

Mar 21, 2016 10:54 GMT

RAC warns of a long 'Bad' Friday on the roads this Easter

The RAC is warning anyone planning to getaway this Easter to expect a long 'Bad' Friday on the roads as over five million motorists take to their cars for some well-earned time away.

RAC Traffic Watch data shows a total of 16.8m car journeys will be made over the Easter weekend as people make the most of the long weekend visiting family and friends or enjoying a break in the spring weather somewhere different.

RAC spokesman Simon Williams said: "Easter traditionally sees the first big getaway of the year but this time we are expecting an unprecedented number of cars to be using major roads for leisure trips.

"Some years Maundy Thursday before the Easter weekend can be exceptionally busy but this year Good Friday is the day everyone seems to be planning to head off which is why we are warning people to expect it to be a long, mad 'Bad' Friday on the roads."

RAC Traffic Watch data predicts Thursday's leisure trip* volume to be in the region of 3.3m with Saturday seeing 3.9 m journeys and Easter Sunday 4.2m. The peak day for return journeys will, of course, be the bank holiday Monday when we can expect 3.6m heavily packed cars to be heading for home. This means from Maundy Thursday to Bank Holiday Monday there will be over 20m cars using the country's major roads either heading to or returning from getaway breaks.

Simon Williams added: "The usual main road arteries will inevitably suffer the consequences of so many people trying to getaway for the double bank

holiday weekend by car. The advice has to be to head off as early as possible to beat other travellers and to expect heavy traffic and 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

Easter Getaway Peak Travel Times

Date	Best travel times	Busiest travel time
Maundy Thursday 24 March	Before 4pm or after 8pm	5-6pm
Good Friday 25 March	Before 9am and after 4pm	12pm
Saturday 26 March	Before 10am and after 4pm	12pm
Easter Sunday 27 March	Before 10am and after 4pm	12pm
Bank Holiday Monday 28 March	Before 12pm and after 6pm	12pm

Highways England is finishing or pausing work on 208 roadworks projects covering around 450 miles over the bank holiday weekend which will mean 97% of routes will be unclogged by 6am on Thursday 24 March.

To help plan a journey, download the free RAC App for iPhone or Android smartphones or visit 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.

Notes to Editors

* Based on research conducted by Ragdoll in March 2016 with 1,542 motorists. Daily traffic volumes extrapolated from 30m 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

press.office@rac.co.uk

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

ISDN number on request