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## Nearly 14.5m cars making leisure trips this coming Easter weekend

The RAC is warning motorists that leisure traffic volumes will reach a peak on Easter Sunday when there will be nearly 3.75m cars on the road as families take a trip to visit loved ones or elsewhere over the double Bank Holiday weekend, or return from an Easter break.

RAC data shows that motorists are planning a total of 12.8m leisure car journeys across the four-day Easter Bank Holiday, or 14.3m including Maundy Thursday travellers, as they make the most of the long weekend.

RAC Traffic Watch spokesman Rod Dennis said: “The Easter getaway is the first big holiday break of the year for many people and 2017 promises to be no exception. While many schools across the country have already broken up, we’re expecting millions of working families to make the most of the long weekend and jump in the car for a leisure trip.

“But things are a little different this year to last – with many schools having already broken up, a lot of traffic on Easter Sunday in particular will likely be families returning from trips.

“We are expecting Maundy Thursday to see just over 1.5m cars taking to the roads on leisure trips, but this will almost double to 2.8m trips on Good Friday and 3.1m trips on Saturday. Easter Sunday is set to be the busiest with 3.74m using their cars – either to travel to visit friends and loved ones, or to return home – so drivers should expect some queues on the most popular routes.

“More than three million leisure trips will take place on Easter Monday, perhaps as more people head back home for the start of the working week – although with school holidays continuing in some parts of the country the roads remain busy with a total of 9m leisure trips planned during the following week from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> through to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.”

But after nearly three weeks of decent spring time weather, the forecast for the Easter weekend is looking rather less rosy with cooler temperatures expected.

Grahame Madge, a spokesman with the Met Office, said: “With many people facing long journeys over the Easter holidays, it’s always wise to ease any potential difficulties by checking the forecast first. Rain or shine, the weather can have significant impact on any trip and the comfort of travellers. With the forecast available on the Met Office app, it’s never been easier for passengers to keep up to date with the latest weather from the palm of their hand.”

Rod Dennis added: “Easter is a busy time for our breakdown patrols, so we are urging drivers travelling any great distance to make sure their car is up to the job before they set out. It takes just moments to make sure that oil and coolant are at the right levels, and it’s also a good idea to top up washer fluid to keep the windscreen clear – especially of insects if you are taking to more rural roads.

“It is likely the usual main road arteries will suffer the consequences of lots of us trying to get away for the double bank holiday weekend by car. Our advice, if you can, is to head off early to beat other travellers, but to expect some jams on major routes.”

### **Easter traffic hotspots**

- M5 from Bristol to Taunton
- A303 Stonehenge
- A30 and A38 Exeter to Cornwall
- M4 between Cardiff and Swansea
- M25 between Gatwick and M1
- A23/M23 to Brighton
- A47 Swaffham to Great Yarmouth
- M55 between Preston and Blackpool
- A14 between Midlands and East Coast
- A66 between M6 and the coast
- M53 between Liverpool and Chester
- A55 North Wales Expressway, Chester to Bangor

### **Easter weekend – expected peak travel times**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Best times to travel</b>
Maundy Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Before 4pm or after 8pm
Good Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> April	Before 9am and after 4pm
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Before 10am and after 4pm
Easter Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Before 10am and after 4pm
Bank Holiday Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Before 12pm and after 6pm

Highways England has announced it is lifting more than 300 miles of roadworks to improve journeys and almost 98 per cent of all motorways and strategic A roads in England will be roadworks-free over the bank holiday in a measure to ease disruption.

To help plan a journey, download the free RAC App for iPhone or Android smartphones or visit [www.rac.co.uk](http://www.rac.co.uk) to use RAC Route Planner, which gives the most up to date road information available including incidents and ongoing roadworks and weather.

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## **Notes to Editors**

\* Based on research conducted by Ragdoll in April 2017 with 2,173 motorists. Daily traffic volumes extrapolated from 31.17m licensed cars. Respondents were asked on which dates they would be using a car to travel on major A roads or motorways in order to get away on a leisure trip/visit family and friends, or return from such a trip (i.e. not travelling for the purposes of work).

## **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

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