



Glasgow is Scotland's largest city. It's a bustling, vibrant place known for its fantastic shopping and thriving nightlife. The people of Glasgow are renowned for being friendly and kind hearted, and the city's prominent Civil Service community presents plenty of opportunities to get to know people and network!

| Housing

While the West End and Southside are typically more popular there is also a thriving professional house-share market in the city centre. The Merchant City district offers upmarket living in the heart of the city. £600-700 pcm will get you a nice 1 bedroom flat, while £800-1000 pcm will get you a 2 bedroom flat. Alternatively, the Garnethill or Charing Cross parts of the city are a 5-10 minute walk from the city centre with good access to the city's subway system.

The West End of Glasgow covers quite a large area of the city, made up of several distinct neighbourhoods. Starting from Charing Cross, it reaches up to the top of Great Western Road, over to Queen Margaret Drive and down to Dumbarton Road in Partick. Included in these areas are Hillhead, Woodlands, Kelvingrove, Yorkhill and Finnieston. It is one of the most popular areas to live in the city, thanks to its many coffee shops, cafes and bars and parks.



West End

The West End is home to the beautiful University of Glasgow, the city's oldest university. Although there is a large student population there are still plenty of professional shares available ranging from £350-£500 pcm. You can also look to rent a 1 or 2 bedroom flat yourself for around £550-750 pcm. The areas around Byres Road are usually expensive, so perhaps consider Partick or Yorkhill for something a little more reasonable.

The Southside of Glasgow is the part of the city that refers to the neighbourhoods south of the River Clyde. It is made up of a number of suburbs including

Govan, Shawlands, Mount Florida, Battlefield and Cathcart. On a map, you'll see that the Southside is encircled by the M77 and M74 motorways, making for great transport links.

For places to live in the Southside try Shawlands, the area south of Queen's Park, Mount Florida or Battlefield. There aren't many students in the Southside and while you can find some houseshares, you are more likely to be able to find a good, spacious flat of your own. As with the West End, houses are primarily traditional tenements. £450-600 pcm will get you a good one bedroom flat and a two bedroom flat costs upwards of £550 pcm. If you have a car and are looking for somewhere quieter away from the city you could look in suburbs such as Clarkston or Giffnock.

| Things to do

The city centre is dominated by the fantastic shopping on offer – start at the top of Buchanan Street and work your way down onto Argyle Street, taking in the two main shopping centres, Buchanan Galleries and St Enoch Centre. If you're looking for designer shops visit the Princes Square mall on Buchanan Street.

In addition to the city centre, there are two major shopping centres in the Southside: Braehead and Silverburn. Both are best accessed by car but bus services to and from the city centre are available.

The city centre is known for its beautiful architecture, and unusual grid street system, meaning it's relatively easy to find your way around. Beware though – if you're driving into the city centre the grid system means there are lots of one way streets! For a fun day out, an open top red bus will take you on a guided tour around the city; your ticket is valid for 2 days and you can hop on/off as you please. Alternatively, drop in to the City Chambers for a free guided tour. The building is beautifully decorated with Italian marble and has lots of interesting information on the history of Glasgow. There are plenty of museums including Kelvingrove Art Gallery, The Hunterian Museum, The Zoology Museum and the fantastic Riverside Museum. Make sure to check out The Glasgow School of Art – although undergoing significant reconstruction following fire damage it is well worth a look to see some fantastic Rennie Mackintosh architecture.



When the weather is nice, Glaswegians love to head to the park. The West End has some lovely parks including Kelvingrove Park and the Botanic Gardens. The greenhouses at the Botanic Gardens are particularly impressive, with tropical rain forests to wander through. If you are keen to explore further afield, you can travel to Loch Lomond in an hour by car, or by bus from the city centre. Heading up towards the city centre you'll find Pacific Quay, which is the home of BBC Scotland and the Glasgow Science Centre. The Southside is also the home of the National Scottish Ballet in Tramway and the Citizen's Theatre in the Gorbals.

The Southside is also home to Scotland's national football ground Hampden Park. If you're travelling in or out of the Southside on a match day, be aware that things can get very busy!



Loch Lomond

| Food and Drink

Glasgow city centre has lots of fantastic restaurants and cafes to choose from. Try Bread Meats Bread on St Vincent Street for amazing burgers, Toposlasbambas across the road for Mexican street food or The Brunswick Hotel in Merchant City for great food and drink. The Bier Halle on Gordon Street does great continental beers and fresh, crispy two-for-one pizza! For traditional Scottish fare, venture out to the West End to either of The Sisters restaurants in Jordanhill or Kelvingrove; or Roastit Bubbly Jocks on Dumbarton Road. .

For great vegan food head to The 78 in Kelvingrove. Mother India and Mother India's Cafe do the best Indian food in Glasgow, while Tribeca on Dumbarton rd is known for its fabulous American breakfasts. If you're out for coffee, Kember and Jones on Byers Rd is a lovely little café with the largest meringues you've ever seen, or try Tchai-Ovna with its vast collection of speciality teas.

There is lots to do in the evening and Ashton Lane is particularly popular. On a warm evening, head to Ubiquitous Chip for a pint of their own ale up on their roof terrace, or try the Stand Comedy Club for a fun

night out. If you are lucky you might catch Frankie Boyle trying out his new material! For other theatre options, head to the Oran Mor for 'A Play, a Pie and a Pint' for only £10!

Sauchiehall Street is Glasgow's main street clubs although it can be very studenty. If you're looking for a good night out try The Buff Club on Bath Lane or the ABC on Sauchiehall St which is also a great gig venue. To start the night off head for 'The Finnieston Strip' on Argyle St for the best bars in Glasgow.

While there are a few good bars in Shawlands, the Southside is generally more known for its pub scene; try The Clockwork Beer Company in Mount Florida or The Butterfly and the Pig in Shawlands.

| Transport

Rail: Glasgow has excellent rail links, with two train stations offering links North and South. Glasgow Queen Street offers regular services to Aberdeen and the North, as well as trains to Edinburgh every 15 minutes. Glasgow Central provides regular departures to the South, such as Birmingham, Manchester and London. The best mode of transport to get from the centre of town to the West End is the Glasgow subway: it runs in a circle so you'll never get lost!

Buses/taxis: First and McGills run reliable bus services in and out of the city centre on a regular basis – note that First only accept exact change. Private hire taxis are reasonable, and recommended companies are Network Cabs or Hampden Cabs.

Driving: Realistically, there is little need for a car in the city centre. Everything is within walking distance.

Air: Glasgow Airport is only a 15 minute drive from the city centre, and private hire taxis cost about £18 one way. Alternatively, hop on the 500 Express bus service from Waterloo Street (by Central station) and get there in 15 minutes.

| Useful Links

- <http://theglasgowfoodblog.com/>
- <http://www.westendfestival.co.uk/>
- <http://peoplemakeglasgow.com/>
- <http://www.spt.co.uk/>



East Kilbride is a town based approximately 8 miles outside of Glasgow City Centre. East Kilbride has a bustling town centre and is affectionately known as 'EK' by the locals.

| Housing

Housing tends to be more affordable in East Kilbride as it is further out of the immediate Glasgow area. 1 bed, furnished flats cost in the region of £300 pcm. For those looking for larger properties, 2 bedroom flats are around £400-500 pcm and a 3 bedroom house can be found for £600-750 pcm.

Many people choose to commute from Glasgow. Shawlands is an up and coming neighbourhood where a spacious 1-bed will set you back £450-580. A train from the local station Crossmyloof will drop you right at DFID's front door

In terms of location the development in Stewartfield tends to be popular with young professionals and families as it offers modern, affordable housing and is situated close to amenities such as supermarkets and a local park. Lindsayfield, West Mains, Gardenhall and Mossneuk are also popular.

| Things to do

East Kilbride is home to one of the UK's largest indoor trampoline parks, Airspace. This popular attraction can be found at the PlaySport complex on the outskirts of town, where other businesses such as a golf course, BMX skatepark and children's soft play area are also located. There are also a range of sports classes and gyms you can join.



The Village

East Kilbride is home to the National Museum of

East Kilbride

Rural Life, a five star museum with a historic working farm. EK is also popular with cyclists and walkers as the roads that pass through the town lead into the South Lanarkshire countryside, which is renowned for its challenging hill climbs and beautiful scenery.

| Food and Drink

If you're looking to eat out in East Kilbride, try Zuki's Indian restaurant or Zucca Italian, while the Mess Cantina serves great lunches. Other favourites include Stewartfield Farm and The Auldhouse Arms. The Village, an historic area of East Kilbride, is home to independent retailers, traditional pubs and restaurants, and the Old Parish Church. Head to The Montgomerie Arms pub for a friendly atmosphere.

| Transport

Rail: East Kilbride is popular for its excellent transport links, with two train stations that run frequent services to Glasgow Central. From East Kilbride or Hairmyres you can be in the heart of Glasgow city centre in less than 25 minutes.

Bus: The No. 6 bus runs regularly from East Kilbride Bus Station to Glasgow's Southside and city centre, which take approximately 30 mins.

Car/Walking: If you prefer to drive, East Kilbride is easily reachable from the M77 and is approximately 25 minutes' drive from Glasgow. Be aware, however, that if you choose to head into Glasgow by car, morning rush hour traffic could double your journey.

| Civil Service Community

The Department for International Development (DfID) has its headquarters in East Kilbride - one of only a handful of departments to have its headquarters based outside of Whitehall. HM Revenue & Customs also have a large office in East Kilbride.

| Useful Links

Lots of ideas of things to do:
<http://www.visitlanarkshire.com/>

Leisure activities and sports in East Kilbride:
<http://www.eastkilbride.org.uk/leisure/sports.htm>



Not only a capital city, Edinburgh is also the leading festival city in the world, home to the phenomenal summer festivals, and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

| Housing

Rental prices in Edinburgh are on the high side (although still far lower than London), but if you are able to spend a bit of time looking then you should be able to find a decent and reasonably central 1 bedroom flat for between £550 - £650 and a 2 bedroom for around £700 - £850. The best places to find these are through Gumtree or a property search engine like Zoopla. Marchmont and Newington are popular with the students and young professionals alike, with flatshares being relatively easy to find. Leith is also popular with civil servants due to its close proximity to St Andrew's House and Victoria Quay (the two largest governmental buildings in Edinburgh).



There are also a cluster of Government buildings on the western edge of the city (including Saughton House and Grayfield House) which are not within walking distance of the city-centre. Those who are posted there may wish to consider Dalry or Gorgie to avoid a fairly long commute. For those wanting to live a bit further afield, quite a number of civil servants live in Musselburgh and South Queensferry which have the advantage of good rail links, lower rental prices and sea air.

| Things to do

Edinburgh's unique selling point is probably the festivals which happen in July and August. They are

Edinburgh

not to be missed, but the fun in this city goes on throughout the year. For films, head to the Dominion Cinema or the Cameo Cinema. Escape Edinburgh is a fantastic activity for groups. There is a range of great theatres, particular favourites being the Traverse, the Royal Lyceum, and the Playhouse. There is a thriving nightlife scene, with a personal favourite being live music at the famous Jazz Bar. The sights to see in Edinburgh are outstanding. It is recommended that you simply stroll through the city and see what takes your fancy. Edinburgh is surprisingly compact, and the richness and quirkiness of the city make every turn an adventure. In terms of specific attractions, institutions like the Castle, the National Museum of Scotland, and the Scottish National Gallery are all highly-rated.

For shopping, there are plenty of options. High-end shops can be found on Princes Street and George Street, while Multrees Walk is excellent. Also worth checking out are the West End Village and the Grassmarket. There is a string of great second-hand bookshops on the West Port road, just off the Grassmarket. Stockbridge, north of the centre, and Bruntsfield to the south also offer nice suburban shopping opportunities.



Edinburgh Castle

If walking and exploring is your thing, Edinburgh is excellently sited for exploring the beauty of southern Scotland, but there are some lovely options in the city itself as well. Obviously, most regard the Holyrood Park, containing Arthur's Seat, as a must. Another option is the Blackford Hill Nature Reserve, which perhaps offers the best view going of the city. The Pentland Hills, just outside the city, offer really nice walks, with lots of possibilities – take an hour or two to reach one of the first summits, or enjoy a longer hike, cresting the rolling hills towards Silverburn. Cramond Beach, to the north of the city, is another essential visit, while mounting an expedition by ferry to Inchcolm Abbey in the Firth of Forth is a great day.



Edinburgh

budget Megabus service to Glasgow.

Edinburgh also has a controversial tram service that runs between St Andrews Square and Edinburgh Airport.

Car/Taxi: Excellent public transport, both within the city and to other areas means a car is not essential in Edinburgh. If you do have a car, access to scenic areas e.g. the Pentland Hills is easy and convenient.

Cycling/Walking: Edinburgh is a great city for walking, and most places are easily walkable within 30-40 minutes.

Cycling in Edinburgh is also good with a network of cycle paths and lanes, and (relatively) accommodating drivers. The city is very hilly, so it pays to plan your route carefully!

| Civil Service Community

Edinburgh is a key Civil Service hub, and this means there is a good Civil Service Community. The city is home to the Scottish Government, HMRC and the Scotland Office. The DWP also (rather unsurprisingly) has operational delivery sites in Edinburgh and surrounding towns.

The local Fast Stream group for this area is the Scotland Out of London group, who organise socials and networking events in Edinburgh and Glasgow. Get in touch with Victoria Keir (Victoria.Keir@gov.scot) to find out more.

| Useful Links

Informative council website:
<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/>

Comprehensive and useful events website: <http://www.whatsoninedinburgh.co.uk/>

Guide to tram and bus travel:
<http://transportforeдинburgh.com/>

| Food and Drink

Edinburgh is renowned for its restaurants, with 1775 currently listed on Tripadvisor, which, as befits a cosmopolitan capital, serves a wide range of dishes from around the world. Those somewhat bamboozled by the choice available could do worse than looking at The List magazine website (<https://food.list.co.uk>), which contains a wide selection of Edinburgh restaurant reviews organised by type and price range. Particular areas of note include Leith Walk and Lothian Road for Italian restaurants and Broughton Street for a decent selection of bistros.

Edinburgh is famous for its nightlife during the Festival and remains a fairly lively place for the rest of the year. Pubs in Edinburgh tend to be open until around 1am with clubs staying open until 3am. Alcohol is unable to be purchased outside licensed premises after 10pm and, consequently, you will not have to travel far before finding somewhere to have a drink. A lot of decent pubs can be found in the Newington area (largely due to its proximity to the main university campus), with Leith Walk also being notable for its newly gentrified bars. Many of Edinburgh nightclubs are concentrated around the Cowgate, although more upscale places can be found around George Street which cater for a slightly more dressed up clientele

| Transport

Rail: Edinburgh has very good mainline and local rail links, with 2 stations within the city centre (Haymarket and Waverley). Journey times to Glasgow and much of the central belt are less than 1 hour and many people commute into Edinburgh from the surrounding areas. There are also rail links to towns such as Inverness, Aberdeen, and Tweedbank via the newly opened Borders Railway. Heading south, travel to London takes between 4.5 and 5 hours.

Bus/Tram: Lothian Buses run the most comprehensive network within the city centre and immediate surroundings and a single ticket is £1.60 flat rate no matter how far you travel, making this an excellent value way to get around the city. Edinburgh Bus station, at St. Andrews Square, has a large number of longer distance bus and coach services to most major Scottish towns and cities, including a