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2021 set to be second ‘staycation’ summer, RAC research reveals

More than four-in-10 drivers in the UK (43%) already have firm plans for a UK staycation this summer, a figure that could rocket if coronavirus restrictions stop others from taking a holiday abroad, according to research carried out by the RAC.*

While only 13% of the 2,100 drivers surveyed in April said they hoped to head abroad this summer, nearly half of this group (48%) said they would try to take a holiday somewhere in the UK if coronavirus restrictions made going

abroad impossible – which could have the effect of swelling traffic volumes during the summer months. A quarter (24%) said they would look to delay their trip to another date when restrictions are hopefully eased, whereas 16% say they would simply forego a holiday this summer. One-in-10 (11%) were uncertain as to what they would do in that event.

With official data showing that 19 of the 20 countries to which UK residents make the most visits in the summer are currently on the Government's 'red' and 'amber' list** and are effectively off-limits, the RAC research points to the possibility of an extremely busy summer on the UK's roads.

Of all of those planning to get away, a quarter (24%) took the decision to book last year while another quarter (25%) waited until this year. But the remaining half (51%) say they plan on sorting out a summer break at shorter notice. More than four-in-10 (44%) of the those surveyed don't expect to take a summer holiday at all this year.

As to when people will take their holidays, the study found the number of holidaymakers was equally divided into three distinct time periods: those looking to get away before the schools break up (33%); those going away in the school holidays (32%) and those who will head away once the children have gone back in September (35%).

Self-catering is by far the most popular holiday choice with 45% saying that's what they will be doing. This was followed by hotels and guest houses (29%) and camping (14%) with 12% saying they would make other arrangements. The RAC suspects the camping figure may rise if hot summer weather is forecasted.

One thing's for sure: the car will be central to 2021 holidays with nearly three-quarters (71%) using theirs to get away. Four per cent of those surveyed said their holiday will involve a motorhome while the same proportion (4%) will be opting for a caravan.

RAC Breakdown spokesman Simon Williams said:

“With months of being locked down now behind us there's a clear and very understandable desire from most people to have a summer holiday of some sort. That said, a significant proportion don't intend to get away at all,

perhaps worried about a possible third Covid wave or, more optimistically, hoping for a better opportunity of going abroad later on this year.

“For those heading off in the UK this summer it’s very apparent that the car is going to be the transport mode of choice. What’s more, if those who have foreign trips planned can’t take them there is every chance the roads will be far busier than they would be in a normal summer, especially if we’re blessed with good weather as this will cause the number of day trips and weekend breaks to rocket.

“If traffic volumes really do swell this summer, it could turn out to be more important than ever that drivers check their vehicles before setting out to avoid a breakdown at the roadside – oil, coolant and screenwash levels should be checked, and all tyres should free of damage and inflated to the right levels for the load being carried, particularly if the whole family is on board and the car is jam-packed. Anyone who’s put off getting their car fixed or serviced during Covid should take action sooner rather than later to avoid their staycation being spoilt by a breakdown.

“For those who do end up needing help at the roadside, our expert local patrols will be on hand to pick up the pieces and get the holiday back on track as quickly as possible. Even though RAC members can make their trips with complete peace of mind, it’s always best to do all you can to prevent a breakdown by checking your car over yourself well before setting out and maybe even bringing its service forward slightly if it’s due just after your trip.”

Notes to Editors

* Research conducted online with 2,109 members of the RAC Opinion Panel in April 2021

** <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/leisureandtourism/articles/redamberandgreentravellistsandoverseasvisitsfromtheuk/2021-06-10>

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About the RAC

The RAC provides complete peace of mind to 12m UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. Its services include:

- **[Breakdown assistance](#)**. Its highly-skilled, 1,600-strong branded patrol workforce attends more than two million breakdowns every year, fixing on average four out of five vehicles at the roadside. The RAC's patrol fleet is one of the most advanced in the UK, and was the first to roll out both an [All-Wheels-Up recovery system](#), allowing the vast majority of vehicles to be recovered from a single patrol van, and [EV Boost](#) mobile electric vehicle charging units
- **[Insurance](#)**. The RAC is a top-five [car insurance](#) broker having surpassed the 500,000 policies-in-force milestone in 2018. It also offers ['black box' telematics policies](#), as well as home and travel insurance
- **[Other motoring services](#)**. The RAC leads in the development of new solutions for business, fleets, electric vehicles and future car technology. Its additional products and services include a [personal loans offering](#), a [used car buying website](#), [vehicle inspections and checks](#), [legal services](#) or up-to-the-minute [traffic and travel information](#). It also has a network of [Approved Dealers](#) and [Approved Garages](#) which combine the trust of RAC brand with local service and convenience

The RAC also works to support the interests of its members and UK drivers on the most important motoring issues which it identifies via the annual [RAC Report on Motoring](#) and the RAC Opinion Panel. The Report on Motoring is the longest running analysis of driver opinion in the UK having been published every year since 1989.

For more information about the RAC, visit the [RAC website](#).

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