

EDINBURGH INFORMATION FILE

EPRA Conference 17-19 MAY 2017

SUMMARY PROGRAMME

Wednesday 17/05/2017	Arrival to the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton For more details, please see below “Hotel accommodation” and “Travel from Airport”
Wednesday 17/05/2017 From 19:00	Welcome reception at the Royal College of Physicians, Queen Street, Edinburgh. Please see below, “Social events”
Thursday 18/05/2017	EPRA meeting at the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton. Lunch at the Marco Pierre White restaurant
Thursday 18/05/2017 From 19:00	Dinner at The Hub, Royal Mile, Edinburgh. Please see below “Social events”
Friday 19/05/2017 (AM)	EPRA meeting in Hilton Edinburgh Carlton. Lunch in Marco Pierre White restaurant
Friday 19/05/2017 (PM) (afternoon)	Guided walking tour of Edinburgh (free of charge). Please see below “Social events”
Saturday 20/05/2017 09:00 – 13:00	Excursion to Highlands and visit to Whisky Distillery (subject to a fee). Please see below “Social events”

MEETING VENUE

The meeting venue is the **Hilton Edinburgh Carlton Hotel**, located on the North Bridge, in Edinburgh's Old Town and just minutes from Waverley Station.



A registration and help desk for the Conference will be set up near the Reception from Wednesday (17 May) afternoon. **Please register with the desk and collect your welcome pack when you arrive**, as it will contain useful information about how to find the venue for the welcome reception on Wednesday 17 May.

WiFi will be provided throughout and there will be an EPRA office located in the Craiglockhart Room during the Conference.



Please note we will not be providing transportation to either of the evening social events, as they are located within very close walking distance from the conference venue and all the hotels, and much of the centre of town is pedestrianized. If needed, taxi numbers are available, see “Travel from Airport and getting around”, below.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are invited to book a room at the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton (the meeting venue) or one of the two nearby Motel One hotels (both within very short walking distance). Negotiated rates are also available at the Mercure, Princes Street, which is a few minutes further away and requires pre-payment (non-refundable). Please see the [Hotel Information File](#) for booking instructions and details of locations.

Room prices range from £98.50 to £156 and availability at the lower prices will be based on when you make your booking – **As these rates were negotiated, we highly recommend booking as early as possible. After the deadlines set out in the [Hotel Information File](#), we cannot guarantee that these rates will be available, and they apply only to the nights of 17 and 18 May 2017.** If you wish to book extra nights, you are welcome to do so but unfortunately these negotiated rates may not be available.

TRAVEL FROM AIRPORT & GETTING AROUND

Edinburgh Airport has the following connections to the centre of the city (Waverley Station):

TRAM (No number – there is only one route)

How to buy tickets:

- **Ticket vending machine:** machines are available on the platform. Cash and cards are accepted. Bank notes are not accepted.
- **Mobile ticketing:** you can buy your ticket in advance on the Transport for Edinburgh app. Download it here: <https://lothianbuses.co.uk/apps>

Price:

- Single ticket: £5.50
- Return ticket: £8.50

Where to get off:

- For the **Hilton Edinburgh Carlton**, please get off at **St Andrews Square**
- For the **Motel One Market Street**, please get off at **St Andrews Square**
- For the **Motel One Princes Street**, please get off at **St Andrews Square**

BUS (Airlink 100)

How to buy tickets:

- **Ticket office:**
 - **From the airport:** As you leave the airport follow the signs for the bus. You will find a ticket office as you leave the airport. You can buy a ticket from the vendor using cash, bank note or card.

- **From the centre of Edinburgh:** If you have not bought a return at the airport and need to buy a ticket from the centre of Edinburgh, you can buy it on board the bus using cash or bank notes. Cards are not accepted on the bus.
- **Mobile ticketing:** you can buy your ticket in advance on the Transport for Edinburgh app. Download it here: <https://lothianbuses.co.uk/apps>

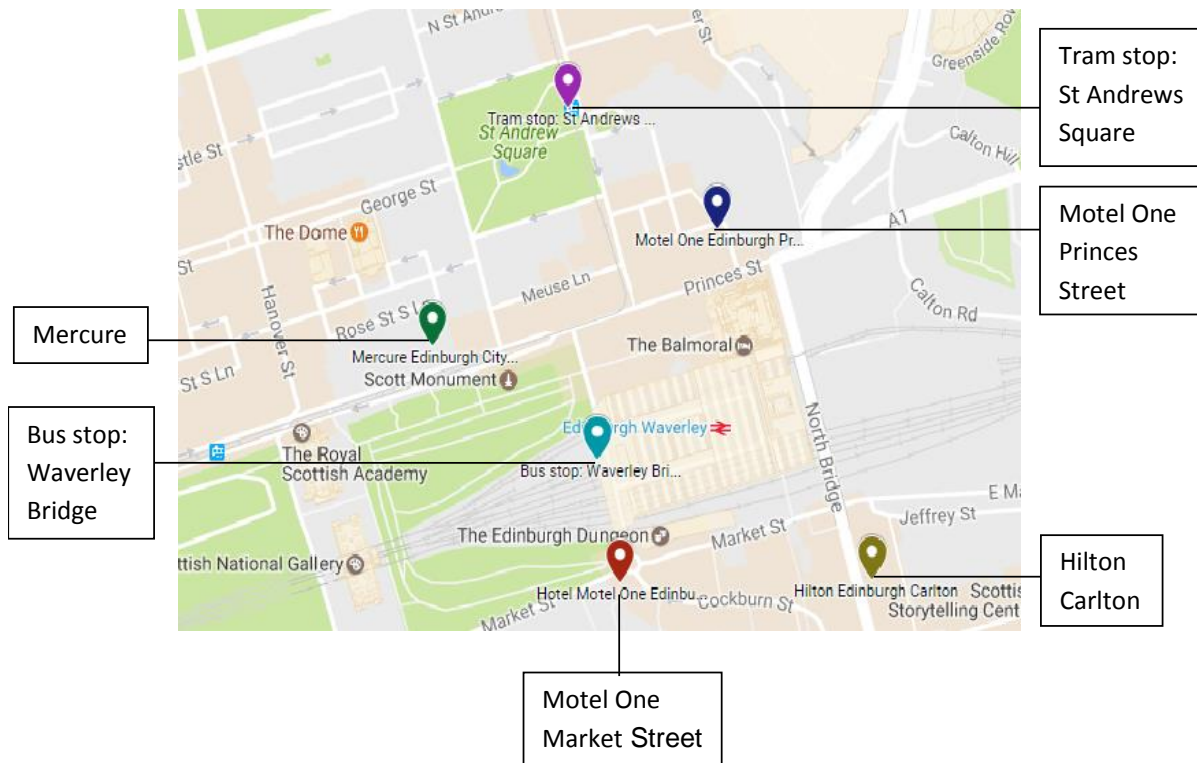
Price:

- Single ticket: £4.50
- Return ticket: £7.50

Where to get off:

- For the **Hilton Edinburgh Carlton**, please get off at **Waverley Station, the last stop**
- For the **Motel One Market Street**, please get off at **Waverley Station, the last stop**
- For the **Motel One Princes Street**, please get off at **Waverley Station, the last stop**

Map with bus/tram stops and main hotels:



Of course **taxis** are also available at the airport and you may find these numbers useful:

Edinburgh Central Taxis: +44 131 229 4466, <http://www.taxis-edinburgh.co.uk/>

City Cabs: +44 131 228 1211, <http://www.citycabs.co.uk/>

A taxi from Edinburgh Airport to the City Centre will cost approx. £20



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

PARTICIPATION FEE

Please kindly note that two delegates from each EPRA member are welcome to the event free of charge. Additional person(s) will be charged 200 GBP each, **to be paid by 1 May 2017 at the latest**, as follows:

Bank: Lloyds Bank Plc

In favor of: OFCOM

IBAN: GB05LOYD30979000782415

SWIFT CODE: Loyd GB 2L

Reference: (participant name + EPRA Meeting)

For invoice, please fill the attached form “EPRA fee form” and e-mail/ it to Georgina.Cowley@ofcom.org.uk **AND** maria.donde@ofcom.org.uk cc: machet@epra.org

Please e-mail a copy of the received invoice to Georgina.Cowley@ofcom.org.uk

VISA

Please refer to the enclosed invitation letter when applying for your visa, if needed. Ofcom will be happy to provide a personal letter of invitation on request – please email maria.donde@ofcom.org.uk or emma.coombs@ofcom.org.uk with a copy of your passport. We recommend doing this as soon as possible as the process for obtaining a UK visa is lengthy. We understand it is possible to apply 3 months before travel and at the moment a visa costs £87.

We understand that visitors from the following countries will require a visa, but if you are in any doubt please check before you travel. Further instructions below:

- Albania
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Georgia
- Moldova
- Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Ukraine



- Kosovo

All information on how to obtain a visa for entry into the United Kingdom is available on the following website:
<https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor-visa>.

You will need to visit this page, find the relevant link for your country and follow the instructions online:

<https://visas-immigration.service.gov.uk/product/uk-visit-visa>

This is an online process.

SOCIAL EVENTS

WELCOME RECEPTION AND DINNER

Wednesday 17/05/2017 (evening)

The welcome reception will be held in the **Royal Physicians Hall**, which is located around 10 minutes walk from the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton in the city's New Town. The reception will run from 19.30 to 22.00.

Delegates are invited to walk to the Royal Physicians Hall.

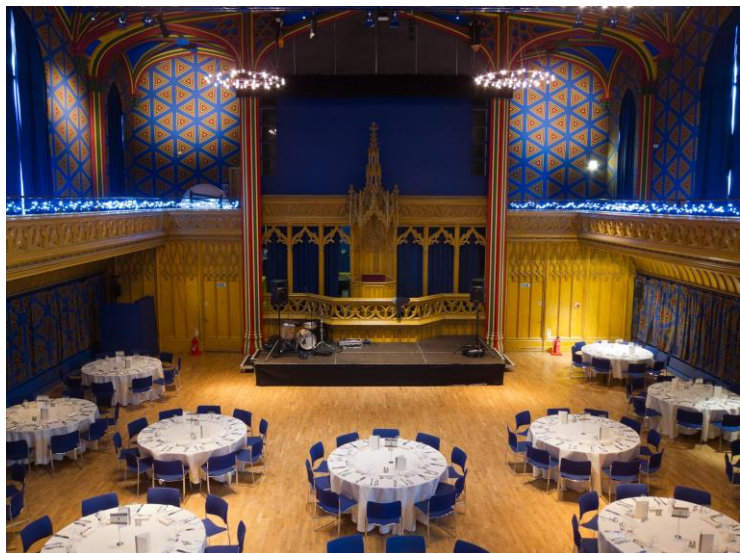


DINNER

Thursday 18/05/2017 (evening)

A gala dinner for EPRA members will be held on Thursday evening at **The Hub**, at the heart of the Old Town and just five minutes' walk from the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton. The dinner will run from 19:30 – 23:00.

Delegates are invited to walk to The Hub.



FREE GUIDED TOUR

Friday 19/05/2017 (15:00)

You are welcome to join us on a guided walking tour of the city of Edinburgh. The tour will begin at the Carlton Hilton and will last approximately 2 hours.

EXCURSION (subject to a fee)

Saturday 20/05/2017 (AM)

A guided excursion out into the countryside around Edinburgh, including a tour of a whisky distillery, will be offered at negotiated price. The excursion will start at 09.00 and end around 13.00 (with the possibility of a lunch in Edinburgh afterwards if there is demand).

A FEW WORDS ABOUT EDINBURGH AND CITY GUIDE



The city of Edinburgh, nicknamed the ‘Athens of the North’, is steeped in history with evidence of human settlement dating as far back as 900 BC. Another of its older nicknames is Auld Reekie, meaning ‘Old Smoky’, on account of the smoke and smog that supposedly used to hang over Edinburgh. These days you are more likely to smell the scent of hops from one of the nearby breweries.

As well as being very proud of its history and its UNESCO World Heritage status, Edinburgh is a thriving modern city with its sights firmly set on the future. There's barely a month that goes by when there isn't a festival celebrating every kind of cultural offering. The most well-known of these festivals being the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and the International Festival, both of which transform the city during August. In terms of being forward-looking, Edinburgh is now home to a blossoming tech start-up scene, fostering start-up billion dollar 'unicorns' like Skyscanner.

A unique combination of architectural styles, with the narrow Clooses of the Old Town and the elegant Georgian New Town, Edinburgh's magnificent skyline really does have something to suit all tastes. The most iconic of the buildings would have to be the Edinburgh Castle, situated on an extinct volcano and at the top of the Royal Mile. At the other end of the Royal Mile, the slightly more recent Palace of Holyrood, the Queen's official residence in Scotland, can be

found. Not many royal families can boast about having the impressive scenery of Salisbury Crags and Arthur's Seat in their backyard, and since 2004 the Queen has become neighbours with the modern Scottish Parliament building.

Famous Sites

Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile, St Giles' Cathedral

The Edinburgh skyline is dominated with Edinburgh Castle (pictured), perched high on the aptly named Castle Rock at the top of the Royal Mile. The castle was built during the 12th century by David I, son of Saint Margaret of Scotland, and has played a pivotal role in Scottish history, often having a central role in the tensions between England and Scotland most recently during the Jacobite risings in 1745.



Walking down the Royal Mile, at the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town, you will be surrounded by towering tenements, between which cobbled closes and narrow stairways interlock to create a secret underground world.

On the walk down the Mile you will see St Giles' Cathedral, dating from the 15th century. What it lacks in grandeur, it makes up for in history; a Norman-style church was built there in 1126 but was destroyed by English invaders in 1385 and in the 1500s St Giles was at the heart of the Scottish Reformation. The elaborately carved Gothic-style stalls have canopies topped with the helms and arms of 16 knights – look out for the bagpipe-playing angel amid the vaulting. One of the most interesting corners is the Thistle Chapel, built in 1911 for the Knights of the Most Ancient & Most Noble Order of the Thistle.

Holyrood Palace, Scottish Parliament buildings

At the bottom of the Royal Mile you will find two seats of power from Edinburgh's past and present.

Holyrood, meaning 'Holy Cross', House is the Queen's official royal residence in Scotland. Legend has it that King David I was hunting one day in 1128. His horse was startled by a stag which appeared from nowhere, and King David found himself hurled to the ground and in mortal danger of being gored by the stag's antlers. In desperation he grasped hold of them whereupon they miraculously changed into a Crucifix. That night King David pledged to build an Abbey for Canons devoted to the Cross and by the 14th century a Royal Residence was attached to the Abbey.



Across the road from Holyrood House are the Scottish Parliament buildings (pictured), opened in 2005. Designed by Catalan architect Enric Miralles, the ground plan of the parliament complex is said to represent a 'flower of democracy rooted in Scottish soil' (best seen looking down from Salisbury Crags). Miralles believed that a building could be a work of art, however the buildings have been subject to some criticism due to their abstract style. The building is packed with symbolism, from the oddly shaped windows on the west wall (inspired by the silhouette of the *Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch*, one of Scotland's most famous paintings), to the asymmetric panels on the main facade (representing a curtain being drawn aside, a symbol of open government).

National Museum of Scotland

Broad, elegant Chambers St is dominated by the long facade of the National Museum of Scotland. Its extensive collections are spread between two buildings, one modern, one Victorian – the golden stone and striking modern architecture of the new building is one of the city's most distinctive landmarks, whilst the beautiful glass-roofed exhibition hall of the Victorian building is breath-taking. With everything from geological remains and taxidermy to decorative arts of Egypt and industrial technology, the museum has something for everyone.

Arthur's Seat

A trip to Edinburgh is not complete without a walk up Arthur's Seat. It is often mentioned as one of the possible locations for Camelot, the legendary castle and court of the Romano-British warrior-chief, King Arthur (hence the name!). The rocky peak of Arthur's Seat (251m) was carved by ice sheets from the deeply eroded stump of a long-extinct volcano and is a distinctive feature of Edinburgh's skyline. The view from the summit is well worth the walk, extending from the Forth Bridge in the west to the distant conical hill of North Berwick Law in the east, with the Ochil Hills and the Highlands on the northwestern horizon. You can walk from Holyrood to the summit in around 45 minutes.



Edinburgh Zoo

On the way back to the airport you can stop off at Edinburgh Zoo, located halfway between the city and the airport. Opened in 1913, Edinburgh Zoo is one of the world's leading conservation zoos. Edinburgh's captive breeding program has helped save many endangered species, including Siberian tigers, pygmy hippos and red pandas. The main attractions are the two giant pandas, Tian Tian and Yang Guang, who arrived in December 2011, and the penguin parade where the zoo's penguins go for a walk at 2:15pm.

HMY Britannia in Leith

Built on Clydeside, the former Royal Yacht Britannia was the British royal family's floating holiday home during their foreign travels from the time of her launch in 1953 until her decommissioning in 1997, and is now moored permanently in Leith. Britannia is a monument to 1950s decor, and the accommodation reveals Her Majesty's preference for simple, unfussy surroundings. There was nothing simple or unfussy, however, about the running of the ship. When the Queen travelled, with her went 45 members of the royal household, five tons of luggage and a Rolls-Royce that was carefully squeezed into a specially built garage on the deck. The ship's company consisted of an admiral, 20 officers and 220 yachtsmen!

Our Staff Picks

Catie



I like taking visitors up the Scott monument, as long as they are not claustrophobic or scared of heights! If the weather is good you can see as far as Perth across the Firth of Forth. Another fun, fair-weather activity is giving golf a go on Bruntsfield Links. The links, a public park, are found next to the Meadows which is a popular destination in the heart of the city on a sunny day. You can hire clubs and balls from the nearby Golf Tavern pub.

Stefan

Calton Hill is a great place for a quick walk in the city, and is the best example of why Edinburgh was known as the 'Athens of the North'. It contains our attempt at replicating the famous Greek Parthenon (before the money ran out) and is the perfect spot to watch the end of Festival fireworks!



Alan

I like the walk up the side of the Salisbury Crags (plus Arthur's Seat) – good views as you gain height. For a more relaxing walk I would head to the Botanic Gardens. After all that healthy exercise it's only right that you're rewarded



with a well-earned drink. A favourite place of mine is Divino Enoteca, an atmospheric wine bar where you buy a card with credit on it which you insert into slots for the wines of your choice - the surroundings are great and the wine's good too!

Emma

The Water of Leith Walkway is a path that follows the meandering Water of Leith river running through the New Town. It is a great place to get a bit of peace and quiet from the crowds of Princes Street and the Royal Mile. With some beautiful architecture from Edinburgh's Victorian industrial past dotted along the Walkway, including the 100-foot Dean Bridge, you can't go wrong! You can start the walk in bohemian Stockbridge, the perfect place to stop for a coffee or lunch at one of the superb restaurants, and end up by the sea in Leith.



Links to useful websites

Time Out Edinburgh - www.timeout.com/edinburgh

This is Edinburgh - <http://edinburgh.org/>

Edinburgh History - <http://www.edinburgh-history.co.uk/>

Did you Know?

At 13:00 every afternoon, a gun is fired from Edinburgh Castle. Historically this was to help residents and visitors set their clock and watches, and the tradition continues today. If you happen to find yourself on Princes Street when the clock strikes one, keep your wits about you because it makes quite a noise – and will make you jump if you're not ready for it!

Edinburgh and its surrounding areas has attracted many film crews over the years. Movies filmed here include the Da Vinci Code, One Day and Trainspotting.

Edinburgh boasts 112 parks and has more trees per person than any other UK city.

Edinburgh Zoo is home to the only giant pandas in the UK. When they arrived from China in December 2011, Tian Tian (*Sweetie*) and Yang Guang (*Sunshine*) became local celebrities and continue to draw in admirers. If you don't have time to go and see them in their home, catch them online through Edinburgh Zoo's "Panda cam."

Edinburgh is the birth place of the Harry Potter novels. Author JK Rowling, who calls the city home, famously penned some of the early novels in the Elephant House, a coffee shop found on George IV Bridge. Through the windows at the back is a striking view of Edinburgh Castle, which is thought to have provided the inspiration for Hogwarts.

CONTACT NUMBERS:

If you have any questions or problems when you arrive in Edinburgh or during you stay, please contact the following:

- Maria Donde +44 7702 761 307
- Julie Mamou +44 7860 828 587
- Emma Coombs + 44 7834 432 065
- Huw Owen +44 7747 606 299