



Site Inspection

How does Edinburgh work as a conference destination? This may be the first question from your executive committee when you suggest Edinburgh. A site inspection organised by the Edinburgh Convention Bureau provides you and visiting members of the committee with direct experience and knowledge of the venues that can support your event.

Each site inspection is specifically tailored to the needs of the visitors and their conference.

Edinburgh Ambassador Dr Beth Alder gives this vivid account of her recent site inspection as part of the bid for 14th Congress of the International Society of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynaecology:

“It seemed it might be the UK’s turn in 2004 and London or Edinburgh were the proposed locations. When I contacted the Edinburgh Convention Bureau I did not know what to expect, but I wanted help in convincing the feasibility committee (including two consultant obstetricians from London and one of Lanark) that this was the place.

I needn’t have worried. The Bureau organised an amazing site visit, showing us delegate accommodation, conference facilities and social venues.

It was a very rainy day in December, but we were provided with a large car, a driver - and umbrellas. For a large conference the EICC was an obvious choice and fulfilled all expectations.

Accommodation was seen to be no problem and the standard of high class hotels was impressive. The visitors were charmed by the friendliness and openness of the staff at the Sheraton and Caledonian hotels I was now beginning to relax and realised that I was in the hands of professionals.

The social side is essential for delegates from abroad, with the traditional evening reception and conference banquets important features at our congress. In the afternoon we were taken to see potential venues. The Castle is stunning. As an Edinburgh resident I take it for granted, but I saw it through new eyes as our London visitors tried to take it all in. We had to drag them away from the guide’s history of the Stone of Scone.

It could hardly get better but at the end of the day Hopetoun House won our hearts, and gave us some number calculations to do. We saw two hotels, the conference centre, three possible receptions venues and two banquet venues. We could not possibly have done this in one day without the help of the Edinburgh Convention Bureau.

The final word came from one of the London consultants who faxed me the next day saying he was thinking of emigrating to Edinburgh. Edinburgh won the national vote

and we take the bid to the next congress in Washington in June. If we can convince Londoners the rest of the world should be no problem!"

Photo???

The ECB site inspection includes the names of the key contacts at selected venues. David Walker, Edinburgh Ambassador, 'It was really helpful to go into the hotel and be able to ask for a person by name. The sales people knew who we were and this made more efficient use of our time'.

Photo???

Highlighting Edinburgh's cosmopolitan environment, natural and historic beauty and dynamic cultural life is an important part of the itinerary. US decision-maker Bill Gattis pictured here with David Walker visited Kinloch Anderson to explore possible design of a tartan for their conference in 1999.

Photo???

Transportation arranged by the ECB allows you to concentrate on the itinerary without worrying about traffic and parking. Aware of the importance of first impressions to your committee, we make arrangements with chauffeurs from WL Sleigh's (pictured here Gordon) whose standards of professional service meet the excellence that international conference organisers have come to expect.

Ellen – do we still have these photos???

Or are there better / more recent pics we could insert???

Any questions?

If you would like us to arrange a site inspection, or you have questions about any other aspect of holding a conference in Edinburgh, please contact the Edinburgh Convention Bureau on 0131-473 3666 or email us at info@conventionedinburgh.com

