, the Citizens' and new venues such as the Tramway. The city is proud to host the majority of Scotland's national arts companies including,

Scottish Opera
Scottish Ballet
The Royal Scottish National Orchestra
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra

The National Theatre of Scotland. The city has the widest range and largest number of pubs, restaurants, clubs and related entertainment in Scotland and is renowned for its night-life and music scene – in 2006, the New York Times, Top 50 Places To Visit in the World, listed King Tut's Wah Wah Hut as "the seventh best way to follow your bliss" (nytimes.com)...perfect things to do!

The city has been named as the top destination to shop in the UK outside the West End of London and is predicted to retain this position for the next ten years (Experian Retail Ranking 2009). There are over 1,500 shops in the city centre! The city's main shopping haunts can be found at Sauchiehall Street, Buchanan Street, Argyle Street and Ingram Street (Better known as The Style Mile).

The Merchant City sits in the historical heart of the city and is the home place of Glasgow Cathedral, Glasgow Cross and the grand buildings of the Merchants that date back to when the city was the Second City of the Empire. Today this quarter contains a vast array of shopping, hotels and restaurants.

Tourism is rapidly replacing the shipbuilding industry on Glasgow riverside. The waterfront has an excellent selection of leisure attractions and a series of proposed developments. Attractions include,

Science Centre- one of the city's most popular attractions
The Tall Ship- Get on-board and learn the realities of life at sea.

Titan Clydebank- This is popular with locals and tourists alike. You take the lift to the top of one of Scotland's largest cranes and are rewarded with breathtaking views of the Clyde and city.

SECC- Scotland's leading conference and concert facility.

Braehead- Draws in 1000's of visitors to its shopping mall, maritime museum and leisure facilities.

Renfrew Ferry- a busy entertainment venue on the River.

Xscape- Scotland's first indoor real snow ski slope.

Springfield Quay- cinema, restaurants, casino, and other leisure adventures.
Riverside Museum- this museum is still in progress and will house the well known Transport Museum which was based at the Kelvin Hall

© NileGuide

History

Glasgow's name derives from the Gaelic word Ghlaschu, meaning dear, green place. It's generally agreed that the city was founded in the 6th century by St. Kentigern, a Christian missionary more commonly known as St. Mungo. Mungo means the dear one, who is also Glasgow's patron saint. The 13th century Glasgow Cathedral was supposedly built on the site upon which his settlement's church originally stood. This ground was consecrated in the 4th century by St Ninian.

The city's coat of arms is: Here is the Bird that never flew Here is the Tree that never grew Here is the Bell that never rang Here is the Fish that never swam.

It may sound like a riddle, but it's actually based upon miraculous events in the life of St. Mungo. The bird represents a robin that he brought back to life after being unfairly blamed for its death. The bell represents one that the Pope gave to him. The tree represents a hazel branch that Mungo ignited after some boys extinguished the holy fire of the monastery in Culross. The fish recalls a time that Mungo came to the rescue of an adulterous queen. King Hael suspected his wife, Queen Langeoreth, of infidelity and his suspicions were not unfounded. He discovered that she had even given her wedding ring to her lover, a knight. Hael secretly took the ring, hurled it into the River Clyde and demanded that his flighty wife produce it. At a loss, Langeoreth

Glasgow Snapshot continued

asked her lover for help. He confessed all to St. Mungo, who bid him catch a salmon from the Clyde and lo and behold; the ring was in the mouth of the fish.

The city's motto is "Lord let Glasgow flourish through the preaching of thy word and praising of thy name." Sadly, there are no good stories associated with it and it's usually shortened to the much snappier "Let Glasgow Flourish."

Glasgow became a Burgh in 1175 when King William the Lionheart signed a charter. Another William who played a part in the city's history was William "Braveheart" Wallace, who was born in the village of Elderslie in Renfrewshire. At the start of the 14th century, Wallace trounced the English in a battle which was waged where the top end of High Street is nowadays.

In 1451 Glasgow University was founded; it's the fourth oldest in the UK and the second oldest in Scotland. St Andrews came first. The original site was in High Street, it re-located to Gilmorehill in 1870. In 1490, an archbishopric was established and Glasgow was consequently granted city status.

It was as a port town that the city's trade began to flourish. In 1707 the Treaty of Union with England prepared the way for a growth in overseas trade, especially with the colonies. The Treaty was met with great resistance by the people of Glasgow who resented any alliance with the "auld enemy," even if it was to their benefit. Glasgow imported goods such as tobacco, rum, sugar and cotton from the Americas. Many of these imports were promptly re-exported to France, Germany, Italy, Holland and Norway. Fortunes were made but they were in danger of being lost again as the American War of Independence was looming so overseas trading was due to receive a major blow. Luckily for the city, many of the merchants were far-sighted enough to diversify before it was too late. With the development of a super-charged steam engine by Greenock-born James Watt in the 18th century, Glasgow turned its attentions to the textile industry and

started to build cotton mills. The Industrial Revolution had begun.

Glasgow then went on to shipbuilding and by 1835 it was responsible for half the tonnage of steam ships produced in Britain. It's from this economically powerful period that much of the city's magnificent architecture springs. The shipbuilding legacy lived on into the 1900s. The Cunard Shipping Line was established here and famous transatlantic liners like the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth, QE2 and the Royal Yacht Britannia were all built at Clydebank. As was The Waverley, the last ocean-going paddle steamer in the world, which was built by A&J Inglis in 1947.

Railway lines to Garnkirk(1831) and Edinburgh(1842), in addition to the Caledonian Railway(1845), boosted both Glasgow's productivity and population further. There was a huge influx of Irish immigrants escaping from the potato famine of the 1840s as well as Highlanders, all in need of work and shelter. By the mid-19th century the population of Glasgow had reached 420,000. As with most cities experiencing such a boom in their working-class population, housing was built cheaply and inadequately resulting in a proliferation of slums. Nonetheless, Glasgow had the best water supply in the UK, thanks to pipes from Loch Katrine in the Trossachs. Glasgow's water is still piped from this source today.

At the end of the 19th century, Glasgow decided it was time to show off a little. The International Exhibition was held in 1888 in Kelvingrove Park and again in 1901, when Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum was opened as part of the celebrations. The underground network had opened in 1896 so travel around the city was easier than ever before, despite its expanding boundaries. Charles Rennie Mackintosh(1868-1928), a local designer and architect, is responsible for many of the private homes and public buildings which sprang up around this time, as well as influencing the development of art nouveau across Europe. Glasgow got the chance to showcase its treasures again in 1938,

when the Empire Exhibition was held in Bellahouston Park.

After World War II, the city's population dropped dramatically as people moved away from the hustle and bustle of Central Glasgow out to new towns on the outskirts with a less industrial atmosphere. The unemployment rate was high and morale was low, the city was suffering under harsh economic conditions and the industries of old, which had brought Glasgow such prosperity, were no longer viable. In the 1980s, the city cleaned up its act(and its streets) and set out to reclaim its reputation as "Second City" of the much depleted Empire. A smart promotion campaign, in addition to the opening of prestigious attractions in the 1980s such as The Burrell Collection, the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, and Princes Square kept Glasgow in the public consciousness. The city honed new skills in tourism and service industries, leading to its role as host to the National Garden Festival in 1988; a major coup.

Glasgow is now Scotland's largest city. It has also won awards in the past such as "Europe's City of Culture" and the "UK City of Architecture and Design." An incredible city rich in history and beauty, Glasgow plenty to offer the interested traveler.

©

Hotel Insights

There are heaps of Glasgow hotels and B&B's in the city centre, to suit varying budgets. For luxurious hotels in the 5 star league, get your tush over to Glasgow Hilton or Radisson Blu. Both are stylish and provide that perfect, "smack bang in the middle of the city", location. Radisson Blu offers free wifi, whereas the Glasgow Hilton does not, however the Hilton does seem to cater more for families in that they offer deals on kids under 18 staying free. The Carlton George hotel beside George Square has a great rooftop restaurant and has established itself as a hot favourite with international business travellers.

Abode on Bath street offers a blend traditional architecture with contemporary design and very high-tech facilities. The

Glasgow Snapshot continued

hotel sits in the city centre and is a perfect location for all city living excursions. It also boasts a fine-dining restaurant. The trendy boutique Malmaison on West George street, has a growing following and also offers a brasserie and bar.

Excellent hotels in the mid-price range in Glasgow city centre can be found at, Menzies hotel (Feng Shui Theme) and The Glasgow Thistle (some of the largest hotel rooms in Scotland). The Ibis hotel also boasts a convenient location in the city centre and is a godsend if you are strapped for cash!

The Merchant City which is experiencing a renaissance, offers high end shopping and a wide variety of restaurants, bars and entertainment. The area also has its own annual festival and is popular with the gay community. The Brunswick Metro is the place to be, in the Merchant city. Their rooftop apartment sleeps up to 6 and is multi-functional. It has been used to launch some Scottish art films! But best of all, by pre-arranging, you can bring your pets! Or get your feet under the table at Dreamhouse Merchant City, they offer luxurious one and two bedroom apartments in a newly refurbished building, just metres from George Square.

The Medieval City offers fewer hotels in Glasgow, however 2 worth mentioning are the Cathedral House (apparently haunted), which sits opposite the Cathedral and Necropolis and the University of Strathclyde, offers cheap seasonal lets from June till September.

The bohemian West End of Glasgow is a firm favourite with locals and travellers alike. From museums to shopping, business and entertainment. The area easily competes with the city centre. From a hotel viewpoint, the words on local and international lips, can only be the plush Hotel du Vin. What can I say... "expect star treatment and star spotting"! The Crowne Plaza near the SECC is highly popular with business travellers. A covered walkway connects the hotel with SECC for concerts or conferences. Or why not head across the river to catch a seaplane to Loch Lomond and the western isles. For the budget conscious traveller the Kelvin Hotel is a brilliant B&B in the west end close to all west end amenities. You will love the cleanliness and daily care of

rooms, topped off with hearty and delicious cooked breakfasts at great prices!

The South side also contains a vast array of hotels and B&B's. This region is home to the famous Burrell Collection and Xscape Scotland's first indoor ski-slopes. Other reasons to choose a hotel in the south side of Glasgow are for sporting and entertainment events at the famous Hampden park. The Sherbrooke Castle hotel has lots of character and is only about a mile from the Burrell collection. 10 Queens Drive sits in a residential area and offers 4 star accommodation. They focus on football, shopping and concert packages. The hotel is the closest to Hampden Park Stadium. The accommodation overlooks the well known and historic Queens Park and the infamous Tramway Theatre is nearby.

© NileGuide

Restaurants Insights

It used to be known primarily for its Indian food, but Glasgow now has a great variety of places to eat, drink and make merry. Contemporary cuisine, Euro-food and organic menus are all on offer for the hungry client. There's no shortage of pubs and bars either, so dining and drinking in this Scottish city are a real pleasure, whatever your tastes.

The Merchant City has a healthy collection of bars and restaurants, which are all conveniently located near to each other. Feeling spicy? If you fancy fajitas or chili, Pancho Villas' lively atmosphere and tasty menu will add sizzle to your evening, or try Khublai Khan for a taste of Mongolian magic. If this sounds too hot, pop into the Candleriggs branch of Oblomov and cool down with some icy cold vodka and a big plate of goulash. Mao, an export from Dublin, offers delicious yet healthy Oriental fusion, dished up in huge bowls. Local food is also well represented in this area. In the heart of Merchant City, Schottische and Rab Ha's serve excellent Scottish fare, while the City Merchant specializes in seafood and local cuisine. On the same street as the latter, try Granny Black's for a traditional pub atmosphere. Merchant City is a popular night-time haunt for Glasgow's

beautiful people so there's no shortage of fashionable bars to be seen in. Try Bargo if you think you're cool enough, while Bacchus and Bar 91 have a more relaxed atmosphere. Corinthian and Arta attract a civilized and slightly older clientèle who feel at home in the equally palatial settings.

The city center, unsurprisingly, has a greater selection of eateries than any of the other districts. All the popular menus are on offer here, from Chinese to Indian, French to Italian. Curry with good music is the dish of the day at Bombay Blues and Kama Sutra puts the spice into Baltis. Malmaison Brasserie and 78 St Vincent offer fine French fare in opulent surroundings. If you're a fan of pasta and pizza, you'll love the enormous amount of Italian restaurants in the city center. Fratelli Sarti has a lively, vibrant atmosphere and Rico's is a top place to eat before a film at the Odeon. La Tasca, just around the corner, is popular for munching on tasty tapas, no matter what the hour. When it comes to seafood, you can't beat Rogano for quality or luxury, although this is a restaurant best visited when somebody else is paying. Bars to check out include Strata, Spy Bar, Budda and the Bier Halle Republic. The latter is representative of an East European trend amongst Glasgow's newer drinking holes. For a more traditional atmosphere, admire the interiors in The Counting House or The Drum and Monkey, both of which are housed in former bank buildings, or call into The Horseshoe to discover why it merits an entry in the Guinness Book of Records.

Most of the options for a late drink or meal are to be found around Charing Cross on either side of the motorway, which separates the city center from the west end. Canton Express, Glasgow Noodle Bar and Pattaya all serve food until the early hours of the morning while Insomnia never closes. For an alcoholic beverage when it's past normal closing time, try the Baby Grand.

The west end itself has a flourishing dining scene, with treats to tickle most taste buds. Try some Greek cuisine at Parthenon or Antoniou's Tavern, or chow down on a curry feast at Mother India or the Killermont Polo Club. Margaritas a la

Glasgow Snapshot continued

Mexicana are great, if a little dangerous at Salsa; go easy or it could get messy! Diet-conscious diners might be put off by Two Fat Ladies, but rest assured, the Scottish seafood here is really good. If juice is your thing, don't miss the chrome charms of Tinderbox and Naked Soup, who both whip up delicious fruity crushes and smoothies. For a taste of the Orient, there's Chinese at Amber and Japanese at Fusion, or see what Thai Fountain has to offer. The best in contemporary local cooking can be enjoyed at One Devonshire Gardens or Nairns, while Sixteen Byres Road is a tiny but perfect gem. The Puppet Theatre is great for romantic dinners a deux and The Ubiquitous Chip is upmarket with a lively atmosphere to be savored as much as the excellent contemporary cuisine. At Kelvinbridge, La Parmigiana serves Italian food so good that the ex-pats flock, and The Big Blue a few doors down dishes up riverside al fresco pizzas. The Bay Tree is a self-service café offering vegetarian fare with a Middle Eastern theme, while Grassroots is a meat-free zone with a globally influenced menu. Stravaigin has one of the best bar menus in the city, but if you just want to fill up on beer, check out Ashton Lane's pubs; Cul de Sac, Brel, Jinty McGuinty's and The Attic; they stay open a little later than most and are always packed as a result. Air Organic and the Living Room are trendy places to down a pint or two, while Curlers is a student favorite and claims to be the oldest pub in Glasgow. To overdose on traditional fittings and atmosphere, drop into Uisge Beatha and start sampling some of their huge collection of malt whiskies.

The area south of the River Clyde has less eating establishments than the rest of the city, but there are a few gems worth seeking out. Not far from The Burrell Collection, the Stoat and Ferret offers good pub grub and nicely pulled pints, while you can sit outside The Church on the Hill and admire its stunning architecture. Battlefield Rest is a great Italian joint and, for good Greek cuisine, Café Serghei's menu is impressive. ©

Nightlife Insights

Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, is THE place to party. A dynamic cultural center, its many museums and art galleries are now juxtaposed with an ultra-hip image and cool new buzz. Culture by day, clubbing by night, no moment need pass without some form of entertainment.

If you're not into shopping, museums and galleries provide the best daytime diversion in the city. The area around Glasgow University, a particularly good spot for educational treats, has highlights such as Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and the Museum of Transport. In the center of town, visit the controversial Gallery of Modern Art and make up your own mind. For a more spiritual dose of culture, St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art is an entertaining and educational way to pass a few hours. The People's Palace and Winter Gardens is the best place for finding out about local history and culture—its multimedia, interactive exhibits will keep the kids from complaining that they're bored.

The streets around Trongate, just east of the center, are peppered with independent little art galleries, including the amazing kinetic sculptures of the Sharmanka Gallery and Workshop, which will delight and enthrall the whole family. Check out the Centre for Contemporary Arts on Sauchiehall Street for pop culture or have a walk round The Lighthouse if you're interested in architecture and design. Mackintosh fans will go mad over the House for an Art Lover, but if you can't be bothered making the trip to the south side, have a look at the Hunterian Art Gallery and Museum in the west end, which houses an excellent collection of original Mac pieces. If you only want one Glaswegian gallery on your schedule, marvel at the treasures that make up The Burrell Collection.

Fed up with museums? Worship the medieval beauty of Glasgow Cathedral then check out Provand's Lordship next door; it's the oldest dwelling in Glasgow. If all the history gets oppressive, relax in one of the city's many parks. The sprawling

Glasgow Green is in the east, while Kelvingrove Park, Botanic Gardens and Kibble Palace out west offer peace and quiet with squirrels to watch, statues to admire and greenhouses to explore.

As the light fades, choose between noisy and civilized pursuits. Glasgow is blessed with a wealth of good writing and since the 1990 Year of Culture, theater has been a thriving presence in the city. The Citizens Theatre is widely regarded as the best in Scotland and the Theatre Royal often welcomes the Royal Shakespeare Company. The Arches and the Tron Theatre are great for cutting-edge drama, whilst King's Theatre is musical-land. Glasgow is home to the Scottish Ballet company as well as Scottish Opera, so lovers of high-brow culture will not be disappointed. Tramway is the place to go for performance art and the kind of groundbreaking work you won't catch elsewhere. For a bit of a laugh take in a show at comedy club The Stand.

There are plenty of cinemas in town, the Odeon City Centre shows all the big Hollywood productions and the Glasgow Film Theatre has an excellent programme of art-house and foreign films. Two screens at the Caledonian Grosvenor show blockbusters and classics in a more intimate atmosphere while Bollywood fans will love the Bombay Cinema.

Feeling groovy? Slip on your glad rags and prepare for a night of funk and frolics. The nightlife in Glasgow is difficult to fault, although it is worth noting that most clubs operate a curfew policy—if you're not in by around 12.30p, you might as well go home. With something for everyone, cheesy popsters can party as hard as professional techno-heads, and rock chicks can mosh in style.

If live music is your bag, there are plenty of venues to try. Big names often pop up at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre and the Royal Concert Hall, but many bands prefer to play several nights at the smaller Barrowlands, a former ballroom, because the atmosphere is second to none. Gigs at King Tut's Wah Wah Hut feature

Glasgow Snapshot continued

fresh new talent and established names, whilst the 13th Note has salsa classes as well as top bands. On Sauchiehall Street Nice'n' Sleazy is a great night out and the stage is often graced by the cream of the local music scene. For a taste of traditional folk music, pop into the Scotia Bar; it's one of Glasgow's oldest pubs and there's usually someone playing. Ever wondered what the Gay Gordon was all about? Friday night ceilidhs at the Riverside Club are brilliant fun, if exhausting, and those unfamiliar with Scottish country dancing are warmly welcomed.

Glasgow has many clubs to rave about. There's a high concentration on and around Sauchiehall Street; The Garage is a favorite with student popstars and disco divas, whilst the Velvet Rooms attract an older clientele a few doors along and Reds is just across the road. A little further down the street, Trash pulls in big crowds of up-for-it party animals. Alaska has a good mix of big name DJs and mainstream dance, but Media has given up trying to compete with its neighbors and dishes up a menu of pure 80s nostalgia. The Cathouse near Central Station, has three floors of metal, industrial and goth madness. Cheap and cheesy Cleopatra, known locally as Clatty Pat's, is the only club in the west end; it's mostly favored by firemen and nurses. A mainstay of the gay and lesbian club-scene is the popular Polo Lounge, while Bennets Disco, also in the Merchant City, pulls in a more casual crowd. Going underground, The Tunnel attracts lots of famous faces so keep your eyes peeled for stars. Archaos has a stunning interior and on some nights they have trapeze artists and fire-eaters to entertain the masses. Serious clubbers head to The Arches, which regularly plays host to famous guest DJs in its atmospheric vaults.

©

Things to Do Insights

Tour 1: City of Architecture And Design

Around a decade ago Glasgow was awarded the title of European City of Culture, and everyone was thrilled.

However, its most recent accolade is that of City of Architecture and Design 1999. Although the reign has now ended, the award not only drew attention to innovative work by contemporary architects and designers, it also reminded us to appreciate the legacy of those who created the city.

Our tour starts on Sauchiehall Street at Charing Cross, just over the M8 motorway from St George's Cross Underground. Once the traffic is safely negotiated, glance upwards at the Baroque Charing Cross Mansions on each corner, designed by local architect John Burnet in 1891, and a stunning sight at sunset.

Walk along Sauchiehall Street until you reach Baird Hall, an example of Art Deco architecture that has been beautifully preserved. Although this is now a Strathclyde University Hall of Residence, it was originally created by William Beresford Inglis and James Weddell as "The Beresford Hotel", a plush place to stay whose roof garden offered an excellent view of the city. With its unusual sweeping curves and mustard coloured earthenware exterior, this is one of the most memorable buildings in Glasgow and best seen from across the street.

Take the next turn left and walk up an unpleasantly steep but mercifully short hill to Renfrew Street, where you turn right as the next stop is the Glasgow School of Art. Designed by the city's most famous and original architect, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, this building was completed in 1907 and attracts visitors from all over the world as well as budding artists. If you've planned ahead then a guided tour (advance bookings and the only way for non-art-students to see inside) will take you through the remarkable Mackintosh Library and the Hen Run, an aptly named glass corridor that offers a great view. If you didn't book, never mind. Common consensus says the west exterior of the School is Mackintosh's finest work as a designer and you don't need a guide to look at that.

Back down to Sauchiehall Street now and turn left, passing the McLellan Galleries, dating from 1854, which currently houses

the. Ignore the many shops which line the street until you come to Henderson Jewellers, recognizable by the distinctive Mackintosh typeface. A well-earned break from walking can be enjoyed without stopping the tour, as The Willow Tearooms are just upstairs. Mackintosh designed this building in 1903 for local genteel restaurateur Miss Kate Cranston, and the interior has been restored to its 1905 glory, complete with plaster friezes and trademark decorative leaded glass. Miss Cranston's memoirs are available from Henderson's if you fancy reading up on social background.

After a cup of tea and maybe a cake, walk down Campbell Street until you reach St Vincent Street. Turn right and walk along to the St Vincent Street Free Church on the corner of Pitt Street. Glasgow is a Victorian city and the greatest architect of this era is undoubtedly Alexander "Greek" Thomson, who is commonly regarded as an "unknown genius". Thomson was strongly influenced by Greek, Indian, Egyptian and even Assyrian decorative architecture, but combined elements of each to create a style easily recognizable as his own. Many of the buildings he designed are privately owned or have unfortunately been destroyed, but the St Vincent Street Free Church has survived virtually intact since it opened in 1859.

Now walk back along St Vincent Street towards the city centre. It shouldn't be long before you reach number 142, an unusual building designed by James Salmon Junior, completed in 1902, and generally known as The Hatrack. The reason for this nickname soon becomes clear when you look up at the lead covered roof, whose dramatic spiky spires and shiny curves closely resemble a hat-stand. Aside from the roof, interesting features include Art Nouveau detailing, a stained glass window above the door and over forty windows in a very narrow façade.

From here, continue along St Vincent Street until you reach George Square. On the east side of the Square you will see a fine example of Victorian Glasgow architecture, the City Chambers. This Italian Renaissance style building was designed

Glasgow Snapshot continued

by William Young and completed in 1888. If you have time, a guided tour of the interior will show you amongst other things, a series of beautiful panels in the Banqueting Hall which depict episodes in the city's history. On the west side of the Square is The Merchants' House, designed in 1874 by John Burnet. You'll need good eyesight or a pair of binoculars to see the fully rigged model merchant ship which rests upon a globe at the top of the corner tower.

If you've had enough by now, note that many of the impressive edifices around George Square are now operating as pubs, so a rest in The Counting House, a former bank, allows an excellent view of its restored interior as well as refreshments.

Onwards and upwards as you turn up North Frederick Street and turn right into Cathedral Street at the peak of the hill. You will pass relatively modern campus buildings for the University of Strathclyde but try not to look at them as they may offend the eye. At the end of the street is a T-Junction. Cross over to the Cathedral Precinct directly opposite and the tour ends with one of the city's oldest buildings, Glasgow Cathedral.

Work began on the Gothic Glasgow Cathedral in the 13th century and it was completed nearly a century later. However, its origins date back to St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow, who founded the first church on this site and is buried in the Lower Church. An excellent view of the Cathedral is from the Necropolis cemetery which overlooks it.

Tour 2: A Short Walk Round the History of Glasgow in Sculpture

There is a wealth of history in the public sculptures of the city. Glasgow grew through religion, trade and industry, all commemorated in stone. This walk will take about half an hour, depending on how long you stop to look!

Start on the banks of the Clyde, at the corner of the Broomielaw and Wellington Street. On this building there are striking statues of Poseidon, god of the sea, and his sea-horses at roof level and on

the pediment, throned in majesty. An appropriate tribute to the sea, since this is the headquarters of the Clyde Port Authority. "Glasgow made the Clyde, and the Clyde made Glasgow", the saying which expresses the city's debt to her river, deepened and straightened for access to trade.

Go east up-river under the heavy railway bridge, and from the walkway you can see the massive piers left when part of the bridge was taken away. There is a concrete poem carved in the stone of these piers, part English, part Latin and Greek, which can be read from Jamaica Bridge.

On the walkway immediately to the east of the bridge is a striking statue of Dolores Ibarruri, "La Passionaria", heroine of the Spanish Civil War, commemorating the 65 men from Glasgow killed in that conflict.

Move north up Dixon Street into St Enoch Square, and at number 40 you can see above the entry the helmeted head of a woman, a lion's skin adorning her helmet. Perhaps St Tenew, whose name is the original of "St Enoch"- the ancient British warrior princess, mother of St Mungo the founder of Glasgow? Her well was sited in this square, in Medieval times.

Number 24 St Enoch Square, the Royal Bank of Scotland, has four allegorical figures, "Exchange, Security, Prudence and Adventure" adorning its facade.

On the corner of Buchanan Street and Argyle Street, the building above Foot Locker has impressive art deco carving at the top, with a 1920s-style light at the corner. Walk on up Buchanan Street.

Frasers' main entrance is surmounted by two female figures, one spinning and the other painting, flanking the Royal coat of arms, and a panel with the letters "W&L", since this was originally Wylie and Lochhead.

Opposite is the Argyll Arcade, in a building called Argyll Chambers. There are two figures in alcoves at first-floor level, one holding a serpentine rod, the other a wheel and distaff. The large bronze bird in the

middle of the precinct is "Spirit of Kentigern" erected in the 1970s.

Princes Square has a giant ornamental peacock on the roof, streamers flowing down from its tail. The best way into the Square is up the escalator with its optical-illusion paintings.

Head into Exchange Place. In front of the Gallery of Modern Art is the equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, normally with a traffic cone set rakishly on his head. It perfectly complements his arrogant commanding expression. Round the base are bronze reliefs showing the career of a young Scots soldier and some of Wellington's military exploits, in India and at Waterloo.

Go along Ingram Street past a former bank building at number 191, ornamented with statues representing Scottish towns, separated by Corinthian pillars.

The Lloyds TSB, formerly the Glasgow Savings Bank, has St Mungo in gilded mitre and robes, as Glasgow's first bishop-appropriate for a city whose motto is "Let Glasgow flourish- by the preaching of the Word and the praising of His Name." The latter part of the slogan is usually forgotten.

Further on, cross over to the Hutchesons' Hospital, and see statues of two 17th century benefactors of the city, George and Thomas Hutcheson, looking swell in Van Dyck beards and Rembrandt ruffs.

You can walk through the Italian Centre and see modern sculptures in the courtyard, a man and a dog howling at the moon, and metallic androids adorning the north facade.

Through the alley and you exit facing the heavily incised Victorian pile of the City Chambers, and then walk left into George Square, past the Cenotaph. A leaflet describing the Victorian statues of literary and political figures is available on request from the Information bureau at the south-west corner of the square.

Another exciting attraction for touring around Glasgow is the Waverley & Balmoral Steamers, which allows you to get on board either of the historical pleasure steamers,

Glasgow Snapshot continued

and take in some of the most stunning scenery the UK coastline has to offer.

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Travel Tips

Glasgow has a diverse network of public transport services for both residents and visitors alike. You will enjoy the fact that there are many deals on rail and bus fares allowing you to hop on and off various buses and trains around Glasgow. Strathclyde Passenger Transport(SPT) operates 12 Travel centres for Glasgow public transport enquiries and tickets. Call Buchanan bus station on 0141 333 3708(0900-1700 weekdays)and they will offer details of your nearest centre.

Glasgow Trains

Glasgow city has two main train stations, Glasgow Central connects Glasgow with the South, and is dubbed the gateway to England and the rest of the UK. The station offers public toilets, eating places, car parking, shopping and accommodation. Queen Street connects Glasgow to the North of Scotland, and Edinburgh. The station offers public toilets, eating places and car parking and shopping. You can get rail information from National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950.

Glasgow Underground

Glasgow Underground is famously known as the Clockwork Orange. The Glasgow underground operates a circular route around the city linking the south side and west end with the city centre. The underground is the quickest and most effective way of getting around the centre of the city You can get more details by phoning 0141 333 3708.

Glasgow Buses

The First group operate a network of frequent local bus routes around Glasgow city and nearby towns. They are also the largest bus company in Scotland with over 1000 buses and maintains 118 routes. The ticket prices are good if you are intending to hop around the city, here are some of the best deals.

All Day- Unlimited travel till 1am. This ticket is great for hopping on and off First buses to various destinations in the city all for just £3.75 All Week- This ticket offers unlimited travel for 7 consecutive days from only £16.00.

They also operate services to great destinations such as Balloch and Helensburgh.

During the Easter holidays, summer holidays and late summer through to the September weekend, the X7 M&D's Express service runs from Buchanan Bus Station to the busy M&D's theme park.

First's EventLink services connects fans with the major events at both Hampden and the SECC. Service 707 covers the SECC with services 731 and 775 covering Hampden.

Multi Ticket Bargains

Daytripper Ticket- Ideal for families, this ticket provides unlimited travel throughout Strathclyde for one day by train, underground, most bus and some ferry routes for groups of 2 adults and up to 4 children or 1 adult and up to 2 children. For more information call SPT.Discovery Ticket- Allows unlimited travel by underground for one day. Valid after 0930 Monday-Saturday and all day Sunday. Discovery Tickets can be bought from any underground station, vouchers are available from SPT travel centres which should be exchanged for a ticket at an underground station. All tickets £3.50 When you purchase a Discovery ticket, you will be given a leaflet containing a full colour map of the Subway route, including street names and the locations of rail and bus stations, SPT travel centres and tourist information centres. The map also shows the locations of over 70 visitor attractions, to help you plan your day of Discovery.

Roundabout Ticket- Allows unlimited train travel around Glasgow and surrounding towns as well as on the underground. Valid Monday-Friday after 0900, Saturday, Sunday and public holidays all day. Roundabout adult £3.50, Roundabout child £1.75. Roundabout tickets can be obtained from staffed railway stations within the area covered by the ticket and SPT travel centres.

The Mackintosh Trail Ticket(£16), gives you unlimited travel on the SPT Subway and First's bus services in Glasgow after 09:30am. It also includes entry to all participating Mackintosh attractions in and around Glasgow. Charles Rennie Mackintosh attractions include:

The Hill House, Helensburgh(seasonal)
Ruchill Church Hall(seasonal)
The Mackintosh Church

The Mackintosh House at the Hunterian Art Gallery and Museum

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

The Willow Tea Rooms

The Glasgow School of Art

Martyr's Public School(by appointment)

The Lighthouse

House for an Art Lover

Scotland Street School Museum

Daily Record Building(external viewing)

The ticket includes the admission fee(where applicable) to all Mackintosh buildings.

Glasgow By Car

Glasgow is laid out on a grid and much of the city centre follows a one way system. There is plenty of multi-storey car parks. On street parking is available with payments made via meters. Beware the wardens work like clockwork..if you don't pay your looking at a £60 pound fine. Most of the major car rental companies are in the city and at the airport. A great local firm is Boulevard Self Drive, who typically offer the most competitive rental prices in Glasgow.

Glasgow Taxi

The Black hack is typical in Glasgow but there are also many private firms dispersed throughout the city. A typical fare from the airport to Glasgow city centre will cost on average about £19.00.

Glasgow Airports

Glasgow is served by two international airports and a seaplane terminal

- 1.Glasgow International Airport is the largest and deals the majority of Glasgow's air traffic.
- 2.Glasgow Prestwick International Airport is located in South Ayrshire
- 3.Glasgow Seaplane Terminal is located on the River Clyde, in the city centre.

Airlines flying from the UK to Glasgow

Direct from United Kingdom
British Airways
easyJet

bmibabybmi

Ryanair

Flybe

Air Southwest

Other airlines flying to Glasgow
KLM.com

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Thomson
Aegean AirlinesAir France
Air New Zealand
Qatar AirwaysSAS
TAM Linhas Aeras
Kenya AirwaysAer Lingus
Alitalia
Malaysia AirlinesContinental Airlines
TAP
Air MaltaEmirates
Icelandair
LOTLufthansa
Etihad Airways
All Nippon AirwaysUnited
Kingfisher
Wizz AirAmerican Airlines
PIA
Asiana AirlinesVirgin Atlantic
flythomascook.com charter
Air TransatQantas

EgyptAir
SriLankan AirlinesDelta
US Airways
Aer ArannAir Canada
Brussels Airlines
South African AirwaysIberia
Royal Brunei
Thai Airwaysflythomascook.com
Austrian Airlines
Finnair
Gulf Air

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Fun Facts

Glasgow Country: Scotland, United Kingdom

Glasgow by the Numbers:

Population: 612,000 Elevation: 26 feet Average Number of Days With

Precipitation: 286 days Average January Temperature: 39 degrees F Average July Temperature: 59 degrees F

Quick Facts:

Major Industries: steel, shipbuilding, printing, manufacturing, tourism, television and film Electricity: 240 volts AC, 50Hz, standard square three pin plugs Time Zone: GMT/UTC Country Dialing Code: 44 Area Code: 141

Did You Know?

The coat of arms of Glasgow features Saint Mungo and four emblems representing the miracles he supposedly performed- a bird, tree, bell, and fish. The motto of Glasgow is also part of the arms- "Let Glasgow Flourish." **Orientation:**

Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland and is located in the southwestern part of the country on the Clyde River.

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