

Glasgow



Glasgow is regenerating and evolving at a dizzying pace – style cats beware, this city is edgy, modish and downright ballsy. Its Victorian architectural legacy is now swamped with cutting-edge style bars, world-class venues to tickle your taste buds, and a hedonistic club culture that will bring out your nocturnal instincts. Best of all, though, is Glasgow's pounding live-music scene which is one of the best in Britain, and accessible through countless venues dedicated to homegrown beats.

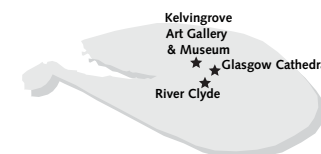
The city is going through a long-term transformation, evident along the revitalised River Clyde, where visitors can explore Glasgow's mighty maritime heritage along riverfront walkways. Museums and galleries abound and the city's resume has been made even more impressive with the reopening of the colossal Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum – which, in typical Glaswegian fashion, strips the city of any false pretences and tells it like it is – both the inspiring and the infuriating aspects of life here.

Glasgow combines urban mayhem and black humour and is so friendly, it's sometimes downright unnerving – throw off the shackles of urban restraint and immerse yourself in a down-to-earth metropolis that is all about fun. And besides, where else in the world can you land in the middle of a city in a seaplane?

Glaswegians are proud of their working class background and leftist traditions. Their rivalry with Edinburgh is fierce and folk are full of contempt for what they see as a prissy, right-wing establishment on the east coast, full of toffs with clipped accents and, infuriatingly, holding the title of capital city. However Glaswegians remind themselves that Edinburgh may be the capital, but Glasgow has the capital.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Rediscovering the colossal **Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum** (p129), open again after a huge refurbishment programme
- Cruising along the **River Clyde** (p123) where evidence of the city's remarkable regeneration is evident in the city's maritime heritage
- Wandering the vast, medieval **Glasgow Cathedral** (p128), a shining example of pre-Reformation Gothic architecture
- Showing the locals your latest dance moves among Glasgow's plethora of **nightclubs** (p142) where the country's best DJs strut their stuff
- Nursing a pint of local brew in the **perfect watering hole** (p140) – from traditional Victorian-era pubs to the city's famed style bars along Bath St



■ TELEPHONE CODE: 0141

■ POPULATION: 630,000

■ AREA: 176 SQ KM

HISTORY

Glasgow grew up around the cathedral founded by St Mungo in the 6th century, and in 1451 the city became the site of the University of Glasgow, the second university to be founded in Scotland after St Andrews.

In the 18th century much of the tobacco trade between Europe and the USA was routed through Glasgow and provided a great source of wealth. Even after the tobacco trade declined in the 19th century, the city continued to prosper as a centre of textile manufacturing, shipbuilding, and the coal and steel industries.

The industries created a huge demand for labour, and peasants poured in from Ireland and the Highlands to crowd the tenements. The outward appearance of prosperity, however, was tempered by dire working conditions in the factories, particularly for women and children. In the second half of the 19th century, life expectancy was only 30 years.

While the workers suffered, the textile barons and shipping magnates prospered, and Glasgow could justifiably call itself the second city of the empire. In the first half of the 20th century, Glasgow was the centre of Britain's munitions industry, supplying arms and ships for the two world wars. After those boom years, however, the port and heavy industries began to decline, and by the early 1970s the city looked doomed. Glasgow has always been proud of its predominantly working-class nature but, unlike middle-class Edinburgh with its varied service industries, it had few alternatives when recession hit and unemployment spiralled.

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries there has been increasing confidence in the city as it determinedly sets about an enormous campaign of regeneration. Glasgow won the 1990 European City of Culture award, and followed this up by serving as the UK's City of Architecture & Design in 1999. But, behind all the optimism, the general standard of living remains relatively low, and life is tough for those affected by the comparatively high unemployment and inadequate housing

ORIENTATION

The city centre is built on a grid system on the northern side of the River Clyde. The two train stations (Central and Queen St), the Buchanan bus station and the tourist office are all on or within a couple of blocks of George

Sq, the main city square. Merchant City is the city's main commercial and entertainment district, east of George Sq.

Motorways bore through the suburbs and the M8 sweeps round the northern and western edges of the city centre, passing the airport 10 miles west.

Maps

The Automobile Association's *Glasgow Street by Street* (£5.99) is a handy, easy-to-read street guide, available in bookshops. Glasgow City Council publishes the excellent *Fit for Life* map (free from the tourist office) showing cycle and walking routes around the city.

INFORMATION

The *List* (£2.20; www.list.co.uk), available from newsagents, is Glasgow and Edinburgh's invaluable fortnightly guide to films, theatre, cabaret, music, clubs – the works. The excellent *Eating & Drinking Guide* (£5.95), published by the *List* every April, covers Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Bookshops

Borders (Map p126; ☎ 222 7700; 98 Buchanan St; ☎ 8.30am–10pm Mon–Sat, 10am–8pm Sun) A browsing bonanza, also sells CDs and international newspapers and magazines.

Waterstone's (Map p126; ☎ 332 9105; 153 Sauchiehall St; ☎ 8.30am–7pm Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri, 8.30am–8pm Thu, 9am–7pm Sat, 10am–6pm Sun) A major bookshop, also sells guidebooks and street maps of Glasgow.

Emergency

Ambulance, Fire, Police, Mountain rescue or Coastguard (☎ 999, 112)

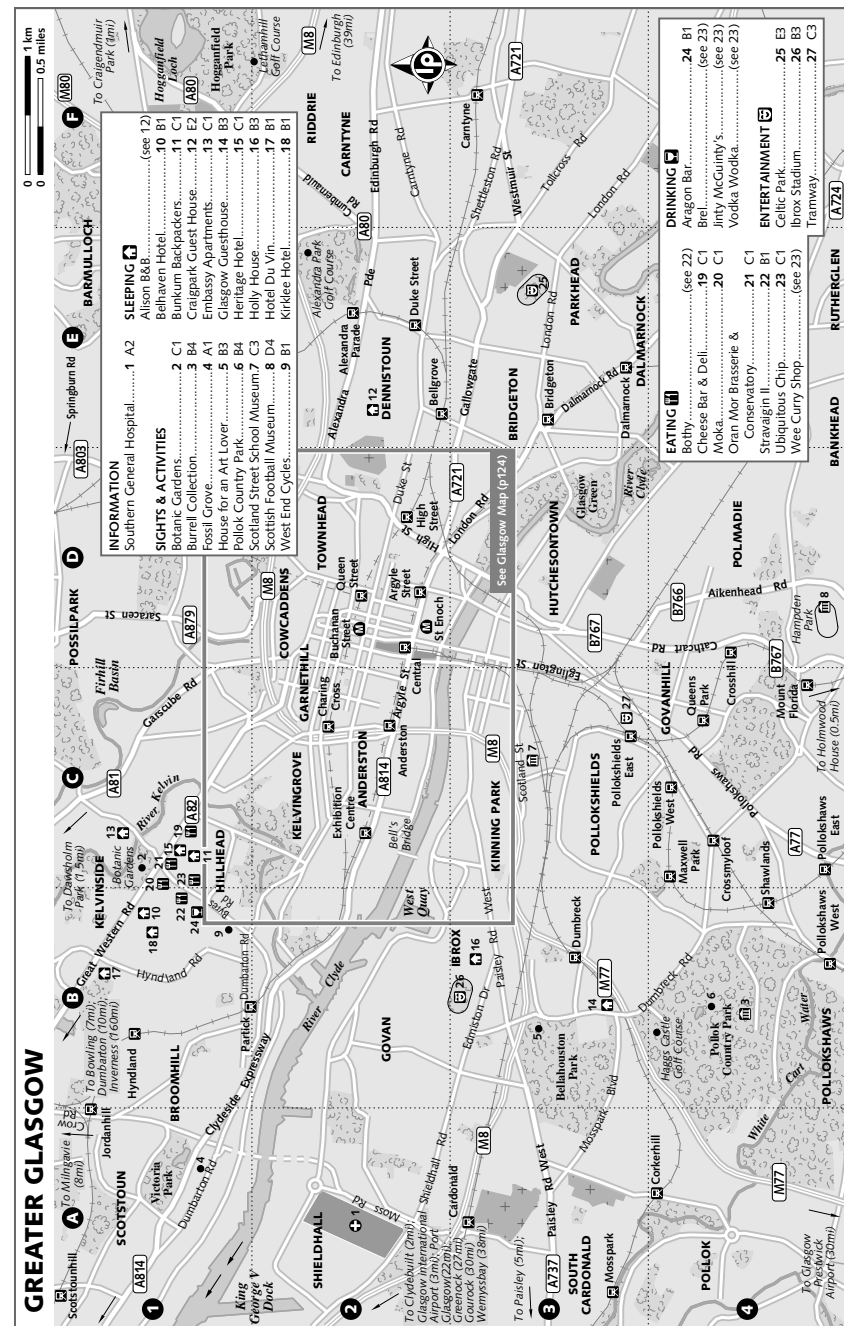
Internet Access

easyInternet (Map p126; ☎ 222 2364; www.easy-everything.com; 57 St Vincent St; charges vary; ☎ 7am–9pm Mon–Fri, 8am–9pm Sat, 9am–7pm Sun) Consider buying a cheaper four-hour pass.

Gallery of Modern Art (Map p126; ☎ 229 1996; Royal Exchange Sq, Queen St; ☎ 10am–5pm Mon–Wed & Sat, 10am–8pm Thu, 11am–5pm Fri & Sun) Basement library; free internet access. Bookings recommended. See also p125.

ICafe (Map p124; cnr Great Western Rd & Dunearn St; per hr £3; ☎ 10am–11pm) Sip a coffee and munch on a pastry while you check your emails on superfast connections.

Mitchell Library (Map p124; ☎ 287 2999; North St; ☎ 9am–8pm Mon–Thu, to 5pm Fri & Sat) Offers free internet access; bookings recommended.



GLASGOW IN...

Two Days

Start your day with breakfast and a spot of people-watching in the trendy **Merchant City** (p137). Take a stroll around the leafy cathedral precinct in the **East End** (p127), popping your head into **Glasgow Cathedral** (p128) and **St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life & Art** (p128). Treat yourself to a fine German brew and a schnitzel at **West Brewing Company** (p138), swoon to traditional jazz at the plush **Drum & Monkey** (p140) and then dedicate the night to **Arches** (p141), one of Glasgow's premier pubs/clubs.

A visit to the wonderful **Burrell Collection** (p130) is a must on your second day, and while in the area check out the **Scottish Football Museum** (p130). If you're here on a weekend, don't miss the **Barras** (p131), Glasgow's flea market and, some would say, its heart and soul. At night, head to Bath St for unpretentious style bars and fine dining along the city centre's trendiest strip. Drop into **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut** (p143) to hear some of Glasgow's freshest live-music talent.

Four Days

Follow the two-day itinerary, then on your third day add a trip to the bohemian **West End** (p129); some of the city's best cafés and restaurants are here. Don't miss the fabulous **Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum** (p129) and be sure to check out the **Hunterian Museum** (p129) and **Hunterian Art Gallery** (p129). On the fourth day stroll along the **Clyde Walkway** (p132) and discover the rejuvenation on Glasgow's waterfront. Learn about the city's unique heritage by taking a boat trip down the **River Clyde** (p125), visiting the **Clydebuilt** (p125) museum and **Tall Ship** (opposite) en route – then catch a 3-D flick at the **Glasgow Science Centre** (opposite).

One Week

Follow the four-day itinerary and then spend a day discovering what all the **Mackintoshania** (p128) fuss is about. Drop into the **Glasgow School of Art** (p126), **Willow Tea Rooms** (p126) and **The Mackintosh Church** (p131). Finish up with a couple of day trips out of the city: head to **Paisley** (p147) and marvel at its magnificent abbey, and take a wander around the revitalised waterfront at **Greenock** (p147), popping into the **HM Customs & Excise Museum** (p147).

Internet Resources

Glasgow City Council (www.glasgow.gov.uk) Has a particularly good daily 'What's On' section.

Glasgow Disability Access Guide (www.glasgowaccesspanel.org.uk) An online guide for people with disabilities.

Glasgow Museums (www.glasgowmuseums.com) A very useful guide to the city's superb museums.

The Guide (www.glasgowlife.com) An online city guide particularly good for eating and entertainment.

Left Luggage

Buchanan bus station (Map p126; ☎ 333 3708;

Killermont St; per 2 hr/day £2.50/3.50)

Queen Street station (Map p126; ☎ 0845 601 5929; North Hanover St; small/medium/large piece of luggage per 24hr £5/6/7)

Medical Services

To see a doctor, visit the outpatients department at any general hospital. Recommended hospitals:

Glasgow Dental Hospital (Map p126; ☎ 211 9600; 378 Sauchiehall St)

Glasgow Royal Infirmary (Map p124; ☎ 211 4000; 84 Castle St)

Southern General Hospital (Map p121; ☎ 201 1100; Govan Rd)

Money

The post office and the tourist office have a bureau de change.

American Express (Amex; Map p126; ☎ 222 1405; 115 Hope St; ☎ 9am-5.30pm Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm Wed, 9am-noon Sat)

Clydesdale Bank (Map p126; 7 St Enoch Sq) Has four 24-hour ATMs.

Post

There are post offices in some supermarkets; the larger ones are open Sunday as well.

Main post office (Map p126; 47 St Vincent St; ☎ 8.30am-5.45pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm Sat) Passport photos available.

Tourist Information

Glasgow tourist office (Map p126; ☎ 204 4400; www.seeglasgow.com; 11 George Sq; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Sat Oct-Jan & Easter-May, 9am-7pm Mon-Sat Jun & Sep, 9am-8pm Mon-Sat Jul-Aug, 10am-6pm Sun Easter-Sep) Excellent tourist office; makes local and national accommodation bookings (£3).

St Enoch Square Travel Centre (Map p126; St Enoch Sq; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat) Travel information only.

Tourist office branch (☎ 848 4440; Glasgow International Airport; ☎ 7.30am-5pm Easter-Sep, 7.30am-5pm Mon-Sat, 8am-3.30pm Sun Oct-Easter)

Travel Agencies

Glasgow Flight Centre (Map p126; ☎ 353 1351; www.flightcentre.co.uk; 280 Sauchiehall St)

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Glasgow, like any big city, has its share of crime, some violent and much alcohol or drug fuelled. The usual precautions apply. Stick to well-lit areas at night, catch a taxi if you're going into a part of the city you're unfamiliar with and don't wander around by yourself along nightclub/late-night bar precincts such as Sauchiehall St late at night. Women should avoid walking alone at night in the red-light district situated around Anderston/Blythswood Sq.

Keep clear of Orange marches, which are exhibitions of solidarity with the Protestant Northern Irish cause; violence can result when Catholics try to 'break the ranks'. These events aren't for tourists.

Glasgow is very friendly though and very few visitors encounter problems – most of the violent crime is underworld-related, which rarely affects tourists. For more information, see also Dangers and Annoyances (p440) in the Directory.

SIGHTS

Glasgow's major sights are fairly evenly dispersed around the city, with many found along the Clyde – the focus of a long-term regeneration programme – the leafy cathedral precinct in the East End and the museum-rich South Side. The city centre itself also contains a variety of attractions, particularly Mackintoshania. The trendy West End swarms with students during term time, but it's quieter during the holidays.

The Clyde

The tide has turned for the Clyde. In the last decade Glasgow has been returning to its roots

with a major campaign to rejuvenate the riverfront and celebrate the city's unique industrial heritage. Included in this strategy is a 10-year plan to redevelop Glasgow Harbour, involving the conversion of former docklands into shops and public areas, and rebuilding seven Art-Nouveau Mackintosh-designed tearooms. It's also expected that access to almost 2 miles of formerly inaccessible waterfront will be made available – to find out more about this project see www.glasgowharbour.com.

A new museum, **The Riverside Museum**, is the latest development on Glasgow Harbour with construction beginning in 2007 – it may be open by the time you read this. The museum will replace the **Museum of Transport** (see p130) showcasing Glasgow's transport and technology collections and linking with its maritime heritage. Ask at the tourist office for further information.

GLASGOW SCIENCE CENTRE

Scotland's flagship millennium project, the superb, ultramodern **Glasgow Science Centre** (Map p124; ☎ 420 5000; 50 Pacific Quay; Science Mall adult/child £6.95/4.95, IMAX £6.95/4.95, combined ticket £9.95/7.95; ☎ 10am-6pm; ♿ ♿) will keep the kids entertained for hours (that's middle-aged kids, too!). It brings science and technology alive through hundreds of interactive exhibits on four floors. Look out for the illusions (like rearranging your features through a 3-D head-scan) and the cloud chamber, showing tracks of natural radiation. It consists of an egg-shaped titanium-covered **IMAX** theatre (phone for current screenings) and an interactive **Science Mall** with floor-to-ceiling windows – a bounty of discovery for young, inquisitive minds. There's also a rotating **observation tower**, 127m high. And check out the planetarium, where the **Scottish Power Space Theatre** brings the night sky to life and a **Virtual Science Theatre** treats visitors to a 3-D molecular journey. To get here take Arriva bus 24 from Renfield St or First Glasgow bus 89 or 90 from Union St.

TALL SHIP & PUMPHOUSE

Across the Clyde from the science centre, via Bell's Bridge, is the magnificent **Tall Ship** (Glenlee; Map p124; ☎ 222 2513; 100 Stobcross Rd, Glasgow Harbour; adult £4.95, 1 child free, then per child £2.50; ☎ 10am-5pm Mar-Oct, to 4pm Nov-Feb; ♿ ♿), one of five sailing ships built on the Clyde still afloat. The *Glenlee* was launched in December 1896. The sheer size of this three-masted ship is

ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS MUSEUM

Visitors with an interest in Scotland's proud military history should duck into the commendable **Royal Highland Fusiliers Museum** (Map p126; ☎ 332 5639; 518 Sauchiehall St; admission free; ☎ 8am-4pm Mon-Fri). It charts the history of this and previous regiments from 1678 to the present. The walls are dripping with exhibits, including uniforms, medals, pictures and other militaria. Wrought ironwork in the museum was designed by Mackintosh.

GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

Widely recognised as Mackintosh's greatest building, the **Glasgow School of Art** (Map p126; ☎ 353 4526; 167 Renfrew St; adult/child £6.50/4.80) still houses the educational institution. It's hard not to be

impressed by the thoroughness of the design; the architect's pencil seems to have shaped everything inside and outside the building. The interior design is strikingly austere, with simple colour combinations (often just black and cream) and those uncomfortable-looking high-backed chairs for which Mackintosh is famous. The library, designed as an addition in 1907, is a masterpiece. To view the school, you must take a guided tour – times vary, usually seven daily April to September and two daily October to March. There may be interruptions to tours as a major renovation's pending.

WILLOW TEA ROOMS

Admirers of the great Mackintosh will love the **Willow Tea Rooms** (Map p126; ☎ 332 0521; 217

Sauchiehall St; admission free; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun), an authentic reconstruction of the tearoom Mackintosh designed and furnished in 1904 for restaurateur Kate Cranston. Relive the original splendour of this unique tearoom and admire the architect's stroke in just about everything. He had a free rein and even the teaspoons were given his distinctive touch. Reconstruction took two years and the Willow opened as a tearoom again in 1980 (having been closed since 1926). The street name Sauchiehall means 'lane of willows', hence the choice of a stylised willow motif. See also p138.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

If you've been admiring Glasgow's architecture, make sure you check out the **Lighthouse** (Map p126; ☎ 221 6362; 11 Mitchell Lane; adult/child £3/1; ☎ 10.30am-5pm Mon & Wed-Sat, 11am-5pm Tue, noon-5pm Sun), one of Glasgow's hidden treasures.

Tucked away in a small lane, in the former *Glasgow Herald* building, it serves as **Scotland's Centre for Architecture & Design**, giving an insight into modern architectural feats. It was designed by Mackintosh in 1893, and also features the **Mackintosh Interpretation Centre**. Learn more about this extraordinary man, see exhibitions of avant-garde furniture and drink in great rooftop views from the former water tower. It's also worth dropping into the Dooocot Cafe & Bar here for a different kind of drink – it's a good place to rest weary legs and minds.

East End

The oldest part of the city, given a facelift in the 1990s, is concentrated around Glasgow Cathedral, to the east of the modern centre. The crumbling tombs of the city's rich and famous crowd the necropolis, located behind the cathedral.



INFORMATION	American Express.....1 B3	Pipers Tryst Hotel.....32 C1	Revolver.....63 D3
Borders.....2 C3	Quality Hotel.....33 B3	Scotia.....64 C4	
Clydesdale Bank.....3 C3	Rab Ha's.....33 D3	The Butterfly & The Pig.....65 B2	
easyInternet.....4 C3	Victorian House.....35 A1	Waterloo Bar.....66 B3	
Glasgow Dental Hospital.....5 A2		Waxy O'Connors.....67 C3	
Glasgow Flight Centre.....6 B2	EATING ☑		
Glasgow Tourist Office.....7 C3	Arisaig.....36 B3	ENTERTAINMENT ☑	
Main Post Office.....8 C3	Bar 91.....37 D3	13th Note Cafe.....68 D4	
Spa 19.....9 C4	Bar Soba.....(see 16)	ABC.....69 B2	
St Enoch Square Travel Centre.....10 C4	Brutti Ma Buoni.....(see 26)	Arches.....70 B3	
Waterstone's.....11 B2	Café Gandolfi.....38 D3	Art School.....(see 14)	
	Dakhin.....(see 37)	Barfly.....71 C4	
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City Chambers.....12 D3	Mono.....41 D4	Cathouse.....74 B3	
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Glasgow School of Art.....14 B2	Red Onion.....43 B2	Glasgow Film Theatre.....76 B2	
Hutcheson's Hall.....15 D3	Wagamama.....44 C3	Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.....77 C2	
Jelly Club.....(see 89)	Wee Curry Shop.....45 B1	King Tut's Wah Wah Hut.....78 A2	
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Pride o' the Clyde.....17 B4	Where the Monkey Sleeps.....47 B2	Mono.....(see 41)	
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Museum.....18 A1	Willow Tea Rooms.....49 C3	Sub Club.....81 B3	
Sharmanka Kinetic Gallery & Theatre.....19 D4		Theatre Royal.....82 C2	
Tenement House.....20 A1	DRINKING ☑☑	Tron Theatre.....83 D4	
Tobacco Exchange.....21 C3	Artá.....50 D3	Tunnel.....84 C3	
Trades Hall.....22 D3	Babbity Bowster.....(see 25)		
Willow Tea Rooms.....(see 48)	Bar 10.....51 C3	SHOPPING ☑	
	Blackfriars.....52 D4	Adventure 1.....85 C2	
	Corinthian.....53 D3	Argyll Arcade.....86 C3	
SLEEPING ☑	Delmonica's.....54 D3	Buchanan Galleries.....87 C2	
Adelaide's.....23 B2	Drum & Monkey.....55 C3	Catherine Shaw.....(see 86)	
Arto.....24 B3	Firewater.....56 A2	Princes Square.....88 C3	
Babbity Bowster.....25 D3	Horse Shoe.....57 C3	St Enoch Shopping Centre.....89 C4	
Brunswick Hotel.....26 D3	Moda.....(see 54)	Tiso's.....90 C3	
Euro Hostel.....27 B4	Mojama.....58 A2		
Malmason.....28 A2	Moskito.....59 B2	TRANSPORT	
Merchant Lodge.....29 D3	Nice 'n' Sleazy.....60 A2	Buchanan St Bus Station.....91 C2	
Millennium Hotel.....30 C3	Pivo Pivo.....61 B3	Queen Street Station.....92 C2	
Old School House.....31 A1	Polo Lounge.....62 D3		

GLASGOW

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It takes 15 to 20 minutes to walk from George Sq, but numerous buses pass nearby, including buses 11, 12, 36, 37, 38 and 42.

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

An attraction that shouldn't be missed, **Glasgow Cathedral** (HS; Map p124; ☎ 552 6891; Cathedral Sq; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun Apr-Sep, 9.30am-4pm Mon-Sat, 1-4pm Sun Oct-Mar) has a rare timelessness. The dark, imposing interior conjures up medieval might and can send a shiver down the spine. It's a shining example of pre-Reformation Gothic architecture, and the only mainland Scottish cathedral to have survived the Reformation. Most of the current building dates from the 15th century, and only the western towers were destroyed in the turmoil.

The entry is through a side door into the **nave**, which is hung with some regimental colours. The wooden roof above has been restored many times since its original construction, but some of the timber dates from the 14th century; note the impressive shields. Many of the cathedral's stunning, narrow windows of stained glass are modern and, to your left, is Francis Spear's 1958 work *The Creation*, which fills the west window.

The cathedral, divided by a late-5th-century stone choir screen, is decorated with seven

pairs of figures to represent the Seven Deadly Sins. Beyond is the **choir**. The four stained-glass panels of the east window, depicting the apostles and also by Francis Spear, are particularly effective. At the northeastern corner is the entrance to the 15th-century **upper chapter house**, where Glasgow University was founded. It's now used as a sacristy.

The most interesting part of the cathedral, the **lower church**, is reached by a stairway. Its forest of pillars creates a powerful atmosphere around St Mungo's tomb (St Mungo founded a monastic community here in the 5th century), the focus of a famous medieval pilgrimage that was believed to be as meritorious as a visit to Rome.

Sunday services are at 11am and 6.30pm.

ST MUNGO'S MUSEUM OF RELIGIOUS LIFE & ART

A startling achievement, **St Mungo's Museum** (Map p124; ☎ 553 2557; 2 Castle St; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun) is an audacious attempt to capture the world's major religions in an artistic nutshell. The result is commendable. The attraction is twofold: firstly, impressive art that blurs the lines between religion and culture; and secondly, the opportunity to delve into different faiths, an experience that can be as deep or shallow as

you wish. There are three galleries, representing religion as art, religious life and, on the top floor, religion in Scotland. Britain's only Zen garden is outside.

PROVAND'S LORDSHIP

Across the road from St Mungo's Museum is **Provand's Lordship** (Map p126; ☎ 552 8819; 3 Castle St; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun), the oldest house in Glasgow. A rare example of 15th-century domestic Scottish architecture, it was built in 1471 as a manse for the chaplain of St Nicholas Hospital. The ceilings and doorways are low, and the rooms are sparsely furnished with period artefacts, except for an upstairs room, which has been furnished to reflect the living space of an early-16th-century chaplain. The building's best feature is its authentic feel – if you ignore the tacky imitation-stone linoleum covering the ground floor.

West End

With its expectant buzz, trendy bars and cafés and nonchalant swagger, the West End is probably the most engaging area of Glasgow – it's great for people-watching, and is as close as Glasgow gets to bohemian.

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Part of the university and housed in two separate buildings on either side of University Ave, the Hunterian contains the collection of William Hunter (1718–83), famous physician, medical teacher and one-time student of the university.

Don't forget to drag your eyes down to the exhibits in the **Hunterian Museum** (Map p124; ☎ 330 4221; University Ave; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat), which can be difficult as the university building itself is quite breathtaking.

The museum has had a recent makeover after an extensive refurbishment and changes include a permanent exhibition dedicated to William Hunter. There's also a new display called *Weird & Wonderful* which shows a quirky side to the collection and is worth lingering over.

The Main Hall has much improved displays and themes with a highlight being the 1674 'Map of the Whole World' in the World Culture section.

Across the road, the Scottish Colourists (Samuel Peploe, Francis Cadell, JD Ferguson) are well represented in the **Hunterian Art Gallery** (Map p124; ☎ 330 5431; 82 Hillhead St; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat). There are also Sir

William MacTaggart's impressionistic Scottish landscapes, and a gem by Thomas Millie Dow. There's a special collection of James McNeill Whistler's limpid prints, drawings and paintings. The **Mackintosh House** (☎ 330 5431; 82 Hillhead St; admission £3, after 2pm Wed free; ☎ 9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30-5pm Mon-Sat) is the final section in the gallery. Set up as a reconstruction of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Glasgow home (which had to be demolished), the Mackintosh House is startling even today. You ascend from the gallery's sombre ground floor into the cool, white, austere drawing-room. There's something otherworldly about the very mannered style of the beaten silver panels, the long-backed chairs and the surface decorations echoing Celtic manuscript illuminations. Buses 11 and 44 pass this way from the city centre (Hope St).

BOTANIC GARDENS

The best thing about walking into these beautiful **gardens** (Map p121; ☎ 334 2422; 730 Great Western Rd; ☎ daily, closes 10pm in summer, glasshouse 10am-4.45pm, visitor centre 11am-4pm) is the noise of Great Western Rd quickly receding into the background. Amazingly, the lush grounds don't seem that popular with locals (except on sunny weekends) and away from the entrance you may just about have the place to yourself. The wooded gardens follow the riverbank of the River Kelvin and there's plenty of tropical species to discover. Check out the herb garden, too, with its medicinal species. The gorgeous hilly grounds make the perfect place for a picnic lunch. There are also organised walks and concerts in summer – have a look at the noticeboard near the entrance to see what's on.

Kibble Palace, an impressive Victorian iron and glass structure dating from 1873, is one of the largest glasshouses in Britain, and recently reopened after an extensive renovation. It's inside the gardens.

KELVINGROVE ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

In a magnificent Edwardian building, this grand Victorian cathedral of culture is one of Glasgow's best, particularly its collection of Scottish and European art, and is the most visited museum in the UK outside of London. The **Kelvingrove** (Map p124; ☎ 276 9599; Argyle St; admission free; 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri, Sun; ☎) recently reopened after an enormous refurbishment programme. You could spend

THE GENIUS OF CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH

Great cities have great artists, designers and architects contributing to the cultural and historical roots of their urban environment while expressing its soul and individuality. Charles Rennie Mackintosh was all of these. The quirky, linear and geometric designs of this famous Scottish architect and designer have had almost as much influence on the city as have Gaudi's on Barcelona. Many of the buildings Mackintosh designed in Glasgow are open to the public, and you'll see his tall, thin, Art-Nouveau typeface repeatedly reproduced.

Born in 1868, Mackintosh studied at the Glasgow School of Art. In 1896, when he was aged only 27, he won a competition for his design of the School of Art's new building. The first section was opened in 1899 and is considered to be the earliest example of Art Nouveau in Britain, as well as Mackintosh's supreme architectural achievement. This building demonstrates his skill in combining function and style.

Although Mackintosh's genius was quickly recognised on the Continent, he did not receive the same encouragement in Scotland. His architectural career here lasted only until 1914, when he moved to England to concentrate on furniture design. He died in 1928, and it is only since the last decades of the 20th century that Mackintosh's genius has been widely recognised. For more about the man and his work, contact the **Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society** (☎ 946 6600; www.crmsociety.com; The Mackintosh Church, Queen's Cross, 870 Garscube Rd, Glasgow G20 7EL). From April to October the society runs weekend tours (Thursday night to Sunday) of his buildings (once or twice a month); the cost is £460/800 for one/two people, including dinner, B&B for three nights, lunches, coach, guide and admission.

See Helensburgh (p279) for information on Hill House, perhaps Mackintosh's finest creation.

days in here...literally. The museum is provocative because it poses many questions of relevance in relation to daily life. There are many different sections to browse including natural history exhibits; a full-size Spitfire plane from WWII; a Glasgow Stories Exhibit which tells how the city inspires and infuriates; a display of swinging heads all wringing out a different expression (which we found kinda scary); and plenty on Scottish history including Viking influence. For such a large place there is a real intimacy here. Other highlights include Salvador Dali's *Christ of St John of the Cross*. There's also a plethora of quality art from across Europe, including the Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists.

MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT

Across Argyle St from the Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery is the surprisingly interesting and very comprehensive, but badly signposted, **Museum of Transport** (Map p124; ☎ 287 2720; 1 Bunhouse Rd; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun). Not convinced? It's actually a very fine museum with exhibits including a reproduction of a 1938 Glasgow street scene, a display of cars made in Scotland, plus assorted railway locos, trams, bikes (including the world's first pedal-powered bicycle from 1847) and model ships. There's a room dedicated to the Clyde shipyards. It's like peeping through a porthole at the not-too-distant past. Note that the museum is due to be incorporated into a new Riverside Museum down at Glasgow Harbour, sometime in 2008 (p123). By train it's a 15-minute walk from Partick station. First Glasgow buses 9, 16, 18, 42, 62 and 64 all stop nearby.

FOSSIL GROVE

With sections of 350-million-year-old fossilised trees lying as they were found, **Fossil Grove** (Map p121; ☎ 950 1448; Victoria Park, Dumbarton Rd; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon, Thu-Sun, Apr-Sep) is an intriguing site. This Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) feels quite spooky and makes you realise you're but a blip on the earth's timeline. To get here, take bus 44 from the city centre to Victoria Park Dr North, or bus 9 or 62 to Dumbarton Rd.

South Side

The south side is a tangled web of busy roads with a few oases giving relief from the urban congestion. It does, however, contain some of Glasgow's best museums.

BURRELL COLLECTION

One of Glasgow's top attractions is the **Burrell Collection** (Map p121; ☎ 287 2550; Pollok Country Park; admission free, parking £1.50; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun). Amassed by wealthy industrialist Sir William Burrell before being donated to the city, it is housed in an outstanding museum, 3 miles south of the city centre. This idiosyncratic collection of treasure includes everything from Chinese porcelain and medieval furniture to paintings by Renoir and Cézanne. It's not so big as to be overwhelming, and the stamp of the collector lends an intriguing coherence.

Visitors will find their own favourite part of this museum, but the exquisite tapestry galleries are outstanding. Intricate stories capturing life in Europe are woven into staggering, wall-size pieces dating from the 13th century. The huge *Triumph of the Virgin* exemplifies the complexity in nature and theme of this medium, while posing the serious question: 'how long must this have taken?'

Within the spectacular interior, carved-stone Romanesque doorways are incorporated into the structure so you actually walk through them. Floor-to-ceiling windows admit a flood of light, and enable the surrounding landscape outside to enhance the effect of the exhibits. It feels like you're wandering in a huge tranquil greenhouse.

There are occasional guided tours. Many buses pass the park gates (including buses 45, 47, 48 and 57 from the city centre), and there's a twice-hourly bus service between the gallery and the gates (a pleasant 10-minute walk). Alternatively catch a train to Pollokshaws West from Central station (four per hour; you want the second station on the line for East Kilbride or Kilmarnock).

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL MUSEUM

Football fans will just love the **Scottish Football Museum** (Map p121; ☎ 616 6139; Hampden Park; adult/child £5.50/2.75; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun), which features exhibits on the history of the game in Scotland and the influence of Scots on the world game. Football inspires an incredible passion in Scotland and the museum is crammed full of impressive memorabilia, including a cap and match ticket from the very first international football game (which took place in 1872 between Scotland and England, and ended with a score of 0-0). The museum's engrossing exhibits give insight into the players, the fans, the media

THE GLASGOW BOYS

The great rivalry between Glasgow and Edinburgh goes back a long way. In the late 19th century a group of Glaswegian painters challenged the domineering artistic establishment in Edinburgh. Up to this point, paintings were largely confined to historical scenes and sentimental visions of the Highlands. These painters – including Sir James Guthrie, EA Hornel, George Henry and Joseph Crawhall – experimented with colour and themes of rural life, shocking Edinburgh's artistic society. Like Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the Glasgow Boys achieved success on the Continent, where their work met with admiration and artistic recognition.

The Glasgow Boys had an enormous influence on the Scottish art world, inspiring the next generation of Scottish painters – the Colourists. The Glasgow Boys' works can be seen in various Scottish collections, including the Burrell Collection (opposite) and Broughton House, Kirkcudbright (p182).

and the way the game has changed over the last 130 years. The museum's location is at Hampden Park, off Aikenhead Rd. To get there, take a train to Mount Florida station or take bus 5, 31, 37 or 75 from Stockwell St.

THE BARRAS

Glasgow's flea market, the **Barras on Gallowgate** (Map p124; London Rd; ☞ 9am-5pm Sat & Sun), is the living, breathing heart of this city in many respects. It has almost a thousand stalls and people come here just for a wander as much as for shopping, which gives the place a holiday air. The Barras is notorious for designer frauds, so be cautious. Watch your wallet, too.

THE PEOPLE'S PALACE

The city's oldest park, on Glasgow Green, is the **People's Palace** (Map p124; ☎ 271 2962; Glasgow Green; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun). It is an impressive museum of social history, telling the story of the city from 1750 to the present. It has creative, inventive displays, which are great for families – the kids will love the re-creation of a WWII air raid. The Palace was built in the late 19th century as a cultural centre for Glasgow's East End. Drop into the Winter Gardens next door for a coffee.

SCOTLAND STREET SCHOOL MUSEUM

An impressive Mackintosh building, the **Scotland Street School Museum** (Map p121; ☎ 287 0500; 225 Scotland St; admission free; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun, Apr-Sep) is dominated by two glass towers. It's a fascinating museum of education, with reconstructions of classrooms from Victorian times and the 1940s to the 1960s. The place evokes childhood memories for just about everyone – don't be surprised if you hear a few titters from elderly visitors as they pass the headmaster's office.

HOUSE FOR AN ART LOVER

Although designed in 1901 as an entry to a competition run by a German magazine, the **House for an Art Lover** (Map p121; ☎ 353 4770; Bellahouston Park, 10 Dumbreck Rd; adult/child £3.50/2.50; ☞ 10am-4pm Mon-Wed, 10am-1pm Thu-Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-1pm Sat & Sun Oct-Mar) was not completed until 1996. Mackintosh worked closely with his wife on the design and her influence is evident, especially in the rose motif. The overall result of this brilliant architect's design is one of space and light. Buses 3, 9, 54, 55 and 56 all run here from the city centre.

HOLMWOOD HOUSE

An interesting building designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson, **Holmwood House** (☎ 637 2129; 61-63 Netherlee Rd, Cathcart; adult/child £5/4; ☞ noon-5pm Thu-Mon Apr-Oct) dates from 1857. Despite constant ongoing renovations, it's well worth a visit. Look for sun symbols downstairs and stars upstairs in this attractive house with its adaptation of classical Greek architecture. To get to Cathcart train station, take a 'Cathcart Circle' train via Queen's Park or a train to Neilston. Otherwise, take bus 44, 44A, 44D or 66 from the city centre. Follow Rhannan Rd for about 800m to Holmwood House.

North Side

The north side doesn't have much of interest for visitors, apart from a unique church that also happens to be the headquarters of the Rennie Mackintosh Society.

THE MACKINTOSH CHURCH

Now the headquarters of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society, the **Church** (Map p121; ☎ 946 6600; 870 Garscube Rd; adult/child £2/free; ☞ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri 2-5pm Sun Mar-Oct) is the only one of Mackintosh's church designs to be built. It has

excellent stained glass and relief carvings, and the wonderful simplicity and grace of the barrel-shaped design is particularly inspiring.

ACTIVITIES

There are numerous green spaces within the city. **Pollok Country Park** (Map p121) surrounds the Burrell Collection and has several woodland trails. Nearer the centre of the city, the **Kelvin Walkway** follows the River Kelvin through Kelvingrove Park (Map p124), the Botanic Gardens and on to Dawsholm Park.

The tourist office has a range of maps and leaflets detailing these jaunts, and the long-distance routes described under Walking & Cycling (see below), most of which start from Bell's Bridge (Map p126; by the SECC). It also stocks the *Fit for Life* map detailing walking and cycling routes around the city.

Walking & Cycling

It is possible to walk 9 miles of the Clyde through Glasgow. An outstanding section lies between the Victoria Bridge and the SECC, taking in 150 years of bridge engineering and a chunk of Glasgow's shipbuilding heritage. The **Clyde Walkway** extends from Glasgow to Strathclyde Park, between Motherwell and Hamilton, and will eventually continue to the Falls of Clyde in Lanark (p164). It should be about 40 miles long when completed.

The well-trodden, long-distance footpath called the **West Highland Way** begins in Milngavie, 8 miles north of Glasgow (you can walk to Milngavie from Glasgow along the River Klein), and runs for 95 spectacular miles to Fort William.

There are several long-distance pedestrian/cycle routes that begin in Glasgow and follow off-road routes for most of the way.

The **Glasgow-Loch Lomond route** traverses residential and industrial areas, following a disused railway to Clydebank, the Forth and Clyde canal towpath to Bowling, then a disused railway to Dumbarton, reaching Loch Lomond via the towpath by the River Leven. This route continues to Inverness, from Balloch via Aberfoyle, Loch Vennachar, Callander and Strathyre to link with the Glen Ogle Trail, Killin, Pitlochry and Aviemore.

The **Glasgow-Greenock/Gourock route** runs via Paisley, the first section partly on roads. From Johnstone to Greenock the route follows a disused railway line, and the final section to Gourock has also been built. Sculpture from

the Sustrans public arts project brightens parts of the way.

The **Glasgow-Irvine, Ardrossan & West Kilbride Cycle Way** runs via Paisley, then off-road to Glengarnock. From here to Kilwinning it follows minor roads, then the route is partly off-road. Ferries to the Isle of Arran, popular with cyclists, leave from Ardrossan. An extension via Ayr, Maybole and Glentworth leads to the Solway coast and Carlisle.

The **Glasgow-Edinburgh Cycle Way** partly follows the Clyde Walkway and a disused railway line. It skirts south Lanarkshire and continues through Uddingston, Airdrie, Bathgate and onto Edinburgh.

Hire a bike at **West End Cycles** (Map p121; ☎ 357 1344; 16 Chancellor St) at the southern end of Byres Rd. It hires 24-speed mountain bikes for £15/85 per day/week. You need ID, and a £100 deposit or a credit card.

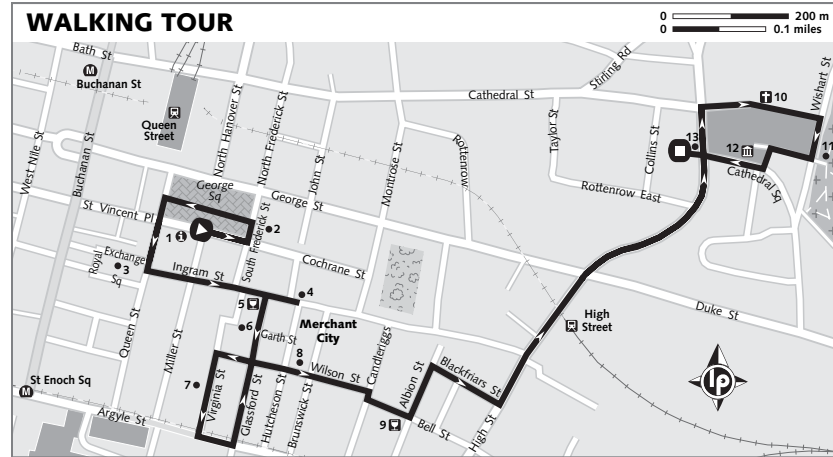
WALKING TOUR

This absorbing stroll will take you from George Sq to Glasgow Cathedral through the trendy Merchant City, a planned 18th-century civic development, and home to many fine pubs and restaurants.

The tourist office on **George Sq (1)** is a good starting point for exploring the city. The square is surrounded by imposing Victorian architecture, including the old post office, the Bank of Scotland and the grandiose **City Chambers (2)**; p125). There are statues of Robert Burns, James Watt, Lord Clyde and, atop a 24m-high Doric column, Sir Walter Scott.

Once you've ogled the City Chambers, cross George Sq and walk one block south down Queen St to the **Gallery of Modern Art (3)**; p125). This striking, four-floor, colonnaded building, built in 1827, was once the Royal Exchange. Pop in for a look at some of the country's best contemporary art displays.

The gallery faces Ingram St, which you should cross and then follow east for four blocks to **Hutchesons' Hall (4)**. Built in 1805 to a design by David Hamilton, this elegant building is now maintained by the NTS. On your way, duck into the former Court House cells now housing the ornate, dazzling **Corinthian (5)**; p141) pub/club for a glimpse of the extravagant interior (and perhaps a cheeky half!). Retrace your steps one block and continue south down Glassford St past **Trades Hall (6)**, designed by Robert Adam in 1791 to house the trades guild. This is the only surviving



WALKING TOUR

Distance: just over 1.25 miles
Duration: approximately 1½ hours

building in Glasgow by this famous Scottish architect; the exterior is best viewed from Garth St. Turn right into Wilson St and first left along Virginia St, which is lined with the old warehouses of the Tobacco Lords; many of these have been converted into flats for the upwardly mobile. The **Tobacco Exchange (7)** became the Sugar Exchange in 1820, but it's now in poor condition.

Back on Wilson St, the bulky **Sheriff Court House (8)** fills a whole block. This arresting building was originally Glasgow's town hall, but has been developed as luxury apartments. Continue east on Wilson St into Bell St and take a break at the excellent **Blackfriars pub (9)**; p140), where you can people-watch while sipping a cask ale. Turn left into Albion St, then first right into Blackfriars St. Emerging onto High St, turn left and follow High St up to the **Cathedral (10)**; p128). Behind the cathedral wind your way up through the noble, crumbling tombs of the **Necropolis (11)**, with great city views. On your way back you can check out the free and fabulous **St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life & Art (12)**; p128) and **Provand's Lordship (13)**; p129).

GLASGOW FOR CHILDREN

Although Glasgow is a bigger, busier city than Edinburgh, it's an easy city to travel around

with children due to its extensive public transport system and friendly locals. The city boasts excellent family attractions, including the **Glasgow Science Centre (p123)** and **Sharmanka Kinetic Gallery & Theatre** (see below), which both vie for Glasgow's top child-friendly attraction. The **People's Palace (p131)** and **Museum of Transport (p130)** are also recommended. A boat trip along the Clyde can be a lot of fun for kids.

For suggestions of short-term child-care agencies, get in touch with the council-run **Glasgow Childcare Information Service** (☎ 287 5223; EducationChis@glasgow.gov.uk; Wheatley House, 25 Cochrane St).

Parks in Glasgow often have playgrounds for children; call ☎ 287 5064 for information. We recommend two indoor playgrounds (far more practical). The crèche at **Buchanan Galleries** (☎ 332 4353; www.buchanangalleries.co.uk; Royal Exchange Sq) shopping centre is available for children aged two to eight and staffed by qualified nursery assistants. The **Jelly Club** (☎ 248 6800; www.jellyclub.co.uk; St Enoch shopping centre; child from £4; ☎ 10.30am-6.30pm) encourages physical activity by providing imaginative exercises to stimulate the mind and body (for children under 13).

QUIRKY GLASGOW

For those up to their eyeballs in museums and galleries, check out a show at the extraordinary **Sharmanka Kinetic Gallery & Theatre** (Map p126; ☎ 552 7080; 64 Osbourne St; adult/child £4/free; ♿). Originally from St Petersburg, this mechanical theatre brings inanimate objects to

THE GLESCA PATOIS *John McKenna*

Glasgow enjoys a rich local dialect (read: bloody hard to understand) and a knowledge of the vernacular will help you know when to stand and chat and when to run.

Unusually, for Scotland, the pub is the focal point of social life and there may be some football supporters in the crowd. The 'Boys' (Celtic football club) wear green colours and are traditionally supported by the 'Tims' (Catholics). The 'Gers' (Rangers football club) wear blue and are the 'Huns' (Protestant) team. Football can be a touchy subject in Glasgow. Tell anyone who asks that you're a 'Jags' (Partick Thistle) supporter and you're on neutral ground. The comedian Billy Connolly, who grew up in Partick, claims that he always thought the full team name was 'Partick Thistle Nil'.

When males spot a *wee stoater* (good-looking young woman) in the bar, they might be inclined to try their 'patter' (witty chat) on her. Should her boyfriend, 'the Big Yin', arrive unexpectedly, and offer to *mollocate*, *wanner* or *stiffen* the would-be Lothario, or alternatively to give him his *heid in your hauns* (head in your hands), then violence is probably imminent.

At that point it's best to *shoot the crow* (go) before a *stooshie* (brawl) develops and, in future, to give that particular pub the *body swerve* (a wide berth).

However, Glaswegians are very friendly to travellers. If you refer to their city as *Glesca*, and never *Glasgie*, they may even mistake you for a local.

life; sculptured pieces of old scrap and tiny carved figures perform humorous and tragic stories of the human spirit to haunting music. It's joyful, ironic theatre: inspirational one moment and macabre the next, but always colourful, clever and thought provoking. It's art for reflection – and lots of fun! Full performances are at 7pm Thursday and Sunday, and a matinee for families is at 3pm Sunday. The gallery is also open from noon to 7pm Monday to Thursday and from noon to 3pm Friday for visits by appointment only; short performance included.

TOURS

From April to October **City Sightseeing** (☎ 204 0444) runs tourist buses every 15 minutes (9.30am to 5pm) along the main sight-seeing routes, starting at George Sq. You get on and off as you wish. A day ticket per adult/child costs £9/3; if you buy a day ticket you get the next day's travel for free (buy from the driver or the tourist office). All buses have wheelchair access.

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Not to be outdone by Edinburgh, Glasgow has some kicking festivals of its own.

Celtic Connections (☎ 353 8000; www.grch.com) Two-week music festival held in January.

Glasgow Jazz Festival (☎ 552 3552; www.jazzfest.co.uk) Excellent festival held in June; George Sq is a good place for free jazz at this time.

Indian Summer (www.indiansummertglasgow.com) A boutique music festival held in mid-July in Victoria

Park (West End). An intimate outdoor event with a picnic atmosphere.

RSNO Proms (☎ 353 8000; www.grch.com) Classical music in June.

West End Festival (☎ 341 0844; www.westendfestival.co.uk) This music and the arts event is Glasgow's biggest festival, running for two weeks in June.

World Pipe Band Championships (☎ 221 5414; tickets £7) Around 200 pipe bands; held in mid-August.

SLEEPING

Finding somewhere decent in July and August can be difficult. Finding accommodation in Glasgow on weekends can be dicey at any time of year – it's wise to book ahead.

Budget**CITY CENTRE**

Our pick Glasgow Youth Hostel (Map p124; ☎ 0870 004 1119; www.syha.org.uk; 8 Park Tce; dm £14-19) Perched on a hill overlooking Kelvingrove Park in a charming town house, this place is simply fabulous and one of Scotland's best official hostels. Dorms are mostly four to six beds and all have their own en suite – very posh. The common rooms are spacious, plush and good for lounging about.

Euro Hostel (Map p126; ☎ 222 2828; www.euro-hostels.com; 318 Clyde St; per person £15-40; ☑) A mammoth hostel, Euro does not inspire warmth or a community feel, but it does provide high-quality budget accommodation in a central location. The dorms range in size from twin rooms through to 14 beds. Common areas are small, especially the kitchen. It's ideal for groups and has a rockin' bar onsite.

University of Strathclyde Campus Village (Map p124; ☎ 553 4148; www.rescat.strath.ac.uk; Rottenrow East; 4-/6-bed flats weekly £340/370, B&B per person £27, with en suite £33, bed only £22; ☑ mid-Jun–mid-Sep) The uni opens its halls of residence to tourists over summer. The Campus Village, opposite Glasgow Cathedral, offers accommodation in shared, single-sex, self-catering flats on a weekly basis, or good-value B&B.

WEST END

Bunkum Backpackers (Map p121; ☎ /fax 581 4481; www.bunkumglasgow.co.uk; 26 Hillhead St; dm/tw £12/32) This is a backpackers with a great vibe in a terrific house with no curfew. One very big plus is the space – in an old Victorian terrace, the common rooms are large and the well-kept, six-bed dorms are also a pretty good size. It's very close to Glasgow University and the hot spots on Byres Rd; most of the partying is done outside the hostel.

CAMPING

Craigendmuir Park (☎ 779 4159; www.craigendmuir.co.uk; Campsie View, Stepps; tent sites for 2 from £13.50) The nearest camping ground to town, this is about 800m from Stepps station. It has sites for caravans and tents, and there are a few well-equipped chalets and holiday homes.

Midrange**CITY CENTRE**

There are some fantastic options around the city centre. If you're driving, watch out for parking inspectors around here.

Adelaide's (Map p126; ☎ 248 4970; www.adelaides.co.uk; 209 Bath St; s £32, s/d with en suite £45/54, family r per person £25) Eight-room Adelaide's is ideal for folk who want to stay in Glasgow's vibrant centre. It's an unusual place – a simple, friendly (and relatively cheap) guesthouse on prestigious Bath St set in an historic church conversion. Tariffs are room only and families are very welcome (there are two family rooms sleeping four or six).

Old School House (Map p126; ☎ 332 7600; www.schoolhousehotelglasgow.co.uk; 194 Renfrew St; s/d £40/60) The classiest guesthouse on this city-centre accommodation strip, The Old School House is a small exclusive detached villa with heaps of character. Rooms have had a major makeover and now exude a debonair, urban cool with earthy tones.

Babbity Bowster (Map p126; ☎ 552 5055; babbitybowster@gofornet.co.uk; 16-18 Blackfriars St; s/d £45/60)

Smack bang in the heart of the trendy Merchant City, this lively bar has rooms with sleek furnishings and a minimalist design (No 3 is a good one). Staying here is an excellent Glaswegian experience – the building's design is attributed to Robert Adam. Unusually, room rates do not include breakfast – but that helps keep prices down.

Pipers Tryst Hotel (Map p126; ☎ 353 5551; www.thepipingcentre.co.uk; 30-34 McPhater St; s/d £50/65) An alternative to some of the blander, bigger hotels, Pipers Tryst is intimate, cosy and very Scottish. Cheery staff, great value and a prime city centre location (especially for the Theatre Royal across the road) make this a cut above other places. Of the eight well-appointed rooms, Nos 6 and 7 are our faves; you won't have far to migrate after a night of Celtic music and fine single malts in the snug bar-restaurant downstairs.

Artto (Map p126; ☎ 248 2480; www.arttohotel.com; 37 Hope St; s/d £70/90) Everything is squeaky clean and gleaming in this fashionable hotel. Rooms have light subtle tones combined with earthy, darkish maroons giving them modish appeal. High ceilings and slick, sparkling en suites with power showers complete the happy picture. Remember when booking that rooms at the rear are much quieter.

Our pick Rab Ha's (Map p126; ☎ 572 0400; 83 Hutcheson St; r £75-95) This Merchant City favourite is an atmospheric pub-restaurant with four stylish upstairs rooms. Each is a good size with a dark polished wood theme and a spotless en suite. It's the personal touches, such as fresh flowers in the rooms, and designer photographic prints on the walls, which make you feel special. Breakfast can be delivered to your room and you can come and go as you please, long after the bar downstairs has closed.

Other recommendations:

Brunswick Hotel (Map p126; ☎ 552 0001; www.brunswickhotel.co.uk; 106-108 Brunswick St; r £65-95) Stylish, inner-city hotel retaining its down-to-earth, friendly character.

Merchant Lodge (Map p126; ☎ 552 2424; 52 Virginia St; s/d £40/62) In the heart of the Merchant City. Simply furnished rooms feature pine fittings and polished wooden floors. Rooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors have the better outlook. Recommended for gay and lesbian travellers for its proximity to gay venues.

Victorian House (Map p126; ☎ 332 0129; www.thevictorian.co.uk; 212 Renfrew St; s/d £32/46, with bathroom £39/60) Solid old refurbished guesthouse, offering value for money.

EAST END

Alison B&B (Map p121; ☎ /fax 556 1431; 26 Circus Dr; s £25-30, d £38-54) This is an informal guesthouse where you're made to feel right at home by the chatty hosts – some people just enjoy their work. There's a great room for singles in the attic, as long as you don't mind a climb up a ladder; once there, you'll have plenty of room to yourself. The communal dining table encourages breakfast conversation.

Craigpark Guest House (Map p121; ☎ 554 4160; www.craigparkguesthouse.com; 33 Circus Dr; s £25-30, d £50-54) Sometimes a B&B just feels good. A classy guesthouse in a top East End location, this large, airy house has modern furnishings and a rustic feel. The meticulous interior reflects the owner's quiet efficiency. Country furniture complements the radiant rooms (particularly No 3), which share bathrooms, although one double has an en-suite shower.

our pick Cathedral House Hotel (Map p124; ☎ 552 3519; www.cathedralhouse.com; 28-32 Cathedral Sq; s/d £60/90) In the heart of the leafy, dignified East End is a very special property. A 19th-century Scottish Baronial-style hotel, complete with turrets and eight individual and beautifully furnished rooms, it's hotels like this (an antithesis to chain hotels) that give Glasgow such a classy edge. Room Nos 4 or 7 – very spacious corner rooms that include sumptuous king-size beds – are our faves.

WEST END

Alamo Guest House (Map p124; ☎ 339 2395; www.alamo.guesthouse.com; 46 Gray St; r per person £24-32) The Alamo may sound forbidding, but that couldn't be further from the truth. It's a great place to stay in a leafy spot overlooking Kelvingrove Park, and oozes warmth and sumptuous living. You feel miles from the city at this strategically located place, and yet the city centre and the West End are both a walk away.

Heritage Hotel (Map p121; ☎ 339 6955; bookings@heritagehotel.fs.business.co.uk; 4 Alfred Tce, Great Western Rd; s/d £38/58) A stone's throw from all the action of the West End, this friendly hotel has a very open, airy and bright feel. Generally, the rooms on the 1st and 2nd floors are a bit more spacious (No 21 is best of the doubles) and have a better outlook. Rooms are kitted out with pine furniture, and a speck of dirt would feel lonely in the spotless en suites. Fresh fruit for brekky.

Belhaven Hotel (Map p121; ☎ 339 3222; www.belhavenhotel.com; 15 Belhaven Tce; s £45-50, d £60-70) Consistently friendly and blessed with some

fantastically large rooms, Belhaven's rooms are lush little oases. A stylish Art-Nouveau red pervades with subtle lighting, a hint of decadence and, in some rooms, almost floor-to-ceiling windows. Make sure you try a pint of the delicious Kingfisher lager in the inhouse bar before you head out.

Kirklee Hotel (Map p121; ☎ 334 5555; kirklee@clara.net; 11 Kensington Gate; s/d £55/72) Want to spoil someone special? In a leafy neighbourhood, Kirklee is a quiet little gem that combines the luxury of a classy hotel with the warmth of staying in someone's home. The rooms are simply gorgeous, beautifully furnished and mostly looking onto lush gardens. For families there is an excellent downstairs room with enormous en suite.

Embassy Apartments (Map p121; ☎ 946 6698; www.glasgowhotelsandapartments.co.uk; 8 Kelvin Dr; 1/2/3/4/5/6/7 person flat per week £357/448/560/588/735/810/1015) If you're after a self-catering option, it's hard to go past this elegant place both for facilities and location. Situated in the leafy West End on a quiet, exclusive street right on the edge of the Botanical Gardens, it sleeps one to seven in studio-style apartments that have fully-equipped kitchens and are sparkling clean. Particularly good option for couples and families with older kids.

SOUTH SIDE

Holly House (Map p121; ☎ 427 5609; www.thehollyhouse.co.uk; 54 Ibrox Tce; r per person £25-27) If you're seeing a football game at Ibrox (Rangers home ground), this friendly place is very handy. It's an excellent, homely B&B: inside there are four rooms – one double, one family and two singles. All are a very good size and the family room, which is also let out to couples, is simply huge.

Glasgow Guest House (Map p121; ☎ 427 0129; glasgowguesthouse@hotmail.com; 56 Dumbreck Rd; s/d/f £32/50/75) The large, en-suite bedrooms are tastefully furnished with polished wood, and the crisp white linen betrays the cleanliness regime. Guests may use the kitchen to prepare evening meals. There's a fair bit of noise – it's literally on a junction of the M77 motorway – although once inside this graceful property, the traffic seems to melt away.

Top End**THE CLYDE**

City Inn (Map p124; ☎ 240 1002; www.cityinn.com/glasgow; Finnieston Quay; r £170; P) Popular with business

travellers and ideally located for attractions along the riverfront, rooms are very modern, compact and chock-a-block full of gadgetry (modern conveniences), although not all that spacious, reflecting their functional nature. The better rooms are river facing; call in advance for the best rate.

CITY CENTRE

Malmaison (Map p126; ☎ 572 1000; www.malmaison.com; 278 West George St; standard Fri-Sun £99, standard Mon-Thu £135, ste £195) Heavenly Malmaison is just so... now daaaahling. Cutting-edge urban living at its best, this sassy sister of hospitality is super slinky and a cornerstone of faith in Glaswegian accommodation. Stylish rooms with their moody lighting have a dark, brooding tone, plush furnishings and a designer touch.

Quality Hotel (Map p126; ☎ 221 9680; enquiries@quality-hotels-glasgow.com; 99 Gordon St; s £110, standard/premier d £120/140; P) The Quality Hotel is a down-to-earth, charismatic option right on Central station. Inside, everything is in huge proportion, the corridors are endless and the chandeliers baroque. Standard rooms are quite adequate, but only slightly more expensive premier rooms are enormous. And here's the bit for the trainspotter – you can get a room that actually overlooks the main passenger area of Central station!

Millennium Hotel (Map p126; ☎ 332 6711; www.millenniumhotels.com; George Sq; standard/club room £175/200, ste £235; P, ♿) You want central? This is central. Overlooking George Sq, the massive Victorian building constructed for the Tobacco Lords is now a top luxury hotel blessed with helpful and attentive staff. Rooms that overlook George Sq with their floor-to-ceiling windows are best, but if you find that a bit noisy (although windows do have double glazing) rooms towards the rear of the hotel are much quieter. Book through the website for better prices.

An elegant new five-star hotel, **Blythwood Square Hotel**, with all the trimmings, is due to open right in the heart of the city centre in mid 2008. There will be 88 luxury bedrooms to choose from, along with suites, in a luxury Georgian building overlooking the square.

WEST END

Hotel Du Vin (Map p121; ☎ 339 2001; www.hotelduvin.com; 1 Devonshire Gardens; r from £140, mews ste £950; P) Now under new management, this is the favoured hotel for the rich and famous, and

the patriarch of sophistication and comfort. A study in elegance, it's sumptuously decorated and occupies three classical terrace houses. There are 35 rooms, all individually furnished, and two fine restaurants are on-site with a wine selection exceeding 600 varieties.

EATING

Glasgow is the best place to eat in Scotland, with an excellent range of eateries. The West End is the culinary centre of the city. Many Glasgow restaurants post offers on the internet (changing daily) at **5pm.co.uk** (www.5pm.co.uk). Note also that pubs and bars are always a good lunchtime option.

City Centre**BUDGET**

our pick Lily's Coffee Shop (Map p126; ☎ 552 8788; 103 Ingram St; mains £5; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Mon-Sat) Don't be put off by the slightly sterile feel, this is a top lunch spot fusing a creative blend of east and west. It's a unique cross between a Chinese bistro and chic café with made-to-order Chinese food (such as dumpling buns and mandarin duck wraps) and standards like burgers and baked potatoes that are tarted up almost beyond recognition. The Chinese food is outstanding – fresh, lively and served with fruits and salad.

Mono (Map p126; ☎ 553 2400; 12 Kings Crt, King St; mains £3-7; ☎ lunch, dinner) Combining vegetarian food with music, Mono is one of Glasgow's few vegan eateries. Monorail is in the same premises which means you can browse through an indie record shop while waiting for your food to be prepared. The all-day bar menu provides classics such as the breakfast fry-up while the main menu has a touch of flair demonstrating a Mediterranean influence. The lasagne is well worth ploughing through.

Café Lava (Map p124; ☎ 553 1123; 24 St Andrew's St; dishes £2-6; ☎ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm Sat & Sun; ♿) Everyone wants to live next door to a café like this. The understated menu here delivers delicious home cooking. Try the Stornaway black pudding and eggs Benedict. The coffee is some of the best around town, and the carrot cake the best in Scotland: we know, we tried it from Dumfries to Shetland.

Where the Monkey Sleeps (Map p126; ☎ 226 3406; 182 West Regent St; dishes £4-6; ☎ 7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat) This funky little number in the middle of the business district is just what

you need to get away from the ubiquitous coffee chains. Laid-back and a little hippy, the bagels and *paninis*, with names like maverick or renegade, are highlights as are some very inventive dishes, such as the 'nuclear' beans, dripping with cayenne and Tabasco.

Wee Curry Shop (Map p126; ☎ 353 0777; 7 Buccleuch St; 2-course lunch £5, dinner mains £8; ☎ lunch Mon-Sat, dinner daily) Some of the best home-cooked curries you're likely to taste outside India can be found here. It's wise to book – it's a snug place with a big reputation, a limited menu and a sensational-value two-course lunch.

Also recommended:

Willow Tea Rooms Sauchiehall St (Map p126; ☎ 332 0521; 217 Sauchiehall St; light meals £4-7; ☎ 9am-4.30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-4.30pm Sun); Buchanan St (Map p126; ☎ 204 5242; 97 Buchanan St) Designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh in 1904; at lunch and tea-time the queues can extend into the shop downstairs at the Sauchiehall St branch.

Noodle Bar (Map p126; ☎ 333 1883; 482 Sauchiehall St; dishes £4-6; ☎ noon-4am) For large doses of late-night noodles with oodles of different combinations.

MIDRANGE

our pick Brutti Ma Buoni (Map p126; ☎ 552 0001; 106 Brunswick St; mains £6-10; ☎ noon-9pm Mon-Sat, to 8pm Sun) If you like dining in a place that has a sense of fun, Brutti delivers – it's the antithesis of some of the pretentious places around the Merchant City. With dishes such as 'ugly but good' pizza and 'angry or peaceful' prawns, Brutti's menu draws a smile for its quirkiness and its prices. The Italian and Spanish influences give rise to tapas-like servings or full-blown meals, which are imaginative, fresh and frankly delicious.

West Brewing Company (Map p124; ☎ 550 0135; Binnie Pl, Glasgow Green; starters £4, mains £8; ☎ lunch, dinner) A cavernous room with an airy, industrial feel on the edge of Glasgow Green, this brewery churns out four German beers brewed in strict accordance with Reinheitsgebot – German purity law. Which basically means it's bloody good. Excellent German dishes accompany the amber fluid, such as bratwurst sausages, sauerkraut and schnitzels; good ole pasta dishes are also available. Migrate to the beer garden overlooking the People's Palace in summer.

Bar Soba (Map p126; ☎ 204 2404; 11 Mitchell Lane; mains £7-10; ☎ lunch & dinner) With seating around the edges of the room and candles flickering in windows there's a certain sense of intimacy in

TOP FIVE EATS

Cafe Lava (p137)

Bar Soba (left)

The Left Bank (opposite)

Cheese Bar & Deli (opposite)

Stravaigin (p140)

this stylish and very friendly bar. You can eat in the plush downstairs restaurant, or in the bar. The food is Asian fusion and the laksas go down a treat – followed up of course with an irresistible chocolate brownie. Background beats are perfect for chilling and it can be a good spot to escape Friday evening crowds.

Bar 91 (Map p126; ☎ 552 5211; 91 Candleriggs; mains £6-7; ☎ noon-9pm Mon-Thu, to 6pm Fri-Sun, bar until midnight daily) By day this happy, buzzy bar serves excellent meals, far better than average pub food. Salads, pasta and burgers are among the many tasty offerings, and in summer tables spill out onto the sidewalk – ideal for some people-watching of the bold and the beautiful variety.

Dakhin (Map p126; ☎ 553 2585; 89 Candleriggs; dosas £8-12, 2-course lunch £10; ☎ lunch, dinner) This south Indian restaurant breathes some fresh air into the city's curry scene. Dishes are from all over the south, but we recommend that you try a dosa (a thin crispy crepe full of yummy stuff) or a thali if you're really hungry – which is basically Indian tapas. South Indian cooking is fragrant and noted for its use of coconut.

West Regent Street Bistro (Map p126; ☎ 331 0303; 48 West Regent St; starters £4.75, mains £8-12; ☎ noon-10pm) Chic, stylishly laid-back and sleek in design, this bistro serves big wholesome portions of food at very reasonable prices. Popular with the after-work crowd (come later) it does a good mix of down-to-earth pub food tarted up and more inventive cuisine. Try the lamb shank slowly braised in red wine, orange, thyme and redcurrant jelly.

Café Gandolfi (Map p126; ☎ 552 6813; 64 Albion St; mains £8-14; ☎ 9am-11.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-11.30pm Sun) In the fashionable Merchant City, this café was once part of the old cheese market. It's been pulling in the punters for years, and packs an interesting clientele: die-hard Gandolfers, the upwardly mobile and tourists. It's an excellent, friendly bistro and upmarket coffee shop – very much the place to be seen. Book a Tim Stead-designed, medieval-looking table in advance for well-prepared Scottish and Continental food.

Arisaig (Map p126; ☎ 204 5399; 140 St Vincent St; starters £6-8, mains £11-17; ☎ lunch & dinner) Candlelight, crisp linen, an open kitchen and calming landscape pictures on the walls combine to create a soothing, relaxed dining atmosphere in this classy, airy restaurant. Dishes are divided into The Sea and The Land and are sourced from around the country, like grilled Shetland monkfish or Ayrshire lamb cutlets. This place is also highly regarded for its inventive vegetarian dishes that include roast pepper and red onion sausages.

Also recommended:

Wagamama (Map p126; ☎ 229 1468; 97 West George St; mains £6.50-9; ☎ noon-11pm Mon-Sat, 12.30-10pm Sun) Classy noodle restaurant with communal tables that is perpetually busy for its quality, well-priced food.

Loon Fung (Map p126; ☎ 332 1240; 417 Sauchiehall St; mains £9-13; ☎ lunch & dinner) One of the best Chinese restaurants in town; pretheatre 2-course meal is £9.

Red Onion (Map p126; ☎ 221 6000; 257 West Campbell St; starters £7, mains £9-12; ☎ lunch, dinner) An eclectic, French and Asian-influenced menu drives the dining at this impressive restaurant run by a well-renowned chef.

West End

Just off Byres Rd, on the east side, Ashton Lane is packed with places to eat, including some of Glasgow's best restaurants.

BUDGET

Moka (Map p121; ☎ 337 1642; 219 Byres Rd; lunch £3.50-4.50; ☎ 7.15am-9pm Mon-Sat, 9am-9pm Sun) If you're looking for lunch in the West End, drop into Moka where you can sit in or take away (to the nearby Botanic Gardens, for example). Sarnies, *paninis*, baguettes and salads are all on offer, and fillings are fresh and inventive. It's also good for vegetarians, and there are freshly squeezed juices available. For brekky you can't go past the pancakes.

MIDRANGE

On the west side of Byres Rd, directly across from Ashton Lane, is Ruthven Lane. Here and nearby are a number of fine places to eat. Those staying in the vicinity of Kelvingrove Park will find a scattering of good restaurants on or around Gibson St and Great Western Rd.

our pick The Left Bank (Map p124; ☎ 339 5969; 33 Gibson St; mains £8-12; ☎ lunch, dinner) Huge windows fronting the street greet patrons to this outstanding new eatery specialising in gastronomic delights and lazy afternoons. There are lots of little spaces filled with couches and

chunky tables reflecting a sense of intimacy. The large starter-menu can be treated like tapas making it good for sharing plates. There are lots of delightful creations that use seasonal and local produce. Try the garlic masala fried fish on a Goan seafood curry with malabar fish chip pickle – it's outstanding.

Oran Mor Brasserie & Conservatory (Map p121; ☎ 357 6200; cnr Byres & Great Western Rds; brasserie mains £10-15, conservatory mains £6-9; ☎ lunch & dinner) This temple to Scottish dining and drinking is a superb venue in an old church. Giving new meaning to the word 'conversion', the brasserie pumps out high-quality meals in a dark, Mackintosh-inspired space. There are also cheaper bistro-style meals, such as *Cullen skink* (soup made with smoked haddock, potato, onion and milk) or vegetarian haggis served with Arran mustard sauce, and more relaxed dining in the conservatory, adjoining the main bar (see p142).

Firebird (Map p124; ☎ 334 0594; 1321 Argyle St; mains £8-13; ☎ lunch, dinner) A combined bar and bistro with a cheery feel, Firebird has zany artwork on its bright walls and, more importantly, quality nosh whisked under the noses of its patrons. Local flavours and Mediterranean highlights (mainly Italian and Spanish) are evident and organic produce is used wherever possible. Taste sensations range from wood-fired pizzas to a Moroccan chicken and chickpea salad.

Cheese Bar & Deli (Map p121; ☎ 337 2282; 61 Otago St; mains £7-10; ☎ lunch, dinner) If you've a hankering to gorge on dairy get here quick-sticks – mouth-watering cheeseboards have fine accompaniments too such as walnut bread and red wine poached pear. Heavenly. Fondue features but there are plenty of rustic noncheese dishes too, notably Lebanese pizza and hand-rolled venison sausages. Dining is unfussy in simple surroundings and service is prompt.

Wee Curry Shop (Map p121; ☎ 357 5280; 29 Ashton Lane; dinner mains £9; ☎ lunch & dinner) A bit classier and more pricey than its city-centre cousin, Wee Curry, upstairs at Jinty McGuintys, is very big on quality home-cooked Indian food. The curries are exceptional and a window seat gives you people-watching potential over Ashton Lane. Indian tapas-style dishes are available at lunchtime.

Stravaigin II (Map p121; ☎ 334 7165; 8 Ruthven Lane; starters £5, mains £8-13; ☎ lunch & dinner) Clinking wine glasses and cracking mussel shells greet patrons at this refined eatery. There are

a range of inventive taste-trips, such as skewered Dumfriesshire lamb fillet satay, cumin and lemon-roasted corn-fed chicken breast or organic wild-boar sausages. Two-course, lunch and pretheatre meals are great value at £12.

Bay Tree Café (Map p126; ☎ 334 5898; 403 Great Western Rd; mains £6-10; ☎ 9am-10pm Mon-Sat, to 9pm Sun) This mostly vegetarian café is excellent value. It has smiling staff, filling mains (mostly Middle Eastern and Greek), generous salads and a good range of hot drinks. The café is famous for its all-day Sunday brunch, including vegetarian burger, tattie scone, mushrooms, beans and tomato. It also serves a vegan breakfast. Good people-watching potential, too.

Bothy (Map p121; ☎ 334 4040; 11 Ruthven Lane; dinner mains £9-16, 3-course lunch £13.50; ☎ lunch, dinner) A bothy is not normally the most comfortable of abodes, but this West End player pays little heed to this tradition boasting a combo of modern design and comfy retro furnishings. It also blows apart the myth that Scottish food is stodgy and uninteresting. The Bothy dishes out traditional, uniquely Scottish, home-style fare – such as stoved howtdie wi' drappit eggs: translation, pot-roast chicken stuffed with white pudding, served with spinach and a poached egg.

TOP END

Ubiquitous Chip (Map p121; ☎ 334 5007; 12 Ashton Lane; 2-/3-course dinner £35/40; ☎ lunch & dinner) The original champion of Scottish produce, this restaurant has won lots of awards for its unparalleled Scottish cuisine, and for its lengthy wine list. Just reading the ever-changing menu will induce worship from your tastebuds. Set among potted plants of arboreal proportions, this is an ideal place to treat that someone special. There's a cheaper restaurant here, **Upstairs at the Chip** (mains £10), where the menu follows in the tradition of creativity and top-notch ingredients.

Buttery (Map p124; ☎ 221 8188; 652 Argyle St; 2-/3-course dinner £35/40; ☎ lunch Tue-Fri, dinner Tue-Sat) This well-respected, elegant restaurant is just west of the M8. Although it's surrounded by grim, grey, tower-block flats (get a taxi here or drive), it's a top, Victorian-era restaurant offering fine dining among crisp tablecloths and oak panelling, with a classy clientele to match. The menu is a combination of seasonal Scottish and British organic produce.

Stravaigin (Map p124; ☎ 334 2665; 28 Gibson St; 2-course dinner £25; ☎ lunch, dinner) Stravaigin is a

serious foodie's delight, with a menu constantly pushing the boundaries of originality and offering creative culinary excellence. There's a buzzing bar upstairs (open daily and offering simpler food) and a cool contemporary dining space in the basement with booth seating, and helpful, laid-back waiting-staff to assist in deciphering the audacious menu.

DRINKING

Some of Scotland's best nightlife is found in the din and sometimes roar of Glasgow's pubs and bars. There are as many different styles of bar as there are punters to guzzle in them; a month of solid drinking wouldn't get you past the halfway mark.

City Centre

TRADITIONAL PUBS

Glasgow is simply laden with traditional pubs exuding an old-world character.

our pick Drum & Monkey (Map p126; ☎ 221 6636; 93-95 St Vincent St) Jazz fans can get their fix on Sunday afternoon; the rest of the week jazz records accompany the dark wood and marble columns of this attractive drinking emporium, peppered with church pews and leather lounge chairs. Its cosy and relaxing vibe makes you want to curl up in an armchair with a pint for the afternoon.

Horse Shoe (Map p126; ☎ 221 3051; 17 Drury St) This legendary city pub and popular meeting place dates from the late 19th century and is largely unchanged. It has the longest continuous bar in the UK, but its main attraction is what's served over it – real ale and good food. Upstairs in the lounge are the best-value three-course lunches (£3.45) in town.

Scotia (Map p126; ☎ 552 8681; 112 Stockwell St) Drinks have been poured down throats at Scotia, Glasgow's oldest pub, since 1792. And while the last good airing feels like it happened back in the mid-1850s, Scotia's cheery charm outweighs the grungy atmosphere.

Blackfriars (Map p126; ☎ 552 5924; 36 Bell St) Merchant City's most relaxed and atmospheric pub, Blackfriars' friendly staff and chilled-out house make it special. Importantly, you don't have to ask – it's a cask. There's a seating area with large windows that are great for people-watching.

Babbity Bowster (Map p126; ☎ 552 5055; 16-18 Blackfriars St) Babbity Bowster has a Continental feel and is perfect for a quiet daytime drink, particularly in the adjoining beer garden. There's

also accommodation here (see p135). The interior has a classy vibe, with a suit crowd to match on weekday evenings. There's music on Saturday night, usually of the folk-fiddler variety.

BARS

our pick The Butterfly & the Pig (Map p126; ☎ 221 7711; 153 Bath St) A breath of fresh air along trendy Bath St, the piggery is a little offbeat, a little zany and makes you feel comfortable as soon as you plunge into its basement depths. The décor is an eclectic bunch with a retro feel and this adds to its familiarity. You get the feeling that servicing this place regularly would be rewarded with your favourite pint being poured just as you enter the doorway.

Artá (Map p126; ☎ 552 2101; 13-19 Walls St; ☎ until 3am) Very much a beloved destination, this extraordinary hacienda-style place has to be seen to be believed. As its door slides open, Artá's opulent, cavernous candle-lit interior is exposed. Floor-to-ceiling velvet, red curtains reveal a staircase to the tapas bar and restaurant above in a show of decadence that the Romans would have appreciated. This mock baroque-cum-Mediterranean showpiece has a relaxed, chilled vibe and a mixed crowd. Get a woowoo cocktail into ya.

Corinthian (Map p126; ☎ 552 1101; 191 Ingram St) A breathtaking, domed ceiling and majestic chandeliers make Corinthian an awesome venue. Originally a bank and later Glasgow's High Court, this regal building also houses a plush club, downstairs in old court cells, which pumps out funk and club classics on Fridays and Saturdays. It also has Glasgow's only late-night piano bar, open until 3am nightly.

Bar 10 (Map p126; ☎ 572 1448; 10 Mitchell Lane) A tiny city treasure that will cause the canny Glasgow drinker to give you a knowing glance if you mention its name. As laid-back as you could ask in a hip city bar, the friendly, tuned-in staff complete the happy picture. It transforms from a quiet daytime bar to a happening weekend pub on Friday and Saturday nights.

Nice 'n' Sleazy (Map p126; ☎ 333 9637; 421 Sauchiehall St) Close to the Glasgow School of Art, students come here to discuss primers, Duchamp and Nietzsche over some of Glasgow's cheapest drinks. With 1970s retro décor, a relaxed atmosphere and great menu for under a fiver, it's a top spot to kick back and relish the tunes of the city's freshest live music.

Firewater (Map p126; ☎ 354 0350; 341 Sauchiehall St; ☎ until 3am) A large venue constantly mobbed, Firewater is a good honest servant of Sauchiehall St. It's always lively and there are usually some pretty good bands plying their trade. Huge American pool tables, drink offers and club passes means it's a good place to get connected.

Pivo Pivo (Map p126; ☎ 564 8100; 15 Waterloo St) A cavernous downstairs beer hall with beers aplenty – 100 from 32 different countries to be exact. Add to that an impressive array of vodka and schnapps, and it may be a while before you see daylight. Buy any two drinks between 5pm and 7pm Monday to Thursday and get a free pizza – bargain.

Arches (Map p126; ☎ 565 1035; 253 Argyle St) A one-stop culture/entertainment fix, this place doubles as a theatre showing contemporary, avant-garde productions and there's also a club (p142). The hotel-like entrance belies the deep interior, which make you feel as though you've discovered Hades' bohemian underworld. The crowd is mixed – hiking boots are as welcome as Versace.

Waxy O'Connors (Map p126; ☎ 354 5154; 46 West George St) If you've been trying to avoid those acid flashbacks, steer clear of Waxy O'Connors. This labyrinthine maze of six bars on three levels (you may not emerge for days), including the inspiringly named Murphy's Bar, is an Escher drawing brought to life. Sadly, it's also an Irish-themed bar, but even that doesn't ruin the surreal fun.

Moskito (Map p126; ☎ 331 1777; 200 Bath St) A classic Bath St basement bar, Moskito is just the place to kick back and get boozed up. Let the inhouse DJs mellow you out with their deep beats and electronica. Grab the pool table if all this lying about drinking is getting too much.

Mojama (Map p126; ☎ 332 4760; Sauchiehall St) Very retro and very futuristic at the same time, it's worth popping your head into this *Jetsons*-like place to curl up nursing a drink in the blood-red interior. On Monday it's wannabee DJs who spin their own tracks.

West End

TRADITIONAL PUBS

Uisge Beatha (Map p124; ☎ 564 1596; 232-246 Woodlands Rd) If you enjoy a drink among dead things, you'll love Uisge Beatha (Gaelic for whisky, literally 'water of life'). This mishmash of church pews, stuffed animal heads and portraits of

depressed nobility (the Maggie mannequin is our favourite) is patrolled by Andy Capp-like characters during the day and students at night. With 100 whiskies and four quirky rooms to choose from, this unique pub is one of Glasgow's best – an antidote to style bars.

Aragon Bar (Map p121; 131 Byers Rd) A traditional bar located in this trendy part of town, with changing guest ales and board games behind the bar for those lazy afternoons. There's also a decent wine selection.

BARs

Our pick **Oran Mor Brasserie & Conservatory** (Map p121; ☎ 357 6200; cnr Byres & Great Western Rds) Now some may be a little uncomfortable with the thought of drinking in a church. But we say – the lord giveth. Praise be and let's give thanks – a converted church and an almighty one at that is now a bar, eating venue (see p139) and club venue. The bar feels like it's been here for years – all wood and thick, exposed stone giving it warmth and a celestial air. There's an excellent array of whiskies. The only thing missing is holy water on your way in.

Jinty McGuinty's (Map p121; ☎ 339 0747; 23-29 Ashton Lane) This is a popular Irish theme pub with unusual booth seating and a literary hall of fame. There's also a spacious and popular beer garden that often spills into secluded Ashton Lane in summer. Its Guinness is brewed in Ireland.

Brel (Map p121; ☎ 342 4966; 39 Ashton Lane) A popular watering-hole on Ashton Lane, the name may be pretentious (it's named after a famous – famous in Belgium – musician), as are the Belgian beers, but fortunately Brel's clientele – mainly students – keeps it down to earth and informal. There's a conservatory out the back so you can pretend you're sitting outside when it's raining, and when the sun does peek through there's a beer garden.

Vodka Wodka (Map p121; ☎ 341 0669; 31 Ashton Lane) This watering hole is every vodka drinker's dream, with more varieties of the stealthy poison than you could possibly conquer in one sitting. Its brushed metal bar dishes out the liquid fire to students during the day and groups of mid-20s in the evening.

ENTERTAINMENT

Glasgow is Scotland's entertainment city, from classical music, fine theatres and ballet, to cracking nightclubs pumping out cheesy chart tunes or the latest dance-music phe-

nomenon, and contemporary Scottish bands at the cutting edge of modern music.

To tap into your scene, check out the *List* (www.list.co.uk), an invaluable fortnightly events-guide available at newsagents and bookshops. If you plan to spend any time in the city, pick up a copy of *Itchy* (£3.50), a handy pocket-sized entertainment guide, available at bookshops. The *Herald* and the *Evening Times* newspapers list events happening around the city. Pick up a copy of the *Gig Guide* (www.gigguide.co.uk), published monthly and available free in most pubs and venues for the latest on music gigs.

For theatre tickets book directly with the venue. For concerts, a useful booking centre is **Tickets Scotland** (☎ 204 5151, 0870 220 1116; www.tickets-scotland.com; 239 Argyle St).

Clubs

Glasgow has one of Britain's biggest clubbing scenes attracting style-cats from afar. Glaswegians usually hit clubs after the pubs have closed, so many clubs offer discounted admission and cheaper drinks if you go before 10.30pm. Entry costs £4 to £7 (up to £25 for big events), although bars often hand out free passes. Most clubs close around 3am.

Arches (Map p126; ☎ 0870 240 7528; 253 Argyle St) R-e-s-p-e-c-t is the mantra with the Arches. The Godfather of Glaswegian clubs, it has a design based around hundreds of arches slammed together, and is a must for funk and hip-hop freaks. It is one of the city's biggest clubs pulling top DJs, and you'll also hear some of the UK's up-and-coming turntable spinners. It's located off Jamaica St.

Cathouse (Map p126; ☎ 332 1067; 15 Union St; ☑ Thu-Sun) Don the ghostly war paint, dust off the steel caps and rejoin your Goth brethren at the three-level Cathouse, Glasgow's top indie and alternative venue. A recent makeover hasn't changed the make-up of the punters. There are two dance floors: upstairs is pretty intense with lots of metal and hard rock, downstairs is a little less scary if you're not keen on moshing.

Tunnel (Map p126; ☎ 204 1000; 84 Mitchell St; Wed-Sun) This is a good venue for young clubbers or those new to the scene with plenty of cheap drink promos and a variety of beats. Wednesday (Allure) and Thursday (Kinky Pinky) are big gay nights (see p144). Friday is for house, hip-hop and soul-rock worshippers, while Saturday is devoted to RnB, funky tunes and disco – something for everyone.

Sub Club (☎ 248 4600; 22 Jamaica St) Offering up hardcore beats (not for those with sensitive hearing) to a student crowd, Sub Club, with its claustrophobic, last-one-in vibe, is not for those faint of heart. This is serious clubbing and it's all about your moves and the odd head-case on the dance floor.

ABC (p126; ☎ 332 2232; www.abcglasgow.com; 300 Sauchiehall St) A beautiful creature of the clubbing world, ABC has gorgeous bars, punters who scrub up pretty darn good and a varied music selection. It attracts heaps of students and is a good all-round venue. Indie lovers should check out Thursday nights.

Art School (p126; ☎ 353 4530; 167 Renfrew St) An impressive venue in the Glasgow School of Art (would CRM have approved?), this is where the style-cats of the student world hang out in force. It's a welcoming place and the dance nights are legendary. Cheap booze and a good selection of DJs rounds off the happy picture.

Live Music

Glasgow has long been regarded as the centre of Scotland's live-music scene. Year after year, touring musicians, artists and travellers alike name Glasgow as one of their favourite cities in the world to enjoy live music. As much of Glasgow's character is encapsulated within the soul and humour of its inhabitants, the main reason for the city's musical success lies within its audience and the musical community it has bred and nurtured for years. On any given night you may find your breath taken by a wave of voices as the audience spontaneously harmonises with an artist on a chorus, a song or even, on special nights, an entire show.

One of the city's premier live-music pub venues, the excellent **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut** (Map p126; ☎ 221 5279; www.kingtuts.co.uk; 272a St Vincent St) hosts bands every night of the week. Oasis were signed after playing here.

Two bars to see the best, and worst, of Glasgow's newest bands are **Brunswick Cellars** (Map p126; ☎ 332 9329; 239 Sauchiehall St) and the **Halt Bar** (Map p124; ☎ 352 9996; 160 Woodlands Rd), which is a popular university pub that hasn't been tarted up.

Other recommendations:

13th Note Cafe (Map p126; ☎ 553 1638;

www.13thnote.co.uk; 50-60 King St)

ABC (Map p126; ☎ 0870 4000 818; www.abcglasgow.com; 300 Sauchiehall St) Former cinema, new venue; medium- to large-size acts.

Barfly (Map p126; ☎ 0870 907 0999; www.barflyclub.com; 260 Clyde St)

Barrowland (Map p124; ☎ 552 4601; www.glasgow-barrowland.com; 244 Gallowgate) An exceptional old dancehall catering for some of the larger acts that visit the city.

Clyde Auditorium (Map p124; ☎ 0870 040 4000; www.secc.co.uk) Also known as the Armadillo because of its bizarre shape, adjoins SECC, and caters for big national and international acts.

Glasgow Academy (Map p124; ☎ 418 3000; www.glasgow-academy.co.uk; 121 Eglinton St)

Mono (Map p126; ☎ 553 2400; 12 Kings Crt, King St) Smaller acts, vegan food, great bar.

Nice 'n' Sleazy (Map p126; ☎ 333 0900; 421 Sauchiehall St) Nurturing much of Glasgow's alternative music scene.

SECC (Map p126; ☎ 0870 040 4000; www.secc.co.uk; Finnieston Quay) Adjoins Clyde Auditorium, and hosts major national and international acts.

Cinemas

Glasgow Film Theatre (Map p126; ☎ 332 8128; www.gft.org.uk; 12 Rose St; adult/concession £5/4) The two-screen Glasgow Film Theatre, off Sauchiehall St, screens arthouse cinema and classics.

Odeon Renfield Street (Map p126; ☎ 0870 505 0007; 56 Renfield St; adult/concession £6/4) The nine-screen Odeon Renfield Street shows mainstream films.

Theatres & Concert Halls

Theatre Royal (Map p126; ☎ 332 3321; www.theambassadors.com/theatreroyalglasgow; 282 Hope St) This is the home of Scottish Opera, and the Scottish Ballet often has performances here. Ask about standby tickets if you'll be in town for a few days.

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall (Map p126; ☎ 353 8080; www.grch.com; 2 Sauchiehall St) A feast of classical music is showcased at this concert hall, the modern home of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

King's Theatre (Map p126; ☎ 0870 060 6648; www.kings-glasgow.co.uk; 297 Bath St) This theatre hosts mainly musicals; on rare occasions there are variety shows, pantomimes and comedies.

Citizens' Theatre (Map p124; ☎ 429 0022; www.citz.co.uk; 119 Gorbals St) This is one of the top theatres in Scotland and it's well worth trying to catch a performance here.

Tron Theatre (Map p126; ☎ 552 4267; www.tron.co.uk; 63 Trongate) Tron Theatre stages contemporary Scottish and international performances. There's also a good café.

Centre for Contemporary Arts (Map p126; ☎ 352 4900; www.cca-glasgow.com; 350 Sauchiehall St) This is

a shmick venue making terrific use of space and light. It showcases the visual and performing arts, including movies, talks and galleries.

Tramway (Map p121; ☎ 0845 330 3501; 25 Albert Dr) This theatre and exhibition space attracts cutting-edge theatrical groups, the visual and performing arts, and a varied range of artistic exhibitions.

Sport

Two football clubs dominate the sporting scene in Scotland, having vastly more

resources than other clubs and a long history (and rivalry). This rivalry is also along partisan lines, with Rangers representing Protestant supporters, and Celtic, of course, Catholic.

Celtic Football Club (Map p121; ☎ 0871 226 1888; www.celticfc.co.uk; Celtic Park, Parkhead) Has a 60,832-seat stadium.

Rangers Football Club (☎ 0871 702 1972; www.rangers.co.uk; Ibrox Stadium, 150 Edmiston Dr) Tours of the stadium and trophy room run three times daily Monday and Friday, once on Saturday (tours £7/5 per adult/child). Rangers' stadium holds 50,500 seats.

GAY & LESBIAN GLASGOW

Glasgow has a vibrant gay scene, with the gay quarter found in and around the Merchant City (particularly Virginia, Wilson and Glassford Sts). The city's gay community has a reputation for being very friendly.

To get the lowdown, the best contact for gay and lesbian travellers is the **Glasgow LGBT Centre** (Map p126; ☎ 0141-552-4958; www.glgbt.org.uk; 84 Bell St; ☎ 11am-midnight; ♿). It has a bulletin board with information about activities and events, as well as personal ads; there's also a café-bar here. For confidential advice or help try the **Gay & Lesbian switchboard** (☎ 332 8372). See also the Gay & Lesbian section (p442) in the Directory.

Spa 19 (Map p126; ☎ 572 0347; 2nd fl, 19 Dixon St; admission £10; ☎ noon-10pm Sun-Fri, to 4am Sat) is an excellent gay health centre, with a small gym, sauna and Jacuzzi, TV lounge, café and cyber centre for firing off emails.

To tap into the scene, check out *The List*, the free *Scots Gay* magazine and the **GayScotland website** (www.gayscotland.com/glasgow/glasgow_index.htm).

Many straight clubs and bars have gay and lesbian nights, such as **Utter Gutter @ The Riverside Club** (☎ 248 3144; 33 Fox St; admission £10; ☎ 10.30pm-3am) on the first Saturday monthly. Everyone's welcome at this friendly night – one of Glasgow's best.

The following are just a selection of gay and lesbian pubs and clubs in the city.

Bennet's (Map p126; ☎ 552 5761; www.bennets.co.uk; 90 Glassford St) Glasgow's longest-running gay club is slightly seedy and stuck in the 1980s. It cranks out tunes from hard house to cheesy chart faves from Wednesday to Sunday.

Delmonica's (Map p126; ☎ 552 4803; 68 Virginia St; ☎ noon-midnight) Metres from the Polo Lounge, Delmonica's is a world away, with its predatorial feeling of people on the pull. It's packed on weekday evenings. Friday night is glam night with chart tunes and Sunday is a karaoke free-for-all.

Moda (Map p126; ☎ 553 2553; cnr Virginia & Wilson Sts; ☎ 5pm-midnight Mon, Tue & Thu, until 3am rest of the week) Blonde wood, fake tans and fluffy pink cocktails are the chief attributes of Moda, a place where beautiful folk strike a pose over daytime drinks, or recuperate before returning to the Polo Lounge next door or going down-market at Delmonica's.

Polo Lounge (Map p126; ☎ 553 1221; 84 Wilson St; ☎ 5pm-1am Mon-Thu, to 3am Fri-Sun) Staff claim 'the city's best talent' is found here; a quick glance at the many glamour pussies – male and female – proves their claim. The downstairs club is packed on weekends; just the main bars open on other nights.

Revolver (Map p126; ☎ 553 2456; 6a John St) Hip little Revolver, downstairs on cosmopolitan John St, sports a relaxed crowd and, crucially, a free jukebox.

Waterloo Bar (Map p126; ☎ 229 5891; 306 Argyle St) This is a traditional place and Scotland's oldest gay bar. It attracts punters of all ages. It's very friendly and, with a large group of regulars, a good place to meet people.

If you're in Glasgow in autumn check out **Glasgay** (☎ 334 7126; www.glasgay.co.uk), a gay performing arts festival, held around October/November each year.

SHOPPING

Boasting the UK's largest retail contingency outside London, Glasgow is a shopaholic's paradise.

Fashion junkies can procure relief at **Ver-sace** (☎ 552 6510) and **Armani** (☎ 552 2277) in the stylish **Italian Centre** (Map p126; John St). Alternatively, **Designer Exchange** (Map p126; ☎ 221 6898; 3 Royal Exchange Ct) stocks cheaper samples and resale designer labels. Trendy traders litter the pedestrian malls of Sauchiehall and Buchanan Sts. Try **Buchanan Galleries** (☎ 332 4353; www.buchanangalleries.co.uk; Royal Exchange Sq) and the exquisite **Princes Sq** (Map p126), which is set in a magnificent 1841 renovated square.

Munro baggers and other outdoor enthusiasts can go berserk at **Tiso's** (Map p126; ☎ 248 4877; 129 Buchanan St; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Wed, Fri & Sat, to 7pm Thu, 11am-5pm Sun) and **Adventure 1** (Map p126; ☎ 353 3788; 38 Dundas St), which is an excellent place to buy hiking boots.

Institutions include Buchanan St's splendid, jewellery-laden **Argyll Arcade** (Map p126), where you'll find **Catherine Shaw** (Map p126; ☎ 221 9038; www.carrick-jewellery.co.uk) for distinct pieces transcending mass production, and the **Barras** (Map p124; ☎ 552 4601; London Rd), a burgeoning flea market open every weekend.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Glasgow is 42 miles from Edinburgh and 166 miles from Inverness.

Air

Ten miles west of the city, **Glasgow International Airport** (☎ 887 1111; www.baa.co.uk/glasgow) handles domestic traffic and international flights. Glasgow Prestwick airport, 30 miles southwest of Glasgow, handles some of the cheap, no-frills airlines, and has many European flights. There are direct flights from many European cities, including Amsterdam, Brussels, Prague and Dublin. **Ryanair** (☎ 0871 246 0000; www.ryanair.com) flies to Glasgow Prestwick airport from London Stansted airport (1½ hours, frequent) for around £25 plus taxes, but check its website for ridiculously cheap specials.

Ever thought about getting to, or departing from, Glasgow in a seaplane? Probably not – but it's not a bad way to make an entry. **Loch Lomond Seaplanes** (☎ 0870 242 1457; www.lochlomondseaplanes.com; Clyde River, Glasgow Science Centre) flies regularly from the Clyde to Oban on Scotland's west coast (once or twice daily), but keep on eye on its website as services will

be expanding to other destinations. See p453 for more information.

Bus

All long-distance buses arrive and depart from **Buchanan bus station** (Map p126; ☎ 333 3708; Killermont St).

Buses from London are very competitive. **Megabus** (☎ 0900 160 0900; www.megabus.com) should be your first port of call if you're looking for the cheapest fare. It has one-way fares for around £10; check the website for your date of departure.

Silver Choice (☎ 01355-230403; www.silverchoice.travel.co.uk) also has great deals (advance-purchase return ticket £24, 8½ hours). It departs at 10pm daily from both London Victoria coach station and Buchanan bus station in Glasgow. The service is very popular, so you'll need to book well in advance.

National Express (☎ 0870 580 8080; www.national.express.com) leaves from the same bus stations (single £31, nine hours, at least four daily). There's a daily direct overnight bus from Heathrow Airport, usually departing at 11.05pm.

National Express also has numerous links with other English cities. Direct services and single tickets include: up to five daily buses from Birmingham (£44, seven hours); at least four from Manchester (£25, five hours); one from Newcastle (£27, four hours); and one from York (£32, seven hours).

Scottish Citylink (☎ 0870 550 5050; www.citylink.co.uk) has buses to most major towns in Scotland. There are very frequent services to Edinburgh (£5, 1¼ hours), every 20 minutes during the day. Frequent buses also run to Stirling (£5, 45 minutes), Inverness (£19, four hours) and Aberdeen (£20, 3¼ to four hours). Regular long-distance services to/from Glasgow include Oban (£15, three hours, four direct daily), Fort William (£16, three hours, seven daily) and Portree on Skye (£29, 6¼ to seven hours, three daily).

There's a twice-daily service via Stranraer, connecting with the ferry, to Belfast in Northern Ireland (single/return £23/39, six hours).

Walkers should check out **First Glasgow** (☎ 423 6600), which runs buses every hour or two to Milngavie (30 minutes), the start of the West Highland Way.

Car & Motorcycle

There are numerous car-rental companies; the big names have offices at Glasgow

International Airport. Companies include the following:

Arnold Clark (☎ 423 9559; www.arnoldclarkrental.co.uk; 43 Allison St) Rates per day/week from £17/85.

Avis (☎ 0870 608 6339, 221 2827; www.avis.co.uk; 70 Lancefield St)

Train

As a general rule, Glasgow Central station serves southern Scotland, England and Wales, and Queen St station serves the north and east. There are buses every 10 minutes between them. There are direct trains from London's King's Cross and Euston stations; they're much quicker (from £18, five hours, nine direct daily) and more comfortable than the bus.

First ScotRail (☎ 0845 755 0033; www.firstgroup.com/scotrail/index.php) runs the West Highland line heading north to Oban and Fort William, and other direct links to Dundee (£21), Aberdeen (£37) and Inverness (£37). There are trains every 15 to 30 minutes to/from Edinburgh (£10.50, 50 minutes).

GETTING AROUND To/From the Airport

There are buses every 10 or 15 minutes from Glasgow International Airport to Buchanan bus station (single/return £4/6). A taxi costs about £20.

Car & Motorcycle

The most difficult thing about driving in Glasgow, as with most Scottish urban centres, is the confusing one-way system. If you miss a turn-off, you can end up a long way from your destination, particularly if you get spat out on the motorway encircling the city centre – likely. For short-term parking (30 minutes to two hours) you've a decent chance of finding something on the street, especially away from the city centre (around the centre it's very expensive – 30p for 10 minutes). Otherwise, multistorey car parks are probably your best bet – the St Enoch Centre in the city has free parking. Note that the West End generally, and Great Western Rd in particular, are very busy during the day and bumper to bumper during peak hour (8am to 9.30am and 4pm to 6pm).

Public Transport

Glasgow has an excellent public transport system, especially the rail network. The Rounda-

bout Glasgow ticket (adult/child £4.50/2.25) covers all underground and train transport in the city for a day.

First Glasgow (☎ 423 6600; www.firstglasgow.com) has a FirstDay ticket that allows hop-on/off travel on all its buses; it can be bought from drivers for £3 and is valid until 1am. It also covers unlimited travel in the Greater Glasgow area as far as East Kilbride or Paisley.

BUS

City bus services are frequent. You can buy tickets when you board buses, but on most you must have the exact change. First Glasgow publishes the complicated but useful *Glasgow Mapmate* (£1), which shows all local First Glasgow bus routes. Trips around the city cost on average £1. Pick up a copy of the First Glasgow *Night Network* brochure to find out about services running through until the wee hours.

TAXI

There's no shortage of taxis, and if you want to know anything about Glasgow, striking up a conversation with a cabbie is a good place to start.

You can pay by credit card with **Glasgow Taxis** (☎ 429 7070) if you order by phone; most of its taxis are wheelchair accessible.

TRAIN & SUBWAY

There's an extensive suburban network of trains in and around Glasgow; tickets should be bought before travel if the station is staffed, or from the conductor if it isn't.

There's also an underground line that serves 15 stations in the centre, west and south of the city (single £1). The rail network connects with the Underground at Buchanan St station. The Discovery Ticket (£1.90) gives unlimited travel after 9.30am on the Underground system for a day.

AROUND GLASGOW

There are some wonderful sights in the urban centres around Glasgow, although it's best to visit this grim hinterland of postindustrial communities via a day trip. It's like finding diamonds in a coal mine – well worth looking, but you wouldn't want to spend the night there. Paisley's abbey should head your itinerary – it's a stupendous sight and a marvellous architectural achievement. If you're interested

WORTH THE TRIP

Effectively a suburb about 5 miles west of Glasgow, the reason for visiting **Paisley** is to see its timeless abbey – one of the finest in southern Scotland. Overlooking the river like a giant sentinel, **Paisley Abbey** (☎ 0141-889 7654; www.paisleyabbey.org.uk; Abbey Close; admission free; ☎ 10am-3.30pm Mon-Sat) is an awesome sight. Inside, the stonework gives a chilly embrace and you feel as though you've passed through a portal to another age – the scruffy town outside seems a world away.

The abbey was founded in 1163 by Walter Fitzallan, the first high steward of Scotland and ancestor of the Stuart dynasty. It was damaged by fire during the Wars of Independence in 1306, but rebuilt soon after. Most of the nave is 14th or 15th century. The building was a ruin from the 16th century until the 19th-century restoration, not completed until 1928. There are two royal tombs in the abbey, excellent stained-glass windows and the 10th-century Celtic **Barochan Cross**.

If you've time, at the western end of the High St, there's the **University of Paisley** and the **Museum & Art Gallery** (☎ 0141-889 3151; High St; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 2-5pm Sun), which features Paisley psychedelia! There are some marvellous exhibits, including contemporary displays of children in the modern world – it's worth at least a couple of hours. It also has collections of local and natural history, ceramics and 19th-century Scottish art.

There are frequent buses from Central Rd. Trains leave Glasgow's Central station for Paisley's Gilmour St station (off-peak/day return £3.50/4.50, 15 minutes, eight per hour).

in Clyde shipbuilding and its spectacular fall from economic grace, Greenock is a must.

INVERCLYDE

The ghostly remains of once-great shipyards still line the banks of the Clyde west of Glasgow.

The only place worth stopping along the coast west of the city is Greenock, although there are a couple of items of interest in the otherwise unprepossessing town of **Port Glasgow**, including the fine 16th-century **Newark Castle** (HS; ☎ 01475-741858; adult/child £3.50/1.75; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Apr-Sep), which is still largely intact.

Greenock

☎ 01475 / pop 46,000

Greenock has a lovely, revitalised waterfront area by the James Watt College, which is very pleasant to wander around. Other parts of town are a little scrappy and can be confusing to navigate.

An enjoyable walk up to Lyle Hill, above Gourrock Bay, leads to the Free French memorial, commemorating sailors who lost their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic during WWII, and a great view over the Firth of Clyde.

SIGHTS

McLean Museum & Art Gallery (☎ 715624; 15 Kelly St; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) is well worth checking out. It's quite an extensive collection,

with displays charting the history of steam power and Clyde shipping. There's also a pictorial history of Greenock through the ages, while upstairs there are very good temporary exhibitions and small displays from China, Japan and Egypt. The natural history section highlights the sad reality of species extinction in the modern world.

HM Customs & Excise Museum (☎ 881300; Custom House Quay; admission free; ☎ 10am-4pm Mon-Fri) is intriguing in parts, and good for killing an hour or so. You can also learn a thing or two about searches and smuggling techniques. You have to feel sorry for the customs officers who searched an Airbus from the West Indies and found more than 5kg of marijuana in the aircraft toilet tanks! The search took 4½ hours.

SLEEPING & EATING

James Watt College (☎ 731360; enquiries@jameswatt.ac.uk; Halls of Residence, Custom House Way; r per person from £22; ☎) Fairly central and down on the waterfront, this residence hall has 164 single rooms, many with en suite. It's good value, and the management only ask that you leave the place as you found it. Fair enough.

Tontine Hotel (☎ /fax 723316; www.tontinehotel.co.uk; 6 Ardgowan Sq; s £65-90, d £80-95) This grand hotel with well-appointed rooms, each with en suite, is genteel and well worth the pounds. The premier rooms in the old wing are more luxurious and spacious. Book early for stays over summer – ask about room-only rates, too.

SHIPBUILDING ON THE CLYDE

One of the earliest permanent Lower Clyde shipyards was established in 1711 by John Scott at Greenock. Initial construction was for small-scale local trade but, by the end of the 18th century, large ocean-going vessels were being built. As the market expanded, shipyards also opened at Dumbarton and Port Glasgow.

The *Comet*, Europe's first steamship, was launched at Port Glasgow in 1812. By the 1830s and 1840s the Clyde had secured its position as the world leader in shipbuilding. Steel hulls came into use by the 1880s, allowing construction of larger ships with the latest and best engines.

In 1899 John Brown & Co, a Sheffield steelmaker, took over a Clydebank yard and by 1907 had become part of the world's largest shipbuilding conglomerate, producing ocean-going liners. Output from the Clyde shipyards steadily increased up to WWI and, with the advent of the war, there was huge demand for new shipping from both the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy.

During and after the war many small companies disappeared and shipbuilding giants, such as Lithgows Ltd, took their place. The depression years of the 1920s and 1930s saw many yards mothballed or closed. Another boom followed during WWII but these were to be the twilight years.

Many yards went into liquidation in the 1960s, and in 1972 Upper Clyde Shipbuilders was liquidated, causing complete chaos, a sit-in and a bad headache for Ted Heath's government.

Now the great shipyards of the Clyde are mostly derelict and empty. The remains of a once-mighty industry include just a handful of companies still operating along the Clyde.

Port & Harbour (☎ 730370; Custom House Pl; mains £11-17; 🍴 lunch & dinner) On the waterfront next to the HM Customs & Excise Museum, this fine restaurant offers candle-lit dining, specialising in local seafood, lamb and venison dishes. The surroundings are suitably dark and cosy, perfect for blustery nights.

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Greenock is 27 miles west of Glasgow. The Glasgow–Greenock/Gourock pedestrian/cycle route (p132) follows an old railway track for 10 miles. There are trains from Glasgow Central station (£6 off-peak return, 45 minutes, three per hour) and hourly buses.

Gourock

☎ 01475 / pop 11,511

Gourock is a seaside resort situated 3 miles west of Greenock. Although the small central area is run-down, the town's location is wonderful and it is an important hub for transport.

For accommodation, you'd best head for Glasgow or Dunoon, though there are options in Gourock.

Spinnaker Hotel (☎ 633107; www.spinnakerhotel.co.uk; 121 Albert Rd; s/d from £30/60, mains £8) is an excellent pub. Rooms (with either en suite or shared bathroom) have country-pine décor, are clean and spacious, and have large screen

TVs. Downstairs the comfy bar is laid-back and has guest ales on tap. Pretty basic pub grub is also on offer.

CalMac (☎ 650100) ferries leave daily for Dunoon (passenger/car £3.25/8, 25 minutes, hourly) on Argyll's Cowal peninsula.

There's a council-operated, passenger-only ferry service to Kilcreggan (£1.90, 12 minutes, 12 daily Monday to Saturday, three Sunday) and Helensburgh (£1.90, 40 minutes, three or four daily); buy tickets on board.

Western Ferries (☎ 01369-704452) has a service to Dunoon (passenger/car £3.40/9.60, 20 minutes, two to three hourly) from McInroy's Point, 2 miles from the train station; Scottish Citylink buses run to here.

Gourock train station is next to the CalMac terminal; there are trains to/from Glasgow Central station (£5, 45 minutes, three per hour).

Wemyss Bay

☎ 01475 / pop 2466

Eight miles south of Gourock is Wemyss Bay (pronounced weemz), where you can jump off a train and onto a ferry for Rothesay on the Isle of Bute (p281). There are trains from Glasgow (£5.50, 50 minutes, hourly).

CalMac (☎ 520521) ferries to Rothesay connect with most trains and cost £3.80/15.25 per passenger/car.

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