



# GLASGOW WELCOME GUIDE



UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



UK Government

PEOPLE  
MAKE  
GLASGOW

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## COVID-19

Glasgow is ready and looking forward to welcoming delegates and visitors from around the world to experience our famous hospitality. However, we all remain in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and it is important for everyone to enjoy our city safely and responsibly. Our businesses, retailers and hospitality venues have been complying with health protection requirements throughout and we ask visitors to play their part too. You can do this by remaining cautious and following official guidance on precautionary measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 including practising good hand hygiene, physical distancing where possible, wearing a face covering where mandatory (unless exempt) and regular testing. The most up-to-date advice and guidance from the Scottish Government can be [found here](#)



Welcome to Glasgow, proud host city of the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Glasgow is a city transformed - a city which continues to embrace change as it rises to the challenges of its past and seizes the opportunities for its future.

A cradle of the Industrial Revolution, Glasgow's geography and proximity to natural resources turned a small port city on the banks of the River Clyde into the workshop of the world - building the ships and machinery which enabled an empire.

The demise of our shipyards and factories in the last century heralded a turbulent period of our history.

But we re-emerged as a vibrant, outward-looking, diverse and dynamic city playing our part on the international stage. The Glasgow of the 21st century is again a centre of innovation and invention.

We are becoming a global leader in new, low carbon economies within digital, science and technology, as well as life sciences and precision medicine.

Home to internationally-recognised universities we have a large professional and skilled talent base supported by learning institutions which both attract and retain that talent. Our affordability

gives Glasgow real appeal among millennials, whilst our creative industries continually demonstrate a capacity for nurturing leading-edge ideas. From sport, arts, culture and nightlife to the unique character of our citizens, the world again knows Glasgow - a city to visit, to do business with or to make your home.

As our city welcomes the world's leaders to - we hope - agree the pathway to a safer, cleaner and more just future for everyone, COP26 can become the defining moment for our planet - as it can for its host city.

COP26 is Glasgow's opportunity to showcase itself as an ambitious city, a city again embracing the change upon which all our future well-being depends - and drawing on our spirit of innovation and social justice to build better lives and better places for all of our citizens.

I extend a warm Glasgow welcome to each of you and wish you a wonderful visit to this great city where you will experience our renowned hospitality and friendliness.

The climate emergency really is the issue of our times. Glasgow can show the world we are becoming the city of our times on the issue of our times.

Cllr Susan Aitken  
Leader,  
Glasgow City Council



# INTRODUCING GLASGOW

Glasgow is a city of culture, bursting with activity and experiences, with a refreshingly down-to-earth personality.

This year the city claimed the number 1 spot in Condé Nast Traveller's '12 best UK city breaks to take in 2021.' The list, compiled by the editors of the travel magazine, highlighted Glasgow's wide-open outdoor spaces, architecture and nightlife, and celebrated the city's can-do attitude and ability to flourish.

The city also enjoys a reputation for friendliness. When Time Out Magazine named Glasgow as one of their 'top ten best destinations in the world for 2019', they also named the city as 'first for friendliness'. People really do make Glasgow.

Glasgow is a city of architectural grandeur, with some of the UK's best-preserved Victorian architecture. The city is also home to one of Europe's largest civic art collections, with more than 20 world-class museums and art galleries, many of which are free to visit. And with more Turner Prize winners and nominees than any other UK city, Glasgow also has an acclaimed contemporary art scene. The city's mural trail means you can even enjoy art as you stroll around the city.

Glasgow is the UK's largest retail centre outside of London. Buchanan Street is the main pedestrianised shopping area,

connecting Sauchiehall Street and Argyle Street, all lined with the big high street names. Ingram Street in the Merchant City is known as the designer boulevard, while the city's neighbourhoods are home to some amazing independent shops.

Glasgow's eating and drinking scene is vibrant, with food and drink available to suit all tastes and pockets. The city was recently named as one of the 'top 5 cities for food and drink in the UK' (May 2021) by members of Which? magazine. The accolade describes Glasgow's food scene as "cool and unpretentious... vibrant but inexpensive". Ashton Lane is singled out as a great spot for charming restaurants, while Finnieston is mentioned for its inventive dining options.

With over 90 parks and gardens, it is no wonder that Glasgow is known as the Dear Green Place. Scotland's stunning scenery seeps into Glasgow in rolling hills, expansive country parks, woodland walks and even Highland cattle.

Glasgow is the gateway to Scotland's great outdoors, with beaches, castles and rugged coastlines to discover. Experience unmissable day trips less than an hour away – from historic Stirling to the breath-taking bonnie banks of Loch Lomond, there are legends and adventures of epic proportions awaiting you.

[peoplemakeglasgow.com](https://peoplemakeglasgow.com)



# WHY GLASGOW?



The name Glasgow derives from ancient Celtic words meaning 'place of the green hollow' or 'dear green place', and we believe our city is the perfect location to host a sustainable and inclusive COP.

Glasgow has set a target for carbon neutrality by 2030, aims to be one of the greenest cities in Europe through its Sustainable Glasgow partnership, and is 4th in the world in the Global Destination Sustainability Index.

Glasgow is also working towards an EarthCheck certification – a UK first that will further bolster the city's tangible commitment to addressing environmental regeneration and improvement. EarthCheck is the world's leading scientific benchmarking, certification and advisory group for travel and tourism, helping deliver clean, safe, prosperous and healthy places for people to visit, as well as to live, work and bring up children.

COP26 offers a unique opportunity for Glasgow to push itself harder to achieve its own ambitions on sustainability, and to engage its communities in an ongoing civic conversation about carbon and climate.

Our city has a proven track record of hosting major events on the international stage. The 2014 Commonwealth Games and the Glasgow 2018 European Championships are two examples from the past decade.

Bisected by the River Clyde, surrounded by beautiful countryside and furnished with more than its fair share of parks, Glasgow will inspire visitors to tackle climate change and protect the planet for future generations.



# WHY COP26 MATTERS TO GLASGOW

As world leaders, delegates, activists and visitors gather in Glasgow for COP26 the eyes of the world are focused on our city. The conference is undoubtedly the most complex event ever hosted by Scotland and the UK.

Originally scheduled for 2020, COP26 was postponed while the world responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. The extra year has given the organisers, the United Nations, the UK Government and the host city time to redesign operational plans. We're now able to deliver an in-person COP in which all countries can participate on an equal footing. With many parties feeling that negotiations should be in person, this has been an important consideration.

While COP26 has been deferred by a year, the climate crisis has not. As the world continues to respond to the global pandemic, the climate emergency rages on, impacting our city, nation and planet, and causing tangible changes to people's lives.



The key aim of this event is to safeguard the future of the planet and its inhabitants from global warming, and to ensure that the Paris commitments to keeping global temperature rises below 1.5 degrees centigrade are maintained. It will now be even more pertinent in charting a new global course, as the world looks to recover from the pandemic and to reconstruct a cleaner, greener economy.

Glasgow's focus for COP26 is on supporting and delivering a safe and successful event. We will achieve this by keeping the city moving and open for business, supporting the appropriate public health measures, and delivering a legacy for the city. A successful COP will help to reset our planetary trajectory onto a safer, more just course, thereby adding the name of Glasgow to that of Paris in the global lexicon of climate progress.

As host city we have a globally significant opportunity to promote and accelerate our own transition to carbon neutrality, building a cleaner, greener and fairer future as we look to create healthier neighbourhoods and improve the lives of our citizens.

Glasgow declared a climate emergency in May 2019, and has built upon that early acknowledgement with a set of ambitious recommendations from its own cross-party climate emergency group. These measures mean that the city is not just hosting this vital event, but also playing its part in delivering on the national commitments needed for a successful COP.

Glasgow is using its host-city status to focus local work on reducing emissions and becoming climate resilient, with a just transition for Glaswegian workers and communities at the heart of this transformation. We are engaging with businesses, agencies and residents, and taking Glasgow out to the world as we welcome the world to our city.

# GLASGOW CITY REGION

There's plenty to see and do in Glasgow's surrounding area. Our neighbouring regions of East Dunbartonshire, East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire have lots to offer. Each of the areas that make up the region have a unique story to tell.

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

To the west of the city of Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire has a great deal to offer the visitor.

A short train journey will take you to Balloch, on the 'bonnie banks' of beautiful Loch Lomond, where you can enjoy a boat cruise, set out on a hike or just take a stroll through the Country Park. Perched on a commanding plug of volcanic rock, Dumbarton Castle has the longest recorded history of any stronghold in Scotland. Other local attractions include the Auchentoshan distillery, BBC film studios, the Scottish Maritime Museum, quality shopping, fine formal gardens and stunning scenery. Easily accessible by public transport or bike from Glasgow, West Dunbartonshire is the ideal day trip destination.



## NORTH LANARKSHIRE

Take time to visit North Lanarkshire, just a few miles from Glasgow city centre, and enjoy some fresh air and truly stunning locations.

Strathclyde Country Park is one of Scotland's most popular visitor attractions. Take a walk or cycle around the loch while watching the rowers, and follow in the footsteps of the Roman Legions at the remains of Bothwellhaugh Fort, where you'll see evidence of a bath house as well as an ancient arched bridge.

The Roman theme continues at the Antonine Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site stretching across central Scotland and easily accessible between Castlecary and Croy. Visit the wall on foot from Auchinstarry Marina, where there's an outdoor activity centre, or stroll along the canal towpath.

At Summerlee Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, in Coatbridge, you will step back in time on Scotland's only operational heritage tramway, and visit a vividly recreated mine. The nearby 500-acre Drumpellier Country Park has two natural lochs, woodlands, pathways and play areas, and is home to wildlife of all kinds.

To find out more about the many attractions on offer in North Lanarkshire, go to [VisitLanarkshire.com](https://www.visitlanarkshire.com).

## SOUTH LANARKSHIRE

To the West of Glasgow, South Lanarkshire boasts a rich heritage of history, industry and agriculture. New Lanark, an 18th century planned village, is now a World Heritage Site, with a visitor centre, hotel, shop and restaurant. Other heritage attractions include the Chatelherault Country Park with its hunting lodge by William Adam, the Low Parks Museum, and the five-star National Museum of Rural Life. The David Livingstone Birthplace visitor centre in Blantyre has recently benefited from a £9m upgrade.

If you're seeking a more natural escape, South Lanarkshire has impressive country parks such as the popular Calderglen Country Park in East Kilbride, as well as a vast and beautiful rural landscape.

Many South Lanarkshire attractions are easily accessed using train and bus connections, and there's an extensive network of walking and cycling routes.

For more information on the region please log onto: [VisitLanarkshire.com](https://www.visitlanarkshire.com)



## INVERCLYDE

One of Scotland's smallest regions, Inverclyde extends a very big welcome. Sitting at the mouth of the Clyde ('Inver' comes from a Gaelic word for river mouth) it's made up of three thriving towns; Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock, together with the villages of Kilmacolm & Quarrier's Village to the East, and Inverkip & Wemyss Bay to the West.

The area's rich history of shipbuilding and seafaring date back at least to the 1500s, while Greenock was the birthplace of the engineer and inventor James Watt, as well as the site of the original Burns Mother Club, where the Burns Supper tradition began.

Our area offers a broad range of sports and leisure facilities, both indoors and outdoors, a great variety of arts and culture activities and wide open spaces to enjoy and explore.



## RENFREWSHIRE

Renfrewshire is the destination for authentic experiences and unexplored gems.

Home to Paisley, one-time centre of the global textile trade as the iconic Pattern took its name around the world, the area's rich history reaches back further to medieval Scottish heroes Sir William Wallace and King Robert the Bruce. With a rich musical heritage and a thriving cultural scene, Scotland's largest town is always worth a visit.

With more fascinating towns and villages to explore across the area, plenty of rolling countryside – including Scotland's largest regional park – and a rich selection of places to stay, from the luxurious to the adventurous, Renfrewshire is waiting for you.

## EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

To the northwest of Glasgow, East Dunbartonshire is an area of great natural beauty beginning on the edge of the city.

The Campsie Fells and the Kilpatrick Hills provide a scenic backdrop, while Lennox Forest and Mugdock Park offer large open spaces close to busy commuter towns. The famous, 154km West Highland Way begins – or ends – in the heart of the town of Milngavie, while the Strathkelvin Railway Walkway and Thomas Muir Way follow the Allander and Glazert Waters. The Forth and Clyde Canal and River Kelvin complete the greenspace network.

There's a great deal to enjoy in East Dunbartonshire's great outdoors, including golf, fishing, sailing, rambling, cycling and wildlife watching. As for heritage and history, a large section of the Antonine Wall falls within East Dunbartonshire, and the remains of a 2nd century bath house can be seen in Bearsden.



## EAST RENFREWSHIRE

Modest in area, East Renfrewshire packs a huge variety of countryside, quaint villages and vibrant towns into a compact package. Sandwiched between the city of Glasgow, Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire, 'East Ren' – as it's known by locals – is home to Whitelee, the UK's biggest onshore wind farm. Whitelee has hundreds of kilometres of trails to explore on foot or by bicycle, plus a great visitor centre and café. Other attractions include the National Trust for Scotland's Greenbank House and Gardens, and the award-winning Rouken Glen Park. There are also some lovely walks around Dams to Darnley Country Park, while our towns and villages throng with independent shops, restaurants and cafés.

# SCOTLAND

Glasgow is the perfect gateway to explore Scotland. Just half an hour from the city centre, you will find yourself a world away from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Historic sites, seaside villages, majestic castles, quaint whisky distilleries, towering mountains and tranquil lochs... it's all here to discover!

- Discover the historic city of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city
- Experience the mesmerising beauty of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park
- Explore the stunning Ayrshire coast and set sail for the Isle of Arran
- Take a tour of Stirling Castle, one of Scotland's most historically important sites
- Visit the award-winning, restored 18th century cotton-mill village of New Lanark
- Head for the beautiful coastal town of Oban and set sail for Argyll & The Isles

For more information or to plan your next trip take a look at: [visitscotland.com](https://visitscotland.com)



## GLASGOW IN THE GREEN ZONE

Come and meet Team Glasgow in the Green Zone at Glasgow Science Centre from 1-12 November. Youth groups, civil society, academia, artists and businesses from across the UK and all over the world will be hosting events, exhibitions, cultural performances, workshops and talks. With over 100 exhibitors, 200 events and 11 sponsors taking over the space, there will be amazing opportunities to listen, learn and celebrate climate action.

The Green Zone is open to the public from 09:00-18:00. Day tickets can be booked [here](#): Tickets are free of charge.

Glasgow's space in the Green Zone is located in the Clyde Suite on the ground floor of the venue. There will be a number of city partners represented on the Glasgow stand, with Sustainable Glasgow, Invest Glasgow and the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce all participating.

For the latest updates from the Green Zone, follow the COP26 Instagram account [@Cop26UK](#).

One of the key elements of the Green Zone exhibitions will be a dedicated COP26 Google Arts and Culture site. This 'Digital Green Zone' will give the public all over the world a chance to see what's on display. This will be made available via a live stream on the [COP26 YouTube Channel](#).



# SUSTAINABLE GLASGOW

The Sustainable Glasgow partnership aims to make this city one of the greenest in Europe.

The partnership, formed in 2010, is made up of organisations from across the city. It aims to make Glasgow a world-leading centre for sustainable policy, innovation and action. The partnership's diverse projects are improving quality of life, boosting the economy and protecting the environment.

Through this joint effort we have taken crucial steps towards reaching our climate ambitions, applying comprehensive policy and innovative solutions in response to the climate emergency. The original Sustainable Glasgow Plan set out the city's ambition to reduce emissions by 30% by 2020. It has also been influential in the creation of the Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre, Cathkin Wind Turbine, several district heating networks, and extensive electric vehicle infrastructure and solar PV roll-out. Recently the partnership has been crucial in the development of Glasgow's Climate Plan, Circular Economy Routemap, Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, and Climate Charter, for which more information can be found on our website detailed below.

The Sustainable Glasgow Climate Charter is a commitment by leading businesses and employers in Scotland's largest city to contribute to a green recovery and radically reduce the city's carbon emissions. These policies will help guide our long-term planning, and will showcase Glasgow as a leading city on climate change. We believe this will encourage external investment while helping to ensure we meet our 2030 net-zero carbon target.

Glasgow successfully achieved its 30% target five years early in 2015, and is now making great progress in reaching net-zero carbon by 2030, as set out in the Glasgow Climate Plan. We look forward to showcasing the work of the Sustainable Glasgow partnership to a global audience at COP26.



[sustainableglasgow.org.uk](https://sustainableglasgow.org.uk)

# INVEST GLASGOW

Invest Glasgow is the Investment Promotion Agency for our city. It acts as a single point of contact for investors, and promotes Glasgow as one of the most business-friendly locations in the UK and Europe.

Working closely with partners including Scottish Enterprise, Scottish Development International, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and the City Council, Invest Glasgow is helping to steer a number of major business initiatives:

**Greenprint for Investment** is a £30 billion portfolio of climate-friendly projects. Contributing to Scotland's Net-Zero goals, the projects include a new Glasgow Metro, district heating systems, a home energy retrofit programme, and the upscaling of the Clyde Climate Forest by 9,000 hectares. The prospectus offers a mix of market-ready opportunities for private capital, and radical projects for longer-term partnership.

**Zoomprospector Glasgow** is an innovative site selection tool and online database of commercial properties, development sites and infrastructure assets. It provides sophisticated analysis of data, and allows in-depth research for investors, 24/7.

**The Glasgow Narrative** is an interactive e-book detailing reasons to invest and locate in Glasgow. Alongside Glasgow's wider appeal - including lifestyle, culture and history - the Narrative explains, in ten key points, why our city is such an attractive business location in the new, green economy.

For more information on all of the above visit our website.



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



# GLASGOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Established in 1783 under Royal Charter, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce is the trusted and influential voice of business in the Glasgow city region. Dedicated to championing Glasgow business and supporting its members, Glasgow Chamber has been at the heart of the city's response to the climate emergency, driving business innovations and circularity to help the city progress towards its ambitious target of becoming a carbon neutral city by 2030.

For the past five years, Circular Glasgow, an initiative of Glasgow Chamber, has played an integral role in helping business to future proof through technology, design and adopting circular economy business models. By adopting circular economy strategies and encouraging businesses to collaborate and share knowledge, Circular Glasgow shows businesses how to create a competitive advantage for target markets and tomorrow's consumers.



To recognise the significance of COP26 and building on their work to date, Glasgow Chamber has established Glasgow Climate Chamber, designed to assist businesses to begin or progress their own green or circular ambitions.

During COP26, Glasgow Chamber will showcase the city's ability to innovate and collaborate to drive change as lead partner of 'Plate up for Glasgow'; a campaign funded by Experience Glasgow Food and Drink Regional Group.

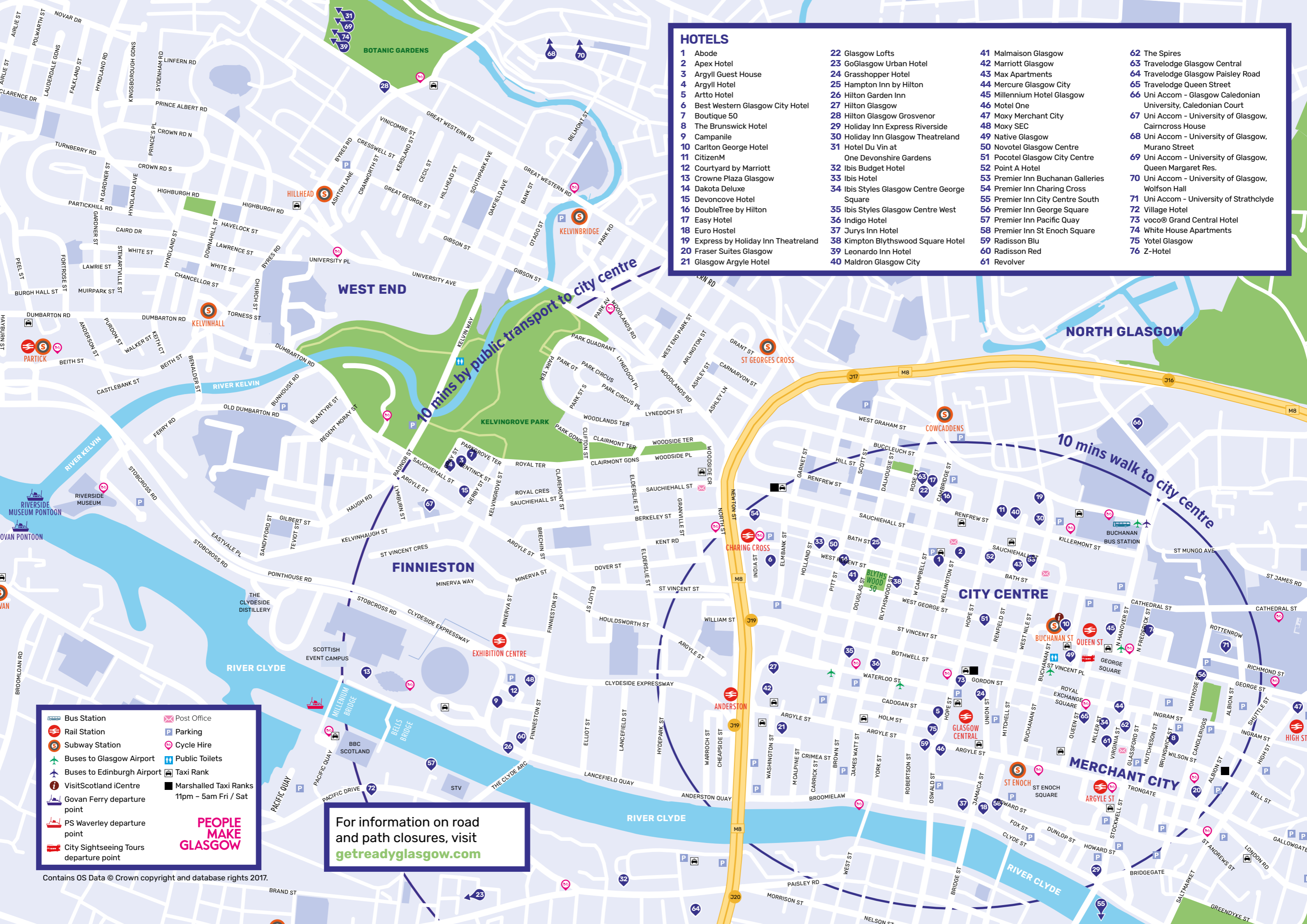
[Plate up for Glasgow](#) is an industry-led campaign which highlights and encourages hospitality businesses to act upon the global issue of food waste and its impact on climate change. Challenging the traditional and wasteful dining and takeaway business models with the goal of sending as little organic waste as possible to landfill, it is hoped that businesses can rebuild the local economy, while collaborating on how to become more sustainable and profitable.

To ensure an education legacy for COP26, Glasgow Chamber is proud to support [My Climate Path](#). Created by Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Glasgow, My Climate Path enables young people to develop the skills required to enter the green and circular jobs of the future.

Looking beyond COP26 in November, My Climate Path will provide a range of opportunities for businesses who are taking demonstrable action towards tackling the climate emergency to share knowledge and experience with young people and ultimately aid in the creation of sustainable growth within a circular and a net-zero economy.

**GLASGOW**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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



**HOTELS**

- 1 Abode

2 Apex Hotel

3 Argyll Guest House

4 Argyll Hotel

5 Artto Hotel

6 Best Western Glasgow City Hotel

7 Boutique 50

8 The Brunswick Hotel

9 Campanile

10 Carlton George Hotel

11 CitizenM

12 Courtyard by Marriott

13 Crowne Plaza Glasgow

14 Dakota Deluxe

15 Devoncove Hotel

16 DoubleTree by Hilton

17 Easy Hotel

18 Euro Hostel

19 Express by Holiday Inn Theatreland

20 Fraser Suites Glasgow

21 Glasgow Argyll Hotel
- 22 Glasgow Lofts

23 GoGlasgow Urban Hotel

24 Grasshopper Hotel

25 Hampton Inn by Hilton

26 Hilton Garden Inn

27 Hilton Glasgow

28 Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor

29 Holiday Inn Express Riverside

30 Holiday Inn Glasgow Theatreland

31 Hotel Du Vin at One Devonshire Gardens

32 Ibis Budget Hotel

33 Ibis Hotel

34 Ibis Styles Glasgow Centre George Square

35 Ibis Styles Glasgow Centre West

36 Indigo Hotel

37 Jurys Inn Hotel

38 Kimpton Blythswood Square Hotel

39 Leonardo Inn Hotel

40 Maldron Glasgow City
- 41 Malmaison Glasgow

42 Marriott Glasgow

43 Max Apartments

44 Mercure Glasgow City

45 Millennium Hotel Glasgow

46 Motel One

47 Moxy Merchant City

48 Moxy SEC

49 Native Glasgow

50 Novotel Glasgow Centre

51 Pocotel Glasgow City Centre

52 Point A Hotel

53 Premier Inn Buchanan Galleries

54 Premier Inn Charing Cross

55 Premier Inn City Centre South

56 Premier Inn George Square

57 Premier Inn Pacific Quay

58 Premier Inn St Enoch Square

59 Radisson Blu

60 Radisson Red

61 Revolver
- 62 The Spires

63 Travelodge Glasgow Central

64 Travelodge Glasgow Paisley Road

65 Travelodge Queen Street

66 Uni Accom - Glasgow Caledonian University, Caledonian Court

67 Uni Accom - University of Glasgow, Cairncross House

68 Uni Accom - University of Glasgow, Murano Street

69 Uni Accom - University of Glasgow, Queen Margaret Res.

70 Uni Accom - University of Glasgow, Wolfson Hall

71 Uni Accom - University of Strathclyde

72 Village Hotel

73 voco® Grand Central Hotel

74 White House Apartments

75 Yotel Glasgow

76 Z-Hotel

Bus Station

Rail Station

Subway Station

Buses to Glasgow Airport

Buses to Edinburgh Airport

VisitScotland iCentre

Govan Ferry departure point

PS Waverley departure point

City Sightseeing Tours departure point

Post Office

Parking

Cycle Hire

Public Toilets

Taxi Rank

Marshallled Taxi Ranks 11pm - 5am Fri / Sat

For information on road and path closures, visit [getreadyglasgow.com](https://www.getreadyglasgow.com)

# 30 GREEN GLASGOW FAST FACTS

Glasgow has pledged to become the UK's first Net Zero carbon city by 2030.

The **Glasgow Climate Plan** is the city's flagship sustainability policy, which sets out its green ambitions and response to the global climate and ecological emergency. Here are 30 reasons why the city is on track to meet its aspirations:



**5.** **Pollok Park** is Glasgow's largest park and the city's only Country Park. Its extensive woodlands and gardens provide a quiet sanctuary for both visitors and wildlife, including the city's herd of Highland Cattle. It is also the verdant setting for the world-renowned Burrell Collection, which will re-open in 2022, and Pollok House.

**1.** Glasgow comes from the Gaelic word 'Glaschu' meaning "**Dear Green Place**" and the city more than lives up to its name with over 90 parks and gardens, eight of which have won the UK's coveted Green Flag award. At 32%, Glasgow has the second largest proportion of **green space** for its residents of any European city.

**2.** It is predicted that there will be **£1.5 billion of new investments in low-carbon and renewable energy fields** in Glasgow in the next 10 years. The Glasgow region has over 12,000 renewable energy sites, producing nearly 4,000,000 MWh of energy annually – more than any other UK city (UK govt. statistics, where a "site" is an individual public or private location or scheme that produces renewable energy, such as a windfarm or PV installation).

**3.** Among more than 500 global cities, **Glasgow is the city least vulnerable to the effects of climate change** and has the 4th lowest exposure to environmental risks overall.

**4.** The **People Make Glasgow Greener** strategy sets out plans and vision to see the city move from 'steam, to green' – more information at the **Glasgow Sustainable Policy and Action Plan**.

**6.** **Third most green place to work and live in the UK:** Glasgow **was ranked against other cities** on the supply of environmentally friendly office space; ultra-low emissions vehicle usage; access to electric vehicle charging stations; supply of cycle parking spaces at rail stations and air quality.

**7.** **Sustainable Glasgow** is a ground-breaking partnership which aims to position Glasgow as a leading city in the development of the green and wider circular economy.

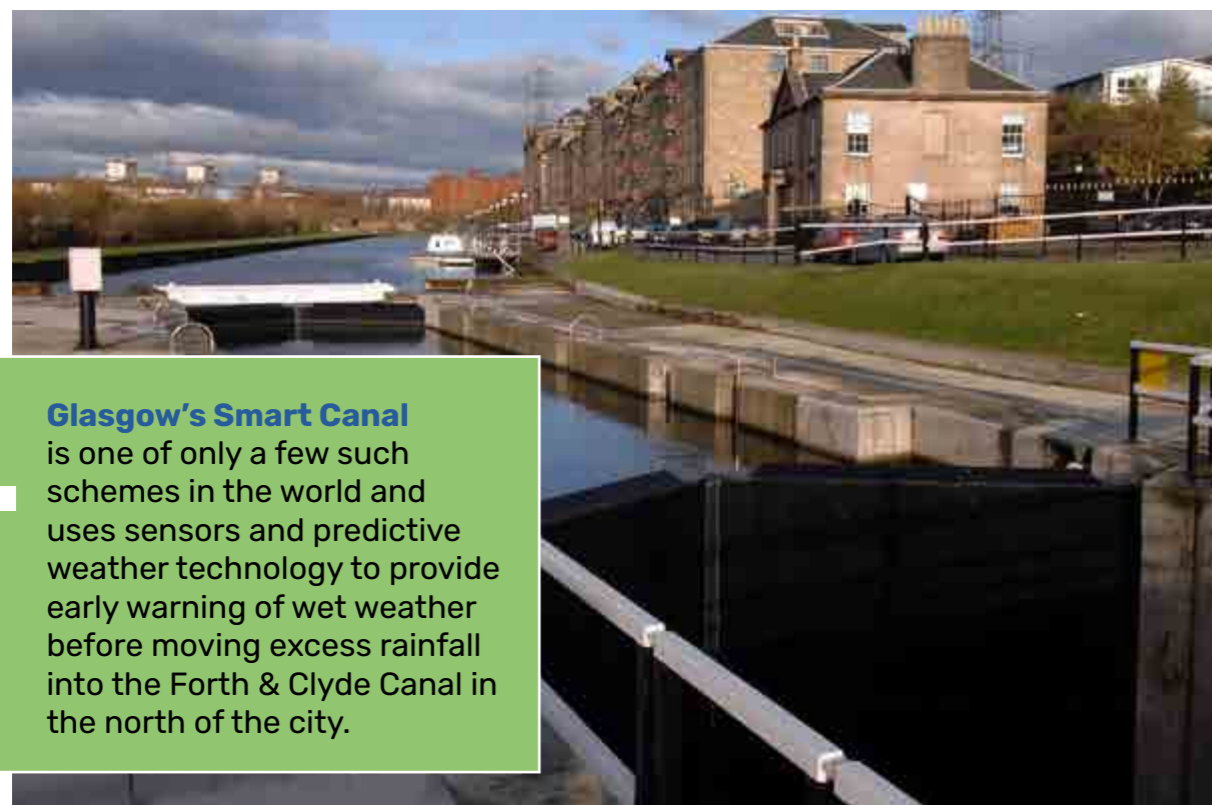
**8.** **Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter** launched in June 2021: By encouraging and supporting businesses from across Glasgow to commit to sustainable business practices, the Sustainable Glasgow Business Charter will help support the city's **Climate Plan** and its target to be net-zero carbon by 2030 and one of the most sustainable in Europe.

**9.** The **£154 million Glasgow Recycling and Renewable Energy Centre** takes 90% of the waste that would have gone to landfill and turns it into renewable electricity, making a substantial contribution to the decarbonisation of Glasgow's electricity. The world-leading waste processing plant was built through a joint venture between Viridor and Glasgow City Council. The plant also has options to connect to future heat networks being planned in the city and will be a key piece of infrastructure in the city's race to be net-zero carbon by 2030.

**10.** In 2017, **Glasgow Convention Bureau** became the first ever Convention Bureau to win a **Green Tourism Award** and was the first convention bureau in the world to join **Tourism Declares**, which launched in January 2020 as a voluntary initiative to align tourism and travel with the target to cut global emissions in half by 2030.

**11.** Glasgow is ranked the **4th most sustainable conference destination** in the world and the only UK city to be included in the Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index). Prior to the pandemic, Glasgow hosted 20 energy, sustainability and low carbon industry-related conferences over a 24-month period; boosting the city's economy by more than £23 million. The city has a growing reputation for business and academic excellence in the energy, sustainability and low carbon industries and as a result, is attracting an increasing number of conferences in these fields including, most prominently, **the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26)**.

**12.** **Climate Neutral Innovation District:** an ambitious multi-stakeholder project to create a 100% renewable climate neutral and climate resilient area around Merchant City and High Street, the original birthplace of Glasgow. The partnership brings together a range of innovative measures and interventions that make use of our local natural and physical resources in this part of the city to enable a large-scale transition to be more sustainable and climate ready.



**13.** **Glasgow's Smart Canal** is one of only a few such schemes in the world and uses sensors and predictive weather technology to provide early warning of wet weather before moving excess rainfall into the Forth & Clyde Canal in the north of the city.

**14.** **World's largest fleet of hydrogen powered refuse collection vehicles:** A £10.5million funding package is allowing Glasgow to purchase 19 hydrogen-powered refuse collection vehicles, which means that Glasgow will become home to the largest fleet of hydrogen-powered bin lorries in the world. Glasgow City Council also seeks to create a **fleet of zero emission vehicles** by the end of 2029. More than 100 new electric cars are already in use and work is ongoing to convert up to 20 smaller lorries to dual fuel hydrogen.



**16.** **Progress on social housing:** retaining the best of Glasgow's distinct built heritage of red and golden sandstone tenements, whilst working to ensure it is fit for the future through their retrofit to **Passivhaus standards** - an entirely voluntary building performance standard based around the principle of reducing heating demand to a very low level rather than relying on renewables.

**15.** **Clyde Gateway** in the East End of the city is Scotland's first Green Regeneration Innovation District, assisting a local disadvantaged community to pursue a just response to the climate emergency. It features action on flood risk, energy, green infrastructure and a green economic recovery from the pandemic. Major investment projects on-site or which are completing in tandem with COP, include a £7 million investment in new and regenerated parkland; a £6 million installation of the area's second major district heating system, utilising waste heat from a city sewerage works situated on the banks of the Clyde; and, the £12 million re-purposing of a 19th century gas energy production building into new creative office studios and intended to attract more jobs to the area. Clyde Gateway is also home to a permanent legacy from COP in the form of the 23-metre high 'Hope Sculpture' by the artist Steuart Padwick, which is under construction in a new riverside park built on a former landfill site.

**17.** **The UK Geoenergy Observatory in Glasgow:** an at-scale research infrastructure project comprising 12 boreholes, fenced research compounds and surface monitoring equipment for investigating shallow, low temperature, coal-mine-water heat energy, heat storage resources and environmental change. Results will help in understanding the processes and impacts of this heat source and heat store as a sustainable way of heating homes and businesses in our cities.

**18.** **The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP):** a collaborative partnership helping to sustainably drain the Glasgow city region, better service existing communities, unlock potential development sites and build greater resilience to long-term climate change, ensuring that aspirations for regeneration and growth are supported by improved infrastructure capacity.

**19.** **The Clyde Climate Forest** will see 18 million trees – ten trees per resident – planted in both urban and rural parts of Glasgow City Region over the next decade, delivering a broad range of climate and ecological benefits.



**20.** **Whitelee Windfarm** is the UK's largest onshore windfarm, and the second largest in Europe. Located just 20 minutes from central Glasgow, its 215 turbines generate up to 539 megawatts of electricity, enough to power over 350,000 homes. It is owned and operated by Scottish Power who have pledged to help radically reduce Glasgow's carbon emissions by signing up to become a 'Climate City Champion'.

**21.** **Cathkin Wind Turbine** is a 3MW wind turbine that stands atop the Cathkin Braes, next to the mountain bike track installed for the XX Commonwealth Games in 2014. The turbine was a joint venture between, Glasgow City Council and SSE and provides renewable electricity onto the Glasgow electricity grid, contributing to the decarbonisation of the city's electricity supply.

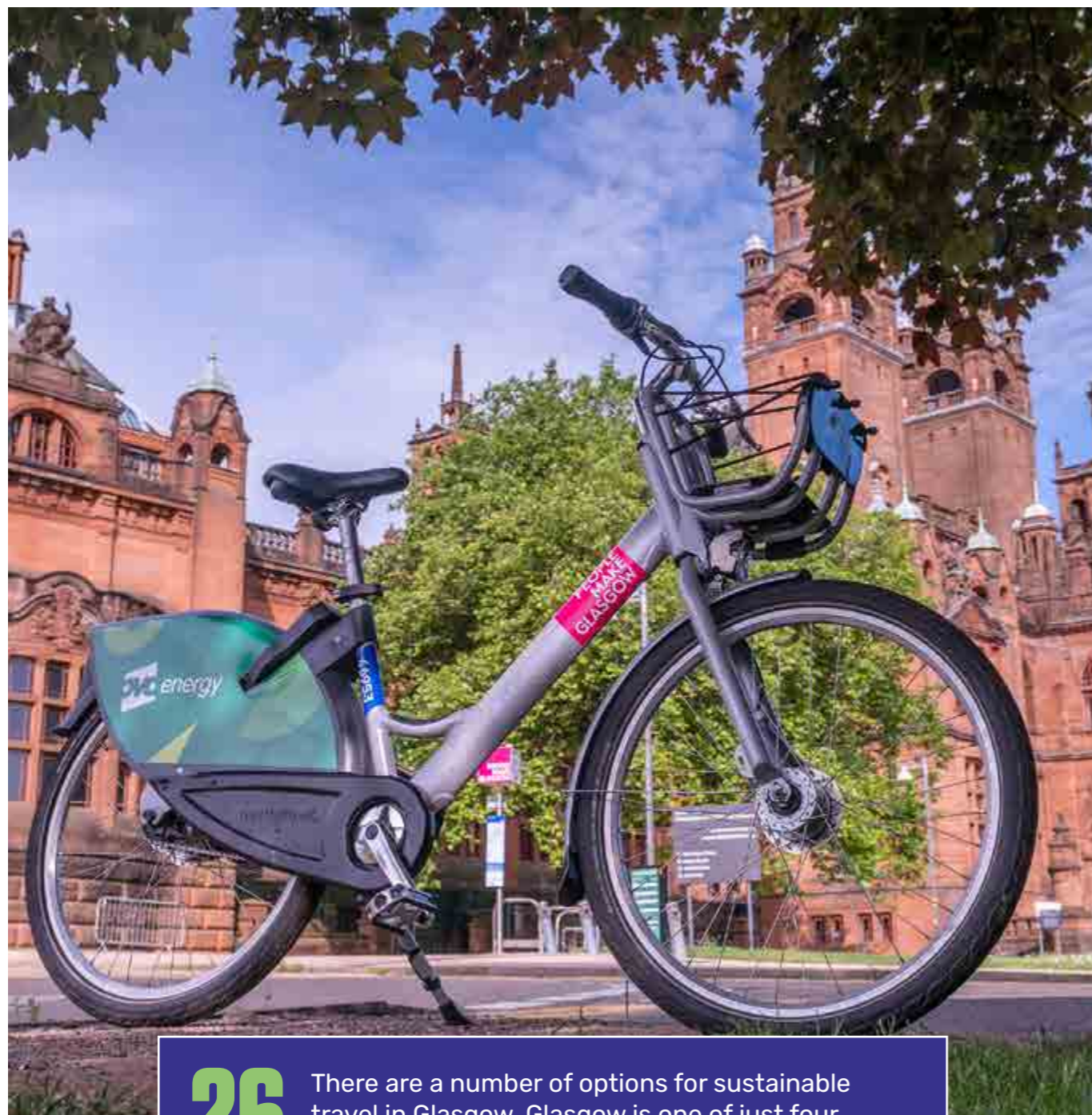
**22.** Glasgow has been investing in **Solar PV** for the last 10 years, with solar arrays on the roofs of social housing, primary schools, office buildings, and soon to be atop multi-storey car parks, providing renewable energy for electric vehicle charging. The city has also partnered with local community energy groups to see solar arrays owned by the community group sited on council buildings, with the energy sold to the council and the revenues used for local community benefit.



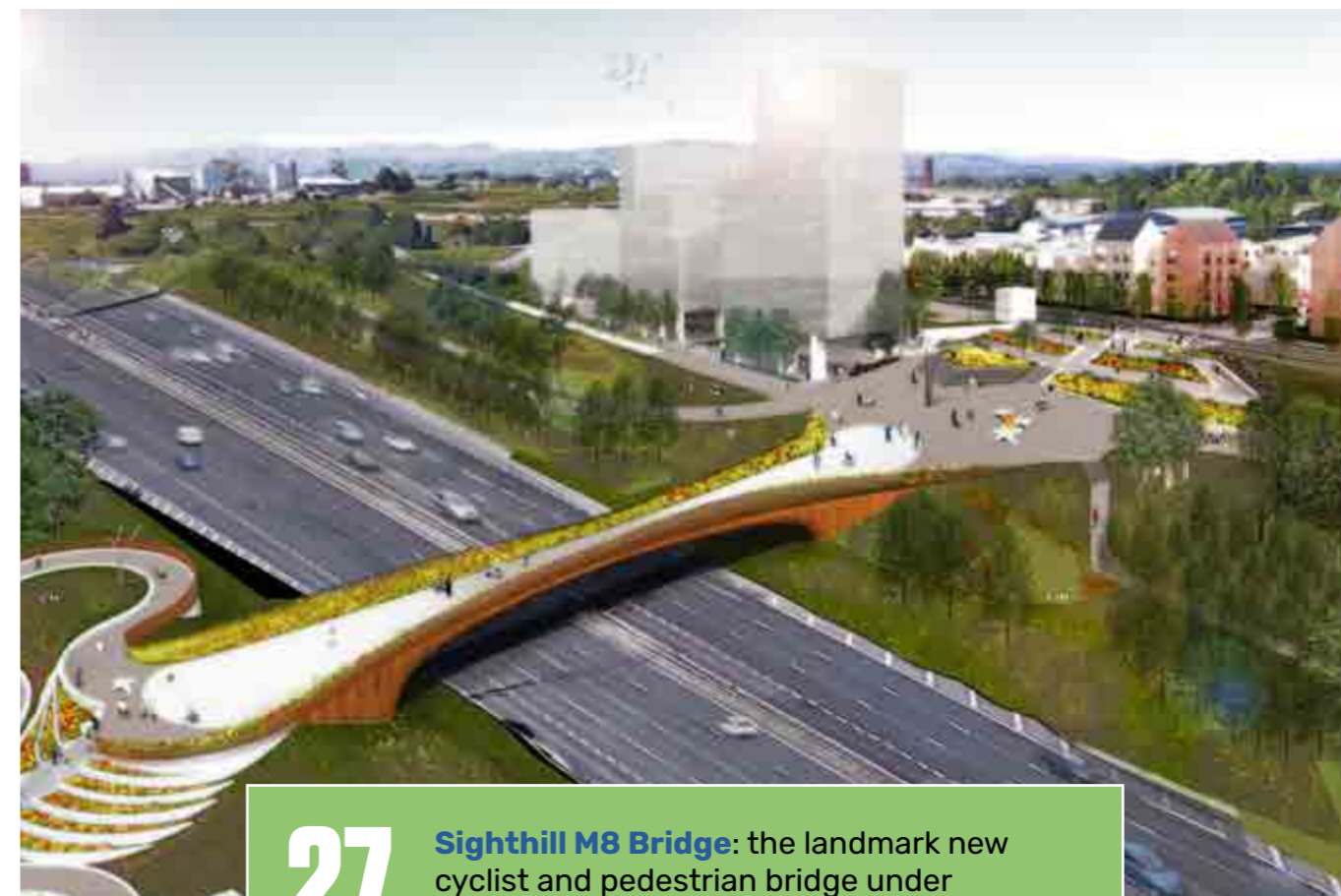
**23.** **Low Emission Zone:** As the first established outside of London, the zone is expected to help to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide and other internal combustion sourced pollutants, which will improve air quality and make Glasgow a cleaner, healthier and more pleasant place to be.

**24.** **177 Bothwell Street Development:** Set to be Glasgow's largest and most sustainable office building, 177 Bothwell Street will be fully electric with zero carbon emissions – powered by 100% renewable energy from a nearby wind-farm.

**25.** **The first 'Net Zero Homes'** of their kind in Scotland are under construction (in Airdrie) utilising advanced construction methods and gas-free energy solutions which combine to reduce carbon emissions arising from lighting, heating, pumps and fans to a rate less than or equal to zero.



**26.** There are a number of options for sustainable travel in Glasgow. Glasgow is one of just four regions to trial a world-leading scheme and was chosen due to high local demand for public Electric Vehicle chargers. Residents can take part in the UK's first on-street smart metering charging EV charging scheme – **Agile Streets** – to save hundreds of pounds a year and support the green energy revolution. In addition, Glasgow city centre is laid out on a compact, grid system making it an incredibly **walkable** destination, with a **cycle hire** scheme offering 500 bikes for public hire at 67 locations across the city for longer journeys.



**27.** **Sighthill M8 Bridge:** the landmark new cyclist and pedestrian bridge under construction over the M8 is forecast to bring significant economic, environmental and social benefits to Sighthill. When completed, this 'Street in the Sky' will provide a new active travel corridor between the city centre, Sighthill and North Glasgow.

**28.** **First City in the UK to sign the Circular Cities Declaration,** which is designed to help accelerate the **transition from a linear to a circular economy in Europe**, and thereby create a resource-efficient, low-carbon and socially responsible society.

**29.** Glasgow is in the process of investing £1.1 billion over 35 years to expand the **Glasgow & Clyde Valley Green Network**.

**30.** **Glasgow City Region** encompasses areas of outstanding natural beauty including Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, part of which lies in West Dunbartonshire; the Campsie Fells located in East Dunbartonshire; Dams to Darnley Country Park in East Renfrewshire; North Lanarkshire's Carron Valley; South Lanarkshire's Leadhills; Gleniffer Braes Country Park in Renfrewshire and Inverclyde's Greenock Cut located within Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park.



During the conference, there will be a vibrant COP city feel in Glasgow with lots of events to enjoy.

Read on for just a flavour of what will be going on in the city.

From 1-12 November, the COP26 Green Zone will be open to the public at the Glasgow Science Centre. Youth groups, civil society, academia, artists and businesses from across the UK and all over the world will be hosting events, exhibitions, cultural performances, workshops and talks. Tickets are free of charge and available to [book here](#).

You can explore the projects that make Glasgow a world centre for sustainable policy, innovation and action in the [Sustainable Glasgow Storymap](#).

From vertical farming to Passivhaus technologies, via sustainable power generation and active travel solutions, you are invited to explore the exhibitions and join in an exciting programme of events, performances and knowledge sharing at [The Sustainable Glasgow Landing site](#).

You can also find out about events happening in Glasgow around COP26 from the '[Events at COP26](#)' app which is

available to download from the Apple and Google App stores.

The [Climate Action Innovation Zone](#) will be based at Cessnock Quay. Organised by Climate Action in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, it will place innovation and investment at the heart of COP26 to accelerate the pathway to net zero and achieve a just transition.

The [New York Times Climate Hub](#) is a physical and virtual space where influential leaders and thinkers join forces with the wider community to debate, discuss and discover actionable climate strategies.

The [Climate Fringe](#) events calendar includes civil society-led events inside and outside COP.

Located in the City Chambers, the Host City Zone will build on Glasgow's sustainability ambitions and act as a hub that allows the city to engage with a wide range of partners through a programme of curated events. This activity will not only be an important legacy opportunity for Glasgow, but it will also help reinforce the city's position as a world leader in the race to net zero and a place where green business can be done.

# USEFUL INFORMATION

Here's some information that might be helpful when you visit Glasgow.

## Travel and Transport

During COP26, it's important to be prepared and plan ahead wherever possible. Certain days during the event are likely to be busier than others and to keep the city safely open for business and moving, you are advised to prepare for your journeys in advance and to also build in flexibility in case of any unexpected disruption.

Planned and unplanned road closures and parking restrictions are likely to be in place during COP26, latest updates will be available via @GetReadyGlasgow on Twitter and on [www.getreadyglasgow.com](http://www.getreadyglasgow.com).

For more information on planning your journey, visit Traveline Scotland or download the app.

## Language

English (Glaswegian dialect).

## Money

Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are widely available. There are also several Bureaux de Changes in the city.

Credit and debit cards are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops. Some smaller shops and guesthouse accommodation may only accept cash.

## Time zone

Glasgow's time zone is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

## Climate

In Glasgow during November average daily high temperatures decrease from 10 °C (51°F) to 7°C (46°F) and it is overcast or mostly cloudy about 69% of the time.

## VisitScotland iCentre

VisitScotland Glasgow iCentre is located at 156/8 Buchanan Street, beside the south entrance of Buchanan Street Subway Station (G1 2LL). The team of friendly, knowledgeable advisors will provide information to help visitors make the most of their visit to both the local Glasgow city area and the rest of Scotland. The iCentre team can advise visitors to the city on a wide range of ticketing options for local tours, activities and attractions during their visit. A range of quality gift items are also available within the shop. For more information [check out the VisitScotland website](#).

## Tipping

Tipping is down to customer discretion on the given service, with a 10-15% tip standard when customers are pleased with service in restaurants, cafes and bars. For taxi fares, it's usual to round up to the nearest pound (£).

## Smoking

Smoking is banned in all public places including all enclosed or partially enclosed public areas.

## Telephone codes

The UK country code is +44, while Glasgow landlines start with a +141 area code, followed by a 7 digit number. To call abroad, dial 00 before the area code.

## Shopping

City centre shops are generally open every day until at least 6pm. Late night shopping is on Thursdays, with many stores open until 8pm. For more information on shops in Glasgow, [visit this page](#).

## COVID-19

Glasgow is ready and looking forward to welcoming delegates and visitors from around the world to experience our famous hospitality. However, we all remain in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and it is important for everyone to enjoy our city safely and responsibly. Our businesses, retailers and hospitality venues have been complying with health protection requirements throughout and we ask visitors to play their part too. You can do this by remaining cautious and following official guidance on precautionary measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 including practising good hand hygiene, physical distancing where possible, wearing a face covering where mandatory (unless exempt) and regular testing. The most up to date advice and guidance from the Scottish Government can be [found here](#)

## Value added tax (VAT)

All purchases, except food, books and children's clothing, are subject to value added tax (VAT), which is currently 20%. This is already included in the price shown in shops.

Visitors from non-EU countries can claim a refund of value added tax (VAT) from selected shops on goods to be taken out of the country under the Retail Export Scheme. To find out information on how to reclaim sales tax, visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Emergency services

In case of an emergency the police, ambulance or fire brigade service can be contacted by telephoning 999.

## Visa requirements

For information on visa requirements, [visit the UK Border Control website](#).

## Driving

Driving is on the left-hand side of the road. To drive in Scotland, you must have a valid driving licence. A foreign licence is valid in the UK for up to 12 months. It is compulsory to wear seat belts in the front seat and if your car has seat belts in the back, they must also be worn. [Check out the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's \(DVLA\) website](#) for more details.

## Accessibility

[Head to the Euan's Guide website](#) for information on an accessible visit to Glasgow. There are itineraries and disabled access reviews, featuring assessments by disabled people, their families and friends.

## Health

When travelling to Scotland from outside of the UK, make sure you know what emergency healthcare you are entitled to, what medicines you can bring into the country, what to do in an emergency, and what travel insurance you will need.

For information on healthcare for overseas visitors, [visit the National Health Service \(NHS\) Scotland website](#).

## Electricity and conversions

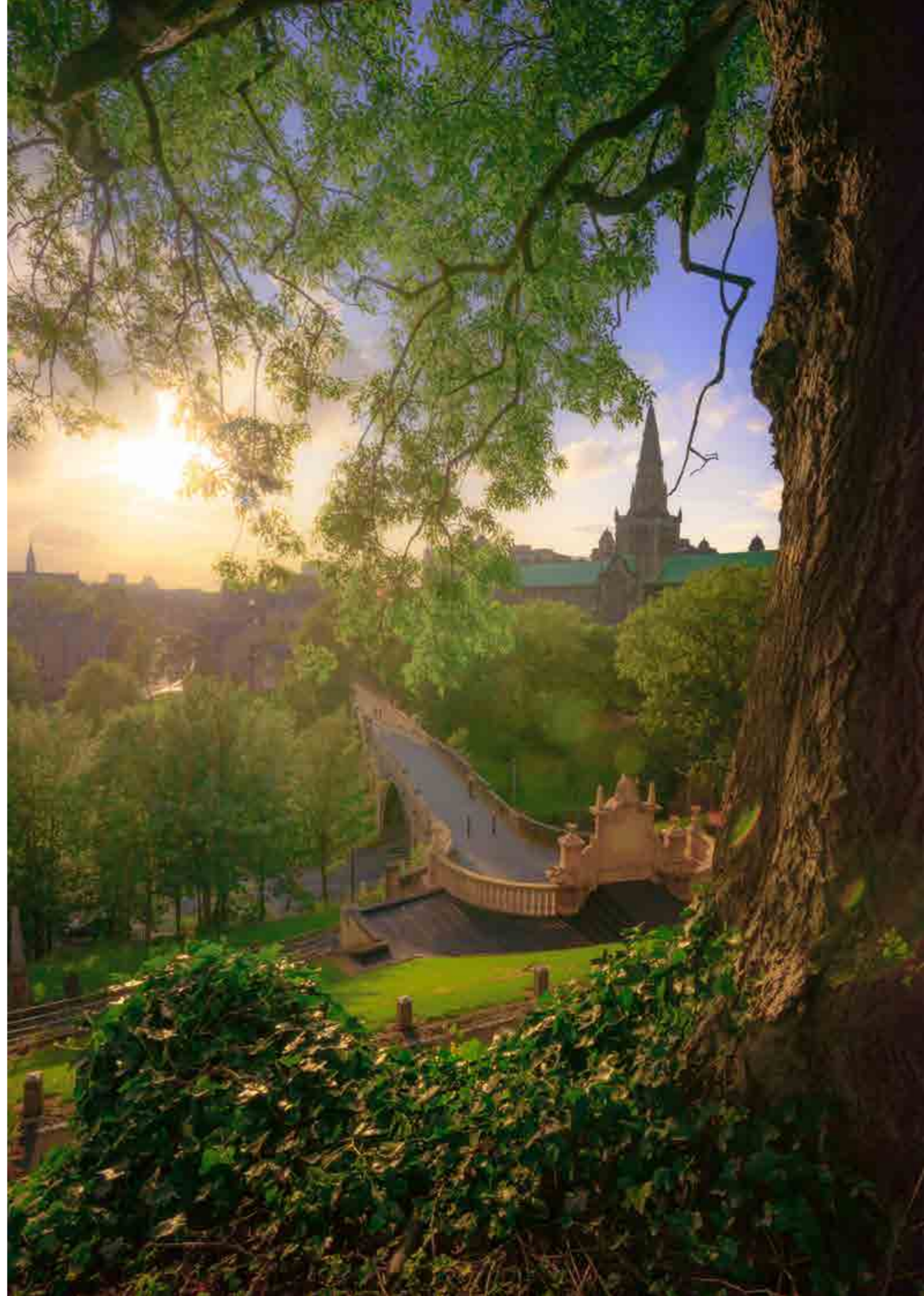
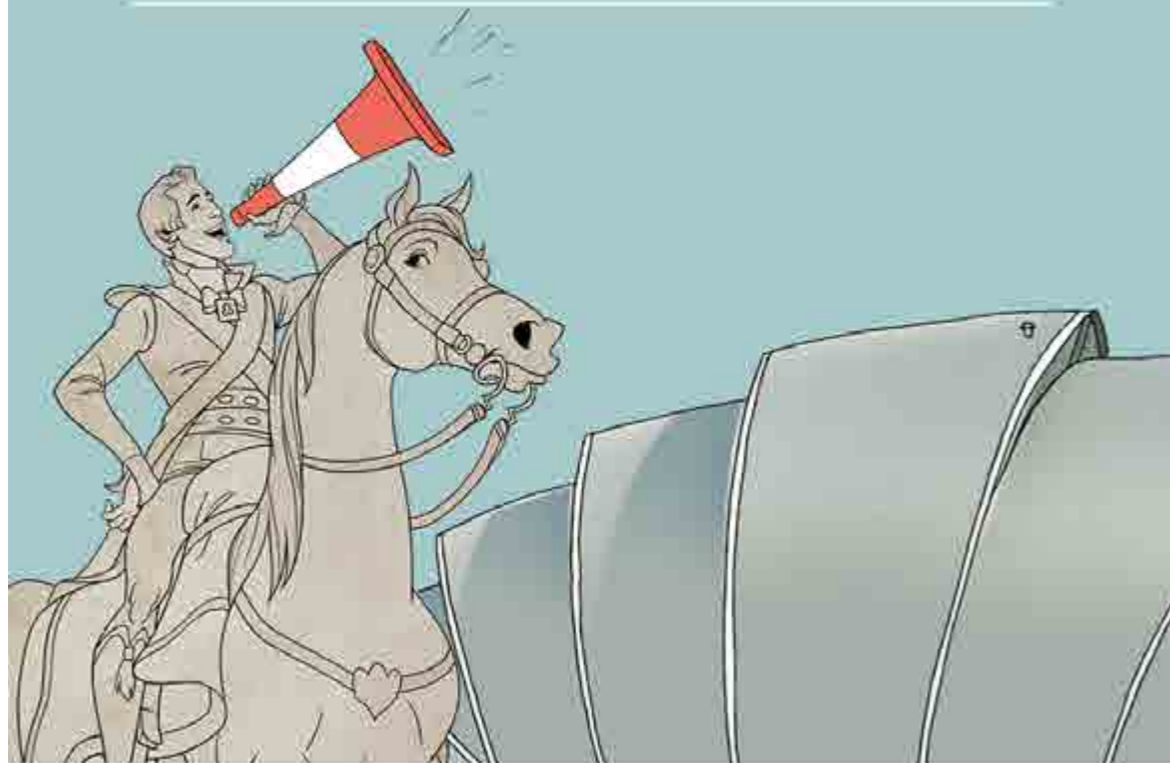
The standard voltage in Scotland is 240V AC, 50Hz. North American appliances need a transformer and an adapter; Australasian appliances need only an adapter. Plugs have 3 square pins and adapters are widely available.

**COP26 TRAVEL ADVICE**  
23 October – 14 November

# **TRAVEL ACROSS THE CENTRAL BELT WILL BE BUSIER THAN USUAL**

Plan ahead, avoid busy days and times and  
leave the car if you can

Help keep Glasgow moving and help combat climate change  
[GetReadyGlasgow.com](https://www.getreadyglasgow.com)





**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



**UK Government**

**PEOPLE  
MAKE  
GLASGOW**