

Getting to and Around Glasgow

Conference Venue and Reception Locations

The 2023 COMPTExT meeting will be held at the [University of Strathclyde Technology and Innovation Centre](#). This is only a short 5-10 minute walk from George Square and is set in the popular Merchant City neighborhood. There are a large number of hotels and hostels within a short walk (we offer some suggestions below) from the venue.

The Friday night reception and dinner will be held at the [City Chambers Building on George Square](#). This is an easy walk from the university and is nearby to a large number of hotels and pubs for those looking to extend the evening.

The Saturday night reception and dinner will be located only slightly farther at the [Grand Central Hotel](#) overlooking the historic Glasgow Central Train Station designed by one of Glasgow's best known architects, [Charles Rennie Mackintosh](#).

Glasgow Airport

The Glasgow Airport is located 9 miles from the City Centre and is approximately 15-20 minutes by car. [Glasgow Airport Express \(500\)](#) bus is one of the easiest transportation options to access the City Centre. Departing from just outside the Arrivals Hall, the bright purple bus travels from the airport to several fixed stops in the City Centre. Buses operate 24hrs a day, every 15 minutes at peak times (every 30 minutes in the evenings). They offer both single (£8.50) and return (£14, which is valid for 2 weeks) tickets which can be purchased online in advance or directly from the driver. A second reliable transport option is via car. Taxis, private hire cars and Uber service the airport and provide transport to all areas of the city which will comfortably drop you at a destination of your choice. While taxis depart from directly outside the Arrivals Hall, Private Hire Cars and Uber can be met a short walk away at the Pick-Up area, which is located on the ground floor level of the parking structure (follow the signs).

Edinburgh Airport

The Edinburgh Airport is a second option for those arriving by plane and is 39 miles from Glasgow City Centre. The easiest and cheapest connection to Glasgow from this airport is via the [Citylink bus \(900\)](#), a 45 minute ride. Departing from in front of the terminal, it will drop you at Glasgow's Buchanan Bus Station (a short walk from the venue in the heart of the City Centre). [Bus timings](#) vary from hourly (between 1AM and 5AM) to 15-30 minutes during peak periods. They offer both single (£13.90) and return (£24.40, which is valid for 2 weeks).

Arriving by Train

Glasgow has two large train stations serving the City Centre (Glasgow Queen Street and Glasgow Central) for those wishing to travel via train. Glasgow Queen Street station serves

mainly routes traveling north or east from Glasgow and is a 5 minute walk from the venue. Glasgow Central Station serves mainly routes west and south (and is a terminus for the [Avanti West Coast](#) route from London Euston). Both stations are closely linked with the city's subway and bus system for easy access to accommodations around the City Centre, West End or Southside.

*****NOTE** there are planned train strikes the week of the conference and regular services may not be available, particularly on the west coast lines.

Getting Around Town

Subway

Glasgow Subway is the 3th oldest subway system in Europe and runs on [two loops](#) connecting the City Centre with many West End destinations. Running every 4 minutes at peak times, the Subway is a convenient way to get around Glasgow. You can purchase tickets from automated machines at all stations, or directly from ticket agents at larger stations. They offer a number of ticket options, single (£1.75), return (£3.30), and all-day (£4.20, unlimited rides for one day). If you think you will be using the subway a few times, we recommend considering the '[Anonymous Smartcards](#)' which can be purchased in any Subway station for £3 and provide reduced price travel plus unlimited free rides after two trips per day. The Subway operates from 6:30AM to 11:30PM Monday to Saturday and 10AM to 6PM on Sunday. Trains run every four minutes during peak times and every 6-8 minutes during off-peak times. The closest subway station to the venue is Buchanan Street station. A journey from Buchanan Street to the West End travels 3-5 stops and takes approximately 15 minutes.

Local Trains

Local trains on ScotRail provide easy access to many places in Glasgow and its surrounding metro area. Single or return tickets can be purchased at all stations or directly via the [ScotRail App](#). This app also provides live tracking of trains to check schedules or monitor for delays. Return tickets are generally quite cheap and often the same price as buying a single ticket. The closest train station to the conference venue is Glasgow Queen Street.

Buses

Glasgow offers a well developed bus network across the city. Some areas, East End and North Glasgow, are best accessed via bus. The [First Bus App](#) is a useful resource to identify routes and purchase tickets (we recommend having a look at their flexible ticket options).

Bike Rentals

For those a bit more sporty, Glasgow offers an easy to use bike share option throughout the city. [Bike stations](#) can be found across the city. The closest bike rental rack is located at George Square, approximately four blocks from the venue. Use of the bike rental scheme requires registration which can be completed using their [app or website](#). Upon registration a £5 security deposit will be taken to verify your account, which then becomes a credit on your account. Both daily and shorter rentals are available, daily (£13) or £1 per 20 minute ride. If you are planning to use bike rentals, please be aware that it rains quite a lot in Glasgow so plan your attire

accordingly. Please also note that the northern portion of the City Centre is characterized by several 'gentle' hills.

Taxis, Private Hire & Uber

Taxis, Private Hire cars and Uber are another reliable option for getting around town. While the Uber App is the same as elsewhere, Glasgow private hires have their own app for ordering Taxis. Especially on busy nights, the [GlasGo](#) app is a great alternative to Uber, is often more reliable as they do not use surge pricing and also offers the option of pre-booking hires (just in case you have an early morning flight).

Accommodation and Neighbourhood Suggestions

Glasgow has a plethora of accommodations to suit many price levels. The following are a few suggestions. Additionally, numerous Airbnbs or short-lets can be found in the City Centre, West End and Southside, areas which all have easy access to the venue via Subway, train, or bus.

City Centre

[Moxy Hotel Merchant City](#) - less than 5 minutes walk to the venue and only a short walk to the restaurants and nightlife to be found in the popular Merchant City neighborhood with the benefit of some distance from the nightlife itself.

[Z Hotels Glasgow](#) - A 5 minute walk from the venue and across the street from the Civic Reception location on Friday night. This venue is a short walk from the popular Merchant City neighborhood and is easily accessible through all public transportation.

[Kimpton Blythswood Square](#) - Approximately 20 minutes walk to the venue (Walkable to venue / Subway: Cowcaddens)

[Leonardo Hotel Glasgow](#) St Enoch - Approximately 15 minute walk to the venue and only a short distance to the reception location at Grand Central (Subway Stop: St Enoch)

[Ibis Styles Glasgow](#) - Approximately 10 minutes walk to the station (Subway Stop: Buchanan Street or St Enoch)

West End

[Boutique 50](#) - (Subway Stop: Kelvinhall)

[Glasgow Grosvenor Hotel](#) - (Subway Stop: Hillhead)

[Glasgow Youth Hostel](#) - (Subway Stop: Kelvinbridge)

Southside

While slightly more limited for hotel choices, Southside neighborhoods like [Shawlands](#), Mt. Florida, and Battlefield host many Airbnb or short-let options with easy access to the venue via train or bus.

Some Personal Glasgow Recommendations

Coffee shops near the conference venue:

[Spitfire Espresso](#): This is the closest good coffee to the university. Half the Organizing Committee would argue this is the best coffee in town. While it is possible to sit in, indoor space is limited, but they offer several large picnic tables outside.

[Tinderbox Espresso](#): There are multiple Tinderbox coffee shops around the city, with one just a few minutes from the venue.

Strath Union: In addition to the coffee cart in the TIC building, Coffee can also be found just around the corner from the venue in the Learning and Teaching Building on campus.

On the hunt for the best coffee:

Glasgow takes coffee quite seriously with many good cups to be had. While the Organizing Committee might disagree on where the best cup is to be had, all of the following won't disappoint and are well worth a trip.

[Perch & Rest](#) (West End, Kelvinbridge): The rest of the Organizing Committee would like it noted this establishment is their top pick! Christine's West End favorite.

[1841](#) (West End, Byres Road) - Zac's West End favorite.

[Absolute Roasters](#) (City Centre)

[Grain & Grid](#) (West End & Southside)

[Kaf](#) (West End, Kelvinhall)

[Cafe Strange Brew](#) (Southside)

Nightlife:

Glasgow is well known for its thriving nightlife with a wide range of traditional to ultra modern pubs, cocktail bars, and clubs. Most establishments close at 12am as only night clubs are authorized to serve alcohol after midnight (note the subway closes before then), keep this in mind when making plans as the city will be especially busy around closing time. For those looking to take a break in a traditional Glasgow pub, check out [Babbity Bowsters](#) or the [Press Bar](#) conveniently located close to the university. Those in search of modern craft beer will find

the [Shilling Brewery](#), [Drygate Brewery](#) or [Brew Dog Merchant City](#) to their liking. Scottish whisky enthusiasts can find pretty much anything they like at [Pot Still](#) or the more eccentric West End favorite, the [Lismore](#).

While the City Centre has options for many tastes, the West End offers another hub for nightlife. Historic Ashton Lane hosts over half a dozen restaurants, bars, and a recently refurbished picture house. Establishments like [Cottiers](#) (pub in a church) or [Oran Mor](#) (atmospheric live music venue and late night club) are just a few of the varied options to be had in the West End. We generally recommend making table reservations as most places book up early.

Sightseeing:

Glasgow Necropolis & Cathedral - The Glasgow (northern) Necropolis is a victorian graveyard, located just a few minutes from the conference venue. While a relaxing walk at all times, the Necropolis is especially beautiful in good weather. The hill of the Necropolis gives a fantastic view over the city, making it a great spot to watch incredible sunsets or admire the landscape. [Glasgow Cathedral](#) is an impressive structure made even more gobsmacking by the fact that it was constructed around 1100 AD.

Glasgow Green & People's Palace - Glasgow Green is a large public park wedged between the City Centre and East End that snakes along the north bank of the River Clyde. On dry days, this park is an enjoyable stroll from the venue. Within the park grounds, the [People's Palace](#) is a museum centered on what made Glasgow - "how Glaswegians lived, worked and played". This is a great starting point for those looking to go for a run at some point during the conference.

Kelvingrove Park & Museum - Another beautiful park, this time in the West End, Kelvingrove Park is situated on the River Kelvin and holds the [Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum](#). A popular destination on sunny days when the park is regularly full. Anyone interested in an extended nature walk might enjoy following the pathway along the River Kelvin from the Museum, through the park to the [Glasgow Botanical Gardens](#). The Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum has a fine art collection with several rooms devoted to celebrated Glasgow architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Riverside Museum & Clydeside Distillery

Located on the banks of the River Clyde between the City Centre and West End, both the [Riverside Museum](#) and [Clydeside Distillery](#) are eclectic Glasgow experiences. The Riverside Museum hosts over 3,000 transport objects with everything from skateboards to locomotives, paintings to prams, and cars to a Stormtrooper. Just outside on the water you will find the Tall Ship as well. We recommend timing your visit to enjoy the sunset from the viewing platform along the old docks just outside the museum. While Scotland is renowned for its scotch whisky, Scotland also takes drunk driving very seriously with a zero tolerance policy. Clydeside Distillery makes for an easy and accessible distillery experience within walking distance of the City Centre. Tours are offered most days (advance booking recommended) and the view along the Clyde from the Still Room is epic.

Things to Know

Delegate Discounts at local businesses:

A number of local businesses offer discounts for those attending conferences in Glasgow. You can find a [list of offers here](#).

UK plug adapter:

The UK operates with different electrical plugs than the rest of Europe using plug type G (the big one that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern). Some hotels supply Euro-plugs (type C) but you may need to get yourself a UK adaptor. Several shops in the Glasgow airport sell these if you forget to pack one, or a number of pharmacies and electronic stores near the venue also sell them.

Scottish expressions:

Aye, Glasgow is a cracking place with some wee peculiarities. Bonny lads and lasses might find this [scottish dictionary](#) handy. As welcoming as it might sound, if someone offers you a 'glasgow kiss' under no circumstances should you accept... unless you enjoy having two black eyes.

Weather:

The stereotype of Scottish weather is that of rain and Glasgow is no exception. Luckily though, May is one of the driest months of the year! While weather forecasts might call for rain, spells are generally short and light. It is strongly recommended to dress adequately as the probability of getting wet at some point is generally high.

Public Drinking:

Public drinking is forbidden in much of Scotland, including Glasgow. Exceptions from this ban include beer gardens, offered by various pubs and other hospitalities.

Things to Do If You're Sticking Around

Scotland is a beautiful place! The following are just a few suggestions if you will be arriving early or staying after the conference that can be accessed for day trips or a little longer via reliable public transport.

Edinburgh - the capital city of Scotland offers numerous cultural attractions with a mix of old and new. Tours of the [Scottish Parliament](#) make for a unique experience as well as exploring a little further afield to areas like Leith.

Loch Lomond & the Trossachs - Balloch makes an easy destination for a day trip on the banks of Bonnie Loch Lomond or buses from Balloch can take you throughout the Trossachs.

Stirling - Stirling Castle is a short train trip for those interested in learning more about Scottish history and can be combined with a climb up to enjoy the view from the top of the Wallace Monument.

Inverness - the largest city in the Highlands, the train trip up to Inverness passes through several areas of natural beauty and the city itself offers many classic Highland experiences.