Edinburgh Science Festival – Access Guide 2024 (plain text)

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## Welcome

We want to make your visit to Edinburgh Science Festival a relaxed and enjoyable experience.

This guide will explain how to book your tickets, make you aware of any performances and events with additional access arrangements and provide a guide to Edinburgh Science Festival venues.

Further information about events listed in this guide can be found in the Edinburgh Science Festival brochure or on our website: [www.edinburghscience.co.uk](http://www.edinburghscience.co.uk)

## Booking

Telephone

0131 553 0320

Online

[www.edinburghscience.co.uk](http://www.edinburghscience.co.uk)

In person

You can purchase tickets in person at our box offices throughout the duration of the festival, which can be found at the following two locations.

City Art Centre – This box office is located at the main entrance of City Art Centre. You can use cash or card.

National Museum of Scotland – This box office is cashless and is in the Grand Gallery of The National Museum of Scotland.

Please note, all Science Festival tickets are non-refundable except in the event of a cancellation.

## Discounts

Unless otherwise stated, concessions are available to senior citizens and disabled people, with a complimentary ticket available for personal assistants. These can be booked by phone or in person at one of our Box Offices.

Children under 3 years old do not require a ticket for events, except if the event is specifically for children under 3 years old.

If you are a BSL user Contact Scotland is a free interpretation service you can use for booking tickets. Log in to Contact Scotland (<https://contactscotland-bsl.org/>) and you will be put through to an interpreter, who will call our Box Office and make the booking.

## Relaxed Sessions

Four events during the festival have been adapted for audience members wanting a more relaxed environment during their visit.

### Rocket Show (show, age 5+)

Sunday 7 April, 11:30am to 12:15pm and 2:30pm and 3:15pm

National Museum of Scotland, Auditorium

£6

Join our back-yard scientist and discover what it takes to build a rocket fit for space. In this explosive family-friendly adventure, delve into rocket science as we explore forces, test materials, and prepare for launch. So strap-in, countdown, and blast-off for a show that’s out of this world.

Presented by Edinburgh Science

This is a friendly performance:

* A social story is available to download from our website
* Ear defenders available
* Flexible re-entry to and from the auditorium for anyone who needs to take a break
* Please note, there will still be some loud noises included as part of this performance that may not be suitable for everyone.

### Pounds and Pence – the science in your pocket: coins (activity, age 5+)

Monday 8 April, 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm

Museum on the Mound

Free booking required

Using a wealth of fascinating material, discover the materials and methods used to make coins. You'll even have the opportunity to strike your very own coin!

Presented by Museum on the Mound, Lloyds Banking Group

Relaxed session considerations:

* The Museum is closed to the public to create as quiet and relaxed an environment as possible.
* From 11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm, there will be handling and activity areas set up around the Museum. You are also welcome to explore the Museum while it is closed to the public.
* We have a quiet area, communication cards and sensory items, including sensory bags, available. These are also available for visitors who take part in our other Science Festival drop-in sessions.
* Our well-trained team are very happy to answer questions and do what they can to make all visitors feel welcome.

### Pounds and Pence – the science in your pocket: banknotes (activity, age 5+)

Monday 8 April, 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm

Museum on the Mound

Free booking required

Using rarely seen specimens from the Bank of Scotland, examine the complexity of banknote design using microscopes, explore the security features on banknotes and pit polymer against paper to test for strength.

Presented by Museum on the Mound, Lloyds Banking Group

Relaxed session considerations:

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* Our well-trained team are very happy to answer questions and do what they can to make all visitors feel welcome.

### Growing Home - relaxed opening session (exhibition, all ages)

Tuesday 9 April, 9am to 12pm

National Museum of Scotland, Grand Gallery

Free booking required

Visit the Grand Gallery for an hour before the National Museum of Scotland is open to the public and enjoy our Growing Home: A New World of Materials exhibition in a more relaxed and less crowded environment. This session is primarily for, but not limited to, neurodiverse and autistic children, young people and adults; adults living with dementia; adults and children with mental health problems; and any other visitors with sensory needs or who may prefer a more relaxed experience, plus their families, friends and carers. This relaxed experience will continue after we open to the public until midday.

Growing Home Presented by Edinburgh Science

Relaxed session considerations:

* Social stories will be provided to all ticket holders
* Sensory backpacks and ear defenders available
* Reduced capacity of participants
* Reduced noise levels

## BSL Interpreted Events

We have four BSL interpreted events as part of the programme of events for the 2024 festival. For the three events taking place at the National Museum of Scotland, priority seating will be reserved at the front left of the auditorium closest to the interpreter for BSL speakers.

### Bakineering (show, age 8+)

Sunday 31 March, 2.30pm to 3:30pm

National Museum of Scotland, Auditorium

£8

Join former Great British Bake Off finalist and creator and judge of Netflix's Baking Impossible, Andrew Smyth for an edible exploration of the engineering involved in baking. With audience tasters and live demonstrations, this fast-paced family show takes you on a journey via sea, road and sky to discover the hidden engineering inside his bakes. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Presented by Andrew Smyth

### The Secret Psychology of Magic (talk, age 12+)

Monday 8 April, 8pm to 9pm

National Museum of Scotland, Auditorium

£12/£10

Join psychologist and magician Prof Richard Wiseman as he explores the secret world of magic and illusion. See some of the world’s great optical illusions, explore the secret psychology of magic, find out why learning to perform the impossible is good for you and discover how to transform a tea towel into a chicken! A fun, entertaining and interactive journey into the fascinating world of mystery and magic.

Presented by Richard Wiseman

### Silent Archive – BSL Tour (exhibition, all ages)

Sunday 7 April, 2pm to 3pm

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, Inverleith house

£5

Painful truths, surprising revelations and fresh perspectives on humanity’s complex relationships with the botanical world emerge from our exhibition Silent Archive. International artists reveal the archives of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in new ways, challenging us to discover hidden narratives and hear long-ignored voices that are preserved in our collections. Significant works that tell stories of scientific discoveries, colonial histories and cultural heritage are displayed for the first time. Plant artistry, photography, music and more help convey how these archives shape our view of history, whose past they represent and how they might inspire change.

Join us for a British Sign Language tour of the Silent Archive exhibition, led by Trudi Collier.

Presented by Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

### Our Accidental Universe (talk, age 12+)

Friday 12 April, 6pm to 7pm

National Museum of Scotland, Auditorium

£12/£10

Join BBC presenter of Sky at Night and Gresham Professor of Astronomy Chris Lintott, as he takes us on an astonishing tour of bizarre accidents, big characters, and human error to tell the story of some of the most important astronomical events of the past hundred years. As new telescopes are built on mountaintops and in deserts around the world, aiming to transform our view of the universe once more, Lintott shows us that keeping an open mind will benefit us all – whatever might still be out there for us to find.

Presented by Penguin Random House

## Audio Described Events

### Connecting Histories – Descriptive tour (exhibition, all ages)

Tuesday 9 April, 10am to 11am

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, John Hope Gateway Gallery

£5

Connecting Histories presents botanical illustrations of familiar and less familiar plants, depicted with both scientific accuracy and spectacular artistry. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) is host to a remarkable collection of Indian botanical drawings within its archive – highlighting long and historic links to India. These unique drawings represent an often overlooked, important moment in the history of Indian art and highlight the movement of plants through Empire.

Take a multisensory journey through the collection of Indian botanical illustrations in this live, audio descriptive tour. This exhibition tour is specifically designed for people with a visual impairment and led by John Cummings.

Presented by Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

## Venue Access Guide

Below we have included key accessibility information for our venues however for each venues full access guide, including social stories where applicable, please head to our website.

### City Art Centre

2 Market Street, EH1 1DE

Getting there

Bus: 100 (Waverley Bridge), 27, 41, 23 (The Mound)

Taxi: Drop-off outside and taxi rank outside Waverley Station

Tram: Tram stop on Princes Street

Train: 200m from Edinburgh Waverley station

Venue Accessibility

* Level access
* One accessible toilet at ground floor
* Hearing loop - enquire at front desk
* Elevator to all floors

### National Museum of Scotland

Chambers Street, EH1 1JF

Getting there

Bus: 2, 31, 41, 45, 7  
Taxi: Drop-off outside  
Train: 800m from Edinburgh Waverley station

Venue Accessibility

* Changing places toilet on ground level
* Accessible toilets on all floors
* All exhibitions and galleries accessible via lifts and ramps
* Hearing loop in auditorium and information desk

### Dynamic Earth

Holyrood Road, EH8 8AS

Getting there

Bus: 35, 6, Edinburgh City sightseeing bus tour

Taxi: Drop-off outside, taxi rank on Holyrood Road

Train: 1.6km from Edinburgh Waverley station

Venue Accessibility

* Fully wheelchair accessible
* On-site car park
* Accessible toilets
* Accessibility toolkit for own exhibits

### Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Inverleith Row, EH3 5LR

Getting there

Bus: 25, 42, 24, 8, 23, 27  
Taxi: Drop-off outside  
Train: 2km from Edinburgh Waverley station

Venue Accessibility

* Accessible toilets in visitor centre, restaurants and in Garden
* Mobility scooters and wheelchairs available
* Seating at regular intervals throughout Garden
* Pen, paper and magnifying glass at Visitor Welcome desk

### Edinburgh Zoo

134 Corstorphine Road, EH12 6TS

Getting there

Bus: 12, 26, 31

Taxi: Drop-off outside

Train: 3.3km from Edinburgh Haymarket station

Venue Accessibility

* Free admission for carers
* Disabled parking
* Accessible toilets
* Mobility vehicle and wheelchair access available

### Summerhall

1 Summerhall, EH9, 1PL

Getting there

Bus: 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 29, 30, 31, 33, 37, 47, 49, 300

Taxi: Drop-off outside

Train: 1.5km from Edinburgh Waverley station

Venue Accessibility

* Lift (124cmx188cm)
* Listed building and not all spaces are fully accessible
* Accessible toilets
* Dropped counter at Box Office

## Other Accessibility Resources

### Sensory Backpacks

Sensory backpacks are created to help provide a more enjoyable experience for anyone in need of some extra support.

Backpacks will be available to collect from the Box Office at City Art Centre. These may be collected ahead of your visit, please phone our box office on 0131 553 0320 to arrange this.

Sensory backpacks are also available from the Tower Entrance and from the Main Entrance Information Desk at the National Museum of Scotland.

### Ear Defenders

Ear defenders in both adult and child sizes are available from the box office desk at the City Art Centre, where they will be signed out to each participant and then returned at the end of your visit.

Ear defenders are included in the sensory backpacks at the National Museum of Scotland which can be collected from the Tower Entrance and Main Entrance Information Desk.

### Quiet Space

Our quiet space is located on the fourth floor of City Art Centre, and is a space designed for children and young people to take a break from the busyness of the activity in the building, especially those with sensory issues, who may be overstimulated.

In the quiet room you will find fidget toys, soft toys, books and games as well as low level lighting and a black out tent designed for children to take a break to decompress while visiting us at the festival.

All children must be supervised by an adult at all times and the quiet space will be monitored hourly by the Science Festival team.

### Toilets

There are accessible toilets available at the following venues:

* City Art Centre
* National Museum of Scotland
* Dynamic Earth
* Royal Botanic Gardens
* Edinburgh Zoo

There are various Changing Places toilets around Edinburgh, including one at the National Museum of Scotland and one at The Booking Office JD Wetherspoons, Waverley Bridge.

You can find more Changing Place toilets by visiting the Changing Place website ([www.changing-places.org](http://www.changing-places.org)).

### Edinburgh Science Festival Social Stories

A social story is a visual easy-to-read document specifically to help with expectations of events, mental preparation and understanding.

There are social stories for City Art Centre and National Museum of Scotland available on the access webpage of the Edinburgh Science website.

### Assistance Dogs

Assistance dogs are welcome in all Science Festival venues.

### Access Webpage

[www.edinburghscience.co.uk/access/](http://www.edinburghscience.co.uk/access/)

If you would like a printed version of this guide sent to your address, please contact: access@scifest.co.uk