Doors Open Days is nationally coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust, and is a part of European Heritage Days.
Doors Open Days has been celebrated in Scotland since 1990. The purpose of Doors Open Days is to enable everyone to enjoy our shared built and cultural heritage by accessing places, spaces and activities not usually open to them. The event is delivered in collaboration with area coordinators from local authorities and amenity groups, supported by many thousands of volunteers.

1,103 venues & events

Every local authority area in Scotland took part

254,750+ visits

93,100+ visitors

6,650+ volunteers

£1.5m visitor expenditure

64% visited regions that were not their home region

Have you been to Doors Open Days before?

- 24% said Yes
- 62%
- 14%

Stumbled upon the event

Planned a visit when they heard about it

We have been travelling around Scotland in September to attend Doors Open Days for the past 20 years. It is just as exciting now as it was 20 years ago!

Wonderful experience to be invited into someone's family home and hear amazing history - and feel the 'live in' atmosphere.

How did you hear about Doors Open Days?

Percentage of visitors (multiple answers allowed):

- Been before: 80%
- Leaflet, brochure or newspaper: 65%
- Online: 60%
- Word of mouth: 50%
- Advertisement: 40%
- Passing the venue: 30%

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35%
In 2019 we celebrated 30 years of Doors Open Days. Doors Open Days first took place in Glasgow and Ayr in 1990 and has grown significantly. In 2019 all 32 regions of Scotland participated in delivering a free national celebration of culture, architecture and heritage. The Scottish Civic Trust also delivered additional events, from filling a swimming pool full of flowers to offering refugee-led tours of Scotland’s finest buildings.

National press coverage included:

In 2019 we offered Enablibling Grants that allowed 13 additional venues to take part in Doors Open Days. The grants ranged from £60 to £2000 and enabled the completion of small scale works that increased access to venues during Doors Open Days. Grants covered the cost of installation of toilet facilities, signage, safety fencing, disabled toilets and more.

Two events launched Doors Open Days. Cultural Embassies celebrated the shared heritage of Scotland and Europe. The project created a map of European connections in Scotland and was launched at the Great Polish Map in Peebles. Blooms with a View was a floral installation that filled Govanhill Baths in Glasgow, welcoming over 1,000 visitors. The event was opened by Nicola Sturgeon, MSP for Glasgow South and Scotland’s First Minister.
TAKE PART IN DOORS OPEN DAYS 2020!
We are celebrating Scotland’s Year of Coasts and Waters, and the European theme of Education. We are looking for coordinators for Shetland, East Renfrewshire, Western Isles and Argyll & Bute, so please get in touch if you can help.

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Statistics are based on a sample of 2,658 visitor surveys (2.85% of visitors) and 952 event organiser surveys. Cover image: © Donald MacLeod. Images © clockwise from left: Fountainbridge Library, Renfrewshire Council, George Logan/Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Scottish Civic Trust, Dunoon Burgh Hall, Cruck Cottage. Scottish Civic Trust. Icons in this report were made by Pixel perfect from www.flaticon.com