



Aug 23, 2016 11:01 BST

Bumper bank holiday in store as twice the holiday traffic expected on the roads compared to last year

The coming bank holiday weekend looks set to be a bumper one with double the number of cars on the road compared to the late August bank holiday weekend last year. In total more than 20m leisure trips are expected* as many Brits set off to enjoy the last long weekend this side of Christmas.

A study of motorists' plans by RAC Traffic Watch found Saturday 27th is set to be by far the busiest day with 5 million getaways planned, up an enormous 2.5m on the same day in 2015. Sunday is also set to be hectic with 4.4m

leisure journeys taking place, double the number that was anticipated last year. In total, the RAC estimates some 20.7 million cars will be using major roads for leisure trips between Thursday 25th and the end of the long weekend on Monday 29th August.

A combination of the weaker pound, which is boosting the case for a late staycation in the UK, plus a determination by many Brits to make the most of an extra day off work whatever the weather has in store are both likely to be factors that explain the large number of planned journeys this year.

RAC Traffic Watch spokesman Rod Dennis said: “Our study of drivers’ plans for the late August bank holiday certainly suggests a bumper time on the roads as motorists make the most of the last long weekend before the end of the summer by jumping in the car to see friends of family.

“The see-saw weather patterns – warm, dry and sunny one day, cool, wet and windy the next – look set to continue but any doubts about the weather clearly are not playing on motorists’ minds with so many of us planning a late August break.

“Drivers can expect some queues, especially on the busiest routes to the coasts, Lake District and major cities, but by planning ahead and looking at alternative routes they can help alleviate some of the stress that can be associated with long car journeys.

“It can be a good idea to travel outside peak times. This Friday evening, plus through the day during Saturday and Sunday are likely to be the most hectic with bumper-to-bumper queues expected on some parts of the network, so motorists that start their journey early or much later on each day might be rewarded with a much clearer run on the roads.

“And by completing a few simple checks of things like oil, coolant, washer fluid and tyre pressure, drivers can significantly cut the chances of their car letting them down this bank holiday.”

Motorists can plan their best routes on the road network by downloading the free RAC app from the App Store or Google Play, or by browsing the RAC route planner by visiting rac.co.uk/routeplanner. For those yet to make plans, the Best Drives section of RAC Drive (rac.co.uk/drive/travel/best-drives) is a

good place for inspiration.

Car journeys by day

Thursday 25 August	3.1 million
Friday 26 August	4.1 million
Saturday 27 August	5 million
Sunday 28 August	4.4 million
Monday 29 August	4.1 million

This bank holiday (Thursday through Monday) compared to the same period in August 2015

2016	20.7 million
2015	10.1 million

Anticipated worst times to travel on the roads

Friday 26 August	Between 4pm and 9pm
Saturday 27 August	Between 11am and 4pm
Sunday 28 August	Between 11am and 4pm
Monday 29 August	Between 4pm and 6pm

Notes to Editors

* Data provided to the RAC by Ragdoll Research. Base: 1,579 motorists. All years' data based on combined volume of getaway traffic between Thursday and Sunday. For 2016, this covers Thursday 25 August to Monday 29 August inclusive. Figures extrapolated to 31.4m licensed cars

About the RAC

With more than eight million members, the RAC is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist's champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level, including advancing levels of road safety, supporting the needs of young drivers and voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring. The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today's motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#) or follow [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](#). This is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12 months before.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on average within 30 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members' vehicles going again
- 92% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

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