

= Lothian Buses =

Lothian Buses is the largest municipal bus company in the United Kingdom . It is the dominant provider of bus services in Lothian . Transport for Edinburgh , a company wholly owned by the City of Edinburgh Council , owns 91 % of the company , with the remainder being owned by the East Lothian , West Lothian and Midlothian councils .

Lothian Buses operates the majority of bus services in Edinburgh , extending to outlying suburbs , towns and villages . The company also operates several limited stop express routes , an Edinburgh Airport service , park & ride services and a night bus network as well as several tourist services .

The company operates four travel shops (three in the city centre and one in Dalkeith) , and operates buses from three depot locations ; Longstone , Annandale Street and Marine at Seafield . The company also maintains a driver training school and an engineering depot at Seafield .

= = History = =

The company can trace its history back to the Edinburgh Street Tramways Company of 1871 , also involving at various times the tramway companies of Leith , Musselburgh and Edinburgh North . The City Council (Edinburgh Corporation Tramways Department) took over operation of the tramways in 1919 , at which time most of the system was cable operated . Electrification of the tram network was completed in 1923 , but the first motor buses had arrived in 1919 .

The tramway was closed between 1950 and 1956 , after which the operation became the Edinburgh Corporation Transport Department . In 1965 , it purchased its first rear @-@ engined double @-@ decker bus , ESF801C , a Leyland Atlantean PDR1 / 1 , which is currently preserved at the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum in Fife . Almost 600 buses were added to the fleet over the next 17 years .

In 1975 Edinburgh Corporation Transport was renamed Lothian Region Transport . In 2000 , it was again renamed as Lothian Buses .

On 15 August 2013 , Edinburgh Council announced the creation of Transport for Edinburgh , a new public body meant to oversee public transport in Edinburgh , including both buses and the new tram system . Transport convener for Edinburgh Council Lesley Hinds stated : " Our first priority will be integration between bus and tram services and we will have the executive directors of Lothian Buses on the board of the new organisation " .

= = = Awards = = =

Lothian Buses have won several awards for their services to the Lothian region including Bus Operator of the Year in the 2007 UK Bus Awards , and has subsequently been voted Public Transport Operator of the Year (Bus) at the 2008 National Transport Awards . When the company was cited for its substantial route development , 32 % growth in passenger numbers since 1998 and £ 100 million investment in low @-@ floor buses since 2000 .

Lothian Buses was voted Best UK Bus Company in 2002 and 2003 , and vehicles previously carried the wording Voted Scotland 's Best Bus Company 2006 in a laurel wreath type logo near the fleetname .

In November 2011 , the company won the Top City Operator of the Year award at the UK Bus Awards .

= = Fares = =

Lothian Buses have operated a flat @-@ fare system , charged per adult , since March 2006 ; child fares , all @-@ day tickets , pre @-@ paid multiple singles and ' Ridacards ' are also available , with senior citizens travelling on free travel passes in line with the rest of Scotland . Since April 2016 , an Adult single fare is £ 1 @.@ 60 , and a child is 80p . A day ticket is £ 4 @.@ 00 since 19 April 2015 .

Cash payment is placed in a hopper , which automatically dumps into a vault that the driver has no access to . Change is not given , increasing security and allowing passengers to board more quickly .

The Lothian ' Ridacard ' bus pass is a pre @-@ paid plastic smartcard giving unlimited travel on regular daytime and night bus services , as well as Edinburgh Trams services . It is purchased initially from a Transport for Edinburgh Travelshop , where the owner 's picture is incorporated on the card to prevent mis @-@ use . Once purchased , the card can be placed on an on @-@ board reader , which reads the contactless chip in the smartcard . Cards can be credited for a weekly , 4 weekly or annual period . A warning is displayed on the last five days of validity . The card can then be topped up at Transport for Edinburgh Travelshops or Pay Point equipped retailers .

= = Bus network = =

In conjunction with management changes and route branding , the route network has undergone considerable change with the removal of several apparently confusing aspects such as letter prefixed routes and clockwise / anticlockwise circular services . Some services have been transferred to and re @-@ routed via Princes Street from the parallel George Street in New Town , after the banning of cars from most of Princes Street and the closing of certain access points .

The majority of the current network comprises through routes that pass through the city centre from opposing termini . Most services pass in part or in full along Princes Street , with Bristo Place and Leith Walk being the crossing points for the remaining cross city services . There also exists a northern and a southern semi @-@ circle orbital routes , and a local loop in the Sighthill area .

Many routes are contained within the Edinburgh conurbation , whereas others , most notably the ' playing card ' branded routes , extend into surrounding areas , such as Penicuik , Tranent , Mayfield , Balerno and Edinburgh Airport .

Double deck buses show an intermediate points display , as well as a final destination . The company 's double decker buses are unique in Scotland in still displaying the destination at both the front and rear . In early mornings and late evenings , some services are curtailed to the city centre or to early termini , in the transition to the night bus service . In such cases , ' Part Route ' is displayed in the intermediate display . Certain routes have all day short working termini , and minor diversions which are often indicated through the use of internal or external ' tram boards ' . Since 2006 double @-@ deck deliveries feature a ' Route Diverted ; intermediate display , used when road closures cause a service to be diverted from its normal route .

= = = Night buses = = =

Lothian Buses also operates a nightbus network . Ridership increased when the routes were re @-@ numbered and re @-@ routed to match daytime routes and increased in frequency . The operation of night buses provides a continuous 24 @-@ hour bus service to some areas of the city . This ticket allows for unlimited travel all night on any night bus .

= = Infrastructure = =

Lothian Buses operates three garages , and have an engineering works at Seafield , where major work on buses is carried out .

The previous company headquarters and engineering works in Shrub Hill , off Leith Walk , were sold in 1999 subject to planning permission , after being occupied by the company since 1871 . After repeated delays , controversies and a public inquiry , in 2004 , the site was sold to BL Developments for £ 12m so that the site could be developed flats and houses . Lothian Buses also maintain four Travel Shops . Three of these are in the city at Waverley Bridge , Hanover Street and Haymarket . A Travel Shop opened at the Jarnac Court shopping mall in Dalkeith town centre on 4 February 2008 .

= = Trams = =

Lothian Buses ' services have been integrated with Edinburgh Trams , since the trams commenced operation in 2014 ? both are owned by the council , and Lothian Buses services interchange with the trams at various locations . The now closed guided busway element of Fastlink formed part of phase 1a of the tram permanent way .

= = Fleet = =

Edinburgh Corporation and Lothian Buses have historically employed a high degree of standardisation of their service bus fleet , including the use of low @-@ floor buses to facilitate maintenance savings . Lothian have never employed minibuses on their services , although some midibuses were used for a time . As at December 2012 the fleet consisted of 721 buses .

= = = Current vehicles = = =

Lothian Buses has a modern fleet by national standards , with an average vehicle age of 5 @. @ 6 years . As of 1 September 2009 the main service fleet is all low floor .

The majority of the current main service fleet comprises :

Single @-@ deck

Volvo B7RLE with Wright Eclipse bodies (68)

Volvo B7RLE with Wright Eclipse 2 bodies (29)

Optare Solo SR (6)

Volvo 7900 diesel @-@ electric hybrids (50)

Double @-@ deck

Dennis Trident 2 with Plaxton President bodies (95)

Volvo B7TL with Plaxton President and Wright Eclipse Gemini bodies (125)

Volvo B9TL with Wright Eclipse Gemini bodies (100)

Volvo B9TL with Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 bodies (135)

Scania OmniCity (15)

Alexander Dennis Enviro400H Hybrid (15)

Twenty @-@ eight Plaxton President Dennis Trident 2s have been converted to open @-@ top , all for use on tour and sightseeing operations .

All vehicles are fitted with internal and external CCTV cameras and cab radios , for passenger and driver safety , bus lane enforcement and assisting the police , although they have also been used in action against the company 's own drivers .

At the end of 2009 , Lothian Buses started replacing their ticket machines with the Wayfarer 200 ticket machines . These machines have been supplied by Transport Scotland as part of the National Concessionary Travel Scheme to improve free travel throughout Scotland .

= = = Preserved vehicles = = =

Many vehicles previously used by Lothian Buses and its predecessors have been preserved (or are awaiting preservation) by various groups and societies . Several of the vehicles regularly appear at events , rallies and running days around the country .

= = Main fleet liveries and route branding = =

Traditionally , Edinburgh Corporation , Lothian Regional Transport and Lothian Buses had a livery of madder (a dark red) and cream , with matching madder leatherette seating . Some coach @-@ seated Alexander RH bodied Leyland Olympians and Alexander Royale bodied Volvo Olympians were painted in the same scheme , but with red in place of the madder . These vehicles are not branded for , but usually operated only on routes 15 / 15A .

While the company have traditionally maintained a uniform livery for all buses , deliveries of low floor vehicles has seen a new standard livery introduced . Route branding has been increasingly used by Lothian since the introduction of low floor vehicles . Route branding highlights the route of certain services making the buses easier to be spotted throughout Lothian . Since May 2010 the Harlequin livery used to identify low floor buses has started to be phased out , as the company is now a full low floor operation , with a return to the traditional madder and white livery although the style has been altered slightly to suit the lines of modern buses . Each type of bus owned directly by Lothian Buses has had at least one of their type painted in the new livery .

In July 2011 Lothian Buses introduced 60 new double deck buses . These buses continued with the same madder red and white pattern on the outside of the bus but Lothian Buses changed the seats to a matching madder red colour . They also changed the entrance to the bus to a more wooden effect . Routes 4 , 5 , 19 , 23 and 27 were the first buses to receive this branding .

Eco branding

New branding was created to go with the reintroduction of the madder and white livery to Edinburgh . The buses used on route 36 were gradually repainted in green promoting colours to reflect the type of engine used . In 2011 , 15 Alexander Dennis Enviro400 hybrid buses were added to the fleet and began operating on route 10 between Western Harbour and Torphin . The new hybrids had some first for Lothian Buses : a madder and gold colour scheme , free Wi @-@ Fi , alloy wheels and electronic destination displays .

In 2013 , Lothian Buses took delivery of 10 Volvo 7900 single @-@ deck hybrids . These have entered service on route 1 . Another 20 were delivered in summer 2014 for route 30 , and a further 20 in December of that year for work on services 12 @,@ 24 & 36

Penicuik City Link

Buses for routes 37 , 47 and X47 between Edinburgh and Penicuik were branded as Penicuik City Link , with blue uppers and roofline , and the positions of the red and madder on the skirting transposed . In 2011 , one of these buses was repainted into madder and white , with no roof colour . However , the other vehicles in Penicuik City Link colours were repainted into the new madder and white livery with a turquoise mint coloured roof and the name Pen @-@ Y @-@ Cog . This is to celebrate the history of the area as Pen @-@ Y @-@ Cog is the original name for Penicuik . These buses were de @-@ branded in 2014 due to high fuel consumption of the B7TL 's used and the 37 / 47 / X37 is now worked by standards liveries Volvo B9TL 's .

Playing cards theme

Four double decker routes using the low @-@ floor scheme are , or have been , based on a playing card theme , with the symbol of the suit incorporating the route number ;

Route 3 / 3A was , until September 2010 , Club Class ? across the City and Midlothian with extra yellow on the uppers and roofline and a black " club " symbol . Bus 720 , formerly one of the " Club Class " branded buses , was repainted into the new madder and white livery with a yellow roof and " 3 Connect " branding in spring 2010 , and it was expected that this would replace the Club Class branding . However , in September 2010 , it was announced that the 3 and 3A would be rebranded , using the same livery style as trialled on 720 , as The Lady Victoria to honour Midlothian 's mining heritage as the routes pass the Scottish Mining Museum based in the former Lady Victoria Colliery in Newtongrange .

Route 26 was , until mid @-@ 2009 , East to West Through the Heart of the City featuring red on the roofline , gold between the decks and a large heart with an arrow symbol .

Route 31 was Ace of Spades ? cutting across the city and Midlothian with orange uppers and roofline , and a black spade symbol , which was worn by buses 751 ? 768 . However , these buses have been repainted into madder and white with no route branding .

Route 44 was Service with a Sparkle with black uppers and roofline and a yellow diamond symbol . This was superseded by a new branding , " The Mill Race " , with pebble grey uppers and roofline , but was later removed due to the high fuel consumption of the long route diagram .

Two single @-@ deck routes also received branding based on the playing card theme , Route 29 was branded as The Best Deal (Volvos 136 ? 150 , red) and route 49 Leader of the Pack (Volvos 151 ? 160 and 170 , blue) . Volvos 151 ? 160 were repainted into a new branding for route 49 , The

Queen of Scots with 136 ? 138 and 170 now repainted into standard madder and white . Meanwhile , Route 29 was rebranded as The Stock Brig until both of these routes commenced double decker operation in June 2014 and March 2015 respectively . The 29 has retained an orange roof but with no " Stock Brig " branding .

Connect branding

Mid 2009 saw the introduction of Connect branding , with the first example being red @-@ based 26 Connect : Clerwood , City Centre , Seton Sands / Tranent This supersedes the earlier playing card theme . The second example applies to new , buggy friendly vehicles on route 22 , with the branding 22 Connect : Gyle + Edinburgh Park , City Centre , Ocean Terminal The base colour here is pink . A third example was applied to bus 720 on route 3 , with the legend 3 Connect . The base colour here is yellow , and was applied together with a new interpretation of the classic madder and white livery . The 3 Connect branding was replaced by The Lady Victoria branding in October 2010 .

Zoom to the Zoo advertising

In June 2009 Lothian Buses entered into a two @-@ year deal with Edinburgh Zoo to create a fleet of ten vehicles carrying animal @-@ themed advertising designs over Route 26 Connect branding . Five variations exist , on two vehicles each :

" Recognise Anyone ? " ? featuring the chimps

" Dive On " ? penguins

" Have a Purrfect day Out " ? tigers

" Go Faster Stripes " ? zebras

" Take Off ! " ? rainbow lorikeets

= = Tourism = =

= = = History of tour operations = = =

Lothian Buses have operated city tours using white liveried coaches . Later , Leyland Atlanteans were employed in this same livery , with blinds for City Tour . These wore an updated version of the white livery with blue detailing after a short period . An Edinburgh Classic Tour was set up in 1989 using open top Leyland Atlanteans , and later Leyland Olympians , which competed with Guide Friday . This was as a result of Guide Friday introducing competition on the city centre to Airport route . The buses wore a blue and white livery , each carrying a name e.g.Scottish Star , Lothian Star and Highland Star . Lothian Buses also operated open top tours in Oxford (in conjunction with local operator Tappins) and Cambridge under the Classic Tour identity .

= = = Edinburgh Bus Tours = = =

Lothian Buses operate several open top double deck tour bus services under four distinct brands : City Sightseeing , Edinburgh Tours , Mac Tours and The Majestic Tour . The City Sightseeing tour is operated as a franchise of the City Sightseeing brand . In 2013 , all were brought under the control of one entity , Edinburgh Bus Tours , although the separate trading names are retained .

City Sightseeing , Edinburgh Tours and Mac Tours visit the Old Town , New Town , Calton Hill , Holyrood Palace and Edinburgh Castle , albeit on slightly differing routes . The Majestic Tour operates a long loop from Holyrood and New Town , via the Royal Botanic Garden , to the coast at Ocean Terminal , the site of the former Royal Yacht Britannia .

The Mac Tours operation uses AEC Routemaster buses in a dark red and cream livery , with See Edinburgh By Vintage Bus branding . All other tours use Plaxton President bodied Dennis Trident 2s . For the City Sightseeing tours , the livery is red , for Edinburgh Tours the livery is white and green , and Majestic Tours use yellow and blue coloured vehicles .

= = = Forth Tours = = =

Since 2007 Mac Tours has operated a bus for Forth Tours providing departures from Waverley Bridge for their various tours and cruises of the Firth of Forth . The bus used is a dedicated Plaxton President bodied Dennis Trident painted in a special yellow , blue and green Forth Tours livery . (XIL 1484) .

= = Services = =

= = = Airlink 100 = = =

Lothian Buses operates a dedicated limited stop service , route 100 , to Edinburgh Airport from Waverley Bridge along Corstorphine Road . This service uses a dedicated fleet , special fares and its own web @-@ site . An orange winged ' A ' logo adorns the web site and the interior / exterior of the vehicles .

After the original Leyland Olympians in plain Airline blue , the later Scania OmniDekkas were replaced by new Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 bodied Volvo B9TLs in March 2010 . The new vehicles included " E @-@ leather " upholstery (a type of manmade composition leather made from recycled waste leather offcuts) , power sockets , CCTV which enables passengers on the top deck to watch their luggage on the lower deck , LED lights and free wi @-@ fi . The vehicles cost over £ 200 @ , @ 000 each , £ 30 @ , @ 000 more than standard vehicles , and carry a two @-@ tone blue and red livery . The previous Scania's carried a livery of white and light / dark blue , with orange detailing .

= = = Park & Ride = = =

Edinburgh has a network of existing and proposed park & ride sites . Lothian buses call at some of these sites :

= = Lothian Country Buses = =

In June 2012 Lothian Buses expanded into East Lothian with the introduction of route 113 from Pencaitland to Edinburgh , replacing First Group 's 44B service following them withdrawing from the area . Route 113 is operated by a separate legal entity , Lothian Country Buses . Initially operated by existing Lothian buses , the service is now operated by five Wright Eclipse bodied Volvo B7RLEs and two Plaxton President bodied Dennis Trident 2s painted in a green and cream livery similar to that of the former Scottish Motor Traction / Eastern Scottish buses . In September 2014 , a second service commenced from Haddington to Edinburgh . This service is run by 5 Volvo B7RLE Wright Eclipse Urban 2 bodies buses which were formally liveried for Lothian 's " The Queen Of Scots " route 49 branding .

= = East Coast Buses = =

In August 2016 , the Musselburgh and North Berwick garages of First Scotland East will be taken over . These will be operated as East Coast Buses .

= = Vehicle tracking = =

Lothian Buses are active members of the Bustracker system and are responsible for the funding of it as well as being partly responsible for the operation of it . It operates by tracking the movements of buses ; computers then relay this information to the designated bus tracker signs throughout the city giving real @-@ time and more up @-@ to @-@ date information on when buses are due to the passengers .

In December 2009 , it was announced that following the success of Bustracker , an application had

been developed for the iPhone that is similar to the way Bustracker works . It allows people to download an application to their iPhone that enables them to see where their nearest bus stop is and when the bus is due . Although not developed by Lothian Buses or The City of Edinburgh Council , the application has now won the backing of both companies . My Bus Edinburgh is an application developed for the Android platform which is similar in functionality to the iPhone application . Like the iPhone application , this application is developed by an independent developer , backed by Lothian Buses and The City of Edinburgh Council , and is available free of charge .

In August 2010 , the company introduced an early running alarm system for drivers , which is linked into the automatic vehicle tracking system , and sounds an alarm and displays warning messages if the bus is running early . This was as a result of the company being fined £ 10 @, @ 500 by the Traffic Commissioner for Scotland , having been found to be running buses early . After a customer complaint , Vehicle and Operator Services Agency monitored services 45 , 27 , 4 and 16 in February 2010 , and found that of 303 instances , 44 buses were running early , despite starting the route on time , while 20 were running late . The company 's defence was that they had built in some running time to cope with the delays due to tram works , but in some places , these works had ended early . The Commissioner accepted this defence , and chose not to take action against the company 's operating licence (which authorises a maximum of 700 vehicles) . Instead the Commissioner imposed a fine set much lower than the legal maximum (calculated as £ 550 * 700 vehicles = £ 385 @, @ 000)

= = In popular culture = =

Since 2006 , Lothian Buses Seafield depot has been used as the setting for the CBeebies programme Me Too ! under the name of Riversea Buses . The company 's staff also feature in the show . Of the firm 's participation in the series , the company 's then Chief executive officer Neil Renilson said " It 's a good opportunity to keep public transport in the eye of the next generation of customers . "