

Transport in and around Edinburgh

- **Edinburgh Airport**
- **Taxis**
- **Buses**
- **Parking**
- **Cycle Hire**

Edinburgh Airport

Edinburgh airport is about 6km by road from Bonaly. There is no direct public transport connection. All the major car rental companies have rental desks at the airport. Airport buses travel from the airport to Waverley Bridge in the city centre. Airport taxis are more expensive than the city taxi and are not wheelchair accessible. For a journey from the airport to the city centre you should expect to pay about 20 - 25% more in an airport taxi than one from the city. Even with the pick up charge (see below) you will find it cheaper to phone one of the Edinburgh taxi firms to pick you up at the airport. To find the pick-up point for pre-booked city taxis exit the main terminal door, turn left and follow the exit road for about 40m until you come across the sign and shelter for pre-booked city taxis.

If you think about a clock face with the airport at the nine o'clock position then Bonaly is about seven o'clock. As both the airport and Bonaly are on the edge of the city is easier to travel from the airport to Bonaly by taxi than to try going into the city centre and back out again.

Airports Flight Information on television

BBC 2 Ceefax Page 455

STV Teletext Page 298

British Airport Authority web site for flight information <http://www.baa.co.uk/>

Telephone numbers for Edinburgh Airport

General Enquiries 0500 103700 (Freephone in the UK)

General Enquiries - 0131 333 1000

Fax - 0131 335 3181

Airport Information Desk - 0131 344 3136

Flight Enquiries

Air Lingus - 0131 344 3111

Air France - 0131 344 3111

British Airways - 0345 222 111

British Midland - 0131 344 5600

KLM U.K. - 0131 344 3325

Car rental at the airport

Avis - 0131 333 1866

Europcar - 0131 344 3114

Hertz - 0131 344 3260

Taxis

There are about 1100 taxis in Edinburgh, since 1 January 1997 all taxis are wheelchair accessible. All Edinburgh taxis are of the “ London Taxi “ style. They can take a maximum of five passengers. If you book a taxi by prior arrangement a charge of 60p is made. Otherwise they may be hailed on the street anywhere in Edinburgh. All fares are metered within the city boundaries, if the destination is beyond the city boundary the driver will quote a price before the journey starts and probably expect you to pay before departing. Bonaly is within the city boundary. You should expect to pay about £9.00 from the city centre to Bonaly in a taxi. If you have four people plus kit it is not that much more expensive than going by bus. Especially as it saves you the walk up the road from the bus stop.

The main radio taxi firms in Edinburgh are:

Capital Castle Taxis, 2 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh.

Phone - 0131 228 2555

Fax - 0131 228 1830

Central Radio Taxis, 163-165 Gilmore Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9PW

Phone - 0131 229 2468

City Cabs, 2 Atholl Place, Edinburgh

Phone - 0131 228 1211

Fax - 0131 228 4713

Radio Cabs, 5 Upper Bow, Edinburgh.

Phone - 0131 225 9000

Bus

The Centre Manager can supply you with copies of the bus timetables.

Since deregulation of the bus service there are a myriad of services available. Some of them only run during the peak periods. The most dependable is the number 10 bus from the city centre going to Torphin. Ask to be let off at Bonaly Road, it is a 10 or 15 minute walk from the bus stop to the campsite. The journey time from the city centre is about 20 minutes at off peak times. Many buses are “ exact fare only “ services and don’t give change. The number 10 route is one such service.

The number 5 / 51 will drop you at a point closer to the camp than the number 10 but they are not so frequent.

Daysavers tickets

Discount cards that give you unlimited travel for one day are also available on all Lothian Region (the big red ones) buses.

In December 1999 they cost:

Adult 2.20

Child 1.40

A child fare from Bonaly to the city centre will cost 70p, so if you are planning to take more than a bus into and out of the city centre it will be cheaper to buy a Daysaver ticket for each Scout.

Available all day every day

There is also a Family saver card at £6.00

For up to six people travelling together of whom 1 but not more than 2 must be adults. Available after 9.30am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday.

I'll let you do the maths on that one!

Edinburgh Touristcard

Gives unlimited travel on Lothian Region Transport buses, the red ones.

Unlimited access to the open top Edinburgh Classic Tour

Discounts in several restaurants

Discounts on a number of other attractions. The problem is that if you have a large group you will probably be cheaper using the group discount schemes at the Camera Obscura for example than using the Touristcard. Quite a good deal for a single traveller intending to visit quite a few attractions not so good for a group of 20.

Lothian Region Transport, 27 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2DL – 0131 555 6363

Parking

Parking in Edinburgh city centre is quite expensive. At the start of 2000, one hour costs about £2.00 in the George Street area of the city. Lothian and Borders Police have an efficient vehicle removal system for illegally parked cars. A total payment of over £120.00 is required to have your vehicle returned. Under no circumstances should you leave your vehicle in a bay marked for disabled drivers unless you have the appropriate permit.

Cycle Hire

Central Cycle Hire, Lochrin Place, Edinburgh. 0131 228 6333

Claim to have the widest range of bicycles for hire in Scotland. They will need to know the inside leg measurement of all the people you are booking for. You can hire for half or full days. A £100.00 deposit is required per bike.

Rent a Bike, Blackfriars Street, Edinburgh, 0131 556 5560

Just off the Royal Mile just behind the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel
Rental Sales Repairs

Charlie's, 1 Montgomery Street, Edinburgh. 0131-557-2442

Hire a mountain bike only £4 per day or £20 per week.

Same day repairs. - Not very near Bonaly.