

Europe, July to September 2026

August 30, Glasgow

A lot of people had told me that Glasgow was just a financial center of Scotland and not worth visiting from an historical viewpoint. The depends on who is showing you around. We booked a 2-hour walking tour of the city and got a tremendous local who obviously knew a lot about his city and was proud of it. Not proud to the extent that there were no problems. He admitted there were, but explained them well. He was honest and cheerful.

A good thing, because we docked a long way from Glasgow, in a town called



And had a 40-minute train ride to get our tour.

The first thing our guide pointed out was a program to control street art. People who tried to express their art in destructive manners were given the opportunity to be productive. They were invited to apply for permits to paint areas of the downtown. They did and were very good. Here is one area.



Street art actually started as a project like I said with unofficial paintings in the 1980s and the first official commissioning in 2008. The most famous one (perhaps) is of St. Mungo.

When the guide told me that this was a depiction of Mungo, I did not hear the “saint” prefix and thought it was some Scottish rock star. Wrong! St. Mungo is the patron saint and founder of Glasgow back in the 12th century.

There’s a good story behind this. Questionable accuracy, but who knows. Turns out he was very religious and went to visit a famous scholarly person of the day to study for a couple of years. A learned person and a friend of Mungo’s. He arrived at the house to find his friend on his death bed, who managed to convey one dying wish to Mungo. In the morning, when he expected to be dead, he asked Mungo to attach his body to a cart between two wild bulls, and



to let them run free. When they stopped for their first “refreshment break”, Mungo was to note the place a build a church. He did and that place became Glasgow.

A very interesting story. I cannot find any collaboration in my Google searches, which is why this guide was so great. Clearly the Internet powers-that-be are hiding the truth. Why? No idea, but I have no plan to try to find out.

St. Mungo’s church today.



This was the only Catholic church in the region to survive the reformation. It survived thanks to the insistence and compromise offered by Scottish natives who confronted the reformists as they approached the church. The church was more important to the locals than just a place of worship. The reformers were allowed to enter the church and destroy items inside they considered blasphemous, as long as they agreed to leave the physical building unharmed. That is what happened.

Here is another story that is likely a bit more accurate.



This is the statue of the Duke of Wellington located outside the gallery of modern art. One day (night) in the 1980s, some pranksters placed a traffic cone on the duke's head on the top of the statue. The city council considered it vandalism and removed the cone. A new cone appeared

almost immediately. The process repeated. New cones appeared, often more than one at a time.

The city could not get rid of the cone, which grew famous around Europe. The simple cone was replaced in 2002 by one reflecting the sponsor of the UEFA football (soccer) championship held in the city that year. In 2010, the cone was replaced temporality to reflect another city event. In 2013, the city council finally got frustrated and allocated £65,000 to raise the statue so that no one could reach it again. But, before they did, they put forth a public proposal. They received a petition with over 100,000 signatures as an objection to the plan.

In June 2023, to promote his exhibition at the Gallery of Modern Art, the graffiti artist Banksy declared that the statue was his "favorite work of street art in the UK" and held an exhibition that year in Glasgow instead of London.

There are many more examples of cones on the status that can be found [here](#).