

Travel tips for foreign visitors to the ITS in Europe Congress in Glasgow, 6-9 June 2016

1. Arriving by air

Do not assume that you must arrive at **Glasgow Airport**, but if you do, there is a fast and cost effective direct bus link serving all parts of the centre of the city, departing and arriving outside the terminal building. Service 500 runs 24 hours a day and takes about 15 minutes with a good frequency throughout the day. See <http://www.firstgroup.com/greater-glasgow/routes-and-maps/glasgow-airport-shuttle-service-500>. Tickets can be bought at the tourist information desk at domestic arrivals at the airport or from the driver on the bus.

If you have the option of a direct flight to **Glasgow Prestwick**, there is a direct rail link to central Glasgow taking about an hour from plane to the city centre. This compares favourably with changing planes elsewhere, and Glasgow Prestwick has many low cost flights.

If you have the option of a direct flight to **Edinburgh Airport** but not to Glasgow, it is again well worth taking this option rather than changing planes elsewhere, avoiding the risk of lost luggage and missed connections. From Edinburgh Airport you can ride the new tram to Edinburgh Waverley Station and take a train to central Glasgow. The tram takes about half an hour and the train, about an hour. Tickets for the tram are on sale from machines at the tram stop outside the airport terminal building, and tickets for the train are bought in the usual way at Edinburgh Waverley station. There's also the option to use the Citylink Air service which runs from the airport to Glasgow <http://www.citylink.co.uk/citylinkair.php>

The overall extra time spent getting to central Glasgow from Edinburgh Airport as opposed to Glasgow Airport is about an hour, comparing well with the time and stress of connecting flights.

2. Arriving by train

There is a direct, fast train from London Euston Station to Glasgow Central Station, taking about 4 ½ hours. This offers an alternative to flying from London which enables you to work and relax in a way which a change of flights will not, and deposits you in central Glasgow with no need for further transfers. The couple of hours nearest to Glasgow are also very scenic. If you arrive from Paris, Lille or Brussels on the Eurostar, you arrive at St Pancras Station which is a ten minute walk from Euston Station. If you fly into Heathrow, Gatwick or Stansted, you should allow about 90 minutes from the plane to Euston Station (that assumes you take the more expensive Heathrow Express if you are landing there, it will be two hours if you use the Underground.) If you are lucky enough to fly into London City, that is about 45 minutes from Euston Station. You should book tickets in advance for the train to Glasgow, this can cut the cost by 75% or more. See www.virgintrains.co.uk. You can print the tickets in advance or download them.

3. Getting around central Glasgow by bus and train



The centre of the city and the Congress venue are linked by a direct subway train. The SECC station is called Exhibition Centre. You can buy tickets at the metro train stations. The Congress venue is also served by buses. Service 100 runs direct to the SECC from the city centre and uses electric vehicles <http://www.spt.co.uk/cms/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Service-100-Riversider1.pdf> and the Stagecoach X19 Fastlink BRT service runs near to the SECC <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/routes/west-scotland/x19/new-south-glasgow-hospitals-new-south-glasgow-hospitals/xtax019.o> See Traveline Scotland <http://www.travelinescotland.com/> or download the Traveline Scotland app for more information on bus routes and frequency. You can buy bus tickets on the buses.

Planned engineering works are taking place in the tunnel serving Glasgow Queen Street Station. To find out if and how this may affect your journey, see here https://www.scotrail.co.uk/QueenStreetTunnel?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=QueenStreetFeb2016

4. Cycle hire scheme in Glasgow

Glasgow is not entirely flat and it does occasionally rain, but you may still wish to travel the healthy way and use the City's bike hire scheme <http://www.nextbike.co.uk/en/glasgow/>

5. Walking to the Congress

If the weather is pleasant, the walk along the Broomielaw to the Congress Centre from central Glasgow is also very pleasant. Allow 20 – 30 minutes depending on your starting point and walking speed.

Be a careful pedestrian – look both ways every time, the driving on the left thing takes more than a week to get used to!

If you have a Congress Delegate Travel Pass, this covers the ScotRail train network, Glasgow Subway and most local bus services (including the Glasgow Airport Shuttle) – see <http://www.spt.co.uk/travelcards/zonecard/>