



**Above:** Crabshakk  
**Below:** The Finnieston



concert venues. It's packed every weekend and many week nights, too, helping fuel demand in Finnieston's emerging restaurants and bars on a big night with 12,000 extra revellers.

Then there is Lord Foster's creation, the 'Armadillo', the sturdy modern Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (SEC). It fronts on to a stretch of the river where a striking angular bridge spans the banks. The bridge's name is all very Finnieston. This striking, curved link was officially grandly proclaimed the Clyde Arc, but no one in Finnieston knows it as anything other than the "Squinty Bridge".

Casting a wily old eye over every Finnieston architectural newcomer is that hulking Finnieston crane. This 53m-high monster has struck for the skies here since 1931 and is a omnipresent legacy of those golden shipbuilding days. Along with the raffish older pubs, like the Grove and the Park, that still bubble along in Finnieston, cheek by jowl with the style bars, it forms a tangible link to the past that is a vital element of Finnieston's appeal.

Whether this reborn Glaswegian oasis is the hippest place to live in the UK or not is not something that duly concerns residents. As I return down to the river where it all began, I revel in the fact that to them, it's gloriously just Finnieston.

## INFO

### FINNIESTON SIGHTS

**The Tall Ship** – A triple-masted sailing barque launched on the Clyde in 1896 that has circumnavigated the globe four times. Free entry.  
[www.thetallship.com](http://www.thetallship.com)

**Riverside Museum** – Award-winning building housing an award-winning transport museum much beloved of Glaswegians, which dazzles visitors of all ages. Free entry.  
[www.glasgowlife.org.uk](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk)

**Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum** – Eclectic collection, from local favourite Charles Rennie Mackintosh to Salvador Dali, housed in a grand 1920s architectural dame that is very much part of the appeal. Free entry.  
[www.glasgowlife.org.uk](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk)

**SSE Hydro** – Landmark entertainment and sports indoor venue that now attracts the biggest acts in the world to an award-winning high-tech dome in Finnieston on the banks of the River Clyde.  
[www.thessehydro.com](http://www.thessehydro.com)

Glasgow Tourist Information  
[www.peoplemakeglasgow.com](http://www.peoplemakeglasgow.com)

### STAY

The choice is between the larger chain hotels down by the SSE Hydro or more characterful escapes in the Finnieston hinterland.

**The Alamo Guest House** is a characterful 12-room bolthole, fusing old-world decor with plush mod cons. This elegant, 1880 Victorian building has outstanding views over Kelvingrove Park and Glasgow University, and has been beautifully restored. For a real treat, Room 12 boasts a stand-alone bath and a Louis XV Bed. They also have a two-bedroom holiday flat that sleeps up to six.  
[www.alamoguesthouse.com](http://www.alamoguesthouse.com)

**Hilton Garden Inn** – Best of the riverside chain hotels. It's right by the water so make sure to book a river-view room. Popular restaurant and riverside terrace bar on site. It also has a business centre, fitness centre and free Wi-Fi  
[www.hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com](http://www.hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com)

**Kelvingrove Hotel** – Relaxed and comfortable (rather than luxurious), family-run, 25-bedroom hotel set in a characterful Georgian stone townhouse in the heart of Finnieston. Beware 'budget rooms' as they have a shared bathroom.  
[www.glasgowhotelsandapartments.co.uk](http://www.glasgowhotelsandapartments.co.uk)



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