

Information about the Social Programme

Getting Around

We recommend using public transport, which is run by Lothian Buses and Lothian Trams.

If you are arriving at Edinburgh Airport, it is approximately 8 miles/13km from the city centre and is served by bus, tram, and taxi. The [Airlink](#) bus fare is £6 single, £8.50 return (but see below regarding discount), and takes 30-40 minutes, depending on traffic. The tram costs £7.90 single, £9.50 return, and takes 35 minutes; a taxi costs approximately £30 one-way and takes 30-40 minutes, depending on traffic.

Although there are car hire options at the airport, we recommend you do not use them. Apart from environmental considerations, parking in the centre of the city is difficult and expensive.

Lothian Buses provides public transport bus services within Edinburgh. Contactless payment (credit/debit card) is best as you will pay the cheapest fare and be capped at £5.00 per day. Cash payment (correct amount only) can also be made (£2.20 for a single journey or £5.50 for a day ticket).

The Lothian Buses [app](#) is very helpful and worth downloading, even for your brief stay. Wherever you are staying, wherever you are, and wherever you want to go, the [Journey Planner](#) feature will calculate the best route and timing.

Bus services that take you within a 10 minute walk of the Nucleus Building include services 3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 29, 31, 37, 47, 49. If staying at Pollock Halls, a 10-minute walk followed by a 5-minute bus ride followed by another 10-minute walk will take you door to door in 25 minutes or less via service 12, 31, 37, or 49.

[Lothian Buses](#)

[Edinburgh Trams](#)

Taxis

There are many taxi companies in Edinburgh, as well as [Uber](#).

Private hire cabs must be booked through their app or by phoning, but the black cabs can be “waved down” in the street if their yellow light is illuminated. You will also find taxi ranks around the city.

[City Cabs](#)

[Capital Cars](#)

How to Purchase a Discounted Airlink Ticket

Open the Bus & Tram app and tap on “Tickets”. Follow prompts to create an account – you can sign in using your Apple or Google account or using your email address – and then:

- Tap “Get Tickets”
- Tap “Airlink”
- Select “Adult Airport Return” and choose the “1 Adult” ticket



- Tap “Apply a coupon code” and enter EDINBURGH25-AIRLINK to apply the 15% discount. You can then pay for the ticket using Apple Pay, Google Pay, or by entering your card details.

The discount code will stop working at 00:00 on 1 September 2025 and can only be redeemed once per person to purchase 1 Adult Airport Return ticket from the app. Any unused balance will not be refunded.

How to Use the Ticket

Once purchased, the ticket will be found in the “Tickets” section of the app. Activate the ticket only when you are about to board the bus. Once activated, you have 5 minutes to show the driver the ticket – just tap “Show” to display the ticket. You will need an internet connection to activate the ticket.