



Royal  
Geographical  
Society  
with IBG

## A Scottish phoenix

A self-guided walk in Glasgow city centre



Follow the story of Glasgow's remarkable development  
Explore some of the world's most innovative buildings  
Find out how Glasgow evolved through industry to the arts  
Discover how Glasgow's built heritage is shaping the modern city

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the stories of our landscapes  
discovered through walks





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## A Scottish phoenix

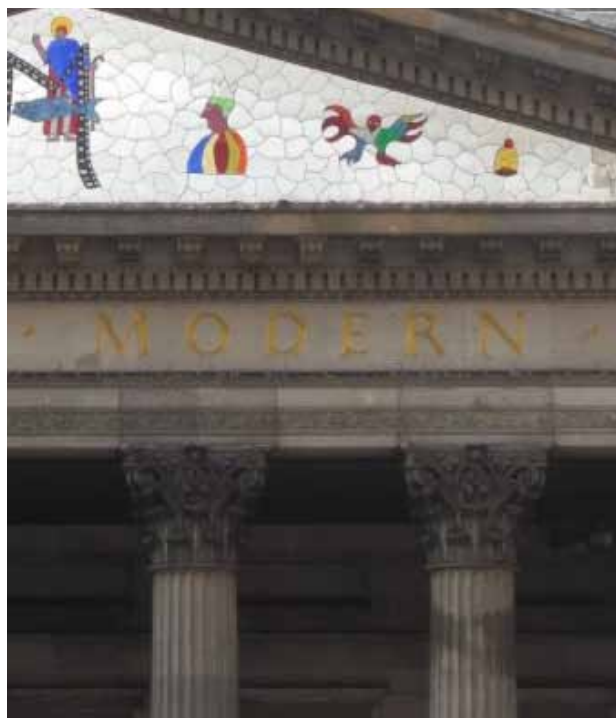
### Discover how Glasgow's historic buildings shaped the modern city

During Victorian times Glasgow was so wealthy that it was often known as 'the Second City of the British Empire'. Its strength stemmed from heavy industry and development of the River Clyde into the world's most important shipbuilding centre.

But besides making ships and steam trains, Glasgow was a hub of creative ideas. Artists, designers and architects including Charles Rennie Mackintosh extended the city with radical and innovative new buildings.



George Square and the City Chambers (c.1890)  
Wikimedia Commons (CCL)



Detail from the Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art  
© Rory Walsh

This walk visits some of these landmarks to follow the story of Glasgow's development from the nineteenth century.

Find out how Glasgow has experienced boom, decline and rebirth. Explore how Glasgow evolved after shipbuilding and manufacturing went into decline into a venue for tourism and the arts.

See some of the city's most spectacular landmarks and discover more about the people who created them.

Also discover how the buildings of Glasgow's proud past are now shaping this remarkable city's future.

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## Practical information

<b>Location</b>	Glasgow city centre, Scotland
<b>Getting there</b>	<p><b>Train</b> - Glasgow is very well connected to the rest of Britain by train. Glasgow Central and George Street stations are both on the walk route.</p> <p><b>Bus</b> - The city is served by many national and region bus services. Most run via Buchanan Street bus station near to the start of the walk. Local SPT park and ride buses operate throughout the city centre.</p> <p><b>Underground</b> - Buchanan Street SPT Subway station is about 250 metres from the start of the walk.</p> <p><b>Car</b> - Access via the M8 and M74. City centre street parking is scarce and usually short time limits apply. There are various off-street car parks available (charges apply).</p> <p><b>Bicycle</b> - National Cycle Routes 75 and 756 pass near to the walk.</p>
<b>Start point</b>	George Square, G2 1DU
<b>Finish point</b>	The Italian Centre, 2 John Street, G1 1HP
<b>Directions from railway station to start</b>	From Glasgow Central: Exit the station and turn right into Gordon Street. Continue along the right hand side, crossing the roads to the right and head into the pedestrianised section. At the end turn left into Buchanan Street then first right into St Vincent Place. George Square is ahead on the left, the City Chambers are at the far end.
<b>Walk distance</b>	3 ½ miles
<b>Level</b>	Moderate - a busy city centre route with one steep hill to go up.
<b>Terrain</b>	The walk is entirely on city pavements and pedestrianised streets.
<b>Conditions</b>	Central Glasgow can be very busy, especially at weekends. Take care around main roads and always use pedestrian crossings. The riverside and the sections of the route on higher ground can be breezy.

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### **Suitable for**

**Families** - plenty of sights and family-friendly places to visit, take care of children by busy roads

**Pushchairs / wheelchairs** - a step-free route but some of the slopes are difficult, especially towards the Tenement House (Stop 16)

**Dogs** - must be kept on a lead. Guide dogs only inside the museums.

### **Refreshments**

There are plenty of cafés, shops and restaurants in the city centre. Selected places on the walk route include:

- The Crystal Palace pub (Stop 7)
- The Lighthouse (Stop 8) serves refreshments
- The Centre for Contemporary Arts (inside Stop 10) and the Glasgow School of Art (Stop 17) have cafés
- The Willow Tea Rooms (Stop 18)
- There are restaurant and bars inside the Italian Centre (Stop 23)

### **Toilets**

Public toilets are available at 43 St Vincent Place (between stop 3 and 4), 281A West Campbell Street (near stops 18 and 19) and in the Buchanan Galleries shopping centre (Stop 21) .

Many of the buildings and attractions on the walk have toilets for the use of customers.

### **Places to visit**

For information on attractions on the walk route (such as opening times, exhibitions and charges) visit their websites listed under 'Further Information' in the back of the booklet.

Related attractions beyond the walk route include:

**The Burrell Collection** features over 9,000 diverse arts exhibits. Located in Pollok Country Park, off Pollokshaws Road, south Glasgow. Open daily until 5pm. Free entry. Tel: 0141 287 2550 E: museums@glasgow.life.org

Mackintosh's spectacular **House for an Art Lover** is in Bellahouston Park, south Glasgow. Open from 10am, closing times vary. Entry charges. Tel: 0141 353 4770. E: info@houseforanartlover.co.uk

### **Tourist information**

**Visit Scotland Glasgow Information Centre** is at 170 Buchanan Street, G1 2LW (near to Stop 4). Open daily, 9am-6pm Monday to Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays vary. Tel: 0141 204 4400 / 0845 859 1006



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## Stopping points

- Start** George Square
- 2.** City Chambers, George Square
  - 3.** Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art, Royal Exchange Square
  - 4.** former Glasgow Stock Exchange, 157 Buchanan Street
  - 5.** Fraser's department store, Buchanan Street
  - 6.** View of the River Clyde from Glasgow Bridge (A77)
  - 7.** The Crystal Palace pub, 36 Jamaica Street
  - 8.** The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane
  - 9.** Ca' d'Oro, corner of Gordon Street and Union Street
  - 10.** Glasgow Central Station and Hotel, Union Street
  - 11.** The Daily Record Building, 20 Renfield Lane
  - 12.** The Hatrack, 142-144 St Vincent Street
  - 13.** Glasgow City Free Church, 265 St Vincent Street
  - 14.** Opposite Glasgow City Free Church, 265 St Vincent Street
  - 15.** Grecian Chambers, 336-356 Sauciehall Street
  - 16.** The Tenement House, 145 Buccleuch Street
  - 17.** Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street
  - 18.** The Willow Tea Rooms, 217 Sauciehall Street
  - 19.** Junction of Sauciehall Street and Hope Street
  - 20.** Royal Bank of Scotland, 23 Sauciehall Street
  - 21.** View of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Sauciehall Street
  - 22.** Royal College Building, 204 George Street
  - 23.** The Italian Centre, 2 John Street
- Finish** The Italian Centre courtyard, John Street
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## Directions

These directions are for use with the audio commentary. Listen to each track then read the directions below to get to the next stop.

### 1. Welcome to Glasgow

#### George Square

##### Directions 1

Stay in George Square and face the City Chambers, the large ornate building behind The Cenotaph war memorial. Listen to Track 2.

### 2. The birth of a great city

#### City Chambers, George Square

##### Directions 2

With your back to the City Chambers, leave George Square from the far left corner, turning left into Queen Street. After about 100 metres stop outside the Gallery of Modern Art. Listen to Track 3.

### 3. A grand plan

#### Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art, Royal Exchange Square

##### Directions 3

If you haven't already, cross the road and pass the Gallery of Modern Art to see the former bank building behind it. Facing the former bank, go through the arch to the right of the building and into Buchanan Street. Turn right and continue along Buchanan Street for about 130 metres, crossing St Vincent Street on the way. Stop outside number 157 (a branch of Urban Outfitters at the time of creating this walk). Listen to Track 4.

### 4. Reaching out to the world

#### Former Glasgow Stock Exchange, 157 Buchanan Street

##### Directions 4

Retrace your steps, crossing St Vincent Street, and continue along Buchanan Street. As you continue take time to look up at the building fronts. Stop outside the red sandstone building on your right forming part of Fraser's department store. Listen to Track 5.

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## 5. Old and new

### **Fraser's department store, Buchanan Street**

#### **Directions 5**

Continue along Buchanan Street. Cross various roads, keeping straight ahead, until you reach the quayside of the River Clyde. Turn right and stop halfway across the bridge to look along the river. Listen to Track 6.

## 6. A very famous river

### **View of the River Clyde from Glasgow Bridge (A77)**

#### **Directions 6**

Retrace your steps to the traffic lights at the junction. With the river behind you cross over the road at the lights and continue into Jamaica Street. Look across the road for The Crystal Palace pub, a white building with lots of large windows. Stop when you are opposite this building. Listen to Track 7.

## 7. A crystal palace

### **The Crystal Palace pub, 36 Jamaica Street**

#### **Directions 7**

Continue along Jamaica Street for about 100 metres and turn first right into Argyle Street then first left into Mitchell Street. Continue along Mitchell Street for about 100 metres to where the road widens to the right. Stop beside a red sandstone building opposite a multi-storey car park. Listen to Track 8.

## 8. A beacon of light

### **The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane**

#### **Directions 8**

Continue along Mitchell Street and turn left into Gordon Street. Continue along the right hand side then at the junction with Union Street cross over at the traffic lights. Then look back at the large building on the opposite corner, currently a Co-operative supermarket. Listen to Track 9.

## 9. Several rebirths

### **Ca' d'Oro, corner of Gordon Street and Union Street**

#### **Directions 9**

With the Ca' d'Oro behind you, continue along Gordon Street and stop opposite the front of Glasgow Central Station. Listen here to Track 10.

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## **10. A very central place**

### **Glasgow Central Station and Hotel, Gordon Street**

#### **Directions 10**

From Glasgow Central Station turn first right into Hope Street. Then turn first right again into the narrow Renfield Lane. Stop opposite the building on the left hand side covered in white tiles. Listen to Track 11.

## **11. A building of record**

### **The Daily Record Building, 20 Renfield Lane**

#### **Directions 11**

Return to Hope Street, turn right and stop at the junction with St Vincent Street. At the junction, look diagonally left across the road to the second building from the corner - a narrow red sandstone building with the fancy roof decoration. Use the traffic lights to cross over into St Vincent Street and stop opposite this building. Listen to Track 12.

## **12. A steel-framed hat rack**

### **'The Hatrack', 142-144 St Vincent Street**

#### **Directions 12**

Continue along St Vincent Street as it climbs uphill. Pass Blythswood Street on the left then use the pedestrian crossing just afterwards to continue along the right hand side of St Vincent Street. At the junction with Pitt Street stop and look across St Vincent Street at a building on the corner with columns and a square clock tower. Listen to Track 13.

## **13. A bold statement**

### **Glasgow City Free Church, 265 St Vincent Street**

#### **Directions 13**

Stay where you are on the corner of St Vincent Street and Pitt Street. Listen to Track 14.

## **14. Decline and rebirth**

### **Opposite Glasgow City Free Church**

#### **Directions 14**

Turn right into Pitt Street. Continue over several junctions including Bath Street. Stop when you reach the next junction, with Sauchiehall Street. Look to the left across the junction at the building on the corner with Scott Street containing the Centre for Contemporary Arts. Listen here to Track 15.

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## 15. Greek or Egyptian columns?

### Grecian Chambers, 336-356 Sauchiehall Street

#### Directions 15

Continue ahead into Scott Street. As the road climbs steeply uphill do take your time. As the road slopes downhill turn left into Buccleuch Street. Continue for about 100 metres and stop outside the redbrick building on the left past Garnet Hill School.

**NOTE:** To avoid this steep part of the walk you can continue to Stop 17 at the Glasgow School of Art. To do so, go a short way up Scott Street and turn first right into Renfrew Street. Listen to Track 16.

## 16. How people lived

### The Tenement House, 145 Buccleuch Street

#### Directions 16

Retrace your steps along Buccleuch Street and back to Scott Street. At Scott Street turn right and go back downhill. Stop at the third junction (Renfrew Street) and look at the Glasgow School of Art on the left. Listen to Track 17.

## 17. A work of art

### Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street

#### Directions 17

With the School of Art on your right continue along Renfrew Street then turn first right into Dalhousie Street. Continue downhill to Sauchiehall Street. Turn left and cross Blythwood Street into the pedestrianised section ahead. After a short distance, stop outside The Willow Tea Rooms on the right. Listen here to Stop 18.

## 18. Time for tea

### The Willow Tea Rooms, 217 Sauchiehall Street

#### Directions 18

Continue along pedestrianised Sauchiehall Street for about 350 metres. Stop when you reach the junction of Hope Street. Listen here to Stop 19.

## 19. Time for change

### Junction of Sauchiehall Street and Hope Street

#### Directions 19

Cross over Hope Street and continue along Sauchiehall Street for about 100 metres. When you reach the junction with West Nile Street, look to the right of the Buchanan Galleries and across the road at Royal Bank of Scotland branch. Listen here to Stop 20.

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## 20. An important sector

### **Royal Bank of Scotland, 23 Sauchiehall Street**

#### **Directions 20**

Cross over West Nile Street continuing on Sauchiehall Street, towards the Buchanan Galleries shopping centre. Stop by the statue of Donald Dewar to the right. Listen to Track 21.

## 21. Let Glasgow flourish

### **View of Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Sauchiehall Street**

#### **Directions 21**

With the statue behind you continue down the pedestrianised Buchanan Street. Pass the modern glass entrance to the subway station. At Nelson Mandela Place turn left into West George Street. Pass Queen Street station on the left to head back towards George Square. Pass the Square and City Chambers then stop at the junction with John Street. Look ahead at the buildings along the left hand side of the road. Listen to Track 22

## 22. Students help the city

### **Royal College Building, 204 George Street**

#### **Directions 22**

With the university buildings behind you carefully cross over George Street. Continue into John Street by going through both sets of the pedestrian arches behind the City Chambers. Carefully cross over the next road (Cochrane Street) and enter the pedestrianised square. Stop in front of the building on the right, the Italian Centre. Listen to Track 23.

## 23. Ancient gods in a modern city

### **The Italian Centre, 2 John Street**

#### **Directions 23**

If the Italian Centre is open, go through one of the entrance arches and stop inside the courtyard. Otherwise remain outside the building. Listen to Track 24.

## 24. A Scottish phoenix

### **The Italian Centre, 2 John Street**

#### **Directions 24**

We hope you have enjoyed the walk! Do feel free to explore the city centre further. If you haven't done so already, we highly recommend visits inside the buildings on the walk route - such as the City Chambers, Glasgow Gallery of Modern Art, The Crystal Palace, The Lighthouse and Willow Tea Rooms.



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## Further information

### **The Burrell Collection**

[www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/burrell-collection/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/burrell-collection/Pages/default.aspx)

### **Centre for Contemporary Arts**

[www.cca-glasgow.com](http://www.cca-glasgow.com)

### **Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society**

[www.crmsociety.com](http://www.crmsociety.com)

### **Glasgow Architecture**

[www.glasgowarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.glasgowarchitecture.co.uk)

### **Glasgow Building Preservation Trust**

<http://gbpt.org>

### **Glasgow City Chambers**

[www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3023](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=3023)

### **Glasgow City Free Church**

[www.glasgowcityfreechurch.org](http://www.glasgowcityfreechurch.org)

### **Glasgow Mackintosh**

[www.glasgowmackintosh.com](http://www.glasgowmackintosh.com)

### **Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**

[www.glasgowconcerthalls.com](http://www.glasgowconcerthalls.com)

### **The Glasgow School of Art**

[www.gsa.ac.uk](http://www.gsa.ac.uk)

### **House for an Art Lover**

[www.houseforanartlover.co.uk](http://www.houseforanartlover.co.uk)

### **The Lighthouse**

[www.thelighthouse.co.uk](http://www.thelighthouse.co.uk)

### **The Tenement House**

[www.nts.org.uk/property/tenement-house](http://www.nts.org.uk/property/tenement-house)

### **Willow Tea Rooms**

[www.willowtearooms.co.uk](http://www.willowtearooms.co.uk)

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## Credits

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