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UK summer ‘staycations’ favoured by drivers as further easing of lockdown restrictions mooted

Only one-in-three drivers (31%) expect to take the summer holiday they had planned before the coronavirus outbreak, with a UK ‘staycation’ by car now favoured by those who had to cancel their original plans, new research for RAC Breakdown shows.*

The research, carried out with more than 3,200 drivers, shows that demand for a summer break is still strong, presuming travel restrictions imposed as a

result of the coronavirus pandemic are lifted in the coming weeks, something a UK Government minister has indicated may happen.**

Nearly seven-in-10 (68%) of those who have cancelled, or expect to cancel, their existing holiday plans still want to have a break if they can – of these, a staycation in the UK by car is favoured by the majority (59%), with 13% holding out for a trip abroad by plane. A further seven per cent are looking to take their car across the Channel for a holiday.

Meanwhile, of those who have cancelled, or expect to cancel, their original summer holiday plans and now won't be going away at all, around half (52%) say it is because of ongoing fears over the coronavirus. A similar proportion (51%) say they do not expect the [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\) advice](#) against international travel to be changed in time for the summer.

RAC Breakdown spokesperson Rod Dennis said:

“While a good proportion of drivers we surveyed remain optimistic about taking the holiday they had planned before the lockdown, most are anticipating having to make changes – with a move towards UK staycations the favoured option.

“The fourth of July is being rumoured as the day when lockdown restrictions may be eased further, at least in England, with any government announcement around this needing to be made by 29 June.** Crucially, the ban on overnight stays would need to be lifted, and it may also be the case that would-be holidaymakers wait to see whether groups of family and friends are permitted to share accommodation before committing to any plans. When it comes to any foreign trips this summer – by car, train or air – much will inevitably depend on whether the Foreign and Commonwealth Office changes its travel advice, as well as any quarantine requirements holidaymakers may have to take at their destination or on their return.

“If summer holidays do become a reality for people this year, and some tourist amenities are allowed to reopen, we'd anticipate some large spikes in weekend leisure traffic on major routes to the coasts, lakes and mountains. Camping and caravan sites, as well as hotel and self-catering accommodation, are also likely to be booked up quickly.

“However, the prospect of a single big ‘getaway’ day on the roads around the time schools normally break up for the summer looks very unlikely – with relatively few children in school, and with plans for an extension of the summer term in Wales, any getaways are likely to be far more staggered this year than in the past.

“As they have been throughout the coronavirus outbreak, RAC patrols remain ready to assist and provide complete peace of mind to drivers whose vehicles let them down. Our breakdown service provided by our partners in mainland Europe is also operating for those already in Europe or who decide to travel, although it may be affected by local restrictions the availability of garages.

“The best advice to avoid breaking down is to check your vehicles ‘vitals’ - oil, coolant, tyres and electrics – before travelling. And if your car is overdue for a service, we’d strongly recommend getting it booked in before making any long journeys.”

Note: lockdown rules vary across the different UK nations. Drivers must follow the appropriate rules for travel across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The RAC provides a best in market breakdown assistance service for members of the [Camping and Caravanning Club](#). The [RAC Arrival breakdown policy](#), valid in the UK and continental Europe, has no weight or size restrictions for caravans or motorhomes and offers a range of other benefits.

Servicing and MOTs at any of the 700 RAC’s Approved Garages can be [booked quickly and easily online](#).

Notes to Editors

* Research conducted by the RAC among 3,229 UK drivers between 17 and 24 May 2020. Just under a quarter of these (23%) had a summer break in the UK booked or planned before the lockdown, while 30% had a similar trip abroad lined up. A further 27% hadn’t arranged anything but hoped to before the summer, while a fifth (20%) had no intention to take a summer holiday in 2020. Of the 53% who had a summer holiday in the UK or abroad booked or planned before the lockdown, 31% still hope to take the trip.

** Health secretary Matt Hancock interviewed on [The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with Sky, 17 June 2020](#), said: “We’re working on that [*possibility of people taking summer holidays this year*]. We’re going to say more before the 29th of June which is the legal date at which we’ve got to review this policy... I want people to have a summer holiday whether that’s at home or abroad in places where it is safe to go where people aren’t going to bring back more of the disease in large numbers... I’ve got a smile on my face Chris but I can’t say more than that.”

The press office email address is press.enquiries@rac.co.uk. **Please note:** the press office is unable to help with individual customer enquiries - please visit the [RAC contacts page](#) to find the right contact.

ISDN radio studio facilities are available for interviews Monday to Friday.

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](#).

Contacts



RAC Press Office

Press Contact

press.office@rac.co.uk

Emails monitored during normal office hours. For breakdown queries, call 0330 159 0740

ISDN number on request