



Your guide to taking part in Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old.

This guide is for venues, organisations, and individuals who have a building, space, or event they would like to open or hold as part of Doors Open Days.

Organised and supported by:



Welcome to Doors Open Days!

Whether you've participated before and want to refresh your memory or you're new and looking to see what we're all about, welcome!

This guide contains (almost) everything you need to know about participating in Doors Open Days, but if you have any questions please get in touch.

What is Door Open Days?

Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old. Every September you can explore hundreds of fascinating buildings across Scotland for free. Some open up once a year, some just once a lifetime.

Doors Open Days is organised nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust and is part of European Heritage Days alongside Scottish Archaeology Month, coordinated by Archaeology Scotland, both are supported by Historic Environment Scotland.

Our team of Regional Coordinators coordinate Doors Open Days venues and events at a local level across the country. They work on behalf of Local Authorities, heritage and preservation trusts, civic and amenity societies as well as on a voluntary basis.

A list of the current regional coordinators can be found [here](#).

Why should I take part?

Taking part in Doors Open Days offers a whole host of benefits:

- Join a National celebration of Scotland's place and stories that attracts over 150,000 visitors each year.
- Connect with a community of nearly 1000 venues and groups across Scotland.
- Develop stronger connections with your local community and audiences.
- Attract new visitors and members from across the world with digital events and activities.
- Experiment with new ideas and experiences without the pressure of paying customers.
- Access resources, guidance, training, and marketing materials to support your events and venues.
- Enjoy increased publicity through our website, newsletter, social media, print media, and broadcast media.

Still not convinced?

On our website you can find an [archive of summary reports](#) from 2017 onwards. These reports contain information about visitor experience, media coverage, economic impact, and more!



How do I take part?

Visit our website to see who your local coordinator is and which weekend your region will be - Doors Open Days events take place over four weekends in September with events in different regions each weekend.

Your local coordinator will send you all the information you need to take part including the application form, community guidelines, and information about how to plan events.

The application form asks a number of questions that are then used to populate your venue listing on the website which forms the digital programme. Some regions also create paper programme leaflets and maps.

Coordinators are there every step of the way to provide support and additional information. They will also send you digital and physical marketing materials for your event.

The Doors Open Days programme goes live at the beginning of August in advance of the festival in September.



Planning your event

Every year Doors Open Days gives people the opportunity to explore new places and spaces within their local areas. In-person events make up the majority of events during the festival.

Your event could simply be opening the door and welcoming people in, or you could hold an event or host an activity specifically for Door Open Days.

This could be behind-the-scenes tour, holding a workshop, creating a history trail, having a storyteller - the options are endless!

Whilst the majority of activities are in-person events, you can also create digital activities or hold an online event. Some examples include virtual tours, online talks or presentations.

Event Guidance

There are [multiple pages](#) on our website dedicated to providing guidance and support around topics such as planning inclusive events, creating digital activities, as well as information about insurance and risk assessments. These resources are updated each year and include links to materials from other organisations.

These resources are mostly written or illustrative, as we develop our guidance material we are adding more videos as well as providing online sessions for participants.

Get in touch

If you're not sure that you are eligible to take part in Doors Open Days or have additional questions please get in touch!

Get in touch by email at dod@scottishcivictrust.org.uk or via the contact form on [our website](#).

Sign up to [our newsletter](#) which includes information about dates, partnerships, and highlights.

Follow us on social media: [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Finally, come along to a Doors Open Days event in September! We'd love to see you!

