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Drivers planning nearly 21m leisure trips as most schools break up for Easter

An estimated 20.8m leisure trips will be taken by drivers this weekend as many schools across the UK break up for the Easter holidays, new figures from the RAC suggest.*

A survey of 1,435 drivers' plans suggests that Saturday is likely to see the greatest numbers on the roads – with some 5.6m getaway journeys expected – followed by Friday, the day when many school terms finish ahead of Easter, when around 5m trips will be taken. An additional 5.6m trips are predicted to

be taken at some point between Friday and the end of Sunday, with these drivers unsure on exactly which day they'll go away.

Data from transportation analytics specialists INRIX suggests that early starts or postponing journeys until later in the day today, Saturday and Sunday could be the best way of avoiding any queues, with major roads expected to be particularly busy between 10am and 3pm over the weekend.

Separate RAC research** found that just a fifth of drivers (19%) say they always check their cars are 'road-ready' for making a trip around Easter, increasing the potential for breakdowns to ruin the start of families' Easter breaks. Half of drivers (51%) said they sometimes check their cars over before setting out but an alarming 30% said they never do. The RAC is therefore reminding people of the importance of spending some time checking their vehicles' oil, coolant and tyres to ensure as many trouble-free journeys by road in the coming days as possible.

RAC traffic spokesperson Rod Dennis said:

“We're expecting to see two big waves of Easter holiday traffic over the next few weeks – one this weekend as many schools break up, and other the following one which coincides with the bank holiday and a long weekend for a lot of people.

“With many people likely to be travelling longer distances than they have for several months, reducing the chance of their cars letting them down is more important than ever. Checking oil and coolant levels, as well as tyre pressure and tread depth, can drastically reduce the chances of a breakdown and we'd urge every driver planning a trip in the coming days to put aside some time to do this – it could make the difference between a straightforward trip or one stuck at the side of the road.”

Travel this weekend

Date	Leisure trips by car	Worst times to travel on major roads	Suggested best times to travel on major roads	Worst road for long delays
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Friday 8 April	5.0m	Between 1100 and 1900hrs	After 2000hrs	M25 Clockwise J8 to J16 mid-afternoon A303 approaching Stonehenge around middle of the day
Saturday 9 April	5.6m	Between 1000 and 1500hrs	After 1600hrs	M25 Clockwise J8 to J16 around middle of the day A303 approaching Stonehenge around middle of the day
Sunday 10 April	4.6m	Between 1000 and 1500hrs	After 1600hrs	M25 Clockwise J8 to J16 early evening A303 approaching Stonehenge late morning
<i>Data sources: RAC and INRIX</i>				

Top tips for avoiding – or just coping – with the jams

1	Think carefully about when to travel	Most traffic queues are caused by too many cars on the same roads at the same time. If you can travel outside the peak times – think early in the morning or later in the evening – you can easily miss them.
2	Make sure your vehicle is properly prepared	Many breakdowns are avoidable – punctures for instance can be caused by a tyre that is in poor condition or not inflated properly. Check oil and coolant levels as if these run low you could be in for an unwelcome breakdown and a big repair bill. Read the RAC's full guide to avoiding a breakdown
3	Keep you and your passengers happy	Hungry, thirsty or tired passengers are recipes for in-car irritability – and 'carguments'. So when setting out, pack enough food and water to keep your passengers happy, and plan in enough breaks along the way.

* Figures based on a survey of 1,435 UK drivers' travel plans for this weekend

** Based on a survey of 650 UK drivers

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About the RAC

The RAC, an iconic UK brand, provides complete peace of mind to 13 million UK private and business drivers, whatever their motoring needs. As well as its premium nationwide breakdown assistance service – with an expert branded patrol workforce attending more than two million breakdowns every year – it offers a wide range of market-leading products across insurance, legal services, vehicle inspections and service, maintenance and repair. The RAC is also at the forefront in helping drivers make the switch to electric vehicles and leads in the development of new solutions for businesses and OEMs, partnering with the best in the motoring and mobility space.

Visit the [RAC website](#).

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