Visiting the Scottish Parliament

This information will help you to plan your visit to the Scottish Parliament.

If you need more information about anything in this document, you can call Visitor Services on 0131 348 5200.
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Getting to the Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament is at the other end of the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle.

It is across the road from Holyrood Palace and near Our Dynamic Earth.

It is easy to get to by public transport.

By train
The Scottish Parliament is 1 mile from Waverley, Edinburgh’s main train station. There are always plenty of taxis at the station.

By bus
Lothian Buses 35 and 36 go to the Scottish Parliament. Both these buses have low floors to make it easier to get on and off.
By taxi
There is a taxi rank outside the Scottish Parliament building. Staff at the Visitor Information Desk can give you the phone number for a taxi.

By car
There are a few parking spaces beside the Scottish Parliament for blue badge holders. St John’s Hill car park is about half a mile from the Scottish Parliament, off Holyrood Road.

Travel information
You can get more information about using public transport in Scotland from Traveline Scotland by calling 0871 200 22 33.
When you get to the Scottish Parliament

There is a sign at the door to the Scottish Parliament. There is usually a police officer standing near it too. When you go inside, you need to go through another door. When you walk towards the door on the right, it will open by itself.

Security check

When you go into the building, you need to go through a security check. You must empty your pockets into a tray and take your belt and jacket off. The security staff will show you where to put your belongings.

These will go through an x-ray machine and you can collect them at the other side.

You will walk through a machine that may make a buzzing noise if you have anything metal on. If it makes a buzzing
noise, a security officer may feel your body through your clothes. It will always be someone who is the same sex as you who will do this.

Staff are happy to help you to go through the security checks.
Facilities

Accessible toilets
There are accessible toilets near the front door and near the stairs to the Debating Chamber. There is also a Changing Places toilet with a hoist and changing bench. Staff will show you where this is.

Café
The café is on the ground floor, next to the Main Hall. Staff here can help you to read the menu.

Chairs
There are seats in the Main Hall. There are also folding chairs that you can use on the guided tours. Ask at the Visitor Information Desk if you would like to use a folding chair on your tour.
Crèche
There is a free crèche where you can leave children under 6 while you visit the Scottish Parliament. The crèche is closed at weekends and public holidays. It is a good idea to book a place at the crèche before you come to the Parliament by calling 0131 348 6192.

Emergency
If there is an emergency and you need to leave the Scottish Parliament building, staff will tell you what to do and where to go.

Exhibition
There is an exhibition about the Scottish Parliament and its history. This is usually in the Main Hall.

First aid
If you need first aid, please ask a member of staff.
**Guided tours**

There are usually guided tours of the Scottish Parliament building on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays. There are tours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays too, if no meetings of the Parliament are taking place.

Tours are free but you need to contact Visitor Services to book a place.

**Hearing loop**

All the main areas of the Scottish Parliament building have hearing loops.

**Lifts**

You can get a lift to all parts of the building.
**Lockers**
You can leave your bags or jackets in a locker in the Main Hall. You need a £1 coin to lock the door, but you will get this back when you unlock it.

**Payphone**
There is a payphone with a hearing loop in the Main Hall. You can send texts and get onto the internet on this phone.

**Public gallery**
You can watch the Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) in the Debating Chamber from the public gallery. You need to book your ticket from Visitor Services to do this. The public gallery has wheelchair spaces.
Shop
There is a shop in the Main Hall. The shop staff will help you with anything you need.

Stairs
All the stairs in the building have a handrail at both sides.

Visitor Information Desk
The Visitor Information Desk is in the Main Hall. The staff here will be able to help you with anything you need on your visit to the Scottish Parliament.

Wheelchairs
The building is fully accessible to people in wheelchairs, and there is a Changing Places toilet on the ground floor. You can borrow a wheelchair from the Visitor Information Desk to use when you are at the Scottish Parliament.
If you want more information about visiting the Scottish Parliament you can:

Write to Visitor Services
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Phone 0131 348 5200 or 0800 092 7600

Textphone 0800 092 7100 or use the Text Relay service

Text 07786 209888

Fax 0131 348 5601
Email  
sp.bookings@scottish.parliament.uk

Look at  
www.scottish.parliament.uk

There are information leaflets in the Main Hall. If you would like information in another format, such as large print or audio, please ask at the Visitor Information Desk.
Opening times

Monday
April to September
10.00am to 5.00pm
October to March
10.00am to 3.30pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
When the Parliament is meeting:
9.00am to 6.00pm

These opening times are different when the Parliament is not meeting. It is a good idea to phone Visitor Services on 0131 348 5200 to check the opening times before you visit.
Friday
April to September
10.00am to 5.00pm
October to March
10.00am to 3.30pm

Saturday and public holidays
11.00am to 5.00pm

Sunday
Closed

The Scottish Parliament is closed over Christmas and New Year.
We hope you enjoy your visit to the Scottish Parliament. Please ask a member of staff if there is anything we can do to make your visit easier.

Please contact us if you would like the information in this document in another format or language.

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