



## **TL;DR:**

The EDC is in Chesterfield on 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> October 2026, latest check-in to party is 2:20pm on the Friday. Entry cost is £20 (£15 on or before 10<sup>th</sup> July) and is payable by PayPal to [w woolgar@hotmail.com](mailto:w_woolgar@hotmail.com) following registration at [www.diplomacy.co.uk](http://www.diplomacy.co.uk).

## **Chapter 1: So You're Saying there's a Chance?**

If you have opened this... let's call it a brochure... then 80% of the battle is won; you're interested in joining us for the European Diplomacy Championships 2026.

That's great!

This will put you in the company of a select group of not much over 400 people who have played in an EDC since records began (way back in 1993), and in 33 tournaments there have been a hefty 66 different podium occupiers. We can reasonably say that if you play you have a chance of winning.

However,...

Of course, this year's tournament is in the UK and, owing to popular culture and historic public perception, this means that a Brit is expected to win (see Football 1966; Olympics 2012 without USA and Russia in the medal table). To those people I say, "Look, Toby Harris' form has dropped off to the point where I was able to win Best Toby Harris at the UK National Championships in 2025". It really is a wide-open field this year and anyone's trophy to claim, but I'm waffling, so let's dive into it.





## Chapter 2: I'll Start Reading Here, Thanks

The European Diplomacy Championship (EDC) 2026 is taking place in Chesterfield, UK from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October. There will be four rounds of Diplomacy (1 Friday, 2 Saturday and 1 Sunday). You need to have arrived and checked in by 2:20pm on the Friday to plan in Round 1.

### The Setting

Chesterfield is pretty much smack in the middle of the country. It takes 100 minutes to drive to the east coast and 100 minutes to drive to the west coast. We're on the midland mainline railway straight from St Pancras International in 1 hours 55 minutes and we're 5 miles from the edge of the Peak District National Park. We also have a local international airport just 40 minutes away by car or train.

During your visit you can take in the breathtaking walks and views of the Peak District, from the scenery of Curbar Edge to the ancient spa town of Buxton.



TL Clockwise: Curbar Edge, Buxton Spa Town, Hadrian's Wall, Blackpool





Further afield, for those who want to arrive a day in advance, consider paying a visit to Whitby, the setting for the novel Dracula and the only place in the world where you can find the naturally occurring gem stone, Jet.

Perhaps a day in York is more your cup-of-tea, with its original 2000-year old city wall on which you can walk.

Arrive early enough and you could choose to walk the 73 mile Hadrian's Wall separating England from Scotland, visit Blackpool – the funfair town of the North, or any of the dozens of medieval or iron age castles.



Jet

Chesterfield itself has a rich history dating back to its market charter in 1594 and then all the way back to the construction of the 'Crooked Spire' church in 1234. Archaeologists have even found buildings forming a crossroads dating back to a few years BC underneath what is now the town centre.



Chesterfield Market Square





### Chapter 3: What's Occurring?

We'll get right into it: On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October registration will open at 12 noon, please try not to attend the venue before this time although it does open at 10am for those interested in browsing the shop or hovering over the odd TCG battle that might be taking place.

Actually, I should mention the venue shouldn't I?

It's called Geek's Headquarters and it's an independent gaming and sales venue specialising in all sorts of card and board games. The venue, spread across three floors, has been open for 11 years. The EDC has booked certain areas and tables for the weekend (sufficient to ensure exclusive organised tournament status), but the venue as a whole will be open to the public throughout.



You can find out more at: [www.geekshquarters.co.uk](http://www.geekshquarters.co.uk)

Registration will close and the first board draw will commence at 2:20pm with the first round scheduled to start at 2:40pm on the Friday.





Until that time there's plenty of Key high street shops and independent boutiques to see around Chesterfield. Here are a few highlights that I recommend:

Crit! | <http://www.crit.co.uk>

For all your Funko pops, board games and other memorabilia



Shop Indie | [www.shopindie.co.uk](http://www.shopindie.co.uk)

A great place to pick up locally handmade gifts and knickknacks.



The Shambles | [www.chesterfield.co.uk/visiting/shopping/chesterfield-town-centre/the-shambles](http://www.chesterfield.co.uk/visiting/shopping/chesterfield-town-centre/the-shambles)

Previously a literal shambles (narrow lanes designed with gullies to carry away blood and other waste from butcher's shops), this is now home to 20 or so independent shops, cafes and even a pub. Definitely the place to sample regional delicacies such as Bakewell Tart, Pork Pie and Stilton Cheese.



Queen's Park | [www.visitpeakdistrict.com/business-directory/queens-park](http://www.visitpeakdistrict.com/business-directory/queens-park)

Opened in 1887 for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, the park, complete with cricket ground, bandstand café and ice cream van, is a great place to unwind before or after a gruelling diplomatic encounter. You can even ride the train, which has no upper age limit!





Chatsworth House | [www.chatsworth.org](http://www.chatsworth.org)

Still home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, this stately home is open for tours and also boasts over 12,000 acres of gardens and farmland plus a farm shop which sells mostly produce made on site. Fun Fact: Over 75% of bananas in existence can trace their ancestry back to one tree at Chatsworth House.



### Chapter 4: Will there be Diplomacy at the European Diplomacy Championships?.. Yes, and lots of eating and drinking

Great question, sport.

So, we know the first round kicks off at 2:40pm on the Friday and should be wrapped up by about 8:30pm. The Saturday rounds will kick off at 9:20am and 3:20pm on the Saturday and then the final round will start a little later at 10:20am on the Sunday. What more do you need to know?

On to the food:

After the first round on Friday there will be an organised meal. The location of this is to be determined based on the final number of attendees but will be within walking distance of the venue.

You are also welcome to do your own thing or meet up after the meal for a social wetting of the whistle, so to speak. There are two Wetherspoons in Chesterfield offering an excellent low-cost menu of drinks and fast meals, but there are also lots of cool and interesting places such as:



The Rutland | [www.rutlandarmschesterfield.co.uk](http://www.rutlandarmschesterfield.co.uk)

A large selection of ales and other beverages, live music on Fridays, and a warm welcome to any board gamers (it even hosted SpireCon 2025).

Beware of the ghost.





Chandler's | [www.chandlers-bar.co.uk](http://www.chandlers-bar.co.uk)

Cocktail venue extraordinaire styled as half an indoor garden with paving slabs and half a log cabin with real fireplace.



Einstein's | [www.einsteinschesterfield.co.uk](http://www.einsteinschesterfield.co.uk)

Not feeling the English food? Try this German inspired beer haus with some great food offerings including schnitzels and pizzas.



## Chapter 5: Do you need to Sleep?

Unfortunately, you can't all stay at mine, but luckily for you there's plenty of places to stay in Chesterfield and here are just a few:

Premier Inn | [www.premierinn.com](http://www.premierinn.com)

A fairly new edition to Chesterfield, occupying the fake Tudor premises of a bankrupt department store.

- Distance to Venue: 1 minute
- Standard room (double or twin): £67
- Unlimited breakfast: £11



Travelodge | [www.travelodge.co.uk](http://www.travelodge.co.uk)

Around a five-minute walk from the venue and about 30 seconds from a Dominoes.

- Distance to Venue: 5 minutes
- Standard room (king size): £53
- Family room (king and single): £57
- Unlimited breakfast: £10.35



Casa | [www.casahotels.co.uk](http://www.casahotels.co.uk)

Worth checking out for a bit of luxury; try Chesterfield's 4-star hotel run by Chesterfield's own founder of the Vodka Kick ('VK') drinks brand

- Distance to Venue: 20 minutes
- Standard room (king or twin): £111
- Suite (king and sofa bed): £264
- Breakfast: Included





## Chapter 6: More Diplomacy? You must need coffee!

We've now reached Saturday morning in what seems to be me forecasting how much fun you're going to have doing things other than Diplomacy, like some sort of precognitive diary entry. Surely most of you at this point will be hankering for a coffee or perhaps wanting to dabble in the quintessentially British\* pastime of tea drinking?

\*Actually, surveys have shown that Brits narrowly prefer coffee to tea, particularly in a morning.

I bet you're thinking surely Chesterfield doesn't have tons of places for a warm beverage, all the shops are already taken up with the awesome things you've told us about. "That's where your wrong" I shout with a surprising amount of vigour for a man who's already written 1000 words.

Not only does Chesterfield have a Costa, Nero and Coffee#1 in the town centre, and a Starbucks just by Casa Hotel, but I can wholeheartedly recommend Society for that extra bit of local taste and without the CoffeeBucks™ London-style pricing.

Society Coffee Shop and Bar | [www.facebook.com/societychesterfield](http://www.facebook.com/societychesterfield)



Society Coffee Shop and Bar



## Chapter 7: I'd have a lovely time if I could get there

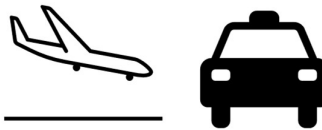
And you can Kevin! You can fly, drive, walk, swim or choo-choo your way to Chesterfield and it's super easy.

Chesterfield is on the midland mainline which runs from London St Pancras International all the way up north as far as York. The fast train every hour takes 1 hour and 55 minutes and it's just four stops. There are also dozens of trains a day coming down from Edinburgh and up from Bristol (via Birmingham) plus running West to East is the Liverpool to Norwich train which can get you here from Manchester in 1 hour and 15 minutes.

Flying has never been easier, although it's probably been cheaper given the price of aviation fuel these days, but I digress. You could fly into the UK to one of dozens of airports but there's probably four places you want to consider – London (Luton ideally, or Heathrow), Manchester, Birmingham (see above for train connections) or East Midlands Airport. EMA as it's known is 35 miles from Chesterfield and sits on the midland mainline too so once transferred to the train station you can be here in 30 minutes, but my recommendation is sharing (to get the cost down) a pre-booked airport taxi which will pick you up directly at the terminal (3 passengers return trip will cost between £140-£160). Some Chesterfield firms which offer this service include Galaxy Travel and A-Line Taxis.

<https://galaxy-travel.co.uk/airport-transfers/>

[Line Taxi Services | Minibus, Airport Taxi, Pricing](#)



## Chapter 8: So I can get there, why should I? (The Summary)

If it isn't obvious already that you'll be playing Diplomacy – a European Championship no less – in a picturesque market town on the border of the Peak District, with great transport links, great shopping, great drinks, great food, great friends, great rivals, and a great chance of winning then... may I add to the list, a goody bag! That's right, you'll get merch just for attending. What merch you ask; well, you'll have to come to find out.

To register go to [www.diplomacy.co.uk](http://www.diplomacy.co.uk) then send your entry fee (20£ or 15£ if before 01 July) by PayPal to [w\\_woolgar@hotmail.com](mailto:w_woolgar@hotmail.com).

If you prefer to pay by CashApp please email [w\\_woolgar@hotmail.com](mailto:w_woolgar@hotmail.com) for information.

