

Web: www.glasgowmerchantcity.net



Merchant City Visitor Guide



Acknowledgments: JUDITH BOWERS, BRITANNIA MUSIC HALL TRUST; STEVEN HOSEY, DRS; BARBARA KEENAN, CLS; CLARE SIMPSON, CLS; DENNIS MCCUE, LAND SERVICES

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Design by Cactus. 0141 353 9568



Key

-  ATM/BANK
-  TELEPHONE
-  PARKING
-  POST BOX/OFFICE
-  RAILWAY
-  UNDERGROUND

Visitor Facilities

(see inside guide)

-  DISABLED ACCESS
-  PART DISABLED ACCESS
-  NO DISABLED ACCESS
-  SHOP
-  CAFE
-  FREE ENTRY
-  AUDIO LOOP

Information

Tourist Information,
George Square:
0141 204 4400
www.seeglasgow.com

Trains, Underground
and Buses:
0870 608 2608
www.spt.co.uk

Taxi ranks:
0141 429 7070
(east side of Queen St
Station/Queen St junction
with Argyle Street)

City Centre Representatives
spot the little red reps

Welcome to this guide to the goings on in Glasgow's Merchant City.

Glasgow's historic heart, the Merchant City, has always been at the forefront of the city's history from St Mungo, who founded Glasgow at the Cathedral, to the eponymous City Merchants' who built the city's prosperity and the leading arts and cultural entrepreneurs now spearheading the current city renaissance.

Today the area is witnessing a remarkable rebirth. Previously redundant historic buildings now house cutting edge theatres and galleries interspersed with shops, cafes and restaurants where bling and high society rub designer shoulder pads over tapas or sushi washed down with an exotic cocktail or pint of heavy.

You too can satisfy both your cultural and physical thirst using this guide as to where to go and what to see ...so go on, enjoy your day out around the Merchant City.



Open the doors to some great buildings and museums Covering every social strata from the civic wealth of the City Chambers and the mercantile wealth of the Trades Hall and Merchants House to the City's great working class struggle and the lives of a typical family in a single end. Stop and search the UK's first Police force or 'Polis' who kept the peace and on a lighter note a recently rediscovered music hall where Stan Laurel debuted... The Merchant City has it all under many roofs.

1. GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Square
t:0131 552 6891
www.glasgow-cathedral.com

Starting at the spiritual heart of the city Glasgow Cathedral built between the 13th and 15th Centuries is the only medieval Cathedral in Scotland to have survived the ravages of the 1560 reformation virtually intact being defended by the locals who were understandably fiercely proud of it. The Cathedral is built on the site where St Kentigern, or Mungo, Glasgow's patron saint and founder of the city is thought to have been buried in 612. Today it is an awe inspiring place, its darkened stone casting a gothic shadow over the beautifully landscaped Cathedral Precinct. Its dramatic interior houses treasures such as the elaborately vaulted crypt with its collection of carved stones (and St Mungo's tomb), the early 15th century stone screen, the Blackadder Aisle and some pieces of rather risqué stained glass!

Aug-Sep Mon-Fri 9.30-6pm. Sun 1-5pm.
Oct-Mar 9.30-4pm and 1-4pm.



2. NECROPOLIS

Cathedral Square
t:0141 287 9412

Directly behind the Cathedral stands Glasgow Necropolis, one of the most significant cemeteries in Europe. Modelled on the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris, the Necropolis is accessed via the 'Bridge of Sighs' and the grounds are dominated by the 62 metre high statue of John Knox (the founder of Scottish Protestantism). The cemetery was established in 1831 by the Merchants House and is adorned with mausoleums and monuments designed by leading Glaswegian Architects including Alexander 'Greek' Thompson, Bryce, Hamilton and Mackintosh. It is also a 'park' offering panoramic views and a peaceful escape from the bustle of the city for people as well as other inhabitants - including deer.

Dawn till dusk.



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3. ST MUNGO MUSEUM OF RELIGIOUS LIFE AND ART

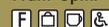
2 Castle Street
t:0141 553 2557

www.glasgowmuseums.com

Returning down to Cathedral Square the award-winning St Mungo Museum explores the importance of religion in people's lives and art across the world and across time. It aims to promote understanding and respect between people of different faiths and of none.

St Mungo Museum provides an ideal platform for schools and other groups to find out about world religions. The museum education room offers handling boxes and activity sheets. Highlights include the world famous painting *Christ of St John of the Cross* by Salvador Dali and Britain's first permanent Zen garden.

Mon-Thu + Sat 10-5pm. Fri + Sun 11am-5pm.



4. PROVAND'S LORDSHIP

3 Castle Street
t:0141 552 8819

www.glasgowmuseums.com

Crossing over the High Street step back in time and discover a piece of Glasgow's history with a visit to the only medieval house in the city. Bishop Muirhead built Provand's Lordship as part of St Nicholas' Hospital in 1471. Since then it has been a manse, an alehouse and even a sweetshop. For over 500 years it has watched the changing fortunes of the city and nearby Cathedral. Behind the house is the St Nicholas Garden. Designed in 1995, this medicinal herb garden is a haven of peace and tranquillity.

Open daily 10-5pm except Fri and Sun 11-5pm.



5. ST MUNGO'S CHURCH AND MARTYR'S SCHOOL

Parson Street
t: 0141 552 1823 (Church)

Just north of Cathedral precinct St Mungo's is the Catholic parish church for the Townhead district.

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Designed in Early Gothic style by George Goldie and opened in 1869. Inside there is stained glass by Meyer & Co. of Munich, recent glasswork by local artist Lorraine Lamond, and a Portuguese polychrome statue of Our Lady of Sorrows. Their shop sells a wide variety of books and gifts. In front of St Mungo's take a look at Martyrs' School, one of the earliest buildings by Glasgow's most famous and influential designer, Charles Rennie Macintosh (1868 - 1928). When the school was commissioned in 1895 Macintosh was a junior assistant with Honeyman and Keppie, having just completed his apprenticeship.



6. CITY CHAMBERS

82 George Square
t:0141 287 4018

www.glasgow.gov.uk

Moving down High Street and along George Street arguably one of the finest public buildings of 19th Century Britain, the City Chambers, commands the wide expanse of George Square. Facing west, the ornate facade is periodically bathed in sunshine or soaked by the Glasgow rains - sometimes both at the same time. The chambers took seven years to build and engaged the skills from craftsmen as far a field as Italy and France. This extravagance is clearly manifest inside where the marble staircase, and the sumptuous Banqueting Halls with their ornate plasterwork, alabaster and mahogany fittings and superb Glasgow Boy artworks are all accessible to the public in daily organised tours or else unwittingly glimpsed as the backdrop to many a film - ostensibly set in the Vatican or the Kremlin!

Mon-Fri tours at 10.30 and 2.30pm for 45 minutes subject to availability. Group tours can be arranged by contacting the City Chambers Duty Manager on 0141 287 4018.





7. THE MERCHANTS HOUSE

7 West George Street
t:0141 221 8272

On the opposite side of George Square from the City Chambers The Merchants House built by John Burnet in 1877 is the base for two charitable foundations, The Merchants House of Glasgow and The Dean of Guild Court Trust. Going up a spectacular marble staircase lit by fine stained glass windows to a baroque Hall, Directors' and Dean of Guild's rooms (all remodelled by the original architect's son and featuring fine portraits of leading Glasgow Merchants), the exhibits vividly convey the rich mercantile history of the City which formed the basis for Glasgow's rapid expansion and its place as second city of the Empire. The Merchants House celebrated its 400th anniversary in 2005 along with the Trades House which is south east across the Square and down Glassford Street.

Subject to staff availability recommended by appt. Office 10-4pm (1-2pm lunch).

(donations appreciated)

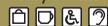
8. TRADES HALL

85 Glassford Street
t:0141 552 2418

www.tradeshallglasgow.co.uk

For the first time in over 200 years you can explore this special building and learn about the role of the 14 different trades in Glasgow's rise from a small mediaeval village to a thriving cosmopolitan city. Tour the building, with the aid of the audio tour. Don't miss the Grand Hall with its 7 metre high dome bearing the Coat of Arms of each Trade as well as its 64 metre long frieze featuring 161 figures. Visit the Saloon with its beautiful stained glass windows or go back in time see what life was like for schoolchildren in the Trades House Free School.

Tours by appointment only. Telephone 0870 403 5194, last admission 1hr before closing. Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 9-11am. Prices (using audio handset £1.50 per person). As a working building it may not always be possible to view every room.



9. BRITANNIA MUSIC HALL

113-117 Trongate Glasgow
t:0141 553 0840

www.britanniapanopticon.org

Continuing south down Hutcheson Street and along the historic Trongate you come across the recently rediscovered Britannia Music Hall - described as the finest surviving early music hall in the UK. Inside you can still feel the ghosts of the past which saw such luminaries such as Stan Laurel, Harry Lauder and Jack Buchanan, Cary Grant as well as the distinctly un-PC 'Freaks Show' in the attic and a zoo in the basement. Still awaiting a future lifting of the curtain it may be visited by appointment or special events.

By appointment or special event.

(donations appreciated)

10. GLASGOW POLICE MUSEUM

68 St Andrews Square
t:07788532691

www.policemuseum.org.uk

Passing Glasgow Cross and down towards St Andrews Square a visit to the Glasgow Police Museum gives you the unique opportunity to step into the compelling and dramatic history of the UK's first police force from 1800 to 1975. Displays of uniforms, photographs and artefacts tell the fascinating 175 years of history of policing the City. The International exhibition features Europe's largest display of police uniforms and insignia, representing every country in the World.

April-October Mon-Sat 10-4.30pm
and Sun 12-4.30pm. November-March
Sun 12-4.30pm, Tue 10-4.30pm.

(donations appreciated)



11. ST ANDREWS IN THE SQUARE

St Andrews Square
t:0141 559 5902

www.standrewsinthesquare.com

Dominating St Andrews Square this exceptionally beautiful Georgian church, similar to St Martin's in the Fields in London and built in 1739 features a stunning baroque interior complete with ornate gilded plaster ceiling and corinthian columned nave. The building was painstakingly restored by Glasgow Building Preservation Trust between 1998 and 2000 and is now a centre for teaching and performance of traditional Scottish music, song and dance. The building often hosts ceilidh nights and other events such as jazz in the modern basement bar/ restaurant which also serves great Scottish food!

By appointment.

(donations appreciated)

12. GLASGOW GREEN

Greendykes Street
t:0141 287 9412

Just south of St Andrews lies Glasgow Green which is by far the oldest public park in Glasgow and reputedly in Europe. Its history can be traced back to 1450 when Bishop Turnbull gifted the common lands of Glasgow Green to the people of Glasgow. In 1745 Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) reviewed his troops on Flesher's Haugh before his ill-fated assault on London.

The current layout of the park was created between 1817 - 1826 when the Camlachie and Molindinar burns were channelled underground by unemployed weavers. Long at the centre of the people's struggle for justice the Green held suffragette demonstrations and is recognised as the birthplace of the British trade union movement. Within the Green, which is undergoing an extensive refurbishment programme, make sure to see the recently restored Doulton Fountain and Glasgow's own and the UK's first ever Nelson's Column.

Dawn till dusk but never really closed as is a public thoroughfare.



13. PEOPLE'S PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS

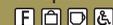
Glasgow Green
t:0141 271 2951

www.glasgowmuseums.com

Located on the northern edge of the Green, The People's Palace and Winter Gardens were built in 1898 for the benefit of the industrial working people of the East End. This is the place to explore the history of the people of the city - work and the great labour struggles, home and living in a single end, play and having a good time at the dancing. You can even go 'Doon the watter', learn to speak Glaswegian and laugh at Billy Connolly's ridiculous banana boots.

The Winter Gardens is one of the largest glasshouses in Europe and is unique for its cast iron and glass structure, modelled on the upturned hull of Nelson's flagship HMS Victory. Recently restored, you can relax amongst the tropical plants and enjoy a coffee or a bite to eat at the cafe. Both venues also hold temporary exhibitions and events year round.

Mon-Thu + Sat 10-5pm. Fri + Sun 11-5pm.



14. ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL

Clyde Street
t:0141 226 5898

Moving west along Clyde Street and dramatically overlooking the river St Andrew's, completed in 1816, soon became a focal point for Glasgow's rapidly expanding Catholic population, and in 1884 it was made the Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Glasgow. It was the first piece of Gothic Revivalism in Glasgow with traceried octagonal towers and a statue of the apostle Andrew (Scotland's Patron Saint) in a niche at the apex of the building.

10-5.30pm.





TAKE IN SOME ART

Catering for all artistic palates over 15 galleries in the Merchant City cover everything from world renowned artists to moving Russian sculptures

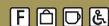
15. GALLERY OF MODERN ART (GOMA)

Royal Exchange Square
t:0141 229 1996

www.glasgowmuseums.com

Starting at Royal Exchange Square and housed in an elegant neoclassical building, GoMA has four floors of contemporary painting, sculptures and installations from around the world. Recent acquisitions include works by Artists Christine Borland and Toby Paterson. The gallery also offers an outstanding programme of temporary Exhibitions. A rooftop educational Studio has an active education Programme for all ages whilst the Basement houses the Learning Library Complete with cafe, free internet access Terminals, multimedia and general book lending facilities.

Open daily 10-5pm, except Thu 10-8pm, Fri and Sun 11-5pm.



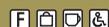
16. ART DE CAF

Old Sheriff Court Building,
Brunswick Street
t: 07837 385 764

www.artdecaf.com

A new concept in art galleries where you can enjoy a coffee to a full three course meal whilst taking in an ever changing array of the highest quality original artwork and giclee reproduction prints.

Mon - Sun 10am -10pm



17. BRAZEN STUDIOS

58 Albion Street
t:0141 552 4551
www.brazenstudios.co.uk

Moving east along Wilson Street and down Albion Street Brazen Studio is a unique combination of gallery and accessible jewellers workshop highlighting the best of contemporary jewellery.

Tues-Sun 10.30am-5.30pm,
Thu 10.30am-7pm.



18. RUSSIAN CAFÉ-GALLERY COSSACHOK AND CULTURAL CENTRE

38 Albion Street
t:0141 553 0733

www.cossachok.com

Continuing down Albion Street is Russian Café Gallery Cossachok and Russian Cultural Centre. An established arts, music and culinary institution with eclectic exhibitions by Russian and Eastern European Artists, live folk and world performances every Sunday, as well as an extensive programme of festivals.

Tue-Sat 11.30pm-late, Sun 4pm-late,
Mon closed Concerts from 8.30pm



19. PROJECT ABILITY GALLERIES

18 Albion Street
t:0141 552 2822

www.project-ability.co.uk

Further down Albion Street Project Ability is an arts organisation that specialises in working with people with disabilities or mental health problems. Project Ability has two relaxed, informal galleries with exhibitions showcasing artwork created by people who take part in its workshop and studios programmes and by other leading national and international disabled artists.

Mon to Fri 10am-5pm

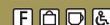


20. 3RD STEP

7 Trongate
t: 0141 552 2220
www.thethirdstep.co.uk

On the south side of the Trongate near the Cross the 3rd Step Gallery showcases the work of the world renowned artist Peter Howson and his arts collective. Here you can view and buy original and reproduction art pieces from this specialist gallery.

Sun 12-4pm, Mon closed,
Tues-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-5.30pm.



21. GLASGOW PRINT STUDIO

48 + 25 King Street
t:0141 552 0704

www.gpsart.co.uk

Moving west with a shop at 25 King Street and an exhibition space on the first floor of 48 King Street, Glasgow Print Studio provides prize winning galleries internationally acclaimed for both the beauty of the space and the quality of exhibitions presented.

10-5.30pm Tue-Sat.



22. STREET LEVEL PHOTOWORKS

48 King Street
t:0141 552 2151

Not on street level but also on the first floor of 48 King Street Street Level is an integrated resource for the development of photography and lens based media in the city, providing exhibition space, an education and training programme and access to darkroom facilities. The gallery promotes its own exhibitions, often showing new work created through Street Level collaborations and commissions. Complementing its exhibition programme, it runs a full programme of talks, events and seminars and a wide range of training courses in a variety of photography techniques and processes which are all open to the public.

Weds-Sat 12-5pm.



23. SHARMANKA KINETIC GALLERY

Floor 1, 64 Osborne Street
t:0141 552 7080
www.sharmanka.co.uk

Round the corner on Osborne Street and on the first floor you enter a Hieronymus Bosch like world of moving mechanical sculptures by St Petersburg-born artist Eduard Bersudsky. Each performance lasts approximately 50 minutes and will take you to a world that you'll never forget.

Performance (50 min)-Thur and Sun 7pm; Matinee for families with children (40 min)-Sun 3pm; £4. Conc. £3. Children under 16 - free (max 2 per adult). A shorter version of the performance (by appointment only - please phone or e-mail to book) Mon-Thur 12-9 pm. Fri 12-3 pm £4 per person Free performances/workshops for schools and other organisations.



24. GLASGOW INDEPENDENT STUDIO

Project Room, 64 Osborne Street
T: 0141 552 1472

www.gjs.uk.com

On the top floor this small gallery (within an artist's collective) provides an incubator space for an eclectic range of artists in a variety of media.

Open by exhibition.



25. TRANSMISSION GALLERY

45 King Street
t: 0141 552 4813

www.transmissiongallery.org

Back down to King Street this gallery is at the forefront of Scotland's contemporary art scene and its internationally renowned collective showcases a wide variety of artistic media.

Dependent on show usually 11-5pm
Tue-Sat.



26. TRACEY MCNEE GALLERY

47 Parnie Street
t:0141 552 5627

www.traceymcnee.com

Moving east down Parnie Street this gallery features contemporary



painting, photography and sculpture from some of the best known artists in Scotland.

Tue-Sat 11-5pm.



27. GALLERY 23

23 Parnie Street

t:552 6325

www.artgallery23.co.uk

Couple of doors down this gallery has gathered a reputation for dealing in some of the best of contemporary art available in Scotland.

Tue-Sun 11-5pm



28. ART EXPOSURE GALLERY

19 Parnie Street

t:0141 552 7779

Just a few doors down this gallery was formed in 1989 to provide exhibition space for Scottish artists, mostly Art School graduates, and features an ever changing range and surprisingly extensive collection of paintings and sculptures at affordable prices.

Tue-Sat 12-5pm.



29. Q GALLERY

87-89 Saltmarket

Tel: 0141 552 7578

www.qgallery.org

Crossing over to the Saltmarket the Q Gallery offers seasonal exhibitions and also year round sales of hand-made Egyptian pottery and earthenware. Adjacent to the gallery is The Studio at 91 Saltmarket, which offers seasonal boutique performances.

Mon-Sat 11am-5pm



30. SORCHA DALLAS GALLERY

5 St Margaret's Place

t:0781 2605745

www.sorchadallas.com

Just off the Saltmarket this recently opened gallery features exciting and cutting edge Scottish art.

1-5pm Thurs-Sat duration of each show.



31. COLLINS GALLERY

22 Richmond St

t:0141 548 2682

www.collinsgallery.strath.ac.uk

In the middle of Strathclyde University's campus this award winning gallery is worth seeking out for its broad range of exhibitions by established and new artists from Scotland and further afield.

Mon-Fri 10-5pm. Sat 12noon-4pm.
Sun closed, public holidays and during exhibition installations.



OR A SHOW

Tired after all this walking?
Take in a show from one of
the area's world class theatres
or if you still have some
energy why not a ceilidh!

32. THE RAMSHORN THEATRE

University of Strathclyde Drama

Centre t:0141 552 3489

www.strath.ac.uk/culture/ramshorn

At the top of the Candleriggs is one of the most unusual small theatre venues in Glasgow. The Ramshorn Theatre is housed in a converted neo-gothic church. Presenting about 14 major productions a year the theatre supports student and community productions as well as professional projects. Inside the bar has a permanent display of theatre photography.

Surrounding the theatre is the wonderful peaceful green space of the graveyard which is the resting place, amongst others, of Pierre Emille L'Angellier who Blythswood Square murderess Madelaine Smith allegedly poisoned with over 80 grams of arsenic in a cup of cocoa - was this the first case of 'Death by Chocolate'?

Open during performances and Sat over summer when guides from Senior Studies show round church + graveyard as Charge is per event, usually £3-£9 or £3 lunchtime events with concessions.



33. TRON THEATRE

63 Trongate

t:0141 552 4267

www.tron.co.uk

Carrying down to the Trongate is the Tron building (notably the famous steeple) date back to the 16th Century, today its striking mixture of ancient and modern architecture houses one of the country's leading smaller scale theatres equipped with award winning bars, cafe and outstanding restaurant. Not only a busy touring venue for drama, music, dance and comedy, the Tron is also home to its own multi-award winning theatre company.

Dependent on show bar is open 10am till 11,12 or 1am dependent on licence. Office 10-6pm By show.



12. ST ANDREWS IN THE SQUARE

AND CAFE SOURCE

St Andrews Square

t:0141 559 5902

www.standrewsinthesquare.com

Located in the centre of St Andrews Square this exceptionally beautiful Georgian church, built in 1739, is now a centre for teaching and performance of traditional Scottish music, song and dance. The building often hosts ceilidh nights and other events such as jazz in the modern basement bar/ restaurant which also serves great Scottish food!

By Event.



As well as all this culture the Merchant City boasts over 300 shops, restaurants and bars where you can bag a designer bargain, tickle your taste buds or see and been seen in an uber trendy bar. Have a look at the following:



a. Level One Records
278 High Street t:0141 559 4300
www.levelonerecords.com
Purveyors in fine House.

b. Nostalgia
89 High Street t:0141 552 5578
www.nostalgiaishopuk.co.uk
Featuring a range of continental meats, cheeses, breads, drinks and sweets from Eastern Europe

c. Guitar Guitar
36 Trongate t:0141 552 9896
www.guitarguitar.co.uk
Scotland's largest guitar store has chosen the Merchant City.

d. High and Mighty
7 Trongate t:0141 553 1081
For big or tall men's fashions.

e. G1 Interiors
27 Trongate t:0141 552 1177
www.g1interiors.com
For all your interior design needs brought to you by the Designer Divas with handbags

f. Centre for Under 5s +
50 Parnie Street t:0141 552 4006
A rainbow array of craft resources for all in this bright pink shop.

g. Jar Hair
61 King Street t:0141 552 6789
A cut above the rest for all your hair styling needs.

h. Café Lava
24 St Andrews Street t:0141 553 1123
www.cafelava.com
Overflowing with good tastes - take a break with us.

i. Merchant Gate Gallery
111 Saltmarket t:0141 552 5847
Opening the gate to specially sourced art and picture framing.

Large Font version also available - to obtain a copy either call Merchant City Initiative on 0141 552 6060 or visit the website at www.glasgowmerchantcity.net