

# TRAVEL

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With galleries galore, top museums and buzzing nightlife, this Scottish city has a creative vibe, writes **Christina Pfeiffer**



Start your travels from the city's historic centre, George Square (far left), taking in the likes of Buchanan Street (top left), with its boutiques and street artists, and Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum (below left and below), with its eclectic collections. PHOTOS: CHRISTINA PFEIFFER

boutique dress shops, interior design shops and trendy cafes. Glasgow's top boutique hotel, One Devonshire Gardens ([www.onedevonshiregardens.com](http://www.onedevonshiregardens.com)), was taken over by Hotel du Vin and reopened in October 2006 as Hotel du Vin and Bistro, with beautifully appointed luxurious rooms, an impressive Scotch whisky room and a new bistro that's the talk of the town.

**8 Glasgow Harbour**  
When the regeneration of Glasgow Harbour ([www.glasgowharbour.com](http://www.glasgowharbour.com)) is complete, the area promises to become an attraction that pays tribute to the city's past as one of Britain's major shipbuilding centres. Residential areas, a 3km riverside walkway, cycle paths, landscaped areas and retail, leisure and museum precincts are all taking shape. In the 19th century the River Clyde was one of Britain's most prominent shipbuilding centres and the term Clydebuilt was an industry benchmark for superior quality. Today, the Glenlee (better known as the Tall Ship at Glasgow Harbour; [www.thetalship.com](http://www.thetalship.com)) is a historical reminder of Glasgow's shipbuilding past and one of only five Clydebuilt ships in the world that remain afloat. The tour costs £4.95 (adult) or £2.50 (child).

**9 Hunterian Art Gallery**  
Although it displays art works from well-known masters such as Rembrandt and Rodin, the Hunterian Art Gallery ([www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk](http://www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk)) is best known for its large collection of paintings by American-born James McNeill Whistler, who lived and worked in Britain and France. Admission is free.



**10 Glasgow Science Centre**  
Interactive exhibits, shows and workshops are housed within three sleek, titanium-clad buildings at the Glasgow Science Centre ([www.glasgowsciencecentre.org](http://www.glasgowsciencecentre.org)). The centre also contains Scotland's only Imax theatre and the ScottishPower Planetarium, where a Carl Zeiss Starmaster projector provides an opportunity to investigate the mysteries of space beneath the planetarium's dome.

## PERFECT 10

### Glasgow

**1 Kelvingrove**  
The jewel in Glasgow's crown, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum reopened last summer after a three-year, £27.9 million (HK\$421 million) refurbishment. Before its temporary closure, Kelvingrove was already one of Britain's most popular museums ([www.glasgowmuseums.com](http://www.glasgowmuseums.com)). Its renovation means 8,000 items are now on display in 22 themed galleries. A key exhibit is a second world war Spitfire that was part of the 602 City of Glasgow Squadron. The restored aircraft hangs from the ceiling of the West Court. Other displays include a life-sized skeleton cast of a ceratosaur, a collection of Egyptian treasures on loan from the British Museum and a controversial Salvador Dali painting, *Christ of St John of the Cross*, which – after heated public debate – was returned to Kelvingrove from the nearby St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. The value of Kelvingrove's collection is estimated to be about £600 million. Entry and guided tours are free.

**2 Buchanan Street**  
Admire the grand Victorian architecture along Buchanan Street – and because it's Glasgow's main shopping street you may be tempted to give your credit card a good workout. The Argyll Arcade, Britain's oldest covered shopping arcade (established in 1827), is headquarters for the city's top jewellers. Head for the designer boutiques in Princes Square, a converted 19th-century warehouse worth walking into simply to admire its glass canopies, wrought-iron balconies and wall mosaics. You'll find designer names such as Armani, Escada and Ralph Lauren in the Merchant City area, once home to 18th-century tobacco barons and now Glasgow's main haute-couture neighbourhood. Pop into the historic Willow Tea Rooms ([www.willowtea.com](http://www.willowtea.com)) for a spot of afternoon tea among the high-backed chairs and clean lines of architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

**3 Glasgow Green**  
King James II granted Glasgow Green to Bishop William Turnbull and the people of the city in 1450. In those days it was used as a common area in which to perform tasks such as washing, bleaching linen and drying fishing nets,

as well as for grazing and swimming. Today, Glasgow's oldest city park covers 55 hectares of open space and is used for concerts, fireworks displays and other major events. At the edge of the park is the city's social history museum, the People's Palace. Housed in an elegant 19th-century red sandstone building, the museum documents the story of the people of the city since 1750 with three floors of paintings and photographs. Wander next door into the Victorian glasshouse of the Winter Gardens, where you can warm yourself with a hot drink



in the cafe among the tropical plants. Admission to the People's Palace and Winter Gardens is free.

**4 The Burrell Collection**  
The result of a 1971 architectural competition, the Burrell is set in the woodlands of Pollok Estate, a property presented to the city by Anne Maxwell Macdonald (the 11th Baroness of Pollok). The museum holds a collection of 9,000 artworks donated by Sir William Burrell and his wife Constance. There's something to satisfy every taste, including ancient artefacts from China, Egypt, Greece and Rome, modern sculptures by Epstein and Rodin, works by European masters and Islamic art treasures. Architectural items such as medieval arches have been cleverly integrated into the design of the building. Admission is free.

**5 Historic heart**  
The City Chambers ([www.glasgow.gov.uk](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk)) on George Square have been the headquarters of the city council since 1888. Tours are free and run twice a day (10.30am; 2.30pm). Also located on the square is the Glasgow Tourist Information Centre ([www.seeglasgow.com](http://www.seeglasgow.com)). The hop-on, hop-off bus ([www.scotguide.com](http://www.scotguide.com))

starts its run in George Square and the pre-recorded commentary begins by providing interesting historical snippets about its stately statues. Tickets cost £9 (adult) or £3 (child) and are valid for 24 hours.

**6 Charles Rennie Mackintosh trail**  
What Antoni Gaudi is to Barcelona, Charles Rennie Mackintosh is to Glasgow. The legacy of the architect, designer and artist can be admired in many buildings. A £12 trail ticket provides entry to key Mackintosh attractions (such as the Mackintosh House, the Lighthouse, Glasgow School of Art, House for an Art Lover, the Hill House, the Mackintosh Church and Scotland Street School) and includes unlimited travel on public transport ([www.crmsociety.com](http://www.crmsociety.com)).

**7 Trendy West End**  
Soak up the vibrant atmosphere among the restaurants, bars and street musicians after dark. Catch a lunchtime performance at the quarter's most popular entertainment venue, Oran Mór ([www.oran-mor.co.uk](http://www.oran-mor.co.uk)). Set in a converted church, its theatre programme – known as A Play, A Pie and A Pint – attracts the city's best writers and actors. Byres Road is a treasure trove of unique

## DETOURS

Mark Andrews

### Feel the art beat

Pudong may be upwardly mobile, but Shanghai is about more than just the next skyscraper. Across the Huangpu River in the former French Concession, artists, artisans and others with an eye for the unusual have made a



home for themselves among the crumbling *shikumen*, or tenements. The area, which is about as pedestrianised as it can be on the mainland, is dotted with galleries, workshops and stores beneath the dripping washing of the families living above. *Shikumen*, buildings with a combination of western and Chinese architectural influences that made up more than half of Shanghai's housing in the first half of last century, are fast disappearing. Most of the two- or three-storey houses once owned by a single family were divided into smaller units after the revolution. Much of the perceived squalor of the *longtang* (alleys) has been bulldozed away. But unlike in tourist-heavy Xintiandi, the development of Taikang Lu, known to some as "art street", has been organic and gradual. Many art-related businesses were attracted by the area's association with Chen Yifei, a late local artist and cinematographer.



But credit for the development goes to an Australian, who created the Kommune four years ago. Renovating a courtyard of old houses, Kirk Jobsz created a European-style mini piazza, with restaurant tables surrounded by shops selling arty goods. Spurred by its success, more shops of artistic persuasions have made the lanes home. What they have in common is a taste for the unusual. Hari Rabu stocks clothing, ceramics, handicrafts and ornaments from Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam. This is

the place to buy a mask to give you nightmares, boho clothing or a toilet sign in Thai. Yuraki stocks antique Japanese clothes, from 60-year-old kimonos to fabric for custom-made items. JIP sells male and unisex jewellery. Among the area's most engaging denizens are the artisans. At M Yue Arts you can often see a painter at work (as well as canvases, the workshop sells embroidery and antique Chinese jewellery). At Yi Jiang Nan, two young fashion designers create outfits from contemporary fabrics, but with a Chinese touch. In the workshop section of Utsuwa, a Japanese potter produces tableware and gives lessons. Photography studios and modelling agencies have also been attracted to the neighbourhood's old warehouses. The Xin Dong Tai She Ying agency moved to Taikang Lu because of the atmospheric buildings – and because so many of its clients want to be photographed there. Mingling with the artists, artisans

and residents is all part of the fun. Kommune is an easygoing place for lunch or a snack. Utsuwa, in a beautifully restored three-storey building, serves healthy Japanese set lunches in a cultured atmosphere, enhanced

by antique Chinese furniture, a Japanese garden and handmade crockery. Wander along the alleys and lose yourself in artistic reveries in and around lanes 210 to 248 off Taikang Lu, close to the Si Nan Road intersection.



The area around Shanghai's Taikang Lu boasts a mini piazza, restaurants, boutiques and stores selling all sorts of arty goods. PHOTOS: MARK ANDREWS

## BIG DEAL

Peter Walbrook

Charlotte Travel is selling a two-night break to Penang, with flights on Cathay Pacific, from HK\$1,699 per person, twin share. The hotel at this price is the Equatorial, which is closer to the airport than to George Town, but is a comfortable property with appealing grounds and an 18-hole golf course, set in a pleasant location. In Batu Ferringhi you can choose from Shangri-La's Golden Sands or Rasa Sayang Resorts ([www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)), which are priced at HK\$2,239 and HK\$3,199 respectively. Breakfast and insurance are included. These prices will be valid until the end of May, except for blackout dates from March 31 to April 9 and on May 23 and 24. For inquiries and reservations, tel: 2110 6070, or e-mail [info@charlottetravel.com.hk](mailto:info@charlottetravel.com.hk) [tchecks@gmail.com](mailto:tchecks@gmail.com)