



Edinburgh Public Buses

An Edinburgh Planning PDF

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Outlandish Scotland Journey Edinburgh Public Buses



Buses are the primary mode of public transportation in Edinburgh. They run 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

The largest bus operator within Edinburgh is **Lothian Buses**, which is jointly owned by the City of Edinburgh Council and a few neighboring councils.

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/>

The next largest Edinburgh bus operator is the **First Bus** company, but its buses primarily provide service between outlying areas and the City Centre.

<https://www.firstgroup.com/south-east-and-central-scotland>

From Introducing Edinburgh:

Both companies share [several of] the same bus stops, but the bus numbers are different and each company has its own ticket. ...

Fares

First and Lothian have similar prices but not exactly the same. For example:

- Single-journey adult ticket: A First ticket costs from £1.60 (depends on the distance of your trip), and a Lothian ticket is £1.70 [between any two points within the city].
- Single-journey child ticket: Both Lothian and First single [child] tickets cost 80p.
- Lothian adult DAYticket: Lothian offers unlimited use of their buses and Edinburgh trams [within the city] for one day for £4. [More info below.] First doesn't offer this type of ticket.
- Lothian and First both allow its passengers to purchase the tickets on the bus [and both require exact change for the purchase].

<https://www.introducingedinburgh.com/bus>

From "15 Edinburgh Scotland Travel Mistakes to Avoid ...":

"Normally, I HATE buses with a burning passion since they are slow, crowded, unreliable, and are always stuck in traffic. For an added bonus of misery, they also tend to smell like BO (body odor) but that's a story for another post. That's why when I travel, I typically use the metro as my primary mode of public transportation. [An option *not* available in Edinburgh!]

"However, that was all before I hopped on a [Lothian] bus in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"These buses put all other public buses to shame since they come fully loaded with electronic screens that detail not only what stop you are at but the time until your arrival at various other

stops along the bus line (most but not all the buses have this). Throw in some bus only lanes that help you avoid traffic, and you have an easy and efficient way to get around the city.

“Oh, and did I mention that all bus stops have electronic signs that detail both the number of the bus line and the minutes until its arrival? I was totally blown away by this technological awesomeness and am now forced to rethink my entire perception of public buses. ...

“★On older buses that are not outfitted with electronic route maps, sit on the left side of the bus so that you can read the bus stop name as you drive by. This way, you can figure out where you are since the bus driver won’t announce the stop.

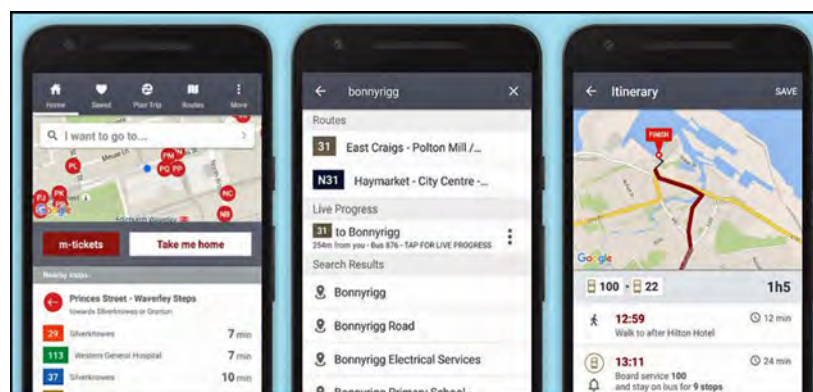
“★Also remember to push the stop button so the driver knows you want to get off at a particular stop.”

<https://www.girlwiththepassport.com/2017/07/edinburgh-scotland-travel-mistakes/>

In addition to being clean (and BO-free), Lothian buses are equipped with comfortable high back seats, free WiFi, USB charging points, and LED spotlights overhead. They also are eco-friendly.



The Lothian Bus fleet includes diesel-electric, low-carbon “hybrid” buses (above, left), and fully electric single deck buses (above, right).



Transport for Edinburgh Smartphone App

<http://tfeapp.com/>

Outlanderites with smartphones will enjoy this app. Below are a few highlights from the link above:

- The updated app uses real-time information and can send push notifications so you’ll always know when your bus or tram is due. With real-time information, the app gives you quick access to live departure boards for every bus and tram stop in the city. Fast, responsive maps show you

all stops and routes near you, as well as first and last departures, timetables and proximity alarms—we'll send you a message when you're approaching an unfamiliar bus or tram stop.

- Now you can quickly find your destination—just start typing and we'll show you places, businesses and addresses that match your search. Not only that, but you can quickly search for routes or the bus you're on right now—simply type the service number to show all nearby buses that match.
- The app will let you know if there are any disruptions to your service, plus we can notify you even if the app is closed.

M-tickets

The term, "M-tickets," refers to bus or tram tickets downloaded to smartphones (aka "mobile" phones—hence, the "M"), via the Transport for Edinburgh app. If only busing in Edinburgh on a few days, however, M-tickets may *not* be the best idea. Below are a few important caveats.

- M-tickets must be purchased through the app in advance of travel. ... Purchased tickets are non-refundable and cannot be altered.
- All M-ticket purchases are subject to a minimum purchase value of ten pounds (£10) in any one transaction—you can purchase any combination of ticket types and quantities providing the total value is at least ten pounds. [See the cost of a Lothian Bus DAYticket, below.]
- Transport for Edinburgh accepts payment through the M-tickets app using VISA and MasterCard debit and credit cards, and Apple Pay. Payment can also be made using Barclays Pingit.
- M-tickets must be activated prior to boarding and the ticket will be displayed on your smartphone's screen—show this to the bus driver when boarding, or the ticket services assistant on the tram.
- [An M-ticket must be used to board the bus within 30 minutes of activation. Failure to do so will invalidate the ticket, with no refund.]
- Your device must have sufficient battery charge to be able to display the M-ticket to the driver or ticket services assistant upon boarding, and if requested by a Transport for Edinburgh official throughout your journey, otherwise the cash or Standard fare for the journey will be payable.

While we appreciate the Transport for Edinburgh Smartphone App, we do *not* recommend the purchase of M-tickets.

You can read the full M-ticket terms and conditions at the link below.

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/mobile-ticketing-terms-and-conditions/>

Lothian Buses Ticket Options

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/tickets/>

Information within this section was obtained from the link above (unless otherwise indicated), and is valid for May through September of 2018. Indented paragraphs are quotes from the webpage.

***Note that all of our regular services (with the exception of Airlink) use an exact fare system for cash fares—our drivers do not have access to cash and cannot give change.**

Please have the exact change correct fare ready when boarding our buses.

[Bus and Tram drivers can only accept **coins**—*not* bank cards or banknotes.

Coins accepted: 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2.]

Ask the driver for the type of ticket you require and place your change coins in the red fares box and take your ticket from the ticket machine (either beside the fares box or just behind the driver's cab).

SINGLEticket

Adult: £1.70

Child: 80p

Scottish National Entitlement Card: Free

Ideal for infrequent users.

SINGLEtickets are available from [any Lothian] bus driver. When boarding the bus let the driver know the type of ticket you require and then place the correct change [coins only] into the red fares box.

Holders of Young Scot Concession Cards (ages 16 to 18 inclusive) are entitled to 1/3 off the Adult Single fare on all services except Edinburgh Trams, NightBus services and Tours.

This is the Standard fare for a single journey anywhere *within* Edinburgh, on any city bus running between 4:30am and Midnight—a Day bus.

The NightBus fare is £3 for unlimited travel within Edinburgh between Midnight and 4:30am. NightBuses are prefixed by the letter 'N,' such as N22 or N11.

DAYticket

Adult: £4.00

Child: £2.00

Unlimited travel on our day buses and Edinburgh Trams (City Fare zone only) for one day [between the hours of 4:30am and Midnight].

Perfect if you are making 3 or more journeys in a day. Like single tickets, these can be purchased from the bus driver of the first bus you board. You must clearly show your DAYticket to the driver on every bus you board [or to any ticket services assistant, or any Transport for Edinburgh official, throughout your journey].

DAYtickets can be pre-purchased [in groups of 10 or 20 tickets] from our Travelshops, and online from our Online Shop.

[A *single* DAYticket cannot be purchased online. Just buy one from the first bus driver.]

DAYtickets can also be purchased from one of the **Ticket Vending Machines** at each tram stop.

***Special Notes about Tram Stop Ticket Vending Machines**

<https://edinburghtrams.com/tickets/ticket-options>

- Tram stop ticket machines accept coins and “most” Debit or Credit bank cards (we don't know which ones)—but not banknotes.
- Coins accepted: 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2

- Any ticket purchased from a Tram stop ticket machine must initially be used within 30 minutes of purchase. Failure to do so will invalidate the ticket, without refund.
- Happily, when a return (roundtrip) ticket is purchased from the machine—and initially activated within 30 minutes—the return journey portion of the ticket is open and can be used at any time, on any day.
- Similarly, when a DAYticket or Network DAYticket is purchased from a Tram stop ticket machine—and initially activated within 30 minutes—subsequent journeys can be enjoyed at any time between the hour of purchase and Midnight that day.

Because of the caveats listed above, we prefer *not* using Ticket Vending Machines at tram stops.

Family DAYticket

£8.50

All-day travel for up to 2 adults and up to 3 children [between the hours of 4:30am and Midnight]!

The Family DAYticket allows up to 2 adults and up to 3 children unlimited travel together on Lothian Buses day services, all day, for only £8.50. Also valid on Edinburgh Trams (City Fare zone only).

That's an incredible saving of up to 42%.

You can buy from your bus driver, from one of the Ticket Vending Machines at each tram stop, or pre-purchase from our Travelshops or Park & Ride.

DAY&NIGHTticket

Adult only: £3.50

Like a DAYticket but purchased on-bus after 1800hrs [6pm—hence, the discount]. A DAY&NIGHTticket can be used on Lothian Buses day services [from 6pm] and NightBus network until 0430hrs the following day. Also valid [during that time frame] on Edinburgh Trams (City Fare zone only).

If you'll be busing around Edinburgh during the day (but not journeying to or from the airport), and will be traveling in the city *after* Midnight, buy a DAYticket *and* a DAY&NIGHTticket. Total expense: £7.50.

If an airport journey *will* be part of your busing around Edinburgh day, *and* you'll be traveling the city after Midnight, the Network DAYticket is the best deal.

Network DAYticket

Adult: £9.00

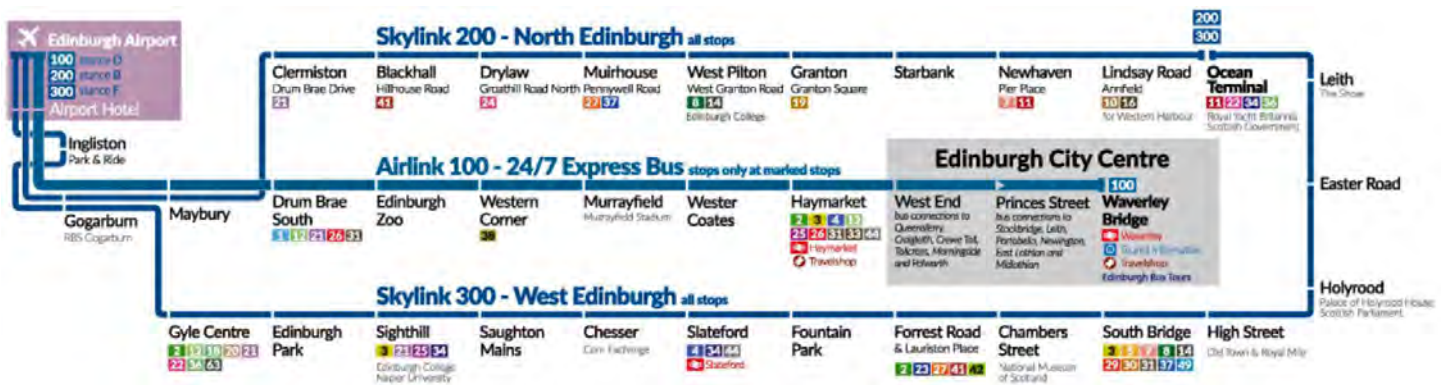
Child: £4.50

Unlimited travel on our buses and trams for one day.

Go anywhere, anytime with our great value Network DAYticket.

Perfect if you are making 3 or more journeys, including travel to/from Edinburgh Airport, in a day. Like single tickets, these can be purchased from the bus driver of the first bus you board.

Network DAYticket can also be purchased from one of the Ticket Vending Machines at each tram stop.



Lothian Edinburgh Airport Buses

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/our-services/airport-buses/>

Below are some highlights from that webpage.



24/7 Express between Edinburgh Airport and the City Centre.

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Departs Edinburgh Airport every 10 minutes between 04:30 and 00:35
- Departs Waverley Bridge every 10 minutes between 04:00 and Midnight
- Every 15 minutes [between Midnight and 4am]
- Touch & Go—use your contactless debit or credit card, Apple Pay or Android Pay to pay for your journey

Airlink also offers:

- Dedicated luggage area with CCTV security
- Comfortable seating
- Free Wi-Fi on board
- USB charging points



Local connections between Edinburgh Airport and North Edinburgh

- Local connections from Clermiston, Drylaw, Muirhouse & Granton to Ocean Terminal on 200
- Direct journeys from North Edinburgh to Gogarburn on 200
- Local connections from Gyle, Edinburgh Park, Sighthill, Slateford, Fountainbridge, South Bridge, Holyrood, Easter Road and Foot of Leith Walk on 300
- Onward connections to Leith and North East Edinburgh available at Ocean Terminal

Improving bus connections for airport staff, visitors and commuters

- Travel from Ocean Terminal to Edinburgh Airport
- On-bus baggage racks with CCTV
- Journeys to and from Edinburgh Airport every 30 minutes daily on service 200, every 12 minutes weekdays, every 15 minutes Saturdays and every 30 minutes Sundays on service 300
- 7 days a week from 04:10 until Midnight on service 200

Ticket type	Cost
Single adult	£4.50
Single child	£2.00
Adult open return	£7.50
Child open return	£3.00
Adult Network Day Ticket	£9.00
Child Network Day Ticket	£4.50

The Tickets Prices at Left are Valid for Travel on Either Airlink or Skylink

- Scottish National Concession (including Young Person Concession) cards are valid on all Airlink & Skylink journeys except night-time journeys (between Midnight and 4am).
- Return Tickets are open-ended – the return journey can be taken when needed (including on NightBus service N22 between Airport and Edinburgh City Centre).

- Single tickets for journeys between the Airport/Airport Hotel and Maybury are available from the Airlink or Skylink driver: £2.50 adult, £1.50 child.
- *Ticket vouchers purchased online or from an agent can only be used on Airlink.

You can purchase Airlink/Skylink single and return tickets at the Airlink kiosk outside Edinburgh Airport Domestic Arrivals, online, or directly from Airlink/Skylink drivers.

*Skylink drivers cannot give change. Have the exact change fare (coins only) ready.



Edinburgh Trams

Transport between the Edinburgh Airport & City Centre and Some Local Transportation

All information in this section is from the link below, and valid as of May, 2018.

<https://edinburghtrams.com/>



Since May of 2014, a new tram line has been operating between the Edinburgh Airport and the Edinburgh City Centre. City zone Tram fares within the City Fare zone are the same as those for Lothian Buses within the city. Lothian Bus DAYtickets are valid on Trams within the City Fare zone only. Lothian Network DAYtickets, however, *will* get you to the airport.

Single Journey Tram Ticket

Adult: £6 for Airport Zone travel (all stops)

Child aged 5-15: £3 for Airport Zone travel (all stops)

Return Ticket – Airport Zone

Perfect if you plan to make a return journey by tram from the airport to another stop on the network. Travel in the Airport Zone (between Edinburgh Airport and all stops to York Place).

Adult: £8.50

Child aged 5-15: £4.50

Network DAYticket

Unlimited travel on Edinburgh Trams (all stops) and [all] Lothian Buses for one day.

Adult: £9.00

Child aged 5-15: £4.50

For more information about Edinburgh Trams, visit the link below:

<https://edinburghtrams.com/contact-us/frequently-asked-questions>

The Lothian Buses Website offers an Online Travel Planer:

<https://www.lothianbuses.com/live-travel-info/journey-planner/>

Traveline Scotland's Planer also will help you plan your Edinburgh Bus Journeys:

www.travelinescotland.com

www.travelinescotland.com/apps