

Paisley

The pattern that changed everything

It has been worn by everyone from Queen Victoria to The Beatles. It is instantly recognised across the world. It is as iconic and fashionable today as it was when it put a small Scottish town at the centre of global textile trade.

The Paisley Pattern changed everything for Paisley.

The intricate and beautiful hand-woven designs of the Kashmir shawl originated in India in the 11th Century—the most popular and recognisable being a teardrop motif.

As the designs made their way to western Europe in the latter half of the 18th Century, they became a symbol of wealth and status among upper-class women.

The Paisley shawl began as an attempt by European manufacturers to imitate this rare and expensive product. Producing the Kashmir shawl on looms required an extremely high level of skill and technology—only a few weaving centres in Europe were placed to meet the challenge.

Paisley was one, and the expertise and technical skill Paisley weavers had developed producing fine silk

gauzes and figured muslins meant they were well-equipped to take on the weaving of these 'imitation' shawls.

By 1834, shawls with a value over £1million were being produced in Paisley. They became even more fashionable in 1842 when the young Queen Victoria is said to have purchased 17 of them!

By the 1860s, trade peaked with over 71 shawl manufacturers operating in the town and making the colourful, fashionable 'Paisley' shawl affordable and accessible across the world.

In 2017, an expert panel convened for the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology named Paisley shawls as one of 25 objects that shaped Scotland's history.





Sma' Shot Cottages

Step back in time for a unique understanding into two distinct periods of Paisley's rich textile history.

Arrive at a typical 18th Century weaver's cottage — originally built in the 1750s— and local guides will provide a fascinating insight into how a typical weaving family lived and worked during this important period in Paisley's history. Cross the yard and discover the 19th Century house of the foreman of a nearby mill—experience what family life was like within the kitchen/living area, bedroom, children's room and parlour, each room decorated to represent time periods from the late 19th Century into the early 20th Century.

April–September
Weds and Sat, 12pm–4pm;
Fri, 1pm–5pm
Free admission

Sma' Shot Cottages
15 Shuttle Street
Paisley PA1 2HZ
+(0)141 889 1708
smashotcottages@outlook.com
www.smashotcottages.co.uk

Weaver's Cottage, Kilbarchan

Take a trip to the pretty village of Kilbarchan for a slice of Renfrewshire's rich history of manufacturing.

Step inside this cottage owned and operated by the National Trust for Scotland and be transported back to the days when Kilbarchan was at the heart of Scotland's thriving textile industry.

This restored 18th Century building vividly recreates the living and working conditions of a typical handloom weaver.

30 March–31 October
1pm–5pm (closed Weds and Thurs)

NTS members go free. Adult £6;
Concession £5; Family £16.50;
Single Adult Family £11.50

Weaver's Cottage
The Cross
Kilbarchan PA10 2JG
+(0)1505 705588
www.nts.org.uk/visit/
weavers-cottage

Paisley Thread Mill Museum

Pull on the thread of Paisley's textile history and unravel for yourself the story of how the town became known around the world.

Explore the history of Paisley's great thread manufacturers, the Coats and Clarks families, in one of the heritage buildings in the former Anchor Mills complex. The museum holds a wonderful collection of artefacts, thread samples, machinery, patterns and much more.

A must-see for those interested in textiles, fashion and clothing manufacturing.

Weds and Sat, 12pm–4pm
Free admission
Paisley Thread Mill Museum
Abbeymill Business Centre
12 Seedhill Road
Paisley PA1 1JS
+(0)141 847 1111
paisleythreadmm@outlook.com
www.paisleythreadmill.co.uk

InCube Shop

Take home a fabulous memento of your visit or buy a gift for those back home inspired by Paisley's textile story.

A new generation of designers and creatives are being supported by Paisley's InCube programme.

Pop into the InCube Shop for some retail therapy and you could pick up clothing, jewellery, craft items and home furnishings inspired by the Paisley Pattern and the town's rich history.

Image © Josef McFadden:
Pàislig Collection
Tues–Sat, 11am–5pm
InCube Shop
9b Gilmour Street
Paisley PA1 1DD
+(0)141 618 6040
incube@renfrewshire.gov.uk
www.incube.ren

We're one of the best connected towns in Scotland. Paisley is less than 15 minutes from Glasgow by rail or road, and lies just off the M8 motorway.

However you're travelling, getting here is easy.

www.paisley.is



Paisley



Sma' Shot Day

6 July 2019

Celebrate the victory of the weavers with one of the oldest workers' festivals in the UK.

The annual Sma' Shot celebration of the workers' victory in a long-running industrial dispute—over one tiny, but crucial, thread vital to the weaving of Paisley shawls—takes place on the first Saturday of each July to commemorate the time of year when the weavers and their families traditionally took their holidays.