

Your neighbourhood guide to ...

The West End of Glasgow

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Overview of the Area



Living in a rental property in Glasgow's West End offers a vibrant, culturally rich, and well-connected lifestyle that appeals to a wide range of residents, from students and young professionals to families and retirees. A diverse population creates a welcoming and inclusive environment.

The West End is known for its bohemian charm, historic architecture, and leafy streets. It's home to Byres Road, Ashton Lane, and the University of Glasgow, creating a lively mix of cafes, bars, vintage shops and bookstores. The area has a strong community feel, with regular markets, festivals and cultural events.

The area offers excellent public transport: subway stations, bus routes, and train links make commuting easy. Many amenities are walkable, and cycling is increasingly popular with dedicated lanes and bike hire schemes.

The West End is rich in parks and green areas, too. These offer a peaceful contrast to the urban buzz and are ideal for outdoor activities.

Good local schools and nurseries attract families whilst proximity to the University of Glasgow makes the area a hub for student and academics alike.

Ready to know more? Read on ...

Types of Properties

The West End of Glasgow offers a diverse mix of housing types, reflecting its rich architectural heritage and evolving urban landscape. You'll find:

Traditional Tenements

- Most common housing type in the West End.
- Typically Victorian or Edwardian sandstone buildings.
- Comprise self-contained flats with shared stairwells.
- Known for high ceilings, large rooms, bay windows and period features.

Detached and Semi-Detached Houses

- Less common but found in leafier parts like Hyndland, Kelvinside and Dowanhill.
- Often Victorian villas or Edwardian homes with gardens.
- Popular with families due to space and proximity to good schools.

Terraced Housing

- Scattered throughout the West End, especially in areas like Hillhead and Partick.
- Often Georgian or Victorian in style.
- May be subdivided into flats or remain as full houses.



Types of Properties

Luxury Apartments and Duplexes

- Found in converted historic buildings (e.g., former schools, churches or townhouses).
- Also in new-build developments along the River Clyde and near Partick.
- Feature modern interiors, open-plan layouts, and high-end finishes.
- Some offer duplex layouts, balconies, and underground parking.

Modern Flats and Student Accommodation

- Increasingly common near the University of Glasgow and Byres Road.
- Include purpose-built student housing, often with communal amenities.
- Also includes contemporary flats in mixed-use developments.



Public Transport

The West End of Glasgow is well-served by a mix of bus routes, train stations, and subway stops, making it one of the most accessible areas in the city. Here's a breakdown of the main public transport options:

Subway Stops

The Glasgow Subway has several stations in the West End:

- Hillhead – Closest to Byres Road, University of Glasgow and Ashton Lane.
- Kelvinbridge – Near Great Western Road and the Kelvin Walkway.
- Kelvinhall – Close to Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and the Riverside Museum.
- Partick – Interchange with ScotRail and bus services; near the Riverside Museum and Clydeside Expressway.

These stations are part of a circular route with Inner and Outer Circles and all trains stop at all stations.



Public Transport



Bus Routes

Several bus lines run through or terminate in the West End. Common routes include:

- 2 – Runs from Baillieston to Faifley via the city centre and West End.
- 3 – Connects Drumchapel and Govan, passing through the West End.
- 4 / 4a – Runs from Eaglesham or Newton Mearns to Broomhill.
- 6 / 6a – Runs from Clydebank to East Kilbride / Glasgow City Centre.
- 77 – Airport Express service that stops in the West End.
- X76 – Express service from Kilmarnock to Glasgow, with stops near the West End.

Trains

- Partick Station – Major interchange with ScotRail services to and from the city centre, west coast and beyond.
- Hyndland Station – Serves the residential areas of the West End.
- Anniesland Station – Further west but still considered part of the broader West End area.

These stations are served by ScotRail, with frequent trains to Glasgow Central and Queen Street stations.

Educational Facilities

Here's a list of primary schools, secondary schools, and further education institutions located in or serving the West End of Glasgow:

Primary Schools

Some of the most well-known primary schools in the West End include:

- Hyndland Primary School
- Hillhead Primary School
- Notre Dame Primary School
- Broomhill Primary School
- Kelvindale Primary School
- Thornwood Primary School
- St Charles' Primary School
- Corpus Christi Primary School

These schools are a mix of non-denominational and Roman Catholic institutions and many are highly regarded for their academic standards and community involvement.



Educational Facilities



Secondary Schools

- Hyndland Secondary School – Non-denominational, with a strong academic reputation.
- Notre Dame High School – Roman Catholic girls' school, recently opened to boys as well.
- Hillhead High School – Diverse and centrally located, near the University of Glasgow.
- Knightswood Secondary School – Slightly west of the traditional West End, includes the Dance School of Scotland.



Further Education

- University of Glasgow – One of the UK's oldest and most prestigious universities, offering a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
- Glasgow Clyde College (Anniesland Campus) – Offers vocational courses, apprenticeships, and access to higher education.
- City of Glasgow College – While its main campuses are in the city centre, many West End residents attend for further education and training.

Parks and Leisure

Here's a list of just some of the parks and leisure activities in the West End of Glasgow, perfect for both locals and visitors looking to enjoy the area's vibrant culture and green spaces.

Park and Green Spaces

Kelvingrove Park

- A large Victorian park with riverside walks, monuments, and views of the University of Glasgow. Home to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum.

Glasgow Botanic Gardens

- Famous for its Kibble Palace glasshouse and themed gardens.

Victoria Park

- Located slightly west of the traditional West End, known for its ponds and floral displays.

Fossil Grove

- A unique geological site within Victoria Park featuring fossilized tree stumps over 300 million years old.

The River Kelvin Walkway

- A scenic walking and cycling route that connects Kelvingrove Park to the Botanic Gardens and beyond.



Parks and Leisure



West End Festival

- Glasgow's largest cultural festival, held every June, features parades, live music, theatre, art exhibitions, and family-friendly events across the West End.

Bard in the Botanics

- Scotland's premier Shakespeare festival, held in the Botanic Gardens during summer.

Kelvingrove Bandstand Events

- Restored open-air venue in Kelvingrove Park hosting concerts, film nights, and community events.

Ashton Lane

- A cobbled backstreet near Byres Road filled with bars, restaurants, and a vintage cinema (Grosvenor Cinema).

Riverside Museum & Tall Ship

- Located near Partick, this award-winning transport museum is great for families and history lovers.

Hillhead Bookclub & Òran Mór

- Popular venues for live music, comedy, and club nights, often housed in quirky or historic buildings.

Bars, Cafes and Restaurants

The West End of Glasgow is a culinary hotspot, offering a rich mix of cafés, bars, and restaurants that cater to a wide range of tastes, budgets, and dining styles. Here's just a glimpse of what's on offer:

Cafes

The West End is dotted with charming cafés, perfect for brunch, coffee dates or remote work:

- Kember & Jones – Artisan coffee, fresh baking, and deli-style lunches.
- Papercup Coffee – Specialty coffee roasters with minimalist vibes.
- Tantrum Doughnuts – Gourmet doughnuts and great coffee.
- Zique's – A relaxed café with a focus on fresh, seasonal ingredients.
- The Hidden Lane Tearoom – Quirky and vintage, ideal for afternoon tea.

Restaurants

There is a diverse range of cuisines and dining styles in the West End:

- Ubiquitous Chip – A West End institution offering fine Scottish cuisine in a lush courtyard setting.



Bars, Cafes and Restaurants



- Stravaigin – Globally inspired dishes with a Scottish twist.
- The Bothy – Seasonal Scottish cuisine with a focus on traditional cooking styles.
- The Gannet – High-end seasonal tasting menus with local ingredients.
- Crabshakk – Intimate seafood spot with oysters, crab and fish specials.
- The Finnieston – Stylish seafood and gin bar with a focus on sustainability.
- Mister Singh's India – Indian cuisine with a Glaswegian flair.
- Bibimbap West End – Korean street food in a vibrant setting.
- Sushi Ya – Authentic Japanese sushi and bento boxes.
- Cafe Andaluz – Spanish tapas in a lively, colourful setting.
- Cubatas – Contemporary Spanish dining with a relaxed vibe.
- Eusebi Deli – Italian café and restaurant with fresh pasta and deli goods.
- La Lanterna West End – Traditional Italian with a modern touch.



Bars & Pubs

- Òran Mór – Bar, brasserie, and arts venue in a converted church.
- The 78 – Vegan-friendly bar with craft beers and live DJs.
- Kelvingrove Café – Elegant cocktails and small plates.
- The Belle – Classic West End pub with a warm, rustic feel.
- The Grosvenor Café – Trendy bar with a cinema and private karaoke rooms.

What The Locals Say



Having lived in the West End for almost 20 years, it is the perfect blend of a village feel in the bustling city that is Glasgow. Living close to the Botanic Gardens, I am spoiled for choice when it comes to going for a walk: heading into the Botanics and down along the River Kelvin along to Kelvingrove Park, before heading towards Glasgow University, taking in the gorgeous greenery and architecture.

Take yourself along any of the lanes, streets and avenues, where the choice of cafes, bars and restaurants is second to none. There is always something going on, from Plays in the Botanics to the array of festivals that happen throughout the year. I couldn't think of a better place to live.



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