

EXPERIENCE GLASGOW BEER

GLASGOW
FOOD &
DRINK
LOVES

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KEY ● East End ● City Centre ● South Side ● West End ● Outside Of Glasgow

Experience Glasgow Beer Trail: Commissioned by Experience Glasgow Food & Drink, developed by Walking Tours in Glasgow.
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HOW DID THE STORY BEGIN?

There are so many fine watering-holes around Glasgow - from pubs on the edges of parks and rivers and even a few in former churches. So where did their stories begin?

The birth of brewing in Glasgow is dated from the end of the 12th century onwards, and some of the initial practitioners of this great art were the monks of Glasgow Cathedral. The Celtic tradition of using bittering herbs in brewing remained in Scotland longer than in the rest of Europe.

Glasgow's very first brewery dates back to 1736, this small public brewery was situated on the Molendinar Burn at the Gallowgate. From this small beginning Glasgow saw the birth of its first major breweries. These included Anderson Brewery (est. early 1760s), John Struthers' Greenhead Brewery (est. prior to 1760), and of course, Tennent's Brewery at Drygate Bridge in the East End (est. 1740), which had a family brewing history dating back to 1556.

Until recently if you fancied a beer that was brewed in Glasgow there was Tennent's and McEwans or McEwans and Tennent's. Although, in the last few years much to Glaswegians delight 21st century 'Cauldron Brewing' via micro breweries is once more giving us access to quality ales, each of which display their own distinctive flavours and aromas.

So let's go for a wee wander round this fair city, sampling as we go.

EAST END

Let's start with a saunter (Glaswegian for a slow walk) through the city's ancient heart where both the city and our original brewery started and get that first swally.

1 Tennent's WellPark Brewery

Snapshot: lager, heritage, tours
www.tennents.co.uk/ / @tennentslager
161 Duke Street, Glasgow, G3 1JD
T: 0141 552 6552
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm

This is Glasgow's first official brewery. They have been producing beer on this spot for over 450 years making it one of the UK's oldest breweries. Started by Robert Tennent in 1556 who said 'this place is perfect for brewing', although it did not become a commercial enterprise until 1740. And then in 1745 a surprise visitor arrived. Bonnie Prince Charlie and his army decided this was the perfect place for a sleepover after their retreat from England.

By 1797 Tennent's record their first international export... Can you guess to where? America... There are countless Scots now living across the pond and many are wanting that wee taste of hame (Glaswegian for home). The international export trade continued to grow as Scots moved around the world. Now their brand is available from John O'Groats to Singapore.

Within the facility you can currently take a tour through Tennent's Heritage Centre, watching the mystery process happen, have a pint of the freshest unpasteurized lager from the onsite bar as well as getting that all important souvenir from the gift shop.

Tour Details: Tours cost £18 per person and run Tuesdays - Sunday. Beer Masterclass is £40 per person and is usually the last Friday of the month. Times and dates may change, check the website for the most up-to-date information.

2 Drygate Brewing Company

Snapshot: dynamic, artistic, beer garden
www.drygate.com/ @drygate
85 Drygate, Glasgow, G4 0UT
T: 0141 212 8815
Opening Hours: Sun / Mon: 12pm - 9pm,
Tues - Sat: 12pm - Late

Drygate has been in operation since 2014 and is housed in a converted box factory which lies close to both Tennent's Brewery and Glasgow Cathedral. Within the building, traces of its old functions have been left in place with a nod to the artists of today whose work grace its exposed brick walls.

The downstairs Brasserie has a seasonal food menu with a broad choice of small plates and classic brasserie mains. It also boasts 23 different beer taps, including Drygate's core range beers and seasonal, small batch products, all of which are produced on site. High-quality wines and spirits are also available. These can be enjoyed while watching the brewery in action or be taken outside to one of the two large outdoor seating areas. Both children and dogs are welcome, and they each have their own menus to keep them satisfied.

The upstairs Peaks Bar, named after the seven peaks of the roof of their building, was the winner of Best Pub and Bar in Glasgow at the National Pub and Bar Awards 2021 and regularly hosts live comedy, live music and other entertainment.

Quirky Extras: You can take a tour of the brewery every Sunday, followed by a guided tasting of their 4 core range beers. Their beers are available online and at over 400 venues around the country.

3 Glasgow Beer Works

Snapshot: culture, art, diversity
www.glasgowbeerworks.com
@glasgowbeerworks
Block 23, Unit 2, Queenslie Ind Estate, Glasgow G33 4JJ.
T: 0141 774 9930
Opening Hours: Glasgow Beer Works Beer Garden: Mon - Sun 12pm - 11pm

This is an independently owned brewery whose motivation was to produce a range of beers that reflected both the individuality of the city and its people, as well as working with and for the community it is produced in.

One of their Pilot Batch Series beers is a chocolate stout in a can. You can try this and any of their beers at their pop up beer garden under the watchful eye of the Big Yin (Billy Connolly) at 118 Osborne Street, Glasgow. The bar is both child and dog friendly. They make a point of supporting local small businesses and so offer street food from a number of various vendors.

4 Kelburn Brewing Company

Snapshot: awards, quality, family
www.kelburnbrewery.com/ @kelburnbrewery
10 Muriel Lane, Barrhead, Glasgow G78 1QB
T: 0141 881 2138
Opening Hours: Mon - Thurs 10am - 2pm

This is a family owned brewery that has been producing award winning beers for over 20 years. They pride themselves on quality over quantity, which shows with their 65 - plus industry awards. One of their most popular beers is Kelburn Dark Moor, they say that this beer is smooth, dark and dangerous, with the ability to warm the cockles of your heart. Perfect after a cold winters day walking the weans or the dugs (Glaswegian for children and dogs).

Their beers are available online as well as at: Sloans in Argyll Arcade; Blackfriars Bar in Bell Street; Oran Mor on Byres Road.

CITY CENTRE

Now let us wander through into our historic city centre which is home to some of the country's most stunning Victorian architecture. Surrounded as we are by these 19th century spirals let your imagination soar to that next wee tippie.

5 West Brewery

Snapshot: iconic, beerhall, eclectic
www.westbeer.com
@westonthegreen / @west.beer
Templeton Carpet Factory, Glasgow Green
T: 0141 550 0135
Opening Hours: Mon - Thurs 11am - 11pm,
Fri - Sat 11am - 12am

As well as sitting in the middle of one of the city's oldest parks, Glasgow Green, which was given to the people of Glasgow in perpetuity by the Bishop of Glasgow William Turnbull in 1450 (William also helped found Glasgow University in 1451). The brewery also sits within one of Glasgow's most unusual buildings, the Templeton Carpet Factory's design is based on the Doge's Palace in Venice.

It is the only brewery in UK to brew its beers according to Reinheitsgebot - the German Purity Laws of 1516, which states that only water, hops and yeast may be used. So you can imagine it has some of the finest beers in the city.

Within the facility you can get married, if you fancy, go on a tour, have a corporate shindig, all topped off with their award-winning menus for every occasion large or small. They also have an extensive beer garden where you can relax on a sunny day after a walk through the park and maybe a wee visit to the People's Palace which also sits with the Glasgow Green.

Tours: The Original West Brewery Tour costs £15pp and consists of a 45-min tour and a tasting of 3 WEST beers whilst the WEST Experience includes the tour, a 3 course meal from the St. Mungo Menu and a pint of any WEST beer for £45pp.

6 Shilling Brewing Company

Snapshot: pizza, events, students
www.shillingbrewingcompany.co.uk
@shillingbrewco
92 West George Street, Glasgow, G2 1PJ
T: 0141 353 1654
Opening Hours: Sun - Thurs 12pm - 11pm
Fri - Sat 12pm - 12am

This brewery which sits in the heart of the city believes they have 'everything from the old guard to the new wave' so you can 'sip, savour and discover'. Its main beers are brewed just meters from where you drink. They also make a point of showcasing their large copper vats.

If the hunger pangs start, they can also stuff you full of their pizza, the dough of which has been improved by a little beer from the onsite brewery.

Scotland's national animal gives its name to one of this company's most popular beer. Can you imagine what it could possibly be? It is a proud and so we are told stubborn creature that roams the mountains of Scotland. No, it's not a haggis but of course that delicate creature, the unicorn which graces its name to their IPA. And as they state emphatically, no unicorns were harmed in making this beer.

They have enough room to also allow events and private tastings to take place in their Brewers Room.

Tours: Tours take place of the microbrewery where you'll be introduced to a variety of malts and hops. You'll then be guided through a Shilling beer flight tasting session in the Brewers Room. Available Mon - Thurs from 5.30pm and all day Sunday. Advance booking required min. 2 weeks, £25pp.

SOUTH SIDE

Now let us cross the River Clyde using one of our many famous bridges and sip our way into an area of wide open spaces, our very own herd of Highland Coo's and a team of giant Clydesdale horses.

7 Bungo Brew Company

Snapshot: friends, local, wine
www.bungobrew.co.uk/ @bungo_brew

This small, independent brewery is situated near one of Glasgow's many parks. Queen's Park which covers 148 acres was dedicated to the memory of Mary Queen of Scots, who fought and lost a battle at Langside a district on the edge of the huge park. The brewery also takes its name from the area it is situated in, this time Strathbungo, which was a small village in the 18th

century. The brewery started in the spring of 2021 by four friends with a love of beer. They source all their ingredients as close to the brewery as possible and then sell onto local off licence premises and pubs. As well as producing a range of beers they manufacture a whisky barrel barley wine.

Their beers are only available through: Wee Beer Shop - 623 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2QG; Southside Drinks Company - 471 Victoria Road, Glasgow, G42 8RL; Curious Liquids - 29-30 Kilmarnock Road, Glasgow, G41 3NH; Marchtown - 741 Pollokshaws Road, Strathbungo, Glasgow, G41 2AA; Grunting Growler - 52 Old Dumbarton Road, Glasgow, G3 8RF; Koelschip Yard - 686-688 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2QB.

8 Spectra Brewing Company

Snapshot: US IPAs, cosmic, physics
www.spectrabrewing.com/ @spectrabrewing

This is an independent micro brewery situated in Clarkston. The owner Alex says its 'where physics and beer collide'. The brewery was founded in 2020 with assistance from the brewing community in Glasgow. Alex aims to blend American hop-led IPA's with Scottish brewing heritage, topped off with a modern twist. The beer named 'Cosmic Rays from Outer Space' IPA would seem to have got the off world message.

The beers are available online via their website or at: Curious Liquids - 29-30 Kilmarnock Road, Glasgow, G41 3NH; Wee Beer Shop - 623 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2QG; Alison Arms - 718 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2AA.

9 Simple Things Fermentations Brewery

Snapshot: bakehouse, foraging, elderflowers
www.simplethingsfermentations.com
@stfermentations
The Bakehouse, 8 Hazel Ave Lane, Glasgow, G44 3LJ
T: 0141 237 2202
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 5.30pm

Another small independent brewery, that specialises in vegan, unfiltered, and unpasteurised beer. If that wasn't enough for you then the beer goes through a re-fermentation process in its packaging which naturally carbonates it.

Phil Sisson, the founder left London, headed north and found his calling. He has a Big Ideas range which includes an Elderflower Wit using elderflowers from the tree that grows outside the building. Elderflower would have been planted to ward off evil spirits when the building was a bakehouse.

His beers are available online and at bars and beer shops across Glasgow: Ben Nevis Bar - 1147 Argyle Street; Koelschip Yard - 686-688 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2QB; Wee Beer Shop - 623 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G41 2QG

Deals: 10% off with our self-guided tour! Just use code: GWALK10 on their website.

10 Koelschip Yard

Snapshot: serious, beer, drinking
www.koelschipyard.beer/ @koelschipyard
686 - 688 Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow G41 2QB
T: 0141 423 2945
Opening Hours: Mon - Thurs 4pm - 12am,
Fri 2pm - 12am, Sat - Sun 12pm - 12am

This is a craft beer paradise so it makes it the perfect place to visit if you find yourself south of the river. Your first adventure into the world of craft beer! Never fear, the highly knowledgeable staff will find something that suits both your pocket and your taste buds. They will even let you have a wee sample before you buy. The strange name, well that refers to the fermentation apparatus associated with sour beer.

So head Southside if you want to try out any of the local breweries wares, as well as some of the best beers in the world produced of course, by small, independent breweries. And they also sell a perfectly cooked scotch egg just so the beer has someone to talk to.

WEST END

The West End of Glasgow stretches from Charing Cross to bustling Partick. Between these two points you can roam through the lovely Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow University or the leafy suburbs of Hillhead and Hyndland.

11 Inn Deep in Kelvinbridge

Snapshot: wordsmiths, dogs, beer
www.inndeep.com/ @inndeepbar
445 Great Western Road, Glasgow, G12 8HH
T: 0141 264 2777
Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 12pm - 12am,
Sun 12pm - 11pm

This bar which is situated on the banks of the River Kelvin, in the heart of Glasgow's West End started in 2012 with the motto 'craft beer not crap beer'. The inhouse beers are produced by Alloa based brewers, The Williams Brothers, who the now owners all worked at one time. On a bright, sunny day sit outside and watch the river slowly wind its way through the city while sampling their wares. During the summer months if the weather is good they hold barbecues.

12 Valhalla's Goat

Snapshot: floor to ceiling wines & beers
www.valhallasgoat.com/ @valhallas_goat
449 Great Western Road, Glasgow
T: 0141 337 3441
Opening Hours : Mon - Sat 11am - 8pm,
Sun 12pm - 8pm

This is an independent shop which sells all forms of 'Liquid Treasures' and artisan beers. They also hold wine tastings around the seasons which are held at Inn Deep. They have one of the most extensive beer collections in Glasgow which is ever changing but focuses on Scottish and local producers. They offer a click and collect as well as local delivery service. On top of all this you can have your beer gift wrapped for granny or just give her a gift voucher and let her choose her favourite tippie.

13 Innis and Gunn

Snapshot: picturesque, growlers, taproom
www.innisandgunn.com
@innisandgunnglasgow
44-46 Ashton Lane, Glasgow, G12 8SJ
T: 0141 334 6688
Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 12pm - 12am,
Sun 12pm - 10pm

The brewery for Innis and Gunn is actually based in Edinburgh. They are building the first large scale brewery in the capital for 150 years. However, at the Glasgow Tap Room you can enjoy their full range, plus 50 or more craft draft and bottled beers from around the world. On top of this you can sample Innis and Gunn's unpasteurised beer from their 500 litre tank.

Get Involved: Innis and Gunn also have a purpose built Brew Room where classes are held every day. If you take a class you will walk away with a 5 litre mini keg of your own uncarbonated brew, recreated in your favourite beer style. The Brew School runs seven days a week at 12pm, minimum groups of two. As well as the keg to take home, lunch and a wee beer sampling is included in the price of £65 per person.

They also hold experiential evenings which celebrate cuisines and beverages from around the world.

14 Hidden Lane Organic Brewery

Snapshot: organic, vegan, hidden
www.hiddenlanebrewery.com
@HiddenLaneBrewery
1103 Argyle Street, Finnieston, Glasgow, G3 8ND
T: 0141 258 2520
Opening Hours: Tues - Thurs 9am - 5pm,
Fri 9am - 6pm, Sat 9am - 8pm

This brewery, which was founded in 2019 is to be found in an area which is part of an eclectic community of artists and crafts people surrounded by many interesting eateries. It is Glasgow's only organic brewery. The beers they produce are vegan and handcrafted in that hidden lane. It is situated in a building from 1890 and which once upon a time, was the home of the horses of the local funeral parlour.

Classes & Tours: As well as sampling their range of beers in cans you can take either a class or a tour. The Head Brewer Peter, will teach you all you need to know about brewing and the cost £85 per person includes lunch, tea and quality coffee. If you take the tour which lasts two hours the Head Brewer will give an in-depth introduction into brewing and Hidden Lane process. The cost of the tour is £25 per person. You can pick up their beer either at their online shop or at Locavore Organic shop in Garnethill.

Their beer is also available to sample in Lebowskis West at 1008 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G3 8LX .

15 Grunting Growler

Snapshot: cool craft beer retailer & bar
www.gruntinggrowler.com/ @gruntinggrowler
51 Old Dumbarton Road, Glasgow G3 8RF
T: 0141 258 4551

Opening Hours: Thurs - Sat 12pm - 10pm
Sun 2pm - 10pm

Serving up 350+ craft beer, natural wines and ciders, Grunting Growler is located down the intimate little street of Old Dumbarton Road amongst a bunch of other amazing independent businesses. Their focus is on beer, with over 200 cans and bottles to choose from and 6 rotating draught lines. With everything available to sit in or take away - come and hang out with the friendliest locals. Check their socials for exclusive events from keg launches to tastings. There's also a small, curated cocktail and spirits menu.

OUTSIDE OF GLASGOW

And just in case you decided to take your wanderings further a field...

16 Jaw Brew

Snapshot: brewery, café, pub
www.jawbrew.co.uk/ @jawbrew
26 Crossveggate, Milngavie, Scotland, G62 6RA
T: 07880 690 995
Opening Hours: Mon - Sun 12pm - 10pm

After years of being a home brewer, Mark Hazell founded Jaw Brew in 2014.

Jaw Brew's unique selling point is that all their products are vegan-friendly. However, in the last few months they have also decided to help reduce food waste by making their beer from leftover bread. Yes, you heard me right - the first Scottish beer made from Aulds unsold morning rolls - how great is that!

The brewery sits at the start of 'The West Highland Way', so you can stop for a wee refreshment in either the café or pub.

One to sample is their Surf Beer - ideal for one of those rare Scottish summer days, where a picnic might be involved. It has a hoppy tang in its cloudy finish and is also wheat free.

Tours: You can also have a tour of the brewery on either a Friday or Saturday. The tour lasts one hour and costs £15 per person, which also includes, you'll be happy to know, a tasting session afterwards.

Personal Brews: Or if you want that beer just for you, the brewery will produce your own 200 litres to take home.

Memberships: However, if all this wondrous beer just makes you long for more there is the JB Crew Annual Membership, which has a startlingly low price of £79. For this you will receive 12 litres of beer, either one per month, or splash out and take it all at once. A Jaw Brew Glass to drink it from, a Saturday morning tour for yourself and a guest as well as priority booking for events in the tasting room and special offers.

Their beers and tours are available online.