

Glasgow's Museum of Transport and Travel



28 people arrived in good time at Carlisle to be greeted by a huge 54 seater charabanc for our trip to Glasgow's new Museum of Transport which opened in June 2011.

Gill had thoughtfully arranged a drop off and pick up point right in the centre of Glasgow for those who wanted to combine a shopping frenzy

or street gazing day with their museum experience. (some took the opportunity and never managed to make it to the museum). For those who choose to raise their eyelid above shop frontage, the city centre has some fantastic architecture and is laid out on a simple grid system which makes it very easy to get around. Sauchiehall Street provided an amusing array of street entertainers from the usual guitar

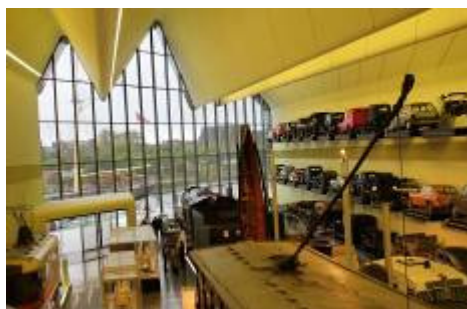


wielding singers to tightrope walking violin players. As ever, the jewellery quarter at the Argyll Arcade was well worth a visit. It's widely regarded as the Hatton Garden of Scotland and hosts more than 30 jewellers

and diamond merchants all under one roof.

City centre visit over, we set off for the museum using the subway system. This turned out to be a pleasant surprise. Saturday afternoon yet no overcrowding, it provided a very quick and easy way of getting to and from the museum.

If you were expecting a car museum, then you would have



been disappointed on two counts, the rather low number of quality cars and the unusual manner in which they were displayed. As a car enthusiast, it was disappointing that you could not get close



to the cars or see the interiors. That said, it's not simply a car museum, it's much more than that with more than 3,000 objects on display, from skateboards to steam trains, paintings to prams, there was something for visitors of all ages and interests.

The museum housed the oldest surviving pedal cycle and the world's leading collection of Scottish-built cars and trucks, including pioneering examples from Scottish manufacturers Argyll, Arrol-Johnston and Albion. More modern Scottish-built cars, namely the Rootes Group's Hillman Imp, Chrysler Avenger and Chrysler Sunbeam were represented too in a display sponsored by Arnold Clark.



An amazing display of ship models, representing the contribution of the River Clyde and its shipbuilders and engineers to maritime trade and the Royal Navy, including the Comet of 1812, the Hood, the Howe, the Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth and the QE2.



Other main exhibits displayed the evolution of Glasgow's public transport system and included several Glasgow Corporation Tramcars and Trolleybuses from different eras and the reconstruction of "Kelvin Street", which aimed to recapture the atmosphere of 1930s Glasgow, including full-scale replicas of a pre-1977 Glasgow Subway station.



Moored outside was the 19th-century sailing ship Glenlee. The Glenlee is one of only 5 Clydebuilt sailing ships remain afloat in the world. Purchased in a derelict state for £40,000 she was restored over a six year period by the Clyde Maritime Trust. Described as a three masted barque at 245 feet, she was one of a group of 10 steel sailing vessels built to a standard design for the Glasgow shipping firm of Archibald Sterling and Co. The ship has it's own hospital, although in reality it's little more than a single bunk with a table. The carpenters shop was even smaller and gave a real insight into life on board. By contrast, the Captains quarters could be described as palatial, but in reality it would offer little in terms of real comfort during a long sea voyage. life at sea in the 1800s would



definitely not for me, but Chris and Moira seem to be adapting well to life on board.

The day seemed to pass in a flash and many commented on how they could have spent a lot longer viewing the exhibits in detail. Our thanks go to Gill for organising a great event. The day obviously took a lot out of many of us, so maybe we should let the following pictures tell the story of our journey home.....



My thanks must go again to Brian from his articles and Gillian for her organisation. Good job we did not go by train, they run over sleepers!

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