

# CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly Edited by : Wendy Y.C. Yeh

Profile

## Merchant City in Glasgow, Scotland (3)



Glasgow is Scotland's largest city. It was once the "second city of the empire." It has re-invented itself as a "happening" place, with a vibrant nightlife, great pubs and restaurants, incredible shopping choices, and a style all of its own.

Merchant City in Glasgow is the area east of Buchanan Street and towards the Cathedral, a reminder of the original city entrepreneurs - the tobacco barons who once traded with the Americas and built the prosperous foundations of the later city. Glasgow still has a Virginia Street. Today the entrepreneurial spirit thrives in the form of small designer outlets making a rewarding excursion for shoppers.

One evening, I went to an authentic 1950s diner that served American food and drink - burgers, hotdogs, fries, sodas, and milkshakes - with classic 1950s tunes playing on the juke

box. As a nostalgia fan, I knew that I was in for a treat there.

In the 18th century, many Glasgow merchants were enriched by trans-Atlantic trade. In a few decades, they established a city of fine dwellings, grand office buildings, and huge warehouses. Victorian bankers and insurance brokers built handsome squares and terraces.

During the 19th century, the city's population grew tenfold. Shipyards lined the River Clyde, and iron foundries and heavy engineering works proliferated. Some of the worst city slums developed, persisting until long after World War II. It has taken some bold development plans to turn things around.

Grand civic buildings dominate Glasgow's George Square. The enormous City Chamber Building is lined with elaborate Victorian details.

To the north, the oldest part of Glasgow, the Merchant City stretches from High Street as far as Queen Street, bounded by George Square and Argyle Street. The High Street is the heart of the medieval city. The George Square's City Chambers are well worth a visit.

In the Middle Ages, the Merchant City grew around Glasgow Cathedral. The splendid Glasgow Cathedral is the most complete of Scotland's cathedrals. This is an unusual double church, one above the other, dedicated to Glasgow's patron saint, St. Mungo.

This medieval city expanded when it was given a royal license to trade. The current High Street was the main thoroughfare at the time. The vast profits from American cotton and tobacco built the grand mansions of the Merchant City in the 18th century.

After strolling around the bustling Merchant City, I took a break at a roadside café. I ordered a cup of deliciously hot cappuccinos and listened to the pigeons serenade the tourists that fill the square. I heard the kids scream and run away, squealing with laughter in the neighborhood. It was wonderful to see the businesses in the Merchant City taste the fruit of success. I realized that it was their experience and maturity made them succeed.



▲visiting the legendary Merchant City in Glasgow, Scotland



▲loving the amazing architecture of Glasgow's St. Andrew's Cathedral



▲entering the modern structure at the St. Enoch Subway Station in Glasgow to go to Merchant City



▲Glasgow's enormous City Chamber Building is lined with elaborate Victorian details

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**辦公時間:**  
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