

Festival Season Tech Tips – Surviving Edinburgh’s Busiest Time

Edinburgh, with its rich history and vibrant culture, is a city that truly comes alive during festival season. As the streets fill with artists, performers, and festival-goers, the city transforms into a bustling hub of creativity and excitement.



Photo by Connor Mollison on Unsplash

For those planning to dive into the festivities, technology can be your best ally. From keeping your devices powered up to finding the best events, this guide is packed with practical tech tips to help you navigate Edinburgh’s festival season effortlessly.

Keeping Your Devices Charged

One of the paramount concerns during the festival season is ensuring your mobile phone and gadgets remain charged amidst the whirlwind of activities. The reality of capturing every moment, navigating through crowds with GPS, and staying in touch with friends can drain your battery faster than expected.

A reliable, high-capacity [portable charger or power bank](#) is indispensable. Look for one with multiple USB ports to charge more than one device at a time, ensuring you and your companions stay powered up.

Moreover, it’s worth noting that certain power banks now come with solar charging capabilities, offering an eco-friendly option to recharge during sunny days at outdoor events. While exploring Edinburgh, keep an eye out for cafes, bars, and

event venues that offer charging stations or are known to be gadget-friendly. These spots are perfect for a quick pit stop to recharge your devices and yourself with a coffee or snack.

Must-Have Apps

The festival season in Edinburgh can be overwhelming, with its array of shows, performances, and events. Staying organised is key; having the right apps on your smartphone can make all the difference.

The official Edinburgh Festival Fringe app is essential, offering a comprehensive list of events, customisable schedules, and the ability to purchase tickets directly from your phone. For culture enthusiasts, apps offering audio tours of Edinburgh's historic sites can enrich your festival experience, allowing you to discover the city's rich past between shows.

Transportation apps are also crucial. The Lothian Buses app provides real-time updates on bus routes, making public transport a breeze.

For those preferring to bike, Edinburgh's cycle hire schemes have their apps to locate and rent bikes. Remember, downloading these apps before arriving can save you time and ensure you're ready to hit the ground running.

Crowd-Sourced Information

Leveraging the power of crowd-sourced information can also enhance your festival experience. Apps like Waze, traditionally used for driving, have started incorporating pedestrian and event-based information, providing insights into crowd sizes, event end times, and even the best exits for leaving a venue.

Similarly, social media platforms like Twitter and Instagram can offer real-time updates from fellow festival-goers,

sharing tips on queues, food stalls with the shortest lines, or sudden schedule changes.

Smart Mapping and Real-Time Updates

Before heading out, ensure your smartphone has a reliable mapping app. Google Maps and Apple Maps provide directions and offer real-time traffic and crowd information. This feature can be incredibly useful for avoiding congested streets or finding the quickest routes to your next event.

Some apps even offer pedestrian-friendly directions, highlighting shortcuts and pedestrian zones that can save you time.

Group Tracking Apps

When travelling in a group, it's easy to get separated in crowded areas. Apps, like Find My Friends (for iOS users) or Google's Trusted Contacts (for Android and iOS), allow you to share your location with friends in real time, making it much easier to regroup if someone strays from the pack.

These apps can be particularly useful during busy festivals when communication through calls and texts might be hindered by noisy environments or overwhelmed mobile networks.

Protecting Your Tech

The festival atmosphere is exhilarating but can pose risks to your gadgets. A durable, waterproof case for your phone can guard against rain and spills, while a screen protector can fend off scratches and cracks from accidental drops. For those carrying backpacks, consider anti-theft features like hidden zippers or locks to deter pickpockets in crowded areas.

Additionally, investing in gadget insurance before heading to the festival can provide peace of mind, covering you in case of theft, loss, or accidental damage. This way, you can immerse yourself in the festival's joys without worrying about

your tech.

Tech Emergencies

Despite precautions, accidents happen. A dropped phone can result in a shattered screen, or a sudden rainstorm can soak your gadget. Having quick access to repairs ensures you won't miss out on festival fun due to a broken device.

[Likewise Repair mobile workshops](#) are a godsend in these situations, offering professional, on-the-spot services to fix common issues like cracked screens, battery problems, or water damage. Knowing where these mobile workshops are located or how to contact them can save the day, ensuring your tech woes are solved promptly.

Capturing the Moment

Photography and video capture are huge parts of the festival experience. Before you arrive, ensure your device has ample storage space. Transferring photos and videos to cloud storage services or an external hard drive can free up your phone's memory for new memories.

For those looking to enhance their photography game, consider portable lenses for smartphones. These can dramatically improve the quality of your photos and videos, making your festival memories even more vivid.

Don't forget about portable tripods or selfie sticks, which can help in taking group photos or videos in crowded places. And with the unpredictable weather in Edinburgh, having a waterproof phone case or a protective bag for your camera equipment is a must to avoid any water damage during sudden rain showers.

Cashless Payments and Digital Tickets

The festival experience is increasingly cashless, with many vendors and venues accepting digital payments. Setting up a

mobile payment system on your smartphone like Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Samsung Pay can streamline purchases, from food and drinks to merchandise. This method is convenient and secure, reducing the risk of lost cash or theft.

Similarly, keeping track of event tickets is easier than ever with digital ticketing options. Many festival events offer e-tickets that can be stored on your phone, accessible with a tap. Organise your tickets by day or event in a dedicated app or digital wallet to ensure smooth entry to shows and performances.

Wi-Fi Hotspots and Data Plans

Relying solely on public Wi-Fi can be risky due to security concerns and connectivity issues. Purchasing a temporary data plan or a prepaid SIM card for your stay can provide a reliable internet connection, allowing you to research events, navigate the city, and post on social media without interruption.

When using public Wi-Fi, consider a VPN app for [an added layer of security](#) to protect your personal information.

Augmented Reality: A New Way to Experience Edinburgh

Augmented reality (AR) revolutionises how we experience festivals and cultural events. Downloading AR apps recommended by event organisers can unlock immersive experiences, from AR-guided historical tours to interactive art exhibits that blend the digital and physical worlds.

These apps can provide contextual information about landmarks, artworks, or performances, enhancing your understanding and enjoyment of the festival's offerings.

Enjoy The Festivities!

Edinburgh's festival season is an unparalleled opportunity to immerse yourself in culture, art, and entertainment.

With a little preparation and the right tech tools, you can easily navigate the festivities, ensuring a memorable and enjoyable experience. Technology can enhance every aspect of your festival journey from keeping your devices charged and protected to leveraging apps for organisation and entertainment.

And with solutions like mobile repair workshops at the ready, you can rest assured that tech emergencies won't slow you down. So, pack your gadgets, download those apps, and prepare for an unforgettable adventure in the heart of Edinburgh's festival scene.