



Image: Getty

Jun 30, 2020 00:00 BST

More than 10m cars due to take to the roads as a third of all drivers head off for an overnight stay in England next weekend

The easing of lockdown restrictions in England from next weekend (4 July) will see the equivalent of more than 10m people – an incredible one third (31%) of all drivers – getting away for an overnight stay, potentially making it the busiest weekend of the year so far on the roads, according to a survey by [RAC Breakdown](#).*

Understandably, driving to stay over with family or friends is the most popular option, with a fifth of drivers (19% – equivalent to 6.5m people) planning such a trip, but campsites also look set to finally receive their first significant volume of visits this year with 6% of respondents – or around 2m drivers – planning an overnight stay under the stars. Two per cent (680,000 drivers) plan on towing their caravans to a caravan site for a short break, while three per cent (1m) favour a stay in hotel, B&B or self-catering accommodation.

The RAC is reminding people to ensure their vehicles and anything they are towing are thoroughly checked over before setting out to avoid the chances of a breakdown in what may well turn out to be the busiest weekend on England's roads so far this year.

The breakdown assistance organisation is also backing calls by [Highways England](#) for all drivers to ensure any loads they are carrying – be they trailers, bikes or roof boxes – are properly secured, as new figures reveal more than 46,000 items were found on England's motorways and major A roads over just 10 months.

[View embedded content here](#)

RAC Breakdown spokesperson Rod Dennis said:

“These figures suggest that after 15 weeks of lockdown, a large proportion of drivers in England are desperate to reconnect with friends, family and indeed

nature by staying overnight, be that in a house or on a camping or caravan site.

“This could lead to some busy conditions on the roads, with the location of queues likely to be dependent on just how far people travel – motorways and major A-roads could end up taking the brunt of the traffic if people have longer distances to drive to see family and friends or to take a weekend break.

“While our research suggests weekend traffic could be the heaviest of the year so far, a breakdown has the potential to make matters even worse. Our patrols offer complete peace of mind should the unexpected happen, fixing four-out-of-five of our customers’ vehicles on the spot. But there is a lot drivers can do before they set out to lessen the likelihood of a breakdown in the first place.

“Tyre condition and pressure – of cars, as well as trailers and caravans – should be top of the list of things to check before any trip, followed by oil and coolant level. As this is probably the first time people have travelled this year with their cars fully loaded up we’re [supporting Highways England’s call](#) for all drivers carrying loads – be that a roof box, bikes or a trailer – to triple-check they are securely fastened. No driver wants to be the one responsible for putting the safety of other people at risk just because they didn’t spend a few extra minutes before getting on the road.

“Those with motorhomes or towing caravans and trailers should also check that their breakdown policy adequately covers them – many have restrictions on the length, weight and height of vehicles, and on the number of people who can be covered. The RAC’s [Arrival](#) product, developed closely with the [Camping and Caravanning Club](#), is designed with these customers in mind and offers a best-in-market breakdown service that can take away a lot of the worry should an unfortunate breakdown occur.

“For any driver whose car needs essential work – be it an MOT, service or other work – this could be a good week to get that work booked in before the weekend. [RAC Approved and Accredited Garages](#) are currently reporting good daily availability, with all covered by a COVID-19 code of conduct designed to keep customers and staff safe.

“The likely increase in journeys being taken by car next weekend follows a

clear increase in traffic on the roads in recent weeks, with our own analysis showing that the number of motorists breaking down is now near enough back to what we would expect for late June.”

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

Notes to Editors

* Research conducted among 1,400 drivers between 24 and 28 June 2020. Figures extrapolated based on there being c34m driving licence holders in England (source: [Government dataset NTS0201](#))

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.

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