



GLASGOW DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL



PARTICIPANT PACK 2026

GET READY FOR GLASGOW DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL 2026!

We're thrilled to announce that the 37th Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival (GDODF) returns from 17-20 September 2026!

Organised by [Glasgow Building Preservation Trust](#) since 1990, the festival has grown into Scotland's largest free celebration of architecture, heritage and community.

The 2025 Festival was our most ambitious yet. By opening hidden civic, religious, industrial and private spaces across Glasgow – and keeping every experience free – we welcomed 40,000 visits (a 30% increase on 2024), with 178 venues, 129 open buildings, and 320 primary pupils taking part in our Schools Programme.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported, visited and took part, as well as to our generous funders and sponsors – we truly couldn't keep the doors open without you.

In 2026, expect 120+ open buildings and a packed programme of walks, tours, workshops and family-friendly activities – all completely free.

Interested in taking part?

Apply now by completing our [2026 Participant Application Form](#), details below ▼



OUR IMPACT

Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival reaches all four corners of the city. For many participating organisations, the Festival is their busiest weekend of the year. Since its inception, over 1.8 million people have taken part in the festival, contributing to its long-term civic impact.

The Festival has seen steady growth since covid, demonstrating its ability to connect with new audiences:

2021 - 14500 visits
2022 - 24000 visits
2023 - 31000 visits
2024 - 30000 visits
2025 - 39000 visits



2025 FESTIVAL AT-A-GLANCE



2026 FESTIVAL THEME

Our exciting festival theme for 2026 is:

“Glasgow Goes Out: The Places That Made Us”

The festival theme helps keep the programme fresh and encourages participants to think creatively about how heritage can be presented. We would love as many participants as possible to embrace the theme, but it’s not compulsory for taking part.

This year, we’re looking back warmly on shared life in the city, celebrating how Glaswegians, visitors, and all those who have called Glasgow home have come together over the past hundred years to relax, express themselves, and feel part of something bigger.

From grand cinemas, tearooms and bandstands to dancehalls, artist-led spaces, grassroots music venues and legendary club nights, this nostalgia-fuelled theme invites visitors to explore - or return to - the places that have made generations feel alive, day and night.

By shining a light on both lost and still-thriving venues, the festival theme seeks to capture and celebrate the buzz, freedom and creative energy that have drawn people to Glasgow for decades.

Through walks, talks, exhibitions and inclusive events across the North, Southside, East End, West End and City Centre, we’re inviting everyone to share their memories of chance encounters, formative moments, and unforgettable days and nights out over the years.



HOW WE PROMOTE YOU

Free Print Promotion:

- Feature for free within our leaflet with fold-out map - 25,000 copies distributed across the city
- Receive copies of our official GDODF 2026 A3 posters and a colourful pink Festival banner to display at your venue to let visitors know you are taking part

Free Digital Promotion:

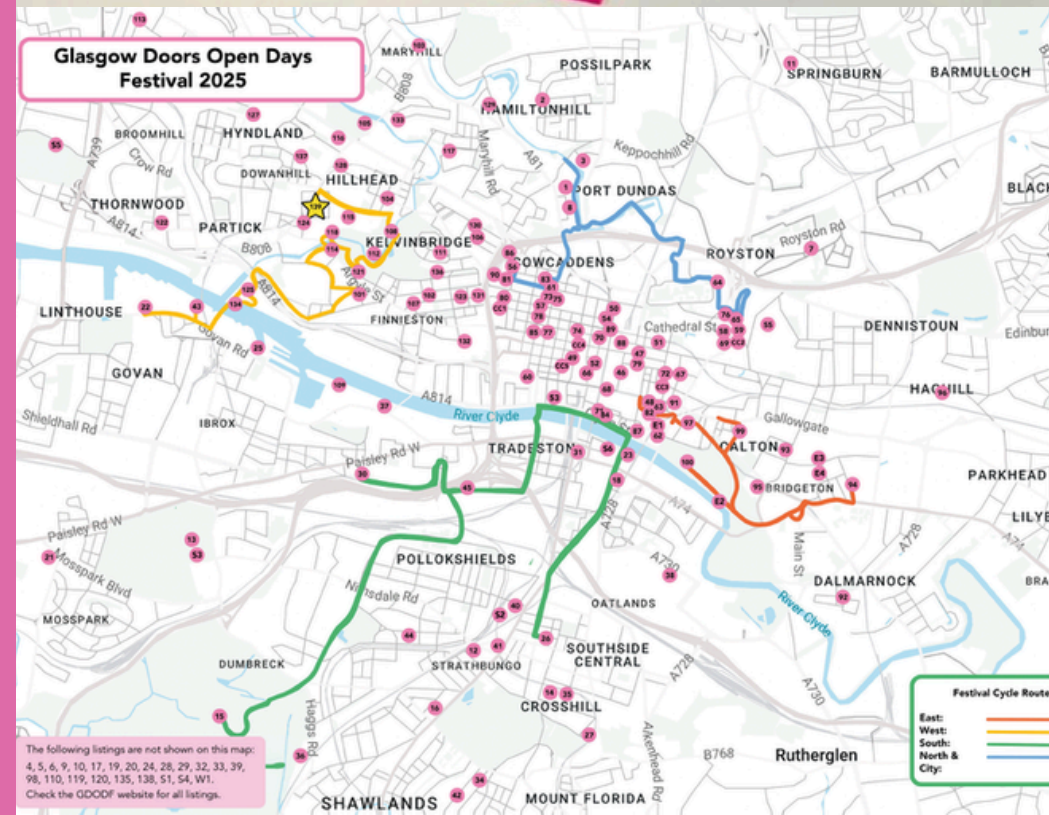
- Listings on our GDODF website and the Scottish Civic Trust's doorsopendays.org - Combined 160,00 unique users
- Feature in our regular email newsletter - 12,000 subscribers
- Feature in our social media campaign - 30,000 combined followers

Free Press & PR:

- The festival and our participants receive significant media presence across national and local outlets including TV and radio broadcast

Additional Support:

- You can request one of our brilliant and engaging volunteers to help support your activities
- Receive guidance from our team on the best way to market your building, tour or event through our marketing toolkit





WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAY

Reach new audiences and tell your story!

Participants always tell us the Festival helps them reach people who had never visited - or even heard of - their venue before, often resulting in their busiest day of the year. It's a great way of sharing your history, heritage or future plans with your local community too!

Spotlight hidden heritage

Want to shine a light on a building, story or space that's often overlooked? Taking part in the Festival can help bring to life people places hiding in plain sight, giving Glaswegians and city visitors a fresh perspective on your area, venue or local heroes.

Build pride, connection and understanding

Opening your doors breaks down barriers between communities, sparks curiosity, invites conversation and helps build stronger connections between people and place, fostering local pride and shared understanding.

Challenge perceptions & break down barriers

Welcoming and talking to visitors can help dispel myths, reduce uncertainty and make heritage feel more welcoming and accessible.

Support your volunteers and teams

Many participants tell us they developed new skills, grew in confidence & experienced a real buzz as a result of taking part!



IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL

- 15th - Participant Open Call Launches - Participant Application Form on the Festival website

JUNE

- 8th - Participant Application Form deadline - this is also the deadline to be included in our festival leaflet and listed on our GDODF website
- 17th - Online Participant Information Session 1 - invite will be sent via Participant Newsletter
- 18th - Online Participant Information Session 2 - invite will be sent via Participant Newsletter

JULY

- 29th - National Doors Open Days launch event in Glasgow
- 31st - Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival 2026 Official programme goes live on our GDODF website, social media and press

SEPTEMBER

- 17th - First date of the Festival
- 20th - Final date of the Festival



HOW TO TAKE PART

STEP 1: READ DOORS OPEN DAYS
COMMUNITY GUIDELINES



STEP 2: READ OUR GBPT PRIVACY POLICY



STEP 3: READ OUR DOD INSURANCE
& RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE



 TIP: CLICK HERE TO READ PARTICIPANT
APPLICATION FORM QUESTIONS BEFORE
COMPLETING FORM



 TIP: PLEASE HAVE ALL INFORMATION READY
BEFORE COMPLETING FORM



STEP 4: FILL IN PARTICIPANT APPLICATION
FORM BY 8 JUNE



TESTIMONIALS

“

We learnt more about each of the venues we visited, but also about our city... Really proud of my city, even more so now.

- Festival visitor

”



“

The festival is hugely important for letting us reach out to the wider community in Glasgow and to introduce them to our work and current projects.

- Festival Participant

”



“

It is an excellent opportunity for us to reach a wider audience... show. Many visitors said that they would come back.

- Festival Participant

You really hear the passion and feel the diversity of the city.

- Festival visitor

”



GET IN TOUCH

- If you're not sure that you are eligible to take part in Glasgow Doors Open Days Festival or have additional questions please get in touch via email at doorsopendays@gbpt.org or call us on 0141 554 4411 to speak to our Festival Manager
- If you haven't already, [sign up to our festival newsletter](#) to hear more about our exciting plans for GDODF 2026 including important dates, partnerships, and highlights.
- Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)



With thanks to our funders:



**Glasgow City
Heritage Trust**

With thanks to our partners:



**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2026



European Heritage Days
Journées européennes
du patrimoine

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