

GLASGOW FACTFILE

1. St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow, is said to have died in his bath
2. The recent Commonwealth Games were the first to be held in the city
3. The world's first international football match was held in Glasgow. The result? Scotland 0 England 0
4. Glasgow is twinned with the likes of Nuremberg in Germany, Turin in Italy and Marseille in France
5. Famous people born in Glasgow include comedian Billy Connolly, actor Peter Capaldi and Dire Straits frontman Mark Knopfler



The Armadillo and SSE Hydro arena
Photo: Nigel Young

GLORIOUS GLASGOW

The *Glenlee* sits outside the Riverside Museum



Don Jolly hops, skips and jumps to the host city of the 2014 Commonwealth Games

At the western end of the central lowland belt accommodating the majority of Scotland's population, Glasgow is very different from its eastern twin, Edinburgh. Missing out on the capital's good looks, Glasgow is still shedding the ruggedness of its industrial and seafaring past.

Things, though, are changing apace. Modern developments are removing its rough edges, particularly along the River Clyde, cranes and docks giving way to a new generation of iconic buildings.

Museums and art galleries have long been important in the city. The most central is the Gallery of Modern Art, housed in a classical style building in Royal Exchange Square. You'll recognise it by the statue of the Duke of Wellington astride his horse at the entrance, the duke sporting not his famed cocked hat but a striped traffic cone. Despite frequent removal by the council, the cone always quickly reappeared and now seems to be a permanent fixture.

Just behind the square, pedestrianised Buchanan Street leads into Sauchiehall Street, at the heart of the city's shopping centre. It's a vibrant area, with plenty of live street music. At the top of Buchanan Street, in front of the Royal Concert Hall, stands a statue of Glasgow-born Donald Dewar, Scotland's inaugural First Minister from 1999 until his death the following year.

Celebrated Glaswegian artist and architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh's influence can be found in the Willow Tea Rooms in Sauchiehall Street and Buchanan Street, decorated in his distinctive Art Nouveau style. Sadly, though, the Mackintosh-designed Glasgow School of Art, just off Sauchiehall Street, suffered serious fire damage earlier this year.

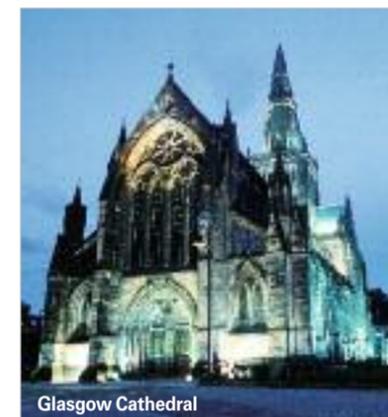
Several cultural establishments can be found near Glasgow University, north-west of the centre. Among them are the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, which includes The Mackintosh House, a reconstruction of the home of the great man and his artist wife, Margaret MacDonald.

The stylish Mackintosh House

Photo: Mackintosh House



House for an Art Lover



Glasgow Cathedral

Another Mackintosh house worth visiting is the House for an Art Lover in Bellahouston Park. Originally designed as a competition entry in 1901, it was finally built in 1996, showing off his and his wife's skills to perfection.

North of the university, the Botanic Gardens is an oasis of tranquillity, featuring some amazing glasshouses, the most impressive of which is the huge Kibble Palace.

In Kelvingrove Park, to the south, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is housed in a magnificent red-stone building. However, Glasgow's finest museum is the Burrell Collection in Pollock Country Park, six miles south-west of the centre and well worth the excursion. The personal collection of Sir William and Lady Burrell, it was gifted to the city in 1944.

Glasgow originated east of the present centre and it is here you'll find the cathedral, dedicated to the city's patron saint, Mungo. Begun in the 12th century, it took 300 years to complete. Nearby, in a

modern building of Scottish baronial style, is the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, while, opposite, Provand's Lordship, a former inn, is the city's oldest house, dating from 1471.

Behind it, the Garden of St Nicholas is a medieval herb garden, a haven of calm. Even more peaceful is the Necropolis, behind the cathedral. Modelled on the grand Parisian cemeteries with their temples, giant urns and ornate sculptures, it is at its most atmospheric when mists swirl among the monuments.

South of the cathedral, Glasgow Green, a welcome expanse beside the Clyde, is supposedly Britain's oldest public park, having been common land since at least 1178. On the green, the People's Palace, a grand red stone building, contains a fascinating museum charting Glasgow and Glaswegians since 1750. At the back of the building, a Victorian glasshouse contains the exotic Winter Gardens.

Across the road, the former Templeton's Carpet Factory, built in the 1890s, was modelled on the Doge's Palace in Venice. It is now a business centre, one enterprise within being West Brewery, with its bar and restaurant.

LEISURE CENTRE

The Clyde has changed greatly following the demise of its port and shipbuilding industry, and today it has a new purpose in leisure. Day trips 'doon the watter' are possible aboard the *Waverley* paddle-steamer, which, in summer, takes passengers on day-cruises from Pacific Quay to the western lochs and islands. At Pacific Quay, the Science Centre

and IMAX cinema are great fun for adults and children alike, while Glasgow Tower, at 127m, is the tallest free-standing building in Scotland and the only one in the world capable of turning 360°. From the top, you can see for miles over the surrounding countryside.

Across the river, via the Millennium footbridge, the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre includes two concert venues – the Clyde Auditorium, affectionately known as 'the Armadillo', and the 12,000-seater SSE Hydro, a futuristic structure that glows in the dark. Big names appearing in the coming months include Lady Gaga, Il Divo, Paolo Nutini and Ed Sheeran.

Nearby, the Riverside Museum, featuring impressive transport and history displays, is housed in a striking building designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid. At the waterfront here is the *Glenlee*, a tall ship built on the Clyde in 1896.

So while Glasgow may not offer the striking beauty of Scotland's capital, there's plenty that's bonnie here on the Clyde.



Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum

All photographs, except where indicated, courtesy of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau

INFORMATION

SITE

For your visit to Glasgow, stay at Strathclyde Country Park Club site – details can be found on p224 of the *Sites Directory & Handbook 2013/14*. To book, call 01342 327490 or see caravanclub.co.uk/searchandbook.

