



NOT Driving in Glasgow & Where to Park

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Outlandish Scotland Journey NOT Driving in Glasgow & Where to Park

Do **NOT** plan to drive around *within* Glasgow's City Centre or West End!
Seriously, Don't Do It.

Like Edinburgh—and every other major city in the UK—even visiting UK natives (including Scots) avoid driving within Glasgow City Centre and the West End.

“Because of its compact size and extensive public transport system, it is not really necessary to drive around the centre of Glasgow. In fact, for the visitor, driving in the central area can be a stressful and very slow experience thanks to the almost unfathomable one way system ... bus lanes (monitored by police cameras [with license plate recognition]) and pedestrianized streets.

“Coupled with impatient and often aggressive drivers that don't make the best use of available lanes, and the frustratingly long duration and frequent traffic lights, it is often better for your blood pressure and average journey times to get out and walk!”

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Glasgow>

Below are a few other factors that should help dissuade you from driving within Glasgow City Centre and the West End.



[©2018 Daily Record] [©2016 Colin Templeton] Segments, enhanced.

Good Luck Avoiding a Restricted Lane Driving Violation Fine

In 2017/18, Glasgow's camera-monitored bus lanes earned the city £3.23 million in fines. For someone unfamiliar with the street system, it can be almost impossible to navigate Glasgow city streets north of the River Clyde without accidentally driving in a restricted lane. Even *Glaswegians* have difficulty avoiding bus lane driving violation fines!

“According to comparison site Confused.com, which compiled the data, almost half (45%) of Scottish motorists who have driven in a [Glasgow] bus lane did so unknowingly. ... However, more than a quarter of UK motorists who have driven in a [Glasgow] bus lane admitted they did so deliberately, with most doing so to avoid traffic congestion.”

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17221245.glasgow-takes-top-spot-in-bus-lane-fines/>

Good Luck Finding Street Signs

The excerpt below is from an Edinburgh driving TripAdvisor article, but it is equally applicable to driving in Glasgow.

“You won’t be able to read street signs until it’s too late. You may find street signs on building walls or sign posts in a myriad of sizes, fonts, and colors that were probably once quite useful when traveling by horse and carriage. But, amid all the cargo vans, single and double-decker buses, by the time you focus enough to read the sign you’ll be past the intersection. And if you try to drive slower to see better, the taxi driver in your rear view mirror will appear so close you’ll be tempted to charge him a fare.”

<https://www.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g186525-c179510/Edinburgh:United-Kingdom:7.Reasons.Not.To.Drive.In.Edinburgh.html>

Good Luck Finding a Parking Space

This may be the strongest argument for *NOT* driving in Glasgow.

Short term parking in Glasgow’s City Centre and the West End is extremely limited. If you do happen to find an open space in these areas it probably will be expensive, and the maximum length of stay likely will be shorter than the time needed to accomplish your visit.

- A Glasgow City Centre on-street parking space generally costs **£1 per 15 minutes**, with a 2 hour maximum stay. That’s around \$10 USD for 2 hours. Two hours is not enough time to tour the Glasgow Outlandish City Centre sites. If you leave your car beyond the maximum stay, it can be ticketed, or even towed.
- The small city centre car parks, such as those near Glasgow Cathedral, are cheaper than on-street parking and you can leave your car there for the day. Our Outlandish City Centre tour (Site #58) lasts 6.5 hours. At £1.60 per hour, 7 hours will cost you £11.20 (\$14). While some might consider this affordable, the small car parks fill up quickly. Unless you arrive very early in the morning, you’re unlikely to find a free space within them.
- Most West End on-street spaces are reserved for residents who have purchased parking permits. Vehicles illegally parked in reserved spaces can be ticketed, or even towed.
- The few *public* West End on-street parking spaces generally cost 20p for 15 minutes, up to 1 hour. Thereafter, the fee is 40p for 15 minutes, with a 3 hour maximum stay. While £4 (\$5.20) isn’t that expensive for 3 hours of parking, the fastest possible *Outlander* West End tour (Site #59) is 4 hours and 45 minutes. The best West End tour lasts 6.5 hours. If you leave your car beyond the maximum stay, it can be ticketed, or even towed.

In 2018, the cost of a Glasgow parking ticket—or a traffic violation captured on camera, such as driving in a bus lane—was £30 (\$38), *if* full payment was received within 14 days of issue. If full payment wasn’t received until between 14 and 28 days after issue, the fine increased to £60 (\$77). Failure to pay the full fine within 28 days after issue resulted in an additional £30 penalty, increasing the fine to £90 (\$115).

Please Note: Driving a Rental Car does NOT Exempt You from Parking Tickets!

Nor does it exempt you from fines for driving in a restricted lane, or speeding, or any other form of traffic violation in any part of Scotland. If *anyone* tells you differently (even a Scottish police officer), politely thank them, then disregard what they've told you.

If you ignore a parking ticket, or commit a traffic violation captured on camera, the rental vehicle's license plate will eventually lead to the car hire company, and the company will be fined for your offense. Thereafter, the car hire company will charge the credit card you used to rent the car for the amount of the fine—likely with the addition of an exorbitant “handling fee.”

BTW: The 2018 fee for retrieving a towed vehicle in Glasgow was £180 (\$230). Need we mention the taxi expense required for reaching the tow lot, or the time expenditure required to retrieve your car?

Solution #1: Do Not Bring a Car to Glasgow

Shuttles, busses, trains, and taxis run all day, every day, between both of Glasgow's airports and the city centre, where you can catch a bus or train or taxi to your lodgings. If your Outlandish holiday begins or ends at a Glasgow airport:

- Pick up your rental car when you're ready to *leave* Glasgow.
- Turn in your rental car *before* your Glasgow visit.

Solution #2: Leave Your Rental Car Parked While in Glasgow

Below are the overnight parking options for Outlanderites who rented a car elsewhere and are visiting Glasgow in the *midst* of a holiday.

Lodge in South Glasgow

Many Hotels, Guest Houses, and B&Bs located south of the River Clyde have enough space to offer free parking for the duration of your stay. While this is a significant cost-saving amenity, you'll not be within walking distance of Glasgow's most interesting activities and venues.

Please see the **Glasgow Lodging Options PDF**, posted in the Glasgow Planning Directory of our website. <http://outlandishscotland.com/Glasgow-Planning/>

Glasgow City Centre Hotel Car Parks

If you lodge in one of the name-brand or luxury hotels located in the city centre (north of the River Clyde), car park access may be one of the amenities offered. Whether the car park is attached to the hotel or located nearby, however, you *will* be charged for using it. In 2018, Glasgow City Centre hotel parking fees ranged from £12 to £27.50 per 24 hours.

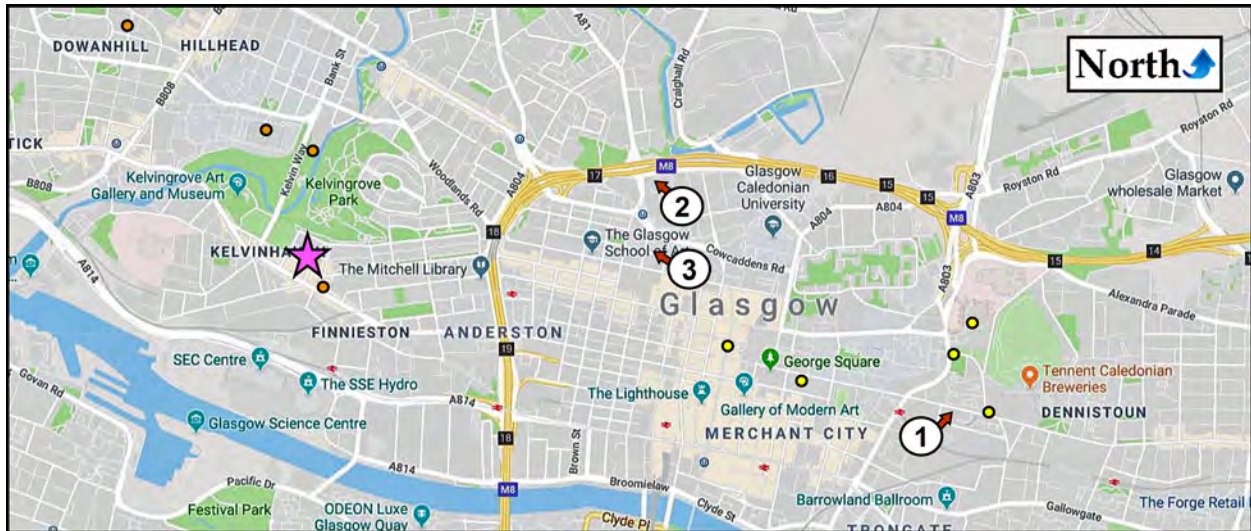
Leave Your Car in a Public Car Park for the Duration of Your Stay

Since we rarely lodge in a name-brand or luxury city centre hotel, this is our favorite option. Just be careful which public car park you use.

- A few of the surface Pay and Display car parks in Glasgow allow overnight parking. Those that do, however, require that you return to the car park *twice a day* to purchase additional parking.

Unless the surface car park is next to your lodging, this is ridiculously inconvenient. Don't use them.

- Glasgow has seven Multi-Storey, pay-on-exit, car parks that *do* offer continuous stays over several days. The standard 24 hour parking fee charged by these facilities ranges from £16.50 to £29.50, depending on the car park's location.
<http://www.cityparkingglasgow.co.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2175>
- **Special Tip!** Three of Glasgow's multi-storey car parks offer a huge discount to those who plan ahead and arrange for a "Pay on the Day" card.



[©2018 Google Map segment (enhanced)]

POD Card Car Parks

Pay on the Day Cards

A Pay on the Day (POD) Card is a reusable coded ticket that caps the cost of each continuous daily parking stay – up to 24 hours – at £5, £6.50, or £7.

As of 2018, POD cards are only available at the three Glasgow car parks numbered on the map above and listed below. A POD card is only good for one car park, so you'll need to pick one.

- (1) Duke Street Car Park; £5 per daily stay – up to 24 hours
Post Code: G4 0UW
Entry barrier coordinates: 55.859268, -4.235666
- (2) Dundasvale Car Park; £6.50 per daily stay – up to 24 hours
Post Code: G4 0SY
Entry barrier coordinates: 55.868980, -4.258679
- (3) Cambridge Street Car Park; £7 per daily stay – up to 24 hours
Post Code: G2 3HN
Entry barrier coordinates: 55.866315, -4.258576

The 5 yellow dots on the right side of the map above are Outlandish City Centre tour sites.
The 4 orange dots on the left side are West End film sites.

The pink star is our preferred lodging area in Glasgow.

There are no application forms, no contracts, no order fees, and no pre-pay fees required to obtain a POD card. Simply request a POD card by Email, or call the City Parking Glasgow main office between 8:45am and 5pm on Monday through Friday.

Phone: 0141 276 1830

carparkinfo@cityparkingglasgow.co.uk

According to the rep we contacted, you can order a POD card a “few weeks” in advance. We suggest ordering only 4 weeks in advance, to minimize the possibility of your card being lost in the car park office.

If your *Outlandish Scotland Journey* is spur-of-the-moment trip, you must request the POD card at least 24 hours before your Glasgow arrival—preferably 48 hours.

Your POD card request Email should include the following information:

- Your name and phone number.
(If you order by phone, your Email address will also be requested.)
- The name of the car park you wish to use.
- *That's it!*

Your POD card will be available at the car park you selected within 24 hours of receiving your order. It will be held there for several weeks, so you don't need to specify a collection date.

The three POD card car parks are attended every day of the week, from 7am to 10pm. You can pick up the card at any time during those hours.

Steps for Collecting Your POD Card

1. Drive to your selected car park's entry barrier, take an entry ticket, drive in and find a place to park.
2. Secure your belongings in the boot—aka trunk—so that nothing tempting to thieves is visible inside the car. Lock your car.
3. Head to the car park office to pick up your POD card.
You'll need to show your ID to obtain the card.
4. If the office is closed when you get there, and it is between the hours of 7am and 10pm, the attendant is on patrol within the car park. Press the help point button at the office and control staff will assist you.

Do not lose your entry ticket. Do not lose your POD card!

You must have both to obtain the parking discount.

It is a good idea to return to your car after picking up your POD card so you can secure it—with the car park entry ticket—in the glove box of your rental car. If your touring bag is lost or stolen during your Glasgow visit, this 10 or 15 minute time expenditure will save you £20 (or more) per day.

Steps for Leaving the Car Park

1. Return to your car and take whatever time is needed to get everything sorted and situated in preparation for your next drive *before* paying the parking fee.

Your car park fee is capped. But, you only have 15 minutes to exit the car park after paying. If fussing inside the car delays you after paying, you'll have to pay again!

2. Once all within your car is sorted and situated, go to the nearest pay machine and insert your entry ticket.
3. When prompted to PAY, insert your Pay on the Day card into the same ticket slot.
After the parking discount is applied the POD card will be returned to you.
4. Pay the discounted fee and your entry ticket will be returned to you.
5. Drive to the exit barrier and use your paid entry ticket to exit the car park.

So that you'll have them handy:

Coordinates and post codes for the three POD card car parks are included in the Glasgow Overview (Site #57) chapter of *Outlandish Scotland Journey*. We'll also repeat the steps for paying there.

To check on updated POD card information, visit the City Parking Glasgow website:

<http://www.cityparkingglasgow.co.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9736>