

Accessible Glasgow

A Festival Guide



lonely planet
Travel for All



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Credits

THIS BOOK

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH

A man is guided around the exhibits on display at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum © VisitScotland/Chris Watt

INTERNAL PHOTOGRAPHS

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Page 5 (bottom): Pollok House © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Page 8 (top): Spiral staircase at The Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Page 8 (bottom): View of the Clyde Auditorium (the 'Armadillo') © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

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Page 51 (bottom): Ubiquitous Chip © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Page 56 (top): Diners at Hutchesons Bar and Brasserie © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Page 56 (bottom): Arisaig bar and restaurant © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Page 57 (top): Brewer at West Brewery Bar and Restaurant

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Page 57 (bottom): Bottle of Glenfarclas single malt Scotch with
tumblers and decanter at Hutchesons Bar and Brasserie

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Eska at Celtic Connections 2016 /
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Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

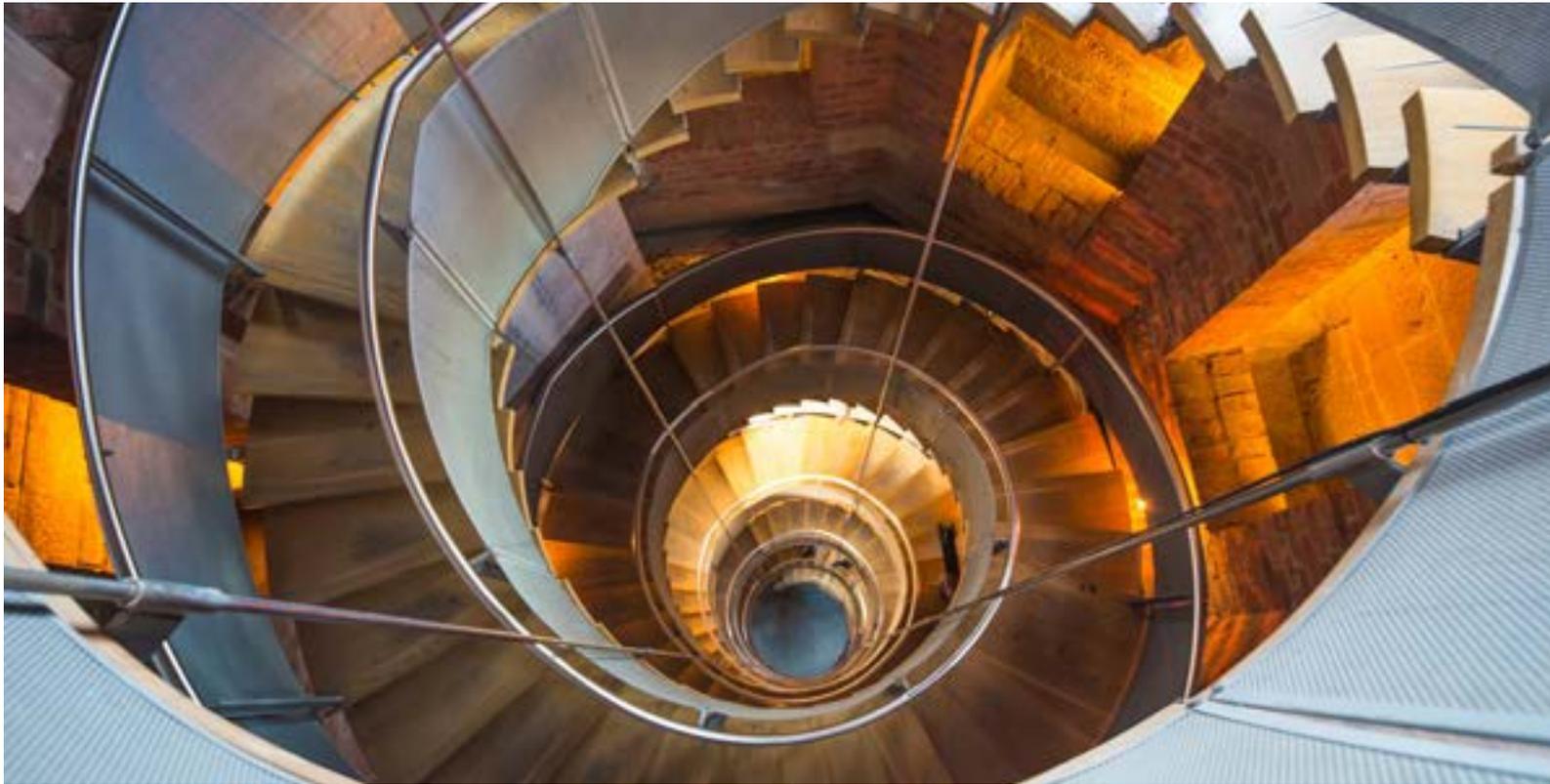
Disarmingly blending sophistication and earthiness, Scotland's biggest city has evolved over the last couple of decades to become one of Britain's most intriguing metropolises.

At first glance, the soberly handsome Victorian buildings – legacies of wealth generated from manufacturing and trade – suggest a staid sort of place. Very wrong. They are packed with stylish bars, top-notch restaurants and one of Britain's best live music scenes. The place's sheer vitality is gloriously infectious: the combination of edgy urbanity and the residents' legendary friendliness is captivating.

Glasgow also offers plenty by day. Its shopping – whether you're looking for Italian fashion or pre-loved denim – is famous and there are top-drawer museums and galleries. Charles Rennie Mackintosh's sublime designs dot the city, which – always proud of its working-class background – also innovatively displays its industrial heritage.

Around the city are several worthwhile attractions. History beckons at Paisley and Blantyre, while exploring the Clyde's southern bank to the coast at Gourock also appeals.

Spiral staircase at The Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



View of the Clyde Auditorium (the 'Armadillo') / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



Nextbike, bike hire at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam





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Acknowledgements

This title is part of the AccessFest series, a collaboration between Lonely Planet and UMOJA (www.umoja.in) to promote UK festival destinations to the more than 11m disabled people living in Great Britain today, 70,000 of whom visit festivals in the UK annually. UMOJA is an online travel portal providing people with disabilities with the detailed and dependable accessibility-related information they need to travel with comfort and confidence. UMOJA has performed access audits on all hotels featured in this guide as well as more than 100 more hotels in both the UK and India.

We gratefully acknowledge permission to use the access information for all venues reviewed in this guide provided by Euan's Guide (www.euansguide.com). We also gratefully acknowledge permission to reproduce images provided by VisitScotland (www.visitscotland.com).

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Resources

General

Glasgow Information Centre (0845-225 5121; www.visitscotland.com; 170 Buchanan St; 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-4pm or 10am-5pm Sun) Located in the heart of the shopping area.

Access Guides

Euan's Guide (<https://www.euansguide.com/>) Our partner in production, Euan's Guide is the crowd-sourced disabled-access review website and app that aims to 'remove the fear of the unknown' and inspire people to try new places. Read their introduction to Glasgow here: <https://www.euansguide.com/reviews/scotland/glasgow-city-of/glasgow/>.

DisabledGo (www.disabledgo.com/organisations/glasgow-city-council/main-2) Glasgow caters well for its disabled visitors and residents. It has engaged the very well-regarded access audit NGO, DisabledGo, to assess many of its tourist sites and venues, resulting in a detailed and broad-ranging accessible Glasgow city guide.

VisitScotland (<https://www.visitscotland.com/holidays-breaks/accessible/>) Scotland's national tourism organisation is at the forefront of promoting accessible tourism. This is the accessible holidays landing page, where you will find information about accessible accommodation, attractions and activities.

Glasgow Information Centre

0141-566 4083; www.visitscotland.com; Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art; Royal Exchange Sq; 10am-4.45pm Mon-Wed & Sat, to 7.45pm Thu, 11am-4.45pm Fri & Sun

Located in the heart of the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art.

Glasgow Royal Infirmary

0141-211 4000; www.nhsggc.org.uk; 84 Castle St

Medical emergencies and outpatient facilities.

Hillhead Library

0141-276 1617; www.glasgowlife.org.uk; 348 Byres Rd; 10am-8pm Mon-Thu, 10am-5pm Fri-Sat, noon-5pm Sun

Free internet terminals.

Post Office

www.postoffice.co.uk; 136 West Nile St; 9am-5.30pm Mon-Sat

The most central full-service post office.

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

0141-201 1100; www.nhsggc.org.uk; 1345 Govan Rd

Modern full-service hospital.

5pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm Sun Sep-Mar

Located in the heart of the shopping area.

Toilets

If you need a fully accessible Changing Places toilet, search here: <http://changingplaces.uktoiletmap.org/find?toiletLocation=Glasgow>.

Getting to Glasgow

Glasgow is well connected to Central Scotland's transport network and can be reached by bus or train. Scottish Citylink coaches have retractable steps for manual wheelchair access and have a five-star review on Euan's Guide. The main train stations are Glasgow Queen Street and Glasgow Central Station, both with very good access reviews. A Scottish disabled/elderly bus pass gives you free travel on all Citylink coach trips Scotland wide; 50p is all it costs to book a space! Guide dogs are welcome.

Be aware if arriving by plane that the accessible drop-off zone is far from the check-in counters and that there is very little seating after security in the departure lounges, despite the long distances to the gates.

Getting Around

Public transport in and around Glasgow is coordinated by SPT. The Daytripper ticket gives you a day's unlimited travel on buses, the Subway, rail and some ferries in the Glasgow region, including Loch Lomond, Ayrshire and Lanarkshire. It costs £11.60 for one adult or £20.50 for two. Two kids per adult are included free.

Bus

City bus services, mostly run by First Glasgow, are frequent. You can buy tickets when you board buses, but on most you must have the exact change. Short journeys in town cost £1.40 or £2.15; a day ticket (£4.50) is good value and is valid until 1am, when a night network starts. A weekly ticket is £15.50. The highly complicated SPT Bus Map, detailing all routes in and around the city, is available online: http://www.spt.co.uk/wmslib/Documents_Bus/spt_bus_map_dec10.pdf.

Many buses are wheelchair-accessible – look out for the wheelchair logo identifying those that are – and wheelchair-users have priority for designated wheelchair spaces (although, sadly, bus drivers have no power to enforce this rule). Assistance dogs are allowed free travel. There is no legal requirement for operators to carry mobility scooters, but First Bus has a code of conduct that's worth reading if you're scooter user: https://www.firstgroup.com/uploads/node_images/First_Scooter_Leaflet_Guide_1.pdf.

CitySightseeing Glasgow (0141-204 0444; www.citysightseeingglasgow.co.uk/; every 30 minutes 9.30am-4.30pm daily 31 Oct-13 Apr, every 10 minutes 9.30am-6.20pm 14 Apr-30 Oct) runs open-top hop on, hop off bus tours with

audio description good for visually impaired visitors. It also operates tours in other areas around Scotland. Some but not all buses are equipped with ramps, so it would be best to check with the operator if you're a wheelchair-user. Be aware that ramps can be very steep, which may prove difficult for power wheelchair users in particular.

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, the Subway, that serves 15 stations in the centre, west and south of the city (single £1.60). The train network connects with the Subway at Buchanan St underground station, next to Queen St overground station, and St Enoch underground station, near Central railway station. The All Day Ticket (£4) gives unlimited travel on the Subway for a day, while the Roundabout ticket gives a day's unlimited train and Subway travel for £6.60. The Subway annoyingly shuts down at around 6pm on a Sunday.

Due to the small size of the trains the Subway is not wheelchair-accessible, and wheelchairs are permitted only if folded. Guide dogs and hearing dogs are welcome and there are ample provisions for vision- and hearing-impaired travellers. People with mobility issues can find information about the number of stairs and escalators at each station at www.spt.co.uk/subway/maps-stations/mobility/.

Trains are much better bet, with ramps provided on all trains and at all accessible stations, which can be used by scooters and people with restricted mobility (PRMs), as well as wheelchair-users. There's step-free access throughout both Glasgow Central and Glasgow Queen Street stations, but you should contact the train operator at least four hours in advance if you require assistance. Visually impaired travellers using Glasgow Queen Street station can use its audible directional system, RNIB REACT, if they have the required fob (go to www.react-tech.com/ or call 01457 861431). Glasgow Central Station has a hearing loop and assistance system.

By all accounts the accessible toilet at Glasgow Queen Street station is good but hard to find: it's near the ticket office, opposite WH Smith and you'll need an RADAR key to open it.

Similarly, at Glasgow Central Station, the accessible toilet is tucked away in a corner by the main entrance. It's possible to charge your scooter or wheelchair at either station.

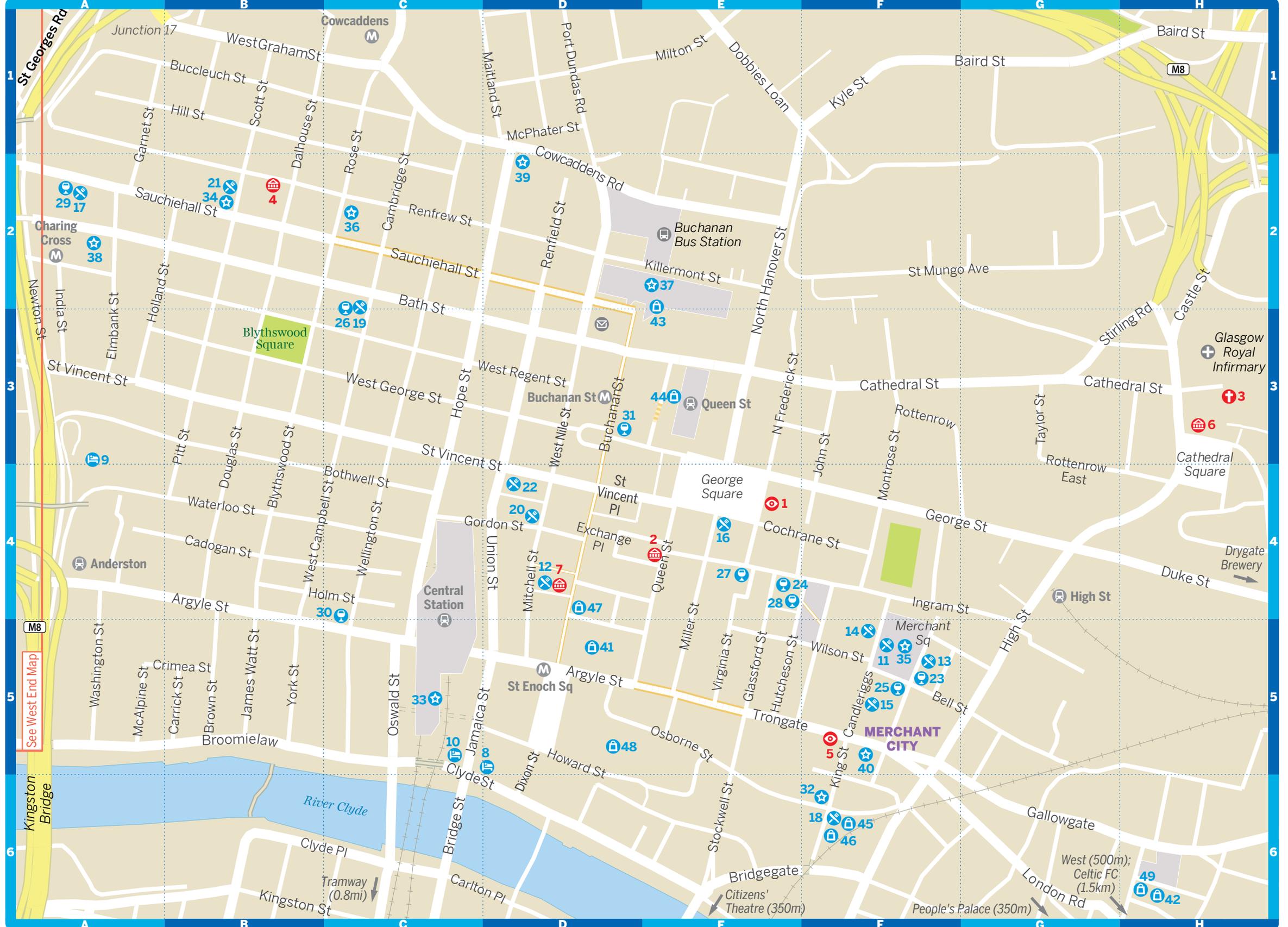
Taxi

Glasgow Taxis (0141-429 7070; www.glasgowtaxi.co.uk) has a large fleet, most of which is wheelchair-accessible. Taxis are affordable and can be ordered by phone or its app.

Blue Badge Parking

A Blue Badge allows drivers or passengers with severe mobility problems/disabilities to park without payment or penalty in otherwise restricted areas. For example, if you have a Blue Badge, you can park free and (often) for any length of time at on-street parking meters and on-street pay-and-display areas. It also allows you to park in designated accessible parking bays. For full details about use and eligibility, visit <https://www.mygov.scot/apply-blue-badge/?via=http://www.bluebadgescotland.org/>.

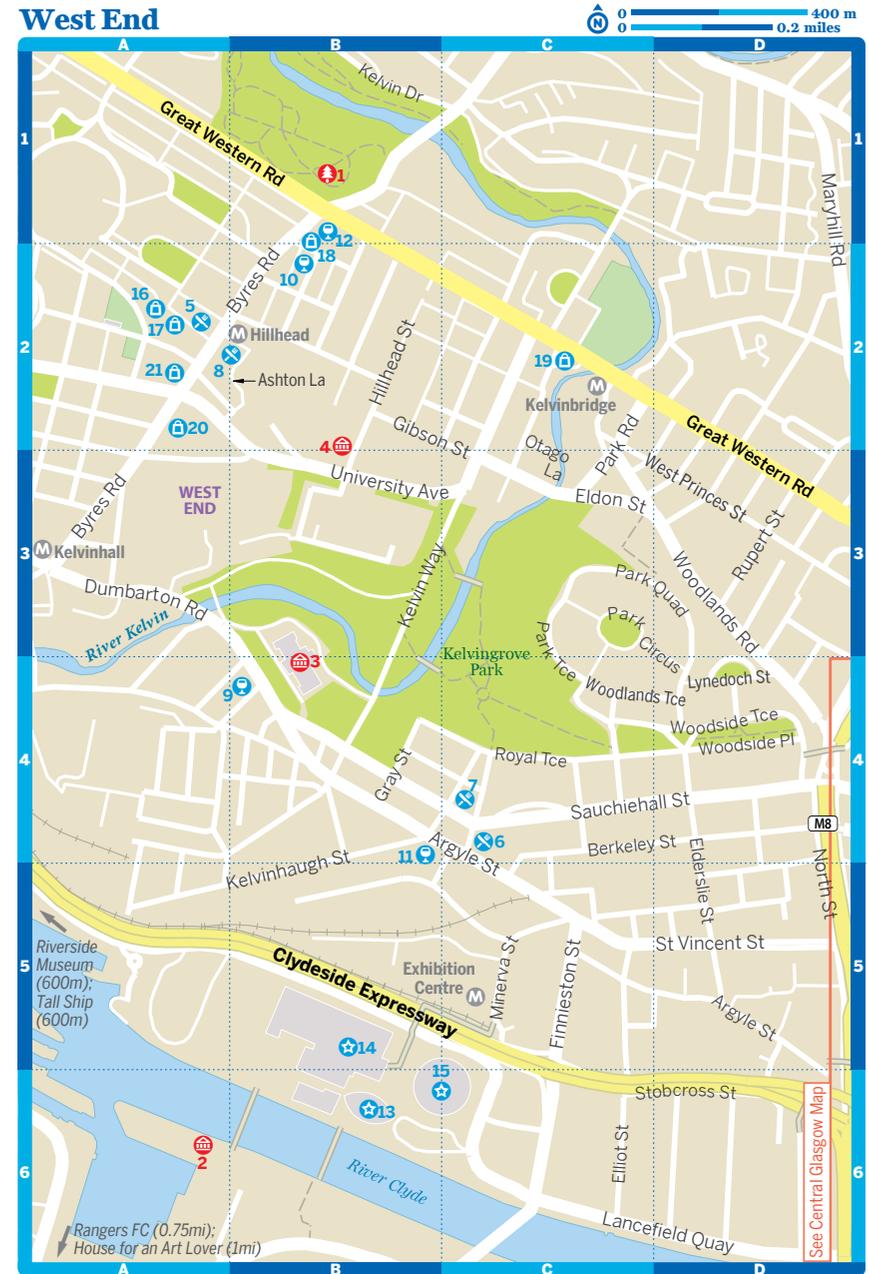
Central Glasgow



Central Glasgow

- 📍 Sights**
- 1 City ChambersE4
- 2 Gallery of Modern Art.....E4
- 3 Glasgow CathedralH3
- 4 Glasgow School of Art.....B2
- 5 Sharmanka Kinetic TheatreF5
- 6 St Mungo Museum of Religious Life & ArtH3
- 7 The LighthouseD4
- 24 AXME4
- 25 BlackfriarsF5
- 26 Buff ClubC2
- 27 Corinthian Club.....E4
- 28 DogHouse Merchant City.....E4
- 29 Nice 'n' Sleazy.....A2
- 30 Waterloo BarC4
- 31 Waxy O'Connors.....D3
- 🌟 Entertainment**
- 32 13th Note CaféF6
- 33 AudioC5
- 34 Centre for Contemporary Arts.....B2
- 35 City Halls & Old Fruitmarket.....F5
- 36 Glasgow Film Theatre.....C2
- 37 Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.....E2
- 38 King's Theatre.....A2
- 39 Theatre Royal.....D2
- 40 Tron TheatreF5
- 🛍️ Shopping**
- 41 Argyll Arcade.....D5
- 42 Barras Art & DesignH6
- 43 Buchanan GalleriesE2
- 44 LOVEMusic.....E3
- 45 Monorail.....F6
- 46 Mr Ben.....F6
- 47 Princes SquareD4
- 48 St Enoch Shopping Centre.....D5
- 49 The Barras.....H6
- 🛏️ Sleeping**
- 8 Euro Hostel; Glasgow.....D5
- 9 Hilton GlasgowA3
- 10 Jurys Inn; Glasgow.....C5
- 🍴 Eating**
- 11 Arisaig.....F5
- 12 Bar SobaD4
- 13 Café Gandolfi.....F5
- 14 DakhinF5
- 15 Guy's.....F5
- 16 Jamie's Italian.....E4
- 17 Loon FungA2
- 18 Mono.....F6
- 19 Red OnionC2
- 20 Riverhill Coffee Bar.....D4
- 21 Saramago Café Bar.....B2
- 22 Topolabamba.....D4
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife**
- 23 ArtàF5

West End



West End

- 📍 Sights**
- 1 Botanic GardensB1
- 2 Glasgow Science Centre.....A6
- 3 Kelvingrove Art Gallery & MuseumB4
- 4 Mackintosh House.....B2
- 12 Òran Mór.....B1
- Vodka Wodka.....(see 8)
- 🌟 Entertainment**
- 13 Clyde AuditoriumB6
- Grosvenor Cinema.....(see 8)
- 14 SECCB5
- 15 The Hydro.....B6
- 🛍️ Shopping**
- 16 Antiques & Interiors.....A2
- 17 Circa Vintage.....A2
- 18 Demijohn.....B1
- 19 Glasgow Vintage Company.....C2
- 20 Peckham's.....A2
- 21 Vintage GuruA2
- 🍴 Eating**
- 5 Hanoi Bike Shop.....A2
- 6 Mother IndiaC4
- 7 Ox & Finch.....C4
- 8 Ubiquitous ChipB2
- 🍷 Drinking & Nightlife**
- Brel.....(see 8)
- 9 Brewdog Glasgow.....B4
- 10 Hillhead Bookclub.....B2
- 11 Kelvingrove Café.....B4



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Festivals

World Pipe Band Championships, 2015 / © Grant Paterson



Glasgow hosts some truly excellent festivals.

Ability Fest

www.abilityfest.org.uk; 12 Oct 2016

Established in 1999, this annual independent living expo seeks to give PWDs, their families, carers and health professionals the opportunity to find out about educational, volunteering, leisure and employment opportunities in the west of Scotland. There will be at least 70 exhibitors from the public and private sectors, as well as a wide range of workshops; full details should be available by September. Held in the Glasgow City Hotel, entry is free but you'll need to register online or on the door.

Celtic Connections

www.celticconnections.com/; 19 Jan–5 Feb 2017

Glasgow's annual folk, roots and world music festival, Celtic Connections celebrates Celtic music and its links to cultures around the world. In what is the largest winter music festival of its kind, it brings together literally thousands of big-name musicians for 18 days of concerts, *ceilidhs* (social gatherings), talks, art exhibitions, workshops and free events. Venues for the 2017 festival include the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Old Fruitmarket, City Halls, O₂ABC, Tron Theatre and the Glasgow School of Art (see reviews later) with many more still to be announced. We are very pleased to hear that festival organisers make accessibility a key criterion when selecting venues.

Glasgow Film Festival

www.glasgowfilm.org/; 15-26 Feb 2017

Glasgow Film is still receiving entries for next year's festival. The main venue, **Glasgow Film Theatre** (0141 332 6565; 12 Rose Street), is well set up for wheelchair accessibility. There are nine accessible parking spaces in Cambridge St and a drop-off point of the front entrance. The venue is well serviced by buses, including the City Sightseeing bus. Queen Street Station is the closest railway station.

The main entrance door opens automatically and there is ramped access to cinemas 2 and 3 (two wheelchair spaces each), and lift access to cinema 1 (four wheelchair spaces). Wheelchair spaces must be booked in advance; collect your tickets from a low-level counter at the box office. There's an accessible toilet on the ground floor.

Assistance dogs are welcome. The theatre also offers an infrared sound facility for the hearing-impaired, which enables patrons to control the volume at which they listen to the film – ask at the box office for a headset. There are also captioned, BSL and relaxed performances staged.

Most other venues have good or excellent access; details regarding accessibility at other venues are published in the festival program when it is released.

Glasgow Jazz Festival

www.jazzfest.co.uk; Jun-Jul 2017

Another multivenue festival. When the program is published on the website, contact details for each of the venues will be included.

Merchant City

www.merchantcityfestival.com/; Jul/Aug 2017

This lively street festival in the Merchant City quarter has lots of performances featuring street arts, music, theatre, visual art, film, comedy, dance, fashion and design, and activities for children and families. There are also plenty of food and drink stalls.

Accessible toilets are located throughout the area, as well as within City Walls and Merchant Square.

The Merchant City is compact and all attractions are within walking distance. If arriving in a wheelchair by train, use Queen Street Station since Argyle Street and High Street Stations are not wheelchair-accessible.

Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival

www.mhfestival.com/; 10-31 October 2016

The theme for the 10th anniversary of one of the world's largest social justice festivals, with annual attendances of upwards of 25,000, is 'Time' and will feature more than 300 events staged across the country. Not only does the festival seek to challenge perceptions of mental health, but it also seeks to explore the relationship between creativity and the mind. Details of all Glasgow shows – held at numerous venues – can be found here: <https://www.mhfestival.com/events/11-glasgow>.

Southside Fringe

southsidefringe.org.uk/; May 2017

A wide variety of shows and events will be staged at dozens of venues across the city, some of them very small. Look for the details and dates towards the end of the year. A full list of venues is published on the website, but there doesn't appear to be access information available centrally. Festival organisers are planning to include information regarding accessibility for the 2017 festival when they release details of the venues in March. They should also be publishing details of shows that cater for the deaf or vision-impaired.

West End Festival

www.westendfestival.co.uk/; Jun 2017

This being Glasgow's largest cultural event, there are around 400 events held in up to 80 venues, a number of which are held outdoors in Glasgow's parks and gardens. Again, there doesn't appear to be access information available on the main website or in the festival brochure.

World Pipe Band Championships

www.theworlds.co.uk; Aug 2017

Also known as 'The Worlds', this is the biggest piping event in the annual calendar, attended by up to 40,000 people over two days. It is held in the 55-hectare Glasgow Green, the oldest of the city's parks, situated within walking distance of the city centre, east of the Saltmarket. Assistance dogs are welcome and carers accompanying ticketholders are admitted free (by calling 0141 353 8000). If you require a wheelchair-accessible place, you'll need to book here: <http://tickets.glasgowconcerthalls.com/single/SYOS.aspx?p=6605>.

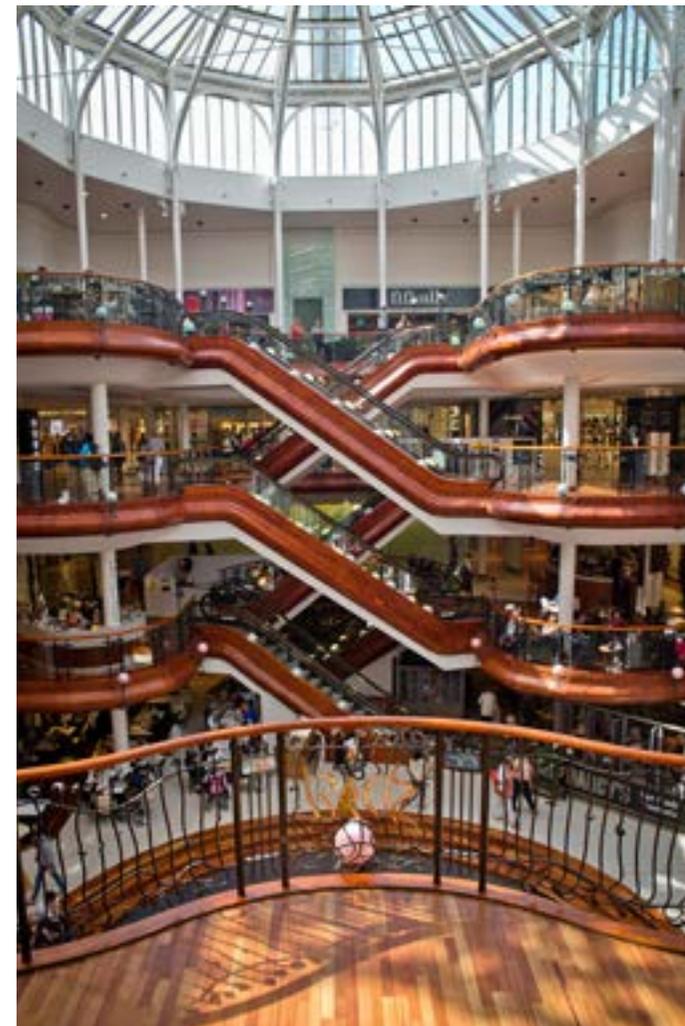


Kibble Palace, Glasgow / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

George Sq at Christmastime / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



Celtic Connections, Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow / © Paul Tomkins/VisitScotland



Princes Square shopping centre / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



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Sights

Paul Smith exhibition, The Lighthouse 2015 / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



Glasgow's major sights are fairly evenly dispersed, with many found along the Clyde. Many museums are free. Deaf visitors to Glasgow museums should visit [Welcoming Deaf Visitors](#), which gives links to introductory videos in both British Sign Language (BSL) and International Sign (IS) for all major museums and art galleries, including those listed below.

Botanic Gardens

0141-276 1614; www.glasgowbotanicgardens.com; 730 Great Western Rd; 7am-dusk, glasshouse 10am-6pm summer, to 4.15pm winter

A marvellous thing about visiting the gardens is the way the noise of Great Western Rd suddenly recedes into the background. The wooded gardens follow the riverbank of the River Kelvin and there are plenty of tropical species to discover. Kibble Palace, an impressive Victorian iron and glass structure dating from 1873, is one of the largest glasshouses in Britain; check out the herb garden, too, with its medicinal species. The gorgeous (but 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. The park is wheelchair-accessible.

The Electric Gardens II, **Lux Botanicum** (Nov-Dec; 2017 dates to be announced) is a sensory experience designed by the West End Festival organisers, walking (or rolling) through the darkened upper Botanic Gardens with dramatic lighting, sound effects and music. Carers are admitted free of charge with every full price ticket. Advance notice is advised if anyone in your party is in a wheelchair.

City Chambers

www.glasgow.gov.uk; George Sq; 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

The grand seat of local government was built in the 1880s at the high point of Glasgow's wealth. The interior is even more extravagant than the exterior, and the chambers have sometimes been used as a movie location to represent the Kremlin or the Vatican. You can have a look at the opulent ground floor during opening hours: to see more, free guided tours are held at 10.30am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday; it's worth popping in earlier that day to prebook.

Glasgow City Council, which is one of the more progressive councils in the UK when it comes to ensuring accessibility for

its citizens, has produced an extremely detailed access guide to its seat of government, which includes descriptions for navigational use by visually impaired visitors. Links leading to descriptions of each floor, the Marble Staircase and how to get there can be found from this page: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19148>. There is a push-button operated wheelchair-accessible sliding door on the left of the building as you enter from George Sq.

Gallery of Modern Art

0141-287 3050; www.glasgowmuseums.com; Royal Exchange Sq; 10am-5pm Mon-Wed & Sat, to 8pm Thu, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun

Scotland's most popular contemporary art gallery features modern works from international artists, housed in a graceful neoclassical building. The original interior is an ornate contrast to the daring, inventive art often on display. There's also a big effort made to keep the kids entertained. The horseback statue of the Duke of Wellington outside is often cheekily crowned with a traffic cone; the authorities grumble but it keeps happening and is now an icon.

Only minutes from Glasgow Queen Street and Glasgow Central stations, the gallery is also well served by both local and tourist sightseeing buses. The two ramps at either side of the entrance steps have been cleverly blended in so as not to detract from the beauty of the heritage building and lead to an automatic door.

There is level access throughout, including to the cafe on the lower level (which has movable furniture to allow greater manoeuvrability), the shop and the library. Gallery exhibits are clearly signed and large-print information booklets are available. There are also several touch screens giving information. The lift is spacious enough for two wheelchairs, as well as other passengers.

A spacious, clean, accessible toilet with grab rails is adjacent to the standard toilets in the lower level, with access on request as it is kept locked.

Glasgow Cathedral

0141-552 8198; www.historicenvironment.scot; Cathedral Sq; 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun Apr-Sep, 10am-4pm Mon-Sat, 1-4pm Sun Oct-Mar

Glasgow Cathedral 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 Gothic architecture, and, unlike nearly all Scotland's cathedrals, survived the turmoil of the Reformation mobs almost intact. Most of the current building dates from the 15th century.

The wooden roof 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 stained-glass windows are modern; to your left is Francis Spear's 1958 work *The Creation*, which fills the west window.

The cathedral, divided by a late-15th-century stone choir screen, is decorated with seven pairs of figures representing the seven deadly sins. The four stained-glass panels of the east window, depicting the Apostles (also by Francis Spear) are particularly evocative. 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 (accessed via steps only).

The most interesting part of the cathedral, the lower church, is reached by a stairway and is therefore unfortunately inaccessible for wheelchair-users. 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.

Wheelchair-users should enter through the west side door into the nave, which is equipped with a stairlift; the main south side entrance has four steps up into the nave. Assistance dogs are welcome. The nearest accessible toilet is at the St Mungo Museum.

Glasgow School of Art

0141-353 4526; www.gsa.ac.uk/tours; 167 Renfrew St; tours adult/child £9.75/4.75; 10am-4.30pm

Charles Rennie Mackintosh's greatest building – extensively damaged by fire in 2014, and due to reopen in 2018 – still fulfils its original function, so just follow the steady stream of eclectically dressed students up the very steep hill (all people with restricted mobility should beware!) to find it. It's one of Glasgow's architectural showpieces and has now been joined by Steven Holl's spectacular glacial - green School of Design opposite. A risqué combination, but it works. Tours leave from the new building, which also holds a free design exhibition.

Visits to the Mackintosh building are by excellent hour-long guided tours (11am and 3pm, plus 1pm May to September, closed in winter, multilingual translations available) run by architecture students. As reconstruction is ongoing, they visit the building's exterior only. Book online or by phone at busy times. Once the building is reopened, frequency of tours will likely increase. Note that use of the passenger lift for wheelchair visitors taking the Mackintosh at the GSA Tour must be arranged at least seven days in advance. Although there is level access to some areas, including the main entrance and reception, not all of the school buildings are accessible to those who are unable to manage stairs. There is some accessible parking and there are some accessible toilets on campus.

Particularly impressive is the thoroughness of the design; the architect's pencil seems to have shaped everything down to the smallest detail. The interior is strikingly austere, with simple colour combinations (often just black and cream) and the uncomfortable-looking high-backed chairs for which Mackintosh is famous. The library, designed as an addition in 1907, is a masterpiece.

There's a Mackintosh shop at the end of the tour. If you liked the visit, the same folk run recommended architecturally-minded walking tours of central Glasgow: see the website for details. Note that not all tours may be suitable for all visitors. Contact tours@gsa.ac.uk or call the above number when making a booking if you or any member of your group has particular needs.

There's a lift to every floor and accessible toilet facilities for wheelchair-users. The 500-capacity Assembly Hall on the 1st floor, where gigs take place, is standing only (unless advertised otherwise), but there are benches on the side of the hall where people can sit if they have difficulties standing. You are advised to come early (when doors open) so that staff can assist you to find the best spot. If you have any particular requirements or queries, contact the venue directly using this link: www.theartschool.co.uk/contact/.

The closest Subway Station is Cowcaddens, five minutes away; Queen Street and Central Station are a 10–15 minute walk from the venue.

Glasgow Science Centre

0141-420 5000; www.glasgowsciencecentre.org; 50 Pacific Quay; adult/child £11/9, IMAX, tower or planetarium extra £2.50-3.50; 10am-5pm Wed-Sun Nov-Mar, 10am-5pm daily Apr-Oct

This ultramodern science museum 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: a bounty of discovery for inquisitive minds. There's also an IMAX theatre (see www.cineworld.co.uk/imax/ for current screenings), a rotating 127m-high observation tower; a planetarium; and a Science Theatre, with live science demonstrations. To get here, take bus 89 or 90 from Union St.

There's plenty of accessible parking, but you have to pay for it. The buildings are all wheelchair-accessible and there's lots of circulation space, including in the lifts. There are chairs/stools in front of all the seated experiments, but these can be 'nudged' out of the way. There are reserved wheelchair spaces in all four theatres (IMAX, Science Theatre, auditorium and planetarium).

There are wheelchairs available from the ticket desk on a first-come, first-served basis. Induction loops are available for hearing-impaired visitors in the IMAX cinema, the front desk, the auditorium and Science Theatre, and individual hearing loops also available on a first-come, first-served basis in the planetarium. Assistance dogs are welcome and each paying visitor is allowed to bring a carer free of charge.

There are accessible toilets in the Science Mall and IMAX theatre, but some reports suggest they may be a little small for a wheelchair-user.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum

www.glasgowmuseums.com; Argyle St; 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun

A magnificent stone building, this grand Victorian cathedral of culture is a fascinating and unusual museum, with a bewildering variety of exhibits. You'll find fine art alongside stuffed animals, and Micronesian shark-tooth swords alongside a Spitfire plane, but it's not mix 'n' match: rooms are carefully and thoughtfully themed, and the collection is a manageable size. There's an excellent room of Scottish art, a room of fine French Impressionist works, and quality Renaissance paintings from Italy and Flanders.

Salvador Dalí's superb *Christ of St John of the Cross* is also

here. Best of all, nearly everything, including the paintings, has an easy-reading paragraph of interpretation. You can learn a lot about art here, and it's excellent for children, with plenty to do and displays aimed at a variety of ages. Free hour-long guided tours begin at 11am and 2.30pm. Bus 17, among many others, runs here from Renfield St.

For such an old building, wheelchair access is fantastic and has improved dramatically since its refurbishment. It's spacious and very easy to manoeuvre around in a wheelchair to see the various exhibits. The interpretation boards are generally at an ideal height for wheelchair-users to read and many even have space under them so you can wheel up close. The lifts are large enough for only one wheelchair at a time. There are two lifts, one each side of the main linking corridor, to access the upper floors of the main gallery. All rooms have step-free access, and any elevated platforms are ramped.

There are eight Blue Badge bays close to the automatic entry doors at the rear entrance to the museum, with no gradient to contend with. Be aware of how you park, however, since the lowered kerb is located at the centre of each block of bays. For those using public transport, there is an accessible bus stop just outside the Argyle St/St Vincent street entrance, with easy lift access to street level. The main entrance has two automatic doors that operate with a push-pad system.

The accessible toilet on the lower ground floor has a height-adjustable change table, which is great but leaves less space to manoeuvre a wheelchair. The ones on the ground floor are a much better bet for a wheelchair-user, equipped as they are with height-adjustable sinks.

The park at the rear of the gallery is lovely, but some wheelchair-users or people with restricted mobility may struggle with the gradient.

Mackintosh House

www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk; 82 Hillhead St; adult/child £5/3; 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun

Attached to the Hunterian Art Gallery, this is a reconstruction of the first home that Charles Rennie Mackintosh bought with his wife, noted designer/artist Margaret Macdonald. It's fair to say that interior decoration was one of their strong points; Mackintosh House is startling even today. The house is scheduled to become part of the new museum at Kelvin Hall, but likely not until 2020.

The quiet elegance of the hall and dining room on the ground floor give way to a stunning 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. You wouldn't have wanted to be the guest that spilled a glass of red on this carpet. Visits are by guided tour on the half hour.

Unfortunately level access is limited to the orientation room, hall and dining room. Wheelchair users can access all areas of the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery (both of which have accessible toilets) and part of the Zoology Museum.

Riverside Museum

0141-287 2720; www.glasgowmuseums.com; 100 Pointhouse Pl; 10am-5pm Mon-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun

This visually impressive modern museum at Glasgow Harbour owes its striking curved forms to the late British-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid. A transport museum forms the main part of the collection, featuring a fascinating series of cars made in Scotland, plus assorted railway locos, trams, bikes (including the world's first pedal-powered bicycle from 1847) and model Clyde-built ships. An atmospheric recreation of a Glasgow shopping street from the early 20th century puts the vintage vehicles into a social context. There's also a cafe.

It's west of the centre about a kilometre – get bus 100 from the north side of George Sq or walk the signposted path from the Kelvingrove Museum.

The magnificent Tall Ship *Glenlee*, a beautiful three-master launched in 1896, is berthed alongside the Riverside Museum. On board are family-friendly displays about the ship's history, restoration and shipboard life during its heyday. Upkeep costs are high, so do donate something, buy the guidebook or have a coffee below decks.

The museum is fully wheelchair-accessible, with plenty of space to move around between the displays, some of which have their own lifts and BSL information panels situated at a suitable height for wheelchair-users. There are spacious accessible toilets, including one large toilet on the ground floor with an adult-size changing table and a standard accessible toilet on the 2nd floor. The cafe is accessible, with movable furniture enabling multiple wheelchairs to be accommodated. The floor-to-ceiling window adjacent to the cafe gives wheelchair users a great view of the Tall Ship, which is also accessible for wheelchair-users.

There are dedicated Blue Badge parking bays close to the

Glasgow University cloisters / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



main entrance, equipped with large automatic doors. The taxi drop-off point is a short distance from the main entrance. A bus service from the city centre and the city sightseeing bus are both wheelchair-accessible and stop directly outside the museum.

Sharmanka Kinetic Theatre

0141-552 7080; www.sharmanka.com; 103 Trongate; adult/child short show £6/5, long show £8/6; 45 min shows 3pm Wed-Sun plus 4.15pm Sat, 70 min shows 7pm Thu & Sun

This extraordinary mechanical theatre is located at the Trongate 103 arts centre. The amazing creativity of Eduard Bersudsky, a Russian sculptor and mechanic, now resident in Scotland, has created a series of large, wondrous figures sculpted from bits of scrap and elaborate carvings. Set to haunting music, these perform humorous and tragic stories of the human spirit. It's great for kids and very moving for adults: inspirational one moment and macabre the next, but always colourful, clever and thought-provoking.

The gallery is open just before performances Wednesday to Sunday – the sculptures and their stories are fascinating even when not in motion.

There is level access and a lift to the 1st floor.

St Mungo Museum of Religious Life & Art

0141-276 1625; www.glasgowmuseums.com; 2 Castle St; 10am-5pm Tue-Thu & Sat, 11am-5pm Fri & Sun

Set in a reconstruction of the bishop's palace that once stood in the cathedral forecourt, this museum audaciously attempts to capture the world's major religions in an artistic nutshell. A startling achievement, it presents the similarities and differences of how various religions approach common themes such as birth, marriage and death. The attraction is twofold: firstly, impressive art that blurs the lines between religion and culture; and secondly, the opportunity to delve into different faiths, as deeply or shallowly as you wish.

The museum is wheelchair-accessible, and there are two wheelchairs available to borrow. Large-print version of leaflets are available at reception. There's free accessible parking in the car park on Castle St and an accessible toilet on the ground floor. Assistance dogs are welcome. Some staff have been trained in BSL – ask at reception. Interestingly, a monthly BSL Language Café event is held at the museum for students learning BSL to meet informally to practise their signing.

The Lighthouse

0141-276 5365; www.thelighthouse.co.uk; 11 Mitchell Lane; 10.30am-5pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun

Mackintosh's first building, designed in 1893, was a striking new headquarters for the *Glasgow Herald*. Tucked up a narrow lane off Buchanan St, it now serves as Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture, with fairly technical temporary exhibitions (sometimes admission is payable for these), as well as the Mackintosh Interpretation Centre, a detailed (if slightly dry) overview of his life and work. On the top floor of the 'lighthouse', drink in great views over the rooftops and spires of the city centre.

There's level access throughout and plenty of room for wheelchairs to manoeuvre, although the lift only serves one wheelchair at a time. Large, automated doors open to a reception that has a dropped section for wheelchair users. There's plenty of circulation space around the different galleries and exhibits. A lift, escalator or stairs take you to the different levels; one of the two viewing areas can be accessed by lift. The accessible toilets are clearly signposted.

The Tall Ship

www.thetallship.com; Riverside Museum; 10am-5pm

The magnificent Tall Ship *Glenlee*, a beautiful three-master launched in 1896, is berthed alongside the Riverside Museum. On board are family-friendly displays about the ship's history, restoration and shipboard life during its heyday. Upkeep costs are high, so do donate something, buy the guidebook or have a coffee below decks.

Plenty of thought has gone in to making it an inclusive place to visit. Access is via a gangway that, depending on the tide, can get quite steep. Once on board it's easy to navigate – there are boards throughout that show how to get around and what is on each deck. A lift operates between the different decks that is large enough to accommodate manual wheelchairs and power wheelchairs if they are not too large. The ship itself also has its own accessible toilet.



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Sleeping

The city centre can get very rowdy at weekends, and accommodation options fill up fast, mostly with groups who will probably roll home boisterously some time after 3am. If you prefer an earlier appointment with your bed, you'll be better off in a smaller, quieter lodging, or in the West End. Booking ahead is essential at weekends and in July and August.

Most accommodation providers set prices according to demand, so if there's a big-name concert on a Saturday, expect to pay a hefty premium, even for mediocre places.

Our accessibility partner UMOJA has reviewed six of the most accessible Glasgow hotels. Note that the hotel accessibility information was correct as of 1 May 2016. Visit <https://www.umoja.in/location/glasgow/> for the complete, most up-to-date information. You can also email UMOJA with any queries at info@umoja.in.

- » Euro Hostel Glasgow
- » Hilton Garden Inn Glasgow City Centre
- » Hilton Glasgow
- » Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor Hotel
- » Holiday Inn Express Glasgow Theatreland
- » Jurys Inn Glasgow

Here are the top three (in no particular order) chosen by UMOJA.

Euro Hostel, Glasgow

Situated just five minutes away from Central Station in the heart of Glasgow, smoke-free Euro Hostel offers great physical accessibility for great prices, with accessible rooms starting from as low as £10 per person per night and free wi-fi. Although there aren't currently features for guests with visual or hearing impairments, Euro Hostel is highly wheelchair-accessible throughout, with features including ramp access to all public areas, and wide doors and well-installed grab rails and roll-in showers in the accessible bathrooms.

As a hostel, there are few frills but if you're looking for good physical accessibility together with friendly and welcoming staff, and are keen to mingle with backpackers from around the globe, then Euro Hostel Glasgow is highly recommended.

Click [here](#) for the full UMOJA access profile.

Jurys Inn, Glasgow

With accessible rooms starting at £85 per night, Jurys Inn offers very good accessibility for decent prices. Located on Jamaica St, opposite Euro Hostel, and within close proximity of Glasgow Central Station, this four-star hotel has an impressive 18 rooms with accessible features.

As well as being highly wheelchair-accessible throughout, with ramp access to all public areas, a lowered reception desk section and wide bedroom doors and roll-in showers, the inclusion of Braille emergency procedures highlights good

practice for people with visual impairments. Staff have also received disability awareness training.

There were no vibrating pillow alarms for the accessible rooms nor a hearing induction loop at reception when we visited.

Click [here](#) for the full UMOJA access profile.

Hilton Glasgow

At the other end of the budget scale, if you're looking for luxury and accessibility then this five-star hotel may be right for you.

Situated on William St, 5 minutes' drive from the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Hilton Glasgow has six disabled access rooms in total with roll-in showers. We found this luxury hotel to be highly wheelchair accessible throughout, with ramp access to most public areas. Other highlights include a swimming pool hoist to enable transfer for wheelchair users and a gymnasium with a level entrance and good circulation space. Hilton Glasgow also offers some good features for guests with hearing impairments including a hearing induction loop at reception and vibrating pillows for bedrooms. There is also on-site accessible parking.

There were no Braille menus nor Braille emergency procedures available during our visit. Beds in accessible rooms were also quite high (66–68cm), which could be problematic for some wheelchair users to transfer onto.

Staff have received Disability Awareness Training.

Click [here](#) for the full UMOJA access profile.



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Eating

Glasgow is the best place to eat in Scotland, with an excellent range of eateries. The West End is the culinary centre, with Merchant City also boasting a high concentration of quality restaurants and cafes. Many Glasgow restaurants post offers on the internet (changing daily) at 5pm.co.uk. Pubs and bars reviewed under the Drinking & Nightlife category are often good mealtime options, too.

Arisaig

0141-553 1010; www.arisaigrestaurant.co.uk; 1 Merchant Sq; mains £14-20; noon-4pm & 5-10pm Mon-Sat, 12.30-4pm & 5-10pm Sun

Located in the Merchant Square building, an historical location converted into an echoing food court, Arisaig offers a good chance to try well-prepared Scottish cuisine at a fair price, with friendly service to boot. Candlelight and crisp linen makes for atmosphere despite the artificial situation, with both terrace and indoor seating on two levels. Game is a strong point. There's level access and an accessible toilet.

Bar Soba

0141-204 2404; www.barsoba.co.uk; 11 Mitchell Lane; mains £10-13; noon-10pm

With candles flickering in windows there's a certain sense of intimacy in stylish Bar Soba where industrial meets plush. A great stop in the heart of the shopping zone for lunch; both the bar and downstairs restaurant do quality Asian fusion. Background beats are also perfect for chilling with a cocktail. A couple of other branches have sprung up. It's listed on Yelp as wheelchair-accessible, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Café Gandolfi

0141-552 6813; www.cafegandolfi.com; 64 Albion St; mains £10-16; 8am-11.30pm Mon-Sat, 9am-11.30pm Sun

In Merchant City, this cafe was once part of the old cheese market. It's been pulling in the punters for years and attracts an interesting mix of die-hard Gandolfers, the upwardly mobile and tourists. It has excellent breakfasts and coffee, an enticing upstairs bar and top-notch bistro food, covering Scottish and Continental bases in an atmospheric medieval-like setting. There's an expansion, specialising in fish, a couple of doors up, with a takeaway outlet. The main entrance is not accessible, but you can get in via the ramped entrance into Artà next door.

Dakhin

0141-553 2585; www.dakhin.com; 89 Candleriggs; mains £9-16; noon-2pm & 5-11pm Mon-Fri, 1-11pm Sat & Sun

This south Indian restaurant is a pleasing change of air from the majority of the city's excellent curry scene. Dishes are from all over the south, and include dosas (thin rice-based crêpes) and a

yummy variety of fragrant coconut-based curries. If you're really hungry, try a thali: an assortment of Indian 'tapas'. Although the main entrance is inaccessible, you can get in using a stairlift at the adjoining building. There's also an accessible toilet.

Guy's

0141-552 1114; www.guysrestaurant.co.uk; 24 Candleriggs; mains £12-19; noon-10.30pm Mon-Fri, noon-11.30pm Sat, 12.30-10.30pm Sun

This Merchant City restaurant offers a very authentic Glasgow blend of style and friendly informality, and has a long list of devoted regulars. The buzzing atmosphere and decor – from gilt mirrors to porcelain plates – actually slightly outdo the food, which is tasty but unremarkable. Drinks are way overpriced and the service, though willing, is painfully slow. But the experience is a worthwhile one. The main entrance isn't accessible, but there is a separate ramped entrance and an accessible toilet inside.

Hanoi Bike Shop

0141-334 7165; www.hanoibikeshop.co.uk; 8 Ruthven Lane; mains £6-11; noon-11pm Mon-Thu, noon-12.30am Fri, 11am-12.30am Sat, 11am-11pm Sun

Tucked away just off Byres Rd, this upbeat spot offers creative takes on Vietnamese food, using fresh ingredients and home-made tofu. The various pho dishes are delicious. There's no access to the upstairs section, but the front door has only tiny step so shouldn't present an obstacle.

On-street parking on Byres Rd is ideal, but it's a busy street and if there are no spaces available then parking is up a hill, which might be tricky for manual wheelchair users and some with a mobility impairment; power chair users should be fine. Beware cobblestones.

There's an accessible toilet just off the main restaurant area, which should be okay for most manual wheelchair users but could be problematic for power chair users. The staff are extremely helpful and are happy to book an accessible table on request.

Jamie's Italian

0141-404 2690; www.jamieoliver.com; 1 George Sq; mains £10-17; noon-10pm Mon-Wed, to 10.30pm Thu, to 11pm Fri & Sat, to 9pm Sun

Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver gives his take on regional Italian food in this buzzy eatery on George Sq. There's a lot to like, with

rustic designer red metal chairs, a deli counter and a menu using superior quality British produce in time-honoured Mediterranean ways. The pasta is made fresh daily and the antipasto planks are particularly good.

It's wheelchair accessible and equipped with an accessible toilet.

Loon Fung

0141-332 1240; www.loonfungglasgow.com; 417 Sauchiehall St; mains £9-15; noon-11pm

This elegant Cantonese oasis is one of Scotland's most authentic Chinese restaurants; indeed, it's quite a surprise after a traditional dining experience here to emerge to boisterous Sauchiehall rather than Hong Kong. The dim-sum choices are very toothsome, and the seafood – try the sea bass – really excellent. It's listed on Yelp as wheelchair-accessible, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Mono

0141-553 2400; www.monocafebar.com; 12 Kings Ct, King St; mains £3-8; food noon-9pm

Combining vegetarian food with a music shop, ultra-casual Mono is one of Glasgow's best vegetarian and vegan eateries. The all-day bar menu serves classics such as a breakfast fry-up, while the main menu has a touch of flair and a Mediterranean influence. The lasagne is well worth ploughing through. Mono also makes a relaxing place for a coffee or a beer. It's wheelchair-accessible and there's an accessible toilet.

Mother India

0141-221 1663; www.motherindia.co.uk; 28 Westminster Tce, Sauchiehall St; mains £8-16; 5.30-10.30pm Mon-Thu, noon-11pm Fri, 1-11pm Sat, 1-10pm Sun

Glasgow curry buffs forever debate the merits of the city's numerous excellent south Asian restaurants, and this place features in every discussion. It may lack the trendiness of some of the up-and-comers, but it's been a stalwart for years, and the quality and innovation on show is superb. The three dining areas are all attractive and they make an effort for kids, with a separate menu.

When booking, ask for a table on the ground floor. There's an accessible toilet and Blue Badge parking in the vicinity.

Ox & Finch

0141-339 8627; www.oxandfinch.com; 920 Sauchiehall St; dishes £4-8; noon-10pm

This fashionable place could almost sum up the thriving modern Glasgow eating scene with its faux-pub name, sleek but comfortable contemporary decor, tapas-sized dishes and an open kitchen. Grab a cosy booth and be prepared to have your tastebuds wowed with innovative, delicious creations aimed at sharing, drawing on French and Mediterranean influences but focusing on quality Scottish produce.

There's a ramped entry via the side door, and an accessible toilet on the ground floor. Although the booths may not be suitable for some wheelchair users, there are other tables that are fully accessible.

Red Onion

0141-221 6000; www.red-onion.co.uk; 257 West Campbell St; mains £11-18; noon-11pm

This comfortable split-level bistro buzzes with contented chatter. French, Mediterranean and Asian touches add intrigue to the predominantly British menu, and a good-value fixed-price deal is available on weekday lunchtimes. There is level access to the ground floor, but no automatic door and steps to reach other floors. There's an accessible toilet, presumably on the ground floor!

Riverhill Coffee Bar

0141-204 4762; www.riverhillcafe.com; 24 Gordon St; rolls £4-5; 7am-5pm Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm Sat, 10am-5pm Sun

Chain cafes plaster Glasgow's centre, so it's a joy to come across this tiny place, which offers great coffee and hot chocolate as well as delicious filled rolls and tempting pastries. Ingredients are sustainably sourced and seriously tasty. It's extremely friendly; you'd come every day if you lived nearby.

This venue is small and often busy, making access tricky for PWDs. The larger Riverhill Bar & Restaurant, at 3 West Nile St (just around the corner), is wheelchair-accessible and has an accessible toilet.

Saramago Café Bar

0141-352 4920; www.facebook.com/saramagocafebar;
350 Sauchiehall St; light meals £3-9; food noon-10pm Sun-Wed,
noon-11.30pm Thu-Sat

In the airy atrium of the Centre for Contemporary Arts, this place does a great line in eclectic vegan fusion food, with a range of top flavour combinations from around the globe. While the restaurant is wheelchair-accessible and equipped with two accessible bathrooms – and gets rave reviews from wheelchair users – note that the bar is located upstairs on the steep Scott St and often packed out with a friendly hipstery crowd enjoying the DJ sets and quality tap beers. The Centre for Contemporary Arts, has a very progressive access policy (see the later entry).

Topolabamba

0141-248 9359; www.topolabamba.com; 89 St Vincent St;
dishes £5-10; food noon-10pm Sun-Thu, noon-10.30pm Fri & Sat

Lots of fun and attractively kitted out in hipster Mexican decor, all skulls, figurines and tequila crates, this brings a real slice of authentic cuisine to Glasgow, with zingy tacos, tasty tostadas and not a plate of nachos in sight. The stuffed calamari is especially good, but it's all refreshingly flavoursome. Portions are tapa-sized, so order a few and share. An interesting list of mezcal, raicilla and other distillates make out-of-the-ordinary accompaniments. It's wheelchair-accessible, and there is an accessible toilet.

Ubiquitous Chip

0141-334 5007; www.ubiquitouschip.co.uk; 12 Ashton Lane;
2-/3-course lunch £17/21, mains £22-35, brasserie mains £10-15;
noon-2.30pm & 5-11pm Mon-Sat, 12.30-3pm & 5-11pm Sun

The original champion of Scottish produce, this is legendary for its unparalleled Scottish cuisine and lengthy wine list. Named to poke fun at Scotland's culinary reputation, it offers a French touch but resolutely Scottish ingredients, carefully selected and following sustainable principles. The elegant courtyard space offers some of Glasgow's highest-quality dining, while above the cheaper brasserie menu offers exceptional value for money.

Two bars, including the cute 'Wee Pub' down the side alley, offer plenty of drinking pleasure. There's always something going on at the Chip – check the website for upcoming events.



Diners at West Brewery Bar and Restaurant /
© VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Ubiquitous Chip / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



There is on-street parking on busy Byres Rd, which is not far from the venue, but otherwise you may have to contend with a hill. The restaurant is accessed via Ashton Lane, a cobbled street, which usually spells trouble for anyone with a mobility impairment.

The lighting is quite dim, which might affect anyone with a visual impairment. The accessible toilet is small, but manageable for most with a mobility impairment. However, it's accessed through the bar, which is extremely tight and often crowded. The very helpful staff are happy to accompany you to clear a path if necessary. They've even been known to stack a couple of books under the table legs to adjust the height for wheelchair users!



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Drinking & Nightlife

Some of Britain'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. Some pubs and, especially, clubs have begun to enforce a 21-year-old minimum age.

Glasgow's clubbing scene has been hit by recent closures, but it's still lively. Glaswegians usually head to clubs after the pubs have closed, so many clubs offer discounted admission and cheaper drinks if you go early. Entry costs £5 to £10 (up to £25 for big events), although bars often hand out free passes. Clubs shut comparatively early, so keep your ear to the ground to find out where the after-parties are at.

ABC

O₂ABC; 0141-332 2232; www.o2abccglasgow.co.uk;
300 Sauchiehall St

Both nightclub and venue, this reference point on Sauchiehall has two large concert spaces with big-name gigs, plus several attractive bars. It's a good all-rounder, with a variety of DJs playing every Thursday to Saturday.

This club sets the gold standard when it comes to accessibility. They strive to make all their shows accessible and work with [Attitude Is Everything](#) and [Nimbus Disability](#) to stay on top of their game. Although the venue was built in the late 1800s, presenting challenges, they are keen to come up with practical solutions as well as being open to feedback as to how to improve things. Full details of all they do to make their venue accessible can be found here: <https://www.academymusicgroup.com/o2abccglasgow/access>.

Artà

0845-116 6018; www.arta.co.uk; 62 Albion St; 5pm-1am Thu,
5pm-3am Sat

This place is so baroque that when you hear a Bach concerto over the sound system, it wouldn't surprise you to see the man himself at the other end of the bar. Set in a former cheese market, it really does have to be seen to be believed. Despite the luxury, it's got a relaxed, chilled vibe and does a decent cocktail. It also does Spanish-influenced food but is better as a bar in our opinion. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

The main bar – which hosts a live band from 8pm every Friday – is fully wheelchair-accessible, and there's an accessible toilet on the same floor. Unfortunately there is no wheelchair access to the restaurant or club areas. You can access Cafe Gandolfi, next door, via Artà.

AXM

0141-552 5761; www.axmgroup.co.uk; 80 Glassford St;
11pm-4.30am Sun-Thu, 10am-5.30am Fri & Sat

This popular Manchester gay club's Glasgow branch is a cheery spot – not too scene-y, with all welcome. It makes for a fun place to finish off a night out. Access to both levels is limited as there are stairs at the entrance and no lift. Unfortunately there is no lift available in this venue at present. Nonetheless, there is an

accessible toilet – go figure! Their website notes, however, that for safety reasons, wheelchair users need to be accompanied by at least two companions – perhaps to carry their wheelchair-using companion up the stairs in the event of an evacuation?

Blackfriars

0141-552 5924; www.blackfriarsglasgow.com; 36 Bell St;
11am-midnight Mon-Sat, 12.30pm-midnight Sun

One of Merchant City's most relaxed and atmospheric pubs, and far less posh than the rest on this square, Blackfriars' friendly staff and regular live music make it special. They take their cask ales seriously here, and there's a seating area with large windows that are great for people-watching. Buzzy and inclusive, it's wheelchair-accessible and there's an accessible toilet.

Brel

0141-342 4966; www.brelbar.com; 39 Ashton Lane;
11am-midnight Mon-Sat, noon-midnight Sun

Perhaps the best bar on Ashton Lane, this can seem tightly packed, but there's a conservatory for eating 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. It has a huge range of Belgian beers, and also serves mussels and langoustines among other tasty fare. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Brewdog Glasgow

0141-334 7175; www.brewdog.com; 1397 Argyle St;
noon-midnight

Perfect for a pint after the Kelvingrove Museum, this great small spot offers the delicious range of artisanal beers from the brewery of the same name. Punk IPA is refreshingly hoppy, more so than formidable WattDickie, which comes in at a whisky-like 35%. Tasting flights mean you can try several, while burgers and dogs are on hand to soak it up. It's wheelchair-accessible and there's accessible toilet.

Buff Club

0141-248 1777; www.thebuffclub.com; 142 Bath Lane; 11pm-3am
Mon-Tue & Thu-Sat

Tucked away in a laneway behind the Bath St bar strip, this club presents eclectic, honest music without dress pretensions. The



Diners at Hutchesons Bar and Brasserie / © VisitScotland/
Kenny Lam



Arisaig bar and restaurant / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam

Brewer at West Brewery Bar and Restaurant / © VisitScotland/
Kenny Lam



Bottle of Glenfarclas single
malt Scotch with tumblers and
decanter at Hutchesons Bar and
Brasserie / © VisitScotland/
Kenny Lam

sounds vary substantially depending on the night, and can range from hip-hop to disco via electronica. It's more down-to-earth than many Glasgow venues, and has seriously cheap drinks midweek. Of the three floors, only the ground floor is accessible and equipped with an accessible toilet, but DJs play on all levels.

Corinthian Club

0141-552 1101; www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk; 191 Ingram St; 10am-2am Sun-Thu, 10am-3am Fri & Sat

A breathtaking domed ceiling and majestic chandeliers make this casino a special space. Originally a bank and later Glasgow's High Court, this regal building's main bar, Teller's, has to be seen to be believed. Cosy wraparound seating and space to spare are complemented by a snug wine bar and a plush club downstairs in old court cells.

There is a ramp on the right-hand side of the building leading directly into the Teller's Bar & Brasserie. There's a large accessible toilet on the same floor, and a lift that gives access to all other areas in the venue. Staff are deeply committed to ensuring guests with disabilities are made welcome.

DogHouse Merchant City

0141-552 6363; www.brewdog.com; 99 Hutcheson St; 11am-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-midnight Sat & Sun

Brewdog's zingy beers are matched by their upbeat attitude, so this recent opening in Merchant City was always going to be a fun place. An open kitchen doles out slidery, burglary smoked meat fare while 25 taps run quality craft beer from morning till night. It's wheelchair-accessible and has an accessible toilet.

Hillhead Bookclub

0141-576 1700; www.hillheadbookclub.co.uk; 17 Vinicombe St; 11am-midnight Mon-Fri, 10am-midnight Sat & Sun

Atmosphere in spades is the call sign of this easygoing West End bar. An ornate wooden ceiling overlooks two levels of well-mixed cocktails, seriously cheap drinks, comfort food and numerous intriguing decorative touches. There's even a ping-pong table in a cage. It's wheelchair-accessible, with an accessible bathroom, although there is no access to the ping-pong table or dining area on the 1st floor.

Kelvingrove Café

0141-221 8988; www.kelvingrovecafe.com; 1161 Argyle St; 8am-midnight Mon-Sat, 9am-midnight Sun

A beautiful wood floor, elegant fittings and chessboard tiling give this place an stylish cosiness that perfectly matches its list of cocktails and G&Ts. It manages to straddle a few genres; the feeling of a timeworn local is offset by solicitous table service, while the food is a little more upmarket than it seems. The table service makes it extremely wheelchair-friendly.

Nice 'n' Sleazy

0141-333 0900; www.nicensleazy.com; 421 Sauchiehall St; noon-3am Mon-Sat, 1pm-3am Sun

On the rowdy Sauchiehall strip, students from the nearby School of Art make the buzz here reliably friendly. If you're over 35 you'll feel like a professor not a punter, but retro decor, a big selection of tap and bottled beers, 3am closing, and nightly alternative live music downstairs followed by a club at weekends make this a winner. A couple of other similar options alongside mean that you can pick and choose. There's also popular, cheap Tex-Mex food here (dishes £6 to £9). Although there is ramped access to the venue, the music venue is downstairs and there is no lift.

Òran Mór

0141-357 6200; www.oran-mor.co.uk; cnr Byres Rd & Great Western Rd; 9am-2am Mon-Wed, 9am-3am Thu-Sat, 10am-3am un

Now some may be a little uncomfortable with the thought of drinking in a church. But we say: the Lord giveth. This sizeable converted church is now a bar, restaurant, club and theatre venue. Look out for the 'A Play, a Pie and a Pint' deals. There's an excellent array of whiskies. The only thing missing is holy water on your way in. The level-access entry is via Great Western Road; once inside, a lift takes you to other floors. The accessible toilet is located on the 4th floor.

Vodka Wodka

0141-341 0669; www.vodkawodka.co.uk; 31 Ashton Lane; noon-midnight

Every vodka drinker's dream, Vodka Wodka has more varieties of the stealthy poison than you could possibly conquer in one

sitting. Its brushed metal bar dishes out the liquid fire straight and in cocktails to students during the day and groups of mid-20s in the evening. There's pleasant outdoor seating, too. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Waterloo Bar

0141-248 7216; www.facebook.com/waterloobar1; 306 Argyle St; noon-midnight Fri & Sat, noon-11pm Sun-Thu

This is a traditional pub that's 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 away from the scene. Management assures us the venue is wheelchair-accessible, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Waxy O'Connors

0141-354 5154; www.waxyoconnors.co.uk; 44 West George St; noon-midnight Mon-Sat, 12.30-11pm Sun

This lager labyrinth with its fantasy-realm elven-treehouse feel could be an Escher sketch brought to life, and it's a cut above most Irish theme pubs. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

West

0141-550 0135; www.westbeer.com; Binnie Pl; 11am-11pm Sun-Thu, 11am-midnight Fri & Sat

Something a bit different, this welcoming, spacious brewpub on the edge of Glasgow Green churns out beers brewed to the traditional German purity laws (which basically means they're bloody good) in a bizarrely ornate former carpet factory opposite the People's Palace. German dishes like sausages and pork knuckle (mains £9 to £13) can accompany the amber fluid. There's a great grassy beer garden outside. There is ramped access via the Binnie Pl entrance, level access inside and an accessible toilet at the back of the venue.



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Entertainment

Glasgow is Scotland's entertainment city, from classical music, fine theatres and ballet to an amazing range of live music venues. To tap into the scene, check out The List (www.list.co.uk), an invaluable events guide released every four weeks and available at newsagents and bookshops.

For theatre tickets, book directly with the venue. For concerts, a useful booking centre is Tickets Scotland (<https://tickets-scotland.com>). Many of the venues reviewed below host festival events.

13th Note Café

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

Cosy basement venue with small independent bands as well as weekend DJs and regular comedy and theatre performances. At street level the cafe does decent vegetarian and vegan food (£6 to £8). It's listed as wheelchair-accessible, but we have no first-hand testimonial. Management informs us that the ground-floor bar and restaurant is fully accessible and has an accessible bathroom. Unfortunately, access to the basement music venue is only via stairs; wheelchair users are allowed access only if accompanied by an able-bodied person who can assist them in case of emergency evacuation.

Audio

www.facebook.com/audioglasgow; 14 Midland St

In the bowels of Central Station, this is an atmospheric venue for regular concerts by touring acts, particularly of the rock and metal varieties. The venue is wheelchair-accessible with an accessible toilet.

Centre for Contemporary Arts

0141-352 4900; www.cca-glasgow.com; 350 Sauchiehall St; 10am-midnight Mon-Thu, 10am-1am Fri & Sat, noon-midnight Sun

This is a chic venue making terrific use of space and light. It showcases the visual and performing arts, including movies, talks and galleries. The Saramago Cafe Bar is part of the same complex.

As with many arts venues, the Centre has a very progressive access policy and strives to make its facilities and events as accessible as possible. There are accessible toilets on the ground and 1st floors, and lift access to the 1st and 2nd floors. Its access policy, including very detailed information (even photographs!) about access to and within the facility, can be found here:

<https://graphicalhouse-cca.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/69c5ce87-d5dc-413f-9ebb-97d75714e66eer2015.pdf>.

Unsurprisingly, it gets rave reviews on Euan's Guide, although reviewers noted a large number of doors to negotiate, some tricky.

Citizens' Theatre

0141-429 0022; www.citz.co.uk; 119 Gorbals St

South of the Clyde, this is one of the top theatres in Scotland and it's well worth trying to catch a performance here. The many

accommodations the Citizen makes for patrons with disabilities include audio description, BSL-interpreted performances, captioning and wheelchair access. Guide dogs are also welcome. There's also a Deaf Theatre Club. For full access details of the venue and performances visit www.citz.co.uk/about/access_to_citizens/?_ga=1.113636807.1736725731.1467259014.

City Halls & Old Fruitmarket

0141-353 8000; www.glasgowconcerthalls.com; Candleriggs

In the heart of Merchant City, there are regular performances here by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and the Scottish Symphony Orchestra. The adjacent Old Fruitmarket venue, a spectacular vaulted space, also has concerts both classical and rock. In addition to full wheelchair accessibility, there are infrared-assisted hearing systems and guides in a variety of formats for vision-impaired patrons. Guide dogs are of course welcome. For full details of accessibility, visit www.glasgowconcerthalls.com/Pages/venue-access.aspx. A reviewer gives the staff full marks, too.

Clyde Auditorium

0844 395 4000; www.secc.co.uk; Finnieston Quay

Also known as the Armadillo because of its bizarre shape, the Clyde adjoins the SECC auditorium, and caters for big national and international acts.

The venue, part of the SECC, is fully accessible, with hearing loops installed in various parts of the complex and a limited number of wheelchairs that can be borrowed. For full details, including a 3D disabled access interactive map, visit www.secc.co.uk/attend/disabled-access.aspx. One reviewer noted good views from the accessible viewing area and a reasonable number of accessible parking spots at the multistorey car park at The Hydro next door.

Drygate Brewery

0141-212 8810; www.drygate.com; 85 Drygate

One of the venues for the Celtic Connection Festival, the Drygate Brewery, opened in 2014, comprises a full-production brewery, a 120-seat restaurant, a 100-seat beer hall and a 350-capacity venue.

There's a large free car park, with five Blue Badge spaces. There is level access throughout the ground floor, with an accessible platform lift to take customers to the 1st floor,

which is also level access throughout. All table arrangements are movable, allowing easy access for wheelchairs. There is an accessible toilet. Dogs are permitted on the deck and in the bar area, but not in the event restaurant.

Glasgow Film Theatre

0141-332 6535; www.glasgowfilm.org; 12 Rose St; adult/child £8.80/5

This much-loved three-screener off Sauchiehall St shows art-house cinema and classics. For details regarding accessibility, see the Glasgow Film Festival entry earlier. Euan's Guide reviewers rave about both accessibility and the staff.

Glasgow Royal Concert Hall

0141-353 8000; www.glasgowconcerthalls.com; 2 Sauchiehall St

A feast of classical music is showcased at this concert hall, the modern home of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. There are also regular pop, folk and jazz performances, typically by big-name solo artists.

In addition to full wheelchair accessibility, there are infrared-assisted hearing systems and guides in a variety of formats for vision-impaired patrons. Guide dogs are of course welcome. For full details of accessibility, visit www.glasgowconcerthalls.com/Pages/venue-access.aspx.

Reviewers noted that the accessible viewing area was less than ideal in terms of available space, with carers having to sit behind their companion and no accommodation for groups or families that include a wheelchair user. The lift apparently fits only one wheelchair at a time. Parking with a large wheelchair-accessible vehicle may also present problems.

Grosvenor Cinema

0845-166 6002; www.grosvenorwestend.co.uk; Ashton Lane

This sweet cinema on Ashton Lane puts you in the heart of West End eating and nightlife for post-show debriefings. Access is good, but via the very cobbled Ashton Lane. There is an accessible bathroom and most, if not all, screens are accessible.

King's Theatre

0844 871 7648; www.atgtickets.com; 297 Bath St

King's Theatre hosts mainly musicals; on rare occasions there are variety shows, pantomimes and comedies. Although the

venue is wheelchair-accessible, and the staff are reportedly extremely helpful, at least one wheelchair user had a very disappointing experience due to being seated at the back of the stalls, leaving the view of the stage partially obstructed, and having their view blocked by other standing patrons.

For full details of ATG's access policy and accommodations, visit www.atgtickets.com/access/.

SECC

0844 395 4000; www.secc.co.uk; Finnieston Quay

This is the headquarters of the complex that includes the Clyde Auditorium and Hydro and hosts major national and international acts.

The venue is fully accessible, with hearing loops installed in various parts of the complex and a limited number of wheelchairs that can be borrowed. For full details, including a 3D disabled access interactive map, visit www.secc.co.uk/attend/disabled-access.aspx.

The majority of reviews from Euan's Guide are very positive for the various venues in this complex. However, more than one reviewer noted the uncomfortable chairs provided for carers/companions. Some reviewers were happy with the nearby parking; others had issues with accessing/exiting the venue.

The Hydro

0141-248 3000; www.thessehydro.com; Finnieston Quay

Another spectacular modern building to keep the adjacent 'Armadillo' company, the Hydro amphitheatre is a phenomenally popular venue for big-name concerts and shows.

Part of the SECC complex, this venue is wheelchair-accessible and has an induction loop at the box office. For full details of accessibility, see www.thessehydro.com/the-sse-hydro/disabled-access.aspx.

Theatre Royal

0844 871 7647; www.glasgowtheatreroyal.org.uk; 282 Hope St

Proudly sporting an eye-catching modern facelift – which has reportedly made the venue much more accessible – Glasgow's oldest theatre is the home of Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet. For full details of ATG's access policy and accommodations, visit www.atgtickets.com/access/.

Reviewers are effusive about accessibility and the helpfulness of the staff. There's also a great range of audio-described,

Ice skaters in George Sq / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



captioned, BSL signed and relaxed performances.

Tramway

0141-276 0950; www.tramway.org; 25 Albert Dr

Attracts cutting-edge theatrical groups, the visual and performing arts, and a varied range of artistic exhibitions. It's very close to Pollokshields East train station.

There is level access to all areas, with lift access to the upper spaces and accessible toilets on all levels. There is an infrared system for audio-described performances. For full details, see www.tramway.org/Pages/visit-and-contact.aspx.

Tron Theatre

0141-552 4267; www.tron.co.uk; 63 Trongate

Tron Theatre stages contemporary Scottish and international performances. There's also a good cafe. The theatre is committed to being an accessible venue and offers a variety of captioned, BSL and audio-described performances. There is an infrared hearing loop system. Wheelchair users are advised to contact the box office directly since there are no dedicated wheelchair spaces, and seats will need to be removed on demand. For full details, see www.tron.co.uk/whatson/access_performances-14/.



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Gay & Lesbian Glasgow

Glasgow has a vibrant LGBTI 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 tap into the scene, check out The List (www.list.co.uk) and the free Scots Gay (www.scotsgay.co.uk) magazine and website.

Many straight clubs and bars have gay and lesbian nights. As far as we can tell, of the LGBTI venues, only AXM and Waterloo Bar (see above reviews) are wheelchair-accessible.



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Live Music

Glasgow is the king of Scotland's live-music scene. Year after year, touring musicians and travellers alike name Glasgow one of their favourite cities in the world to enjoy live music. Much of Glasgow's character is encapsulated in the soul and humour of its inhabitants, and the main reason for the city's musical success lies within its audience and the musical community it has bred and nurtured for years.

There are so many venues it's impossible to keep track of them all. Pick up a copy or check the website of the Gig Guide, available free in most pubs and venues, for the latest listings.

One of the city's premier live-music pub venues, the excellent **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut** (0141-221 5279; www.kingtuts.co.uk; 272 St Vincent St), hosts bands every night of the week. Oasis were signed after playing here. Sadly, due to the age of the building, the music venue on the 2nd floor is not wheelchair-accessible (although a portable ramp allows access into the main bar on street-level).

Several of the bars reviewed under Drinking & Nightlife are great for live music, including Nice 'n' Sleazy and the O₂ABC.



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Sport

Two football clubs – Rangers and Celtic – dominate the sporting scene in Scotland, having vastly more resources than other clubs and a long history (and rivalry). This runs along partisan lines, with Rangers representing Protestant supporters, and Celtic, Catholic. It's worth going to a game; both play in magnificent arenas with great atmosphere. Games between the two (normally four a year) are fiercely contested, but tickets aren't sold to the general public; you'll need to know a season-ticket holder. In recent years, Rangers have had to work their way back up the divisions after a financial meltdown, arriving back in the top flight in 2016.

Celtic FC

0871 226 1888; www.celticfc.net; Celtic Park, Parkhead

Playing in green and white hoops, Celtic are one of Glasgow's big two football clubs and traditionally represent the Catholic side of the divide. There are daily stadium tours (£10/6 per adult/child). Catch bus 61 or 62 from outside St Enoch centre.

Celtic purports to have a robust policy on the treatment of disabled supporters and visitors, including ensuring that its website is as accessible as possible to all. If you have particular needs and requirements, contact Shaleen McAtasney on 0141 551 4351 or smcatasney@celticfc.co.uk. According to the Celtic Disabled Supporters Association, there are 159 wheelchair spaces, plus five more on the new away support platform. With some 100 people on the waiting list for a wheelchair place, this is clearly not enough. For details of facilities for people with a disability at Celtic Park, visit www.celticdsa.co.uk/facilities-policies/. One reviewer gave full marks to the venue for its accessibility and very helpful staff.

Rangers FC

0871 702 1972; www.rangers.co.uk; Ibrox Stadium, 150 Edmiston Dr

One of Glasgow's big two football clubs, Rangers play in blue and traditionally represent the Protestant, pro-Union side of the divide. They recently returned to the top division after financial meltdown. Tours of the stadium and trophy room run Friday to Sunday (£10/5.50 per adult/child). Take the Subway to Ibrox station.

There are allocated spaces for 76 wheelchair-using fans and 76 attendants at each match at Ibrox Stadium, including seven for away fans, plus four more for when Celtic play. Allocation of the away spaces is controlled by the visiting club. Of the 65 remaining spaces, 57 belong to season-ticket holders and seven are available on a match-to-match basis. If you wish to be added to the wheelchair season ticket waiting list or the Match-to-Match Scheme, contact the Clubs and Memberships department on 0871 702 1972 (at 10p per minute plus network extras) or email wheelchairtickets@rangers.co.uk. Two reviewers found the venue easy to get around. While one bemoaned the distance from the car park and the bumpy pavement to the stadium, another praised proximity of accessible parking bays across the road!



Accessible Glasgow: A Festival Guide

Shopping

Christmas shoppers in George Sq / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam



Boasting the UK's largest retail phalanx outside London, Glasgow is a shopaholic's paradise. The 'Style Mile' around Buchanan St, Argyle St and Merchant City (particularly upmarket Ingram St) is a fashion hub, while the West End has quirkier, more bohemian shopping options: Byres Rd is great for vintage clothing.

Browse everything from affordable high-street to luxurious brands in Glasgow's many shopping arcades and centres. Argyll Arcade is a must-see for those in search of new jewellery! 'Undercover with a smooth floored easy to access arcade and plenty of shops', this venue has four stars on Euan's Guide. For a selection of high-street stores and designer fashion, explore the major shopping destinations, Buchanan Galleries and St Enoch Centre, both highly rated for good access.

Argyll Arcade

www.argyll-arcade.com; Buchanan St; 10am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun

This splendid historic arcade doglegs between Buchanan and Argyle Sts. It's quite a sight with its end-to-end jewellery and watch shops. Top-hatted doorpeople greet nervously excited couples shopping for diamond rings. Well served by buses and not too far from Glasgow Central Station, most of the shops have level and wide access.

Antiques & Interiors

www.antiques-interiors.uk; Ruthven Lane; 11am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun

Up the back of the quirky Ruthven Lane complex, this arcade has several shops specialising in antiques, design and retro items.

Barras Art & Design

BAaD; www.baadglasgow.com; 54 Calton Entry; 9am-4pm Sat & Sun

This workshop space for artists and designers in the heart of the Barras market area has pepped up the area. It opens as a market at weekends, when you can browse the creatives' wares and enjoy the family-friendly enclosed space.

Buchanan Galleries

www.buchanangalleries.co.uk; Royal Exchange Sq; 9am-7pm, to 8pm Thu, 10am-6pm Sun

At the junction of Sauchiehall and Buchanan St, this sizeable centre has a huge number of contemporary clothing retailers. There are two street entrances, one on Buchanan St and the

other on Sauchiehall St, both with automatic doors. Information boards giving the layout of the centre are at both entrances. Overall the access is good, but the Buchanan St door is on a hill and has some steps. If you can make it to the top of the hill and on to Bath St, there is level access.

There are three wheelchair accessible toilets, two of which are accessible by using a RADAR key if you have one; if not, security staff in the centre also have keys. The staff are reportedly extremely helpful.

There is a large multistory car park with direct access to the centre. Buchanan St bus station and Glasgow Queen Street train station are both a good 10 minutes' walk away.

Caledonia Books

0141-334 9663; www.caledoniabooks.co.uk; 483 Great Western Rd; 10.30am-6pm Mon-Sat

This characterful spot is just what a second hand bookshop should be, with a smell of dust and venerability, and a wide range of intriguing volumes on the slightly chaotic shelves. The ground floor is wheelchair-accessible, but the basement is not.

Circa Vintage

0141-334 6660; <http://circavintage.co.uk>; 37 Ruthven Lane; roughly 11.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun

Tucked away off Byres Road in a little market of second hand and quirky shops, this offers online shopping as well as a fab range of in-store jewellery and well-kept clothes. There is level access and management has accommodated many wheelchair users over the years, moving rails around as necessary for circulation.

Demijohn

0141-337 3600; www.demijohn.co.uk; 382 Byres Rd; 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 11.30am-5pm Sun

Unusual and intriguing, this shop is lined with large glass bottles stocking artisanal vinegars, oils, liqueurs and distillates. Try before you buy, then pick a quirky receptacle to bottle it in. Management assures us that their shop is wheelchair-accessible.

Glasgow Vintage Company

0141-339 6633; www.glasgowvintage.co.uk; 453 Great Western Rd; 11am-6pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun

With a little more breathing room than some of Glasgow's vintage shops, this offers relaxed browsing. It's listed as

wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

LOVEMusic

0141-332 2099; www.lovemusicglasgow.com; 34 Dundas St; 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-6pm Sun

This independent record shop stocks a good selection of vinyl and has regular in-store performances. It covers all bases but is strongest on rock, alternative and punk, with lots of Scottish bands featured. Management informs us that there is a small (6in) step at the entrance, which staff are happy to assist customers to negotiate – there are apparently a couple of regular customers who use wheelchairs – but power wheelchair users may struggle.

Monorail

0141-552 9458; www.monorailmusic.com; Kings Ct, 95 King St; 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, noon-7pm Sun

This small indie record shop has a carefully curated selection of alternative and experimental rock, punk, reggae, soul and jazz. It shares a space with Mono, a vegetarian cafe, so you can browse while your food is prepared. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Mr Ben

0141-553 1936; www.mrbenretroclothing.com; 101 King St; 10.30am-5.30pm Mon-Sat, 1-5pm Sun

This cute place is one of Glasgow's best destinations for vintage clothing, with a great selection of brands like Fred Perry, as well as more glam choices, on offer. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Peckham's

0141-357 1454; www.peckhams.co.uk; 124 Byres Rd; 8am-10pm Mon-Sat, 9am-10pm Sun

A byword for quality produce throughout Scotland, this sizeable shop has a great range of cheeses, smallgoods, wines, spirits and more. It's listed as wheelchair-accessible on Yelp, but we have no first-hand testimonial.

Princes Square

www.princesssquare.co.uk; 48 Buchanan St; 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat, 11am-5pm Sun

Set in a magnificent 1841 renovated square with elaborate ironwork and an exuberant metal leaf-and-peacock facade,

there are lots of beauty and fashion outlets including Vivienne Westwood, and a good selection of restaurants and cafes, and a bar with roof terrace.

This shopping centre gets a five-star rating from one power chair user. There's a slight incline to the entrance, but once inside there is clear signage and numerous lifts and more than one specialist accessible toilet. Staff are reportedly extremely helpful. The only slight negative was readability of the signage on the lift buttons (engraved bronze).

St Enoch Centre

www.st-enoch.com; St Enoch Sq; 9am-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-6pm Sat, 10am-6pm Sun, some shops open an hour later Thu & Sat

This large, ugly glass-roofed centre bookends the southern boundary of Glasgow's shopping mile. Among its many shops is a branch of Hamley's, the historic London toy store. It is very accessible for wheelchair users, with reviewers rating both the centre itself and individual shops highly. The spacious accessible toilet has a RADAR lock.

The Barras

www.glasgow-barrowland.com; btwn Gallowgate & London Rd; 10am-5pm Sat & Sun

At Glasgow's legendary weekend flea market, the Barras on Gallowgate, cheap tat rules the roost these days but it's still an intriguing (st)roll, as much for the assortment of local characters as what's on offer. People come here just for a wander, and it's got a real feel of a nearly vanished Britain of wheel stalls and rag-and-bone merchants. Watch your wallet. There are four fully accessible entry/exit points to the adjacent streets.

Vintage Guru

0141-339 4750; www.vintageguru.co.uk; 195 Byres Rd; 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 11am-6pm Sun

You might have to elbow your way into this tightly packed West End favourite, but it's worth it for the always-intriguing and frequently updated selection and fair prices. It's listed as wheelchair accessible, but given how busy it is likely to be, you'd really want to be into your vintage clothes!

Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum / © VisitScotland/Kenny Lam





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