



# Glasgow & Southern Scotland

## **Includes ➔**

Glasgow.....	803
Lanark & New Lanark.....	821
Kelso .....	822
Melrose .....	823
Jedburgh.....	825
Peebles.....	827
Ayr .....	828
Dumfries .....	830
Kirkcudbright.....	832
Stranraer.....	834

## **Why Go?**

For many, southern Scotland is what you drive through on the way further north. Big mistake. But it means there are plenty of peaceful corners here. The south's proximity to England brought strife, but the ruins of Borders castles and the abbeys they protected make wonderfully atmospheric historic sites. The hillier west enjoys extensive forest cover; hills cascade down to sandy coasts blessed with Scotland's sunniest weather.

The region's premier urban attraction is marvellous Glasgow, Scotland's biggest city and a fascinatingly vital place. Glaswegians are proud of their working-class background, black humour and leftist traditions, and their city combines art, architecture, great food and nightlife, style, edgy urbanity and the people's legendary friendliness in a captivating blend that will leave you wanting more.

## **Best Places to Eat**

- ➔ The Ubiquitous Chip (p816)
- ➔ Stravaigin (p815)
- ➔ Coltman's (p828)
- ➔ Loon Fung (p815)

## **Best Places to Stay**

- ➔ Old Bank House (p823)
- ➔ Malmaison (p813)
- ➔ Corsewall Lighthouse Hotel (p835)
- ➔ Knockinaam Lodge (p835)
- ➔ Hotel du Vin (p814)

## **When to Go?**

- ➔ Take a fortnight to cross the whole region hiking the gorgeous Southern Upland Way in May
- ➔ The West End Festival and the Jazz Festival make Glasgow music heaven in June, while spectacular gardens bloom at the region's numerous stately homes.
- ➔ Glasgow is super-friendly at any time, but when the sun is shining in August there's no happier city in Britain.

## Getting There & Around

Train services are limited. There are stations at Berwick-upon-Tweed on the main Edinburgh–London line (on the English side of the border); at Dumfries on the main Glasgow–London line; and at Stranraer and Ayr, linked to Glasgow. Bus transport is the mainstay of the region. Check details with **Traveline Scotland** (0871 200 2233; [www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)).

## GLASGOW

POP 595,100

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, hedonistic clubs 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 great 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. The River Clyde, traditionally associated with Glasgow's earthier side, is now a symbol of the city's renaissance.

## History

Glasgow grew around the cathedral founded by St Kertigan, later to become St Mungo, in the 6th century. Unfortunately, with the exception of the cathedral, virtually nothing of the medieval city remains. It was swept away by the energies of a new age – the age of capitalism, the Industrial Revolution and the British Empire.

In the 18th century, much of the tobacco trade between Europe and the USA was routed through Glasgow, providing 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 outward appearance of prosperity, however, was tempered by the dire working conditions in the factories.

In the first half of the 20th century Glasgow was the centre of Britain's munitions industry; postwar, however, the port and heavy industries dwindled, and by the early 1970s, the city had become synonymous with unemployment, economic depression and urban violence, centred around high-rise housing schemes such as the infamous Gorbals. More recently, urban development and a booming cultural sector have injected style and confidence into the city; though the standard of living remains low for Britain and life continues to be tough for many, ongoing regeneration gives grounds for optimism. The successful hosting of the 2014 Commonwealth Games highlighted this regeneration to a wide global audience.

### GLASGOW IN...

#### Two Days

On your first day, hit the East End for **Glasgow Cathedral**, **St Mungo's Museum** and a wander through the hillside necropolis. Later take in one of the city's top museums: either the **Burrell Collection** or the **Kelvingrove**. As evening falls, head to trendy **Merchant City** for a stroll and dinner – perhaps **Café Gandolfi**. Check out **Artá** for a pre- or post-meal drink. The next day, visit whichever museum you missed yesterday, and then it's Mackintosh time. **Glasgow School of Art** is his finest work: if you like his style, head to the West End for **Mackintosh House**. Hungry? Thirsty? Some of the city's best restaurants and bars are up this end of town, so you could make a night of it. Be sure to check out one of the numerous excellent music venues around the city.

#### Four Days

A four-day stay gives better scope to get to grips with Glasgow. Spend a day along the Clyde visiting the **Riverside Museum** and the **Science Centre**. Plan your weekend around a night out at **Arches** or the legendary **Sub Club**, a day strolling the stylish city-centre clothing emporia or attending a football game. Try at least one of the city's classic curry houses.