

Image: Simon Annable / Shutterstock.com

Apr 14, 2019 00:01 BST

Second wave of Easter getaway traffic to arrive as 27m hit the road

Around 15 million leisure car journeys are expected to be taken in the run-up to Good Friday, with a further 12 million across the bank holiday weekend itself, new figures from the [RAC](#) show.

Research of drivers' travel plans* suggests that while tomorrow (Monday) will be particularly busy with some 4.7m individual getaway trips by car taking place, there is expected to be sustained levels of leisure traffic in the run-up to Good Friday, a day when there are around 4.4m journeys expected to be taken by road.

Traffic data from mobility analytics provider [INRIX](#) indicates that jams will peak on Good Friday, with major routes clogging up between 11am and 4.30pm. The worst delays on this day are expected on the M5 southbound, passing west of Bristol (J16 to J19) – part of the popular holiday route towards Devon and Cornwall – the M25 anticlockwise from Bromley (J4) through the Dartford Tunnel to the A13 (J30), the M6 north between Preston (J31) and Lancaster (J34), and the M62 west between Leeds (J27) and Manchester (J18) where delays of around an hour are expected.

Fortunately for drivers, 99% of the motorways and major A-roads in England will be free of roadworks, with Highways England removing more than 450 miles of cones in time for the Easter bank holiday.



[Watch video on YouTube here](#)

RAC Traffic Watch spokesperson Rod Dennis said:

“This week we’re expecting a significant second wave of Easter getaway traffic, following that which we saw at the start of April when schools broke up. This will mean the coming week and the bank holiday will likely be characterised by lengthy queues in some spots.

“Traffic jams are frustrating at the best of times and while we can predict where some of these will crop up, it only takes a single bump or breakdown for huge tailbacks to form.

“But there’s a lot drivers can do to reduce the likelihood their car will fail them, and in fact a lot of the breakdowns our patrols attend are completely avoidable if drivers had checked over their cars before they set out. Wrongly inflated tyres, or those with a lack of tread, along with low oil and coolant levels and even a lack of fuel are all typical breakdowns at this time of year. It’s therefore vital motorists spend a few moments checking these things before getting behind the wheel.”

Dan Croft, Incident Group Operations Manager at INRIX, said:

“Drivers in the UK are all too familiar with traffic jams. In fact, the average UK driver lost more than 170 hours to congestion last year. During peak hours over Easter, journeys could take UK drivers three times longer than usual. We are predicting Good Friday will be the worst for traffic from late morning into

the afternoon. For drivers looking to avoid the worst congestion, the best options are to travel on Saturday, set off early in the morning and keep updated with real-time traffic data.”

Deputy Chief Meteorologist at the Met Office, Martin Young, said:

“After what’s been a rather cold month so far, temperatures are going to rise this week with plenty of warm, dry and sunny weather to start off the Easter weekend. It’ll be very warm for the time of year in many parts of the UK on Friday and Saturday, with many places in the south seeing temperatures above 20 Celsius. Things will probably turn more unsettled later in the long weekend, with cooler weather starting to arrive on Sunday from the northwest.”

Highways England’s customer service director Melanie Clarke said:

“We’re doing everything we can to make journeys as smooth as possible this Easter and that’s why we’re keeping around 99% of the road network we manage, free from roadworks.

“Safety is our top priority and we know from experience that almost half of breakdowns can easily be avoided if motorists carry out simple vehicle checks before setting off over this period.”

[View embedded content here](#)

At-a-glance: Easter traffic

Estimated 11.9m leisure trips by car between Monday 15 and Wednesday 17 April

Date	Leisure trips by car	Worst times to travel on major roads	Best times to travel on major roads	Expected longest delays on major roads (breakdowns or collisions can significantly increase journey times across the road network)
Thursday, 18 April	3.4m	Between 2.30pm and 7pm	Before 11am or after 9pm	M25 clockwise J8 to J16: 57-minute delay from 1.45pm M25 anticlockwise J20 to J11: 50-minute delay from 4.30pm
Good Friday, 19 April	4.4m	Between 11am and 4.30pm	Before 9.30am or after 7pm	M62 west between J27 and J18: 56-minute delay from 12.45pm M6 north between J31 and J34: 39-minute delay from 3.30pm
Saturday, 20 April	2.8m	Between 11am and 2pm	Before 9.30am or after 5pm	A303 west between Amesbury and Chicklade: 22-minute delay from 11.15am M4 west between J22 and J29: 17-minute delay from 5.15pm
Easter Sunday, 21 April	2.8m	Between 11am and 12.30pm	Before 10am or after 3.30pm	M25 anticlockwise between J20 and J11: 17-minute delay from 12pm A303 west between Amesbury and Chicklade: 13-minute delay from 12pm
Easter Monday, 22 April	2.2m	Between 12.30pm and 2.30pm	Before 10.30am or after 6.30pm	M25 clockwise between J8 and J16: 22-minute delay from 2pm M25 anticlockwise between J4 and J30: 21-minute delay from 2.15pm

Data sources: INRIX and RAC

In full: roads with the longest expected delays

Date and region	Road	Peak congestion from	Travel time (mins)	Total delay (mins)
Thursday 18 April				
Greater London	M25 clockwise J8 to J16	1.45pm	91	57
Greater London	M25 anticlockwise J20 to J11	4.30pm	88	50
East Midlands	M1 north J21 to J26	2.45pm	81	49
West Midlands	M6 south J20 to J16	7.45am	64	39
South West	M5 south J16 to J19	4.15pm	27	17
Good Friday, 19 April				
North West	M62 west J27 to J18	12.45pm	85	56
North West	M6 north J31 to J34	3.30pm	62	39
North East	A64 north Fulford to Barton Hill	1.30pm	47	32
Greater London	M25 anticlockwise J4 to J30	11.45am	44	30
South West	M5 south J16 to J19	11.45am	30	21
Saturday, 20 April				
South West	A303 west Salisbury Road to A350	11.15am	51	22
Wales	M4 west J22 to J29	5.15pm	38	17
North East	A64 north Fulford to Barton Hill	12pm	33	14
Greater London	M25 clockwise J20 to J28	12.45pm	46	13
Easter Sunday, 21 April				
Greater London	M25 anticlockwise J20 to J11	12pm	42	17

North East	A64 north Fulford to Barton Hill	11.30am	31	13
South West	A303 west Salisbury Road to A350	12pm	40	13
Greater London	M25 clockwise J8 to J16	11.45am	45	11
Scotland	M8 east J29 to J15	11am	13	3
Easter Monday, 22 April				
Greater London	M25 clockwise J8 to J16	2pm	54	22
Greater London	M25 anticlockwise J4 to J30	2.15pm	40	21
West Midlands	M6 south J20 to J16	6pm	43	20
South East	M3 north J14 to J7	2.15pm	30	11
North East	A64 north Fulford to Barton Hill	4.45pm	25	10

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

1	Think carefully about when you're travelling	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 car, and anything you are towing, are up to the job...	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.

3	...and make sure you and your passengers are as well	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.
---	--	---

Notes to Editors

* About the data in this release: planned leisure trips based on RAC survey of drivers' travel plans (sample size 1,800 UK motorists); congestion information based on INRIX data. Globally, INRIX analyses 500 Terabytes of data from 300 million different sources covering over 5 million miles of road. The data used is the congested or uncongested status of every segment of road for every minute of the day

About the RAC

First formed in 1897, the RAC has been looking after the needs of its members for more than 120 years.

Today it has more than eight million members and 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 supports the interests of its members and UK drivers at a national level. This includes voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring, particularly the price of fuel and the high level of tax levied on it, advancing levels of road safety, and supporting the needs of all drivers, from young to old.

The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – is one of a kind and 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](#). It provides a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump - and tracks these prices daily to help drivers check if the price they pay to fill up is a fair one.

About INRIX

INRIX is the global leader in connected car services and transportation analytics. Leveraging big data and the cloud, INRIX delivers comprehensive services and solutions to help move people, cities and businesses forward. Our partners are automakers, governments, mobile operators, developers, advertisers, as well as companies large and small. Learn more at [INRIX.com](#).

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