



University
of Glasgow

Glasgow Survival Guide

BISA Annual Conference 2023



Map of Glasgow

[View the Map](#)



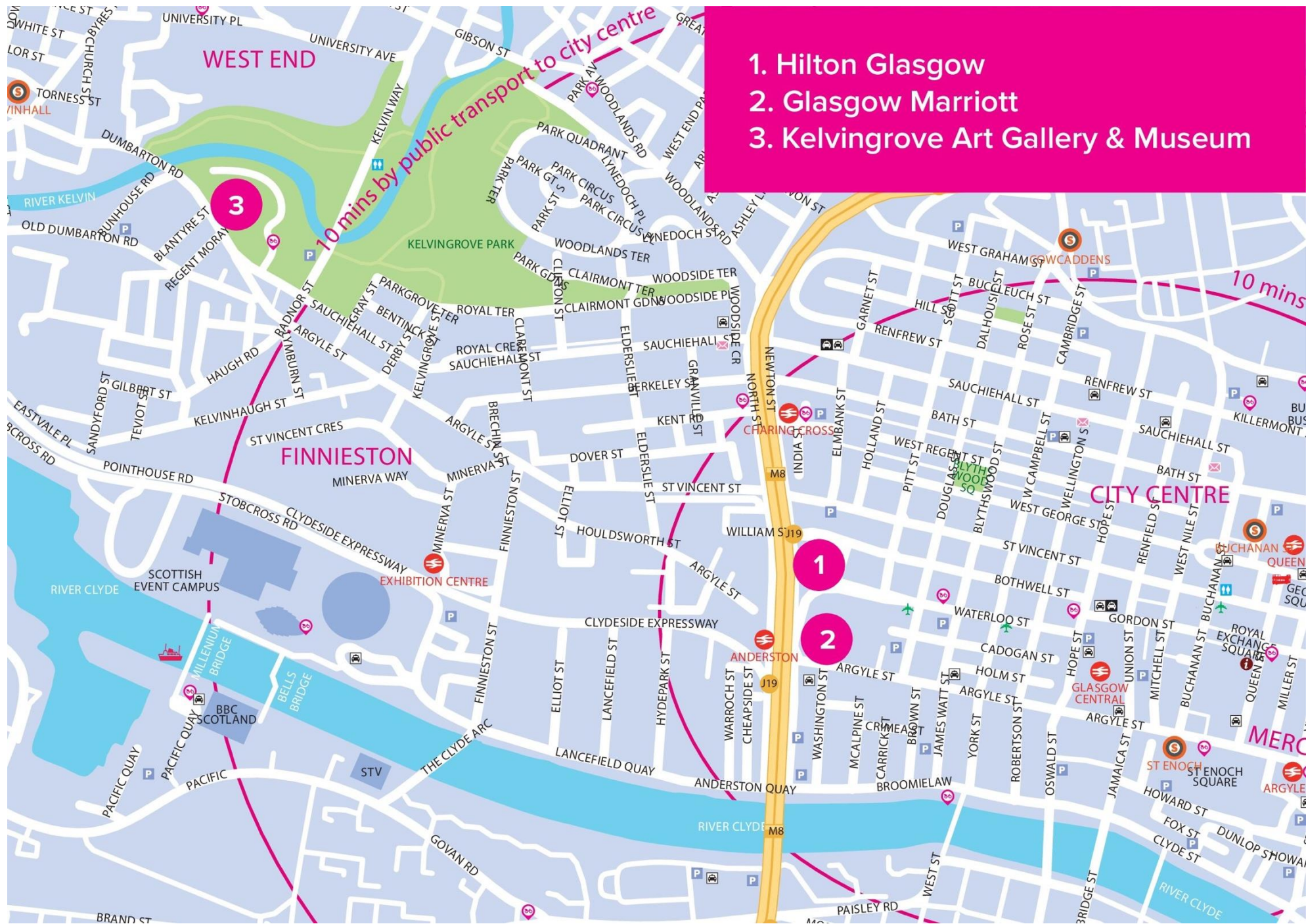
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- 1. Hilton Glasgow
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Anderston

The conference venues are in Anderston, on the edge of Glasgow's financial district. Anderston is split in two by the M8 Motorway which acts as a physical and symbolic dividing line between the City Centre and the West End. While the area isn't particularly well served by coffee shops, restaurants, or bars, we've highlighted a few notable exceptions below. You can also find some other bars and restaurants on Bath Street and Sauchiehall Street to the north of the conference venues.



COFFEE / CAKE / LUNCH

Caffe Nero and Coffee Republic

Two chain coffee shops on St Vincent Street. We don't particularly recommend either of them, however they are close to the Hilton Hotel and sometimes you just *need* a coffee.

Launch – 99 Bothwell Street – [Website](#)

Coffee shop that works with local companies to provide free meals to children in Glasgow. 10 minutes from the Hilton.

Ottoman Coffeehouse – 73 Berkeley Street – [Website](#)

Luxurious coffee shop, serving various classic, speciality and filtered and unfiltered coffees. Also has a good selection of food, including halal options.

Single-end Garnethill – 263 Renfrew Steet – [Website](#)

Bohemian breakfast, brunch, and/or lunch venue.

Smile – 121 Douglas Street – [Website](#)

Good coffee place that serves a good selection of hot and cold sandwiches, and salads. 10 minutes from the Hilton.

Tinderbox – 116 Waterloo Street – [Website](#)

Glasgow-based chain of coffee shops that can be found throughout the city. This branch is in the Ibis Hotel and is about 5 minutes' walk from the Hilton Hotel. It has quite a lot of seating and plenty of places to plug in phones and laptops.



RESTAURANTS

Akbar's – 572-581 Sauchiehall Street – [Website](#)

Traditional curry house with branches across the UK that is suitable for large groups.

Buck's Bar – 111 West Regent Street – [Website](#)

American restaurant on the way to the City Centre, specialising in fried chicken. Large portion sizes, so you might want to share.

The Buttery – 652 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Upmarket Scottish restaurant, specialising in (but not restricted to) seafood.

The Duke's Umbrella – 363 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Gastropub with old-fashioned décor, serving creative takes on pub classics and a selection of vegan options.



BARS / PUBS

Bon Accord – 154 North Street – [Website](#)

Whisky bar and ale house just south of the Mitchell Library that also serves classic pub grub.

Chinaski's – 239 North Street – [Website](#)

Small bar with a terrace and beer garden. Serves a range of contemporary cocktails and has a decent food selection, including vegan options.

The Griffin – 266 Bath Street – [Website](#)

Traditional pub within easy walking distance of the conference venues.

King Tut's Wah Wah Hut – 272A St Vincent Street – [Website](#)

World famous small music venue, with a public bar. Usually open from 6pm.

The Locale – 241 North Street – [Website](#)

Good pub with outdoor seating, just north of the Mitchell Library. Serves a decent range of craft beer, contemporary cocktails and bar food.

Nice N Sleazy – 421 Sauchiehall Street – [Website](#)

Infamous music-focused bar. Most evenings there are gigs on in the basement, and you can usually pay on the door. Usually open from 6pm.



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Mitchell Library – North Street – [Website](#)

One of the largest reference libraries in Europe. It is free to access for all and a good place to work on your presentation without having to spend any money, or to just escape the conference for a while. It does, however, have a café on the ground floor if you need some sustenance.

Tenement House – 145 Buccleuch Street – [Website](#)

Located in the north of the area, this museum is described by the National Trust for Scotland as an “authentic time capsule of life in early 20th-century Scotland”. Worth a visit if you are interested in social history, although be aware that unlike most museums in Glasgow there is an entry fee.

Finnieston

Finnieston often features in lists of the trendiest/coolest/most hipster neighbourhoods in the UK. It is home to a wide range of stylish bars, artisanal coffee shops, and some of the best restaurants in the city – although they can be quite expensive. Most bars and restaurants can be found between the section of Argyle Street stretching from the [Charles Rennie Mackintosh statue](#) to [Kelvingrove Museum](#) (the conference reception venue). It is well worth exploring the area on your own, but the venues below are a good place to start.



COFFEE / CAKE / LUNCH

The Cran' – 992 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Vegetarian and vegan café, serving speciality coffee and cakes.

Grumpy Barista – 1294 Argyle Street

One of several really good coffee shops on Argyle Street.

Hidden Lane Tea Room – 1103 Argyle Street (The Hidden Lane) – [Website](#)

Small and quirky place serving morning and afternoon tea.



RESTAURANTS

Crabshakk – 1114 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Seafood and fish restaurant. Always check the specials board.

Joia – 1075 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Reliably good Italian restaurant.

Meze Meze – 1032 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Turkish and Persian restaurant, specialising in slow cooked stews and kebabs.

Mother India – 28 Westminster Terrace – [Website](#)

Possibly the best-known Indian restaurant in Glasgow, both for the quality of the food and the grandeur of the setting. It's also worth visiting the Café further west on Argyle Street or the Lansdowne just off Great Western Road (West End).

Soul Food Kitchen – 973 Sauchiehall Street – [Website](#)

Located in the Argyll Hotel, this place does a good selection of small and big plate vegan cuisine as well as coffee and cakes.



BARS / PUBS

The 78 – 10-14 Kelvinhaugh Street – [Website](#)

Cosy bar serving vegan food. There is usually a pub quiz on Wednesdays, so it can get quite busy.

The Ben Nevis – 1147 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Excellent whisky bar, with an extensive selection on single malts. It's quite a small venue so it can be difficult to get a seat – especially on evenings when they have live folk music.

The Grove – 8 Kelvingrove Street – [Website](#)

Traditional pub. A more budget friendly option than many of the bars in Finnieston!

The Islay Inn – 1256-1260 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Traditional Scottish pub with both live folk music and a decent whisky selection.

The Park Bar – 1202 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Lively traditional pub and hub for Glasgow's Gaelic community, with live music Thursdays to Sundays.

Taphouse Bar & Kitchen – 1046 Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Good selection of beers, cocktails and serves decent (and not too expensive) food.



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

Charles Rennie Mackintosh statue – Argyle Street and St Vincent Street – [Website](#)

Statue marking the boundary between Anderston and Finnieston. It was constructed to mark the 90th anniversary of the death of the renowned artist and architect. The status was created by Andy Scott – the sculptor who created the [Kelpies](#).

The Finnieston Crane – Finnieston Quay – [Website](#)

A disused giant cantilever crane, built during Glasgow's time as a major maritime and industrial centre and one of the most recognisable landmarks on the Glasgow skyline.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum – Argyle Street – [Website](#)

Apart from being the venue for the BISA conference reception, Kelvingrove is the main museum and art gallery in Glasgow. Free to enter and worth taking some time to explore if you get a chance.

Kelvingrove Park – [Website](#)

Large public park located between Finnieston, the main University of Glasgow campus and the Woodlands area of the West End. If you get hungry while walking about the park, head to the MacTassos van on Kelvin Way for good quality Gyros!

West End / Woodlands

There are several areas of the West End that are worth visiting for pubs and restaurants, including Partick and Byres Road. In this guide, we mainly focus on the part of the West End that is closest to the conference venues – Woodlands. This area stretches from Charing Cross along Woodlands Road and Great Western Road to Kelvinbridge subway station, on the edge of the University of Glasgow campus.



COFFEE / CAKE / LUNCH

Bodach's – 55 Eldon Street

Cosy café on the northern edge of Kelvingrove Park, with a small roof terrace.

Lost World Coffee – 491 Great Western Road – [Website](#)

Friendly venue, serving excellent coffee and bagels.

Tchai-Ovna House of Tea – 42 Otago Lane – [Website](#)

Iconic tearoom, serving a wide variety of teas and vegan food in a very relaxed setting.



RESTAURANTS

Eusebi – 152 Park Road – [Website](#)

West end institution, serving Italian food. We recommend Yesterday's Lasagne from the restaurant and Cannoli from the deli.

Left Bank – 33-35 Gibson Street – [Website](#)

Trendy bar and restaurant close to the university campus. A good place for brunch, lunch, or dinner, serving small plates and mains.

Paesano Pizza – 471 Great Western Road – [Website](#)

Very popular Neopolitan pizza restaurant. Can get quite busy, so it can be worth leaving your name with staff and grabbing a drink nearby while you wait.

Saffron by Paradise – 411-413 Great Western Road – [Website](#)

Iranian and Persian restaurant, serving stews, mazzeh, and kebabs.



BARS / PUBS

Arlington – 130 Woodlands Road – [Website](#)

Traditional pub. Famous as the home of the 'real' Stone of Destiny on which all Scottish monarchs are crowned. This stems from 1950, when four students from the University of Glasgow stole the Stone from Westminster Abbey. When they returned north, they went to the bar for a celebratory pint. The legend is that the students made a replica to return to the Abbey and kept the real stone in the Arlington.

The Belle – 617 Great Western Road

Cozy and dog friendly pub with a log fire. A firm favourite amongst University of Glasgow staff.

Dram! – 232 Woodlands Road – [Website](#)

Relaxed and large bar that is popular with university students and staff. A good meeting place for medium to larger groups – just be sure to book a table.

Inn Deep – 445 Great Western Road – [Website](#)

Craft ale pub, located on the river Kelvin and accessible from both Great Western Road and Kelvinbridge subway station. Former Slam Poetry World Champion, Sam Small, runs a spoken word night here most Tuesdays.

**LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO****University of Glasgow – University Avenue – [Website](#)**

It is worth visiting the University campus – especially the spectacular Gilbert Scott building (the Main Building) to walk around the Quadrangle and visit the Hunterian Museum. You can find details about the daily campus walking tours on the website.

Botanic Gardens – 730 Great Western Road – [Website](#)

Beautiful and large park in the West End, with over 9000 different plants and over 20 hectares of landscaped grounds along the River Kelvin. If you want some respite from the conference and/or the city, this is the place to go.

City Centre / Merchant City

While Finnieston and the West End are the more fashionable parts of town, it is also worth visiting the City Centre. The main area for bars and restaurants is the Merchant City, which stretches from George Square to Glasgow Cross. Here you will find a wide selection of bars and restaurants to suit any taste and budget, and most of the city's LGBTQ+ venues (although the [Waterloo](#), the city's oldest gay bar, is close to the conference venue...) The area itself is synonymous with Glasgow's involvement in the tobacco and sugar industries and the system of slavery that it depended on.

Other areas with a high concentration of bars and restaurants are Hope Street and Bath Street. In the list of recommendations below, we've also included some coffee places that you may want to visit if you're travelling to the conference from the City Centre.



COFFEE / CAKE / LUNCH

Gordon Street – 79 Gordon Street (Central Station) – [Website](#)

Coffee shop at the entrance to Central Station, serving house roasts.

Piece – 14 Waterloo Street – [Website](#)

Glasgow based deli sandwich chain, with branches across the city (including in Finnieston).

Riverhill Coffee Bar – 24 Gordon Street – [Website](#)

Coffee, cakes and sandwiches.



RESTAURANTS

Café Gandolfi – 64 Albion Street – [Website](#)

Long-running family-owned restaurant and bistro, specialising in dishes made from Scottish produce.

Dakhin – 89 Candleriggs – [Website](#)

Large South Indian restaurant in the heart of the Merchant City.

Maki and Ramen – 21 Bath Street – [Website](#)

Highly recommended Japanese restaurant close to Queen Street station.

Mono – 12 Kings Court, King Street – [Website](#)

Vegan restaurant and bar, that also hosts events and gigs and has its own independent record store – [Monorail Music](#).

Sarti – 133 Wellington Street – [Website](#)

Italian café and deli that has been in Glasgow for more than 30 years.

Sugo – 70 Mitchell Street – [Website](#)

Italian restaurant in an industrial setting near Central station.



BARS / PUBS

13th Note – 50-60 King Street – [Website](#)

Independent bar, vegan restaurant and heart of the Glasgow music scene.

Gin71 – 71 Renfield Street – [Website](#)

Stylish bar in the city centre that specialises in gin and cocktails. They also run another venue in the Merchant City.

Merchant Square – 71 Albion Street – [Website](#)

Housed in part of Glasgow's Old Fruitmarket, Merchant Square is an events venue in the heart of the Merchant City with several bars and a few restaurants.

The Pot Still – 154 Hope Street – [Website](#)

Compact and busy whisky bar. Usually very busy, but worth visiting for the extensive whisky selection.

Shilling Brewing Company – 92 West George Street – [Website](#)

Microbrewery and pub, serving house brews, guest beers, and pizza.

Stereo – 22 Renfield Lane – [Website](#)

Music bar, with vegan café upstairs and live music downstairs.

Waxy O'Connor's – 44 West George Street – [Website](#)

Massive, maze-like Irish bar close to Queen Street station.



LANDMARKS / THINGS TO SEE AND DO

La Pasionaria – 286 Clyde Street

Memorial to volunteers to the International Brigade who fought and died in the Spanish Civil War. The statue is of Dolores Ibárruri, a Spanish Communist leader who coined the Republican battle cry, 'No pasarán!'

Duke of Wellington – 16 Royal Exchange Square

A somewhat less impressive or historically significant statue, located in front of the Gallery of Modern Art. The reason it is on the list is that it is famous for being routinely capped with a traffic cone by drunk Glaswegians.

George Square – [Website](#)

The main civic square in Glasgow, and home to the City Chambers. Marks the start of the Merchant City and is often the site for political protests and rallies.

Getting Around

Walking

When it isn't raining (which to be honest, is a lot of the time) Glasgow is a very walkable city. It takes around 15 minutes to walk from the city centre to the conference venues and a further 15 minutes to walk to either Finnieston or Woodlands.

There are two main walking routes between the Hilton Hotel and Marriott Hotel.

The quickest route is to walk along Newton Street/A804, which takes approximately 7 minutes. Unfortunately, this is also quite a noisy route as it is part of an on-ramp for the M8 motorway. [Route map available here.](#)

An alternative route is to walk via St Vincent Street, Douglas Street, and Argyle Street. This route is quieter, although it also takes approximately 15 minutes. [Route map available here.](#)

Cycling

Glasgow's cycle hire scheme, OvoBikes, is a cost-effective way to get around the city. Bikes are available to hire from various locations around the city, including near the conference venue at Anderston and Charing Cross stations, the Mitchell Library and near Tinderbox on Waterloo Street. You can find [full details on the Ovo Bikes website.](#)

Trains



The quickest way to travel between the city centre (**Glasgow Central** and **Glasgow Queen Street**) and the conference venues (**Anderston** and **Charing Cross**) is by train. Delegates can purchase a **Conference Rover ticket for £5** which gives unlimited rail travel in the conference zone, and discounted travel outside this zone, for five days. [Full details can be found on the Scotrail website.](#)

Anderston

This station is directly beside the **Marriott Hotel** and close to the **Hilton Hotel**. Trains run regularly from **Glasgow Central** station. Unfortunately, it is located immediately underneath the M8 motorway and there is no step free access to the platforms.



To Marriott Hotel (2 to 3 minutes)

- Exit the station and turn right.
- Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing.
- Follow pavement around to the right.
- The Marriott is on your left.

To Hilton Hotel (5 to 10 minutes)

- Exit the station and turn right.
- Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing.
- Turn left and walk along the pavement.
- Turn right onto William Street and the Hilton Hotel is on your right.

Charing Cross

This station is close to the **Hilton Hotel**, the **Mitchell Library** and is convenient for visiting the **Woodlands** area of the city (and the northern part of **Anderston** and **City Centre**). Trains run regularly from **Glasgow Queen Street** station. There is step free access to both platforms.



To Hilton Hotel (5 to 10 minutes)

- Exit the station and turn left onto Elmbank Crescent
- At the end of the road, turn right onto Elmbank Street
- At the end of the road, walk down the stairs to the left of Caffe Nero
- The Hilton is directly ahead.

Glasgow Central Station

This is one of two major train stations in the **City Centre**. There are regular trains to **Anderston**, **Exhibition Centre (Finnieston)** and **Partick** from the lower level of this station (service to Dalmuir on platform 17).

The **Merchant City** is a 10-minute walk to the east of the station (exit via Gordon Street or Union Street). You can catch buses to the conference venues (**Anderston**) outside the station on Hope Street (see below for details) or the Subway at **St Enoch**.

Glasgow Queen Street Station

This is the other major train station in the **City Centre** and is located beside the Merchant City. You can catch westbound trains throughout the day to **Charing Cross** (2 minutes) and **Partick** (7 minutes).

Unfortunately, the buses to the conference venues don't stop near this station. If you need to catch a bus, you should walk west along West George Street until you reach Hope Street. There, you can find bus stops for the 2, 3 and 4 at different points (if in doubt, walk downhill towards Glasgow Central Station).

Buses

Timetables and route maps for the most useful services for conference attendees can be found below. You can also download the First bus phone app to get live bus updates.

The easiest way to pay for bus journeys is to use a contactless payment card to scan yourself on and off each bus. If you do both scans on every bus journey you take in a single day, this will ensure you pay the lowest fare for that day. If you forget to scan yourself off, you may end up paying more.

First Bus 2

[Timetable](#)[Routemap](#)

WESTBOUND: City Centre – Conference – Finnieston – Reception – Partick

City Centre	Hope Street (Bothwell Street near Central Station)
Conference	St Vincent Street (Holland Street)
Finnieston	Argyle Street (Berkeley Street OR Haugh Road)
Reception	Argyle Street (Kelvingrove Art Galleries)
Partick	Partick Bus Station

EASTBOUND: Partick – Reception – Finnieston – Conference – City Centre

Partick	Partick Bus Station (Peel Street, across the main road)
Reception	Argyle Street (Blantyre Street)
Finnieston	Argyle Street (Haugh Road OR Berkely Street)
Conference	St Vincent Street (Elmbank Street)
City Centre	Renfield Street (Drury Street) OR Argyll Street (Argyll Arcade)

First Bus 3

[Timetable](#)[Routemap](#)

WESTBOUND: City Centre – Conference – Finnieston – Reception – Partick

City Centre	Hope Street (Bothwell Street near Central Station)
Conference	Bath Street (King's Theatre)
Finnieston	Sauchiehall Street (Derby Street OR Clayslaps Road)
Reception	Argyle Street (Kelvingrove Art Galleries)
Partick	Partick Bus Station

EASTBOUND: Partick – Reception – Finnieston – Conference – City Centre

Partick	Partick Bus Station (Peel Street, across the main road)
Reception	Argyle Street (Kelvingrove Art Galleries)
Finnieston	Sauchiehall Street (Haugh Road OR Berkely Street)
Conference	Sauchiehall Street (Garnet Street)
City Centre	Renfield Street (St Vincent Street) OR Jamaica Street (Howard Street)

First Bus 4



[Timetable](#)

[Routemap](#)

WESTBOUND: City Centre – Conference – Woodlands – University of Glasgow

City Centre	Hope Street (Bothwell Street near Central Station)
Conference	Bath Street (King’s Theatre)
Woodlands	Woodlands Road (Lyndoch Street OR Burnbank Bowling Club OR Park Road)
University	University Avenue (University Library/Main Building)

EASTBOUND: University of Glasgow – Woodlands – Conference – City Centre

University	University Avenue (University Library/Main Building)
Woodlands	Woodlands Road (Park Road OR Burnbank Bowling Club OR Lyndoch Street)
Conference	Sauchiehall Street (Garnet Street)
City Centre	Union Street (Central Station)

Subway

The Glasgow Subway is a very convenient way to travel around the city, particularly between the **City Centre** and the **West End**. Unfortunately, there are no stations close to the conference venues. However, the **conference reception** at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is only a 10-minute walk from **Kelvinhall** subway station.

In the city centre, there are stations close to **Glasgow Central Station (St Enoch)** and **Glasgow Queen Street Station (Buchanan Street)**.

In the west end, there are stations close to **Woodlands (St George’s Cross and Kelvinbridge)**, the **University of Glasgow (Kelvinbridge and Hillhead)** and a station in **Partick**.