

Five things you need to know today



Great year for Edinburgh attractions

At the Usher Hall for Mother's Day

Spring concert at Rosslyn Chapel

Film night

Photography at the Botanic



There was a staggering rise of 39% in visitors last year to the National Galleries of Scotland according to the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions (ASVA) 2014 Annual Visitor Trend Report.

The figures show that as well as attending major events like the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup and the Year of Homecoming, visitors were also discovering and exploring some of the great attractions to be found in capital.

Sir John Leighton, Director-General of the National Galleries of Scotland, National Galleries of Scotland, said:

“2014 was an exceptional year for the National Galleries of Scotland. A strong programme of exhibitions led by GENERATION: 25 Years of Contemporary Art in Scotland was extremely popular with both international and local visitors and a dedicated marketing campaign targeting visitors to the city worked exceptional well and enabled NGS to capitalise on the huge success of the Commonwealth Games, Ryder Cup and Homecoming.

We are confident that we can continue this success in 2015 and look forward to welcoming even more visitors to all three Galleries across Edinburgh.”

Other city attractions such as the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, which joins the Scottish National Gallery as one of Scotland’s Top 20 most visited attractions which attracted 19% more visitors than last year. Positive increases were also recorded through 2014 at St Giles’ Cathedral, The Scotch Whisky Experience and Our Dynamic Earth

Regional Director, Manuela Calchini, said;

“Last year was an exceptional year for Scottish tourism, it was the year we welcomed the world. These figures show that as well as attending major events like the Commonwealth Games, The Ryder Cup and the Year of Homecoming, visitors were also discovering and exploring some of the great attractions to be found in Edinburgh”.

“In 2015, we will build on the energy and excitement of last year, using strengths, such as our city’s food and drink and quality visitor experiences, to take Scotland to the world and enhance our reputation as a must visit, must return destination.”

More information on the Association of Scottish Visitor Attractions can be found on www.asva.co.uk

Camerata Salzburg puts collaborating with the best musicians in the world at the heart of everything they do and here they team up with the incredible Nicola Benedetti on Sunday 15 March 2015 at 3pm.

They are said to be many things including ‘full of energy’, ‘uncompromisingly individual’, ‘daring and modern’. Their

distinct musical style has formed over a period of six decades. Through their collaborations with the great musicians and leading soloists of our day, such as Sir Roger Norrington, András Schiff, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Mitsuko Ushida, they cover a wide variety of music from string quartets for a small chamber group to romantic symphonies and 20th century classical works for a large orchestra.

British conductor Ben Gurnen has worked with the orchestra to award-winning effect and conducts here where each work complements the next in a packed but perfectly balanced programme.

[More details and tickets here.](#)

The chamber choir of Heriot-Watt University has been performing for sixteen years. Join the choir as they perform in the amazing, quite unique, acoustic of Rosslyn Chapel, an intimate candle lit setting.

Out of the thousands of British folk songs this evening concert will visit the various corners of the country, the colours, stories and settings conveyed. Each song has been arranged with loving care, attention to the text and also the grouping and mix of the choir.

The concert will last for approximately 1 hour and there will be drinks served afterwards.

The doors will open at 7pm and the concert starts at 7.30pm.
[Ticket details here.](#)





Get along to the Botanics to see the fabulous photography exhibition at the John Hope Gateway which opened earlier in the week. The photographs have to be seen to be believed. (we particularly like the one with the butterfly)

One of the entries is of the Alnwick Garden in Northumberland which was planned out by the Duchess of Northumberland, formerly Jane Richard who was brought up in Edinburgh.

International Garden Photographer of the Year is an outdoor photographic exhibition that reveals the diversity and beauty of our green planet. See a selection of the winning entries from the world's leading garden photography competition by both amateur and professional photographers. Supported by Water Gems.

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