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Getting the bus to BiCon

Buses from the centre of Edinburgh that will take you directly to BiCon are run by Lothian Buses: **2, 14, 30, 33**

The Lothian Buses website has timetables and route information:

<http://www.lothianbuses.com>

There's also a handy mobile app you can download that will tell you where your nearest bus stop is, and what buses are due at that stop: <http://www.lothianbuses.com/plan-a-journey/journey-planner>

All Lothian Buses should be "easy access" for wheelchair users:

<http://www.lothianbuses.com/our-community/community/accessible-buses>

A good rule of thumb for Edinburgh buses is that most services run through the centre of Edinburgh on or around Princes Street, the main street that goes past the Castle.

Lothian bus fares:

- £1.50 single for an adult
- 70p single for a child

If you plan to use more than two buses in one day it is better to get a day ticket:

- £3.50 day ticket for an adult
- £2.00 day ticket for a child

Airlink tickets are open returns and cost:

- £6 for adults
- £3 for children

Getting the bus from Waverley Station

If you're coming by train, Waverley station exits directly onto Princes Street via the Waverley Steps.

The steps are **not** wheelchair accessible, however there **are** escalators for the less mobile.

There is a lift onto the top of Princes Mall from the station, directly adjacent to the steps.

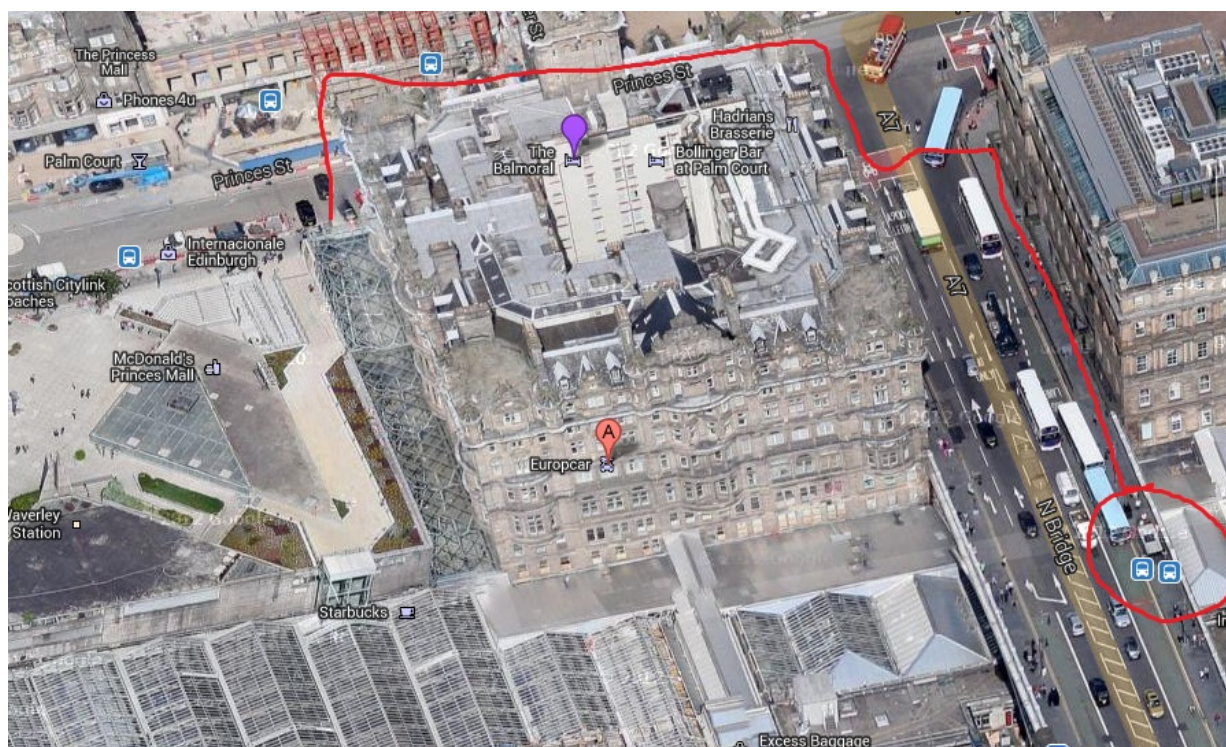
Network Rail have accessibility info on Waverley Station:

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/edinburgh-waverley-station/disabled-access>

From the top of the steps, the nearest bus stop that takes you to BiCon is on North Bridge:

- Turn right at the top of the steps and walk past the Balmoral Hotel
- Cross the bottom of North Bridge and walk up until you see **14/30/33** bus stop.
- If you look out over the side of the bridge you'll see Arthur's Seat and the Craggs: that's where you're going! **The other side** of the bridge has lovely views to the castle, but that's the wrong side to get the bus from.

Below is a map of the route from Waverley Steps to the bus stop:



Getting the bus from the airport

The Airlink bus will take you straight from the airport to Waverley Bridge, and from there it's a short walk to the North Bridge bus stop.

- Go up Waverley Bridge to Princes Street, turn right and walk along to the junction of North Bridge and Princes Street.
- Cross to the far side and walk up to the bus stop for the **14/30/33** bus services.

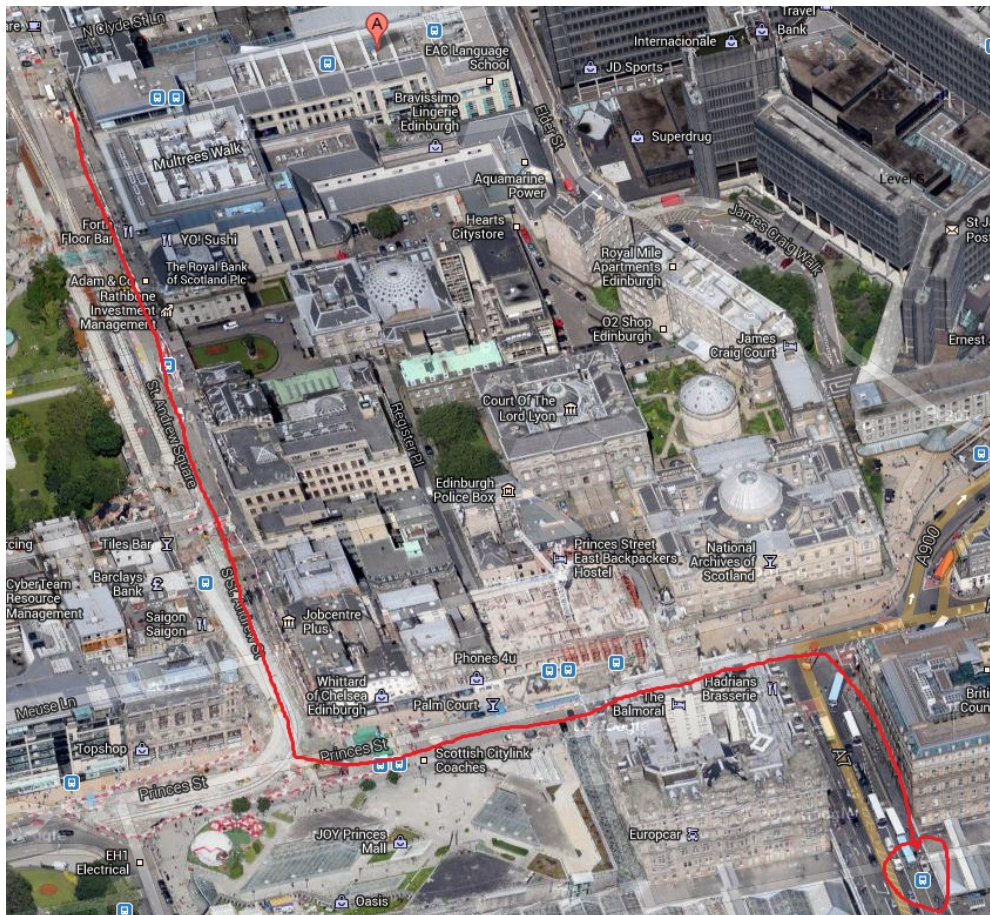
Below is a map of the route from the Airlink bus drop off to the bus stop.



Getting the bus from the bus station

- Exit the bus station at **St. Andrew's Square** and proceed towards Princes Street
- Turn left onto Princes Street and continue until you see the statue of Wellington (a man on a bronze horse - you can't miss it)
- Cross the road to the outside of the Balmoral
- Turn to the crossing at the bottom of North Bridge
- Cross to the other side of North Bridge and then walk up the road until you see the **14/30/33** bus stop.

Below is a map of the route from the bus station to the bus stop.



Getting to the John MacIntyre Conference Centre from the bus stop outside the Commonwealth Pool

The John McIntyre Centre where BiCon is being held is located at Edinburgh University's Pollock Halls.

The nearest bus stop to Pollock Halls is just outside the easily identified Commonwealth Pool.

Ask the bus driver to let you know when you get to the pool; this is a tourist town and they're generally happy to help out. If you can't ask for whatever reason, here are a couple of pictures to help you identify when to get off:



Commonwealth Pool

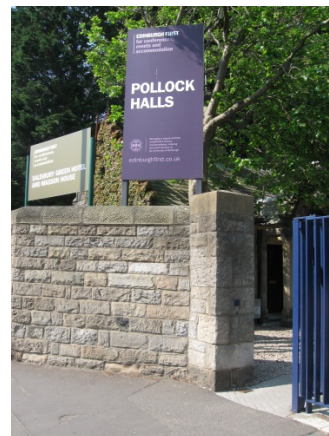


Bus stop outside the pool

When you get off the bus, go down the hill a short distance until you see these gates:



Entrance to Pollock Halls



Enter the gate and take the first left, then follow the road past the back of Mason House until you can see St. Leonard's Hall.



First left



Masson House



St Leonard's Hall

Turn right at St Leonard's Hall, and you'll see the John McIntyre Centre at the bottom of the slope:



WELCOME TO BICON!

There are, of course, plenty of signs inside Pollock Halls directing you to the centre in case you get lost, but hopefully this visual guide will help.

Taxi numbers

Both these companies have wheelchair accessible cabs:

- **City Cabs** – 0131 228 1211
- **Central Taxis** – 0131 229 2468

A taxi from the centre of town to Pollock Halls will cost you about £7. Taxi ranks can be found in Waverley Station, on Waverley Bridge and on North St. Andrews Street.

A taxi from the airport will cost about £20-25.

Useful local information

Nearest Pharmacy: Boots on Newington Road.

Nearest Post Box: At the side of St Leonard's Hall.

Nearest Cash Machine: John MacIntyre Conference Centre

Nearest Big Supermarket: Sainsbury's in Cameron Toll Shopping Centre:

<http://www.camerontoll.co.uk>

Nearest Small Supermarkets: Tesco on Causewayside and Sainsbury's Local on South Clerk Street. (About 15 minutes walk.)

Nearest Local Shop: Across from the Commonwealth Pool (sells the usual cigarettes, milk, newspapers, basic groceries and snacks)

More in the BiCon handbook.

If you need a break from BiCon...

Pollock Halls are right next to Queen's Park, a great place for a morning run or to see beautiful views of Edinburgh: http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/places/propertyresults/propertydetail.htm?PropID=PL_125

Make sure to wear proper shoes and take care if you plan to climb Arthur's Seat or the Craggs, as it can be dangerous, and if you plan on being outdoors (e.g. in the park) wear insect repellent as there are midges galore and we don't want you to suffer.

Please also respect the local environment: there are nature reserves for rare animals and plants in the park, and the park itself is a scheduled **ancient monument**, so clear up your rubbish and don't throw cigarettes on the ground.

Doctors and Medication

If you need to see a doctor, or need to replace forgotten/missing medication, call NHS 24 on 08454 242424, and they'll hook you up with an out of hours GP and/or late opening pharmacy. **Prescriptions are free in Scotland.**