

Driving home for Christmas could save Brits nearly half compared to taking the train¹

- New investigation from Veygo by Admiral reveals of the cost of hiring a car to get home for Christmas compared to taking the train
- On average, a group of four can save nearly half (48%) on their journey home and as much as £100² each by renting a car rather than taking the train
- More than half (56%) of journeys are cheaper by car than by train for a group of four people
- Veygo by Admiral is one of few companies in the UK to offer car rental to under 25s

A new study from car sharing specialist [Veygo by Admiral](#) has revealed that Brits heading home for Christmas this year could save almost half on their trip home by travelling by hire car rather than by train.

With December already an expensive month, savvy consumers could save up to £100 by ditching the train this Christmas and renting a car with friends or family to get around instead.

Veygo researched 50 popular journeys across the UK, based on four people travelling between December 20th and December 27th to reveal that 56% of journeys are more expensive by train than by hire car.

Car vs Train: Top 15 journey saving²

Route	Total Car Cost (including fuel costs)	Car Cost per Person	Total Cost for Group of 4 by Train	Cost of Train Per Person	Savings Per Person
Edinburgh to Cardiff	£329.57	£82.39	£730.40	£182.60	£100.21
London to Newcastle	£291.36	£72.84	£549.60	£137.40	£64.56
London to Edinburgh	£337.86	£84.47	£571.60	£142.90	£58.44
Leeds to London	£238.16	£59.54	£440.00	£110.00	£50.46
Portsmouth to Manchester	£273.10	£68.28	£458.40	£114.60	£46.33
York to London	£235.04	£58.76	£393.60	£98.40	£39.64
Cardiff to Bournemouth	£203.42	£50.86	£360.00	£90.00	£39.15
Swansea to Wrexham	£206.61	£51.65	£343.60	£85.90	£34.25
Reading to Leicester	£196.66	£49.17	£307.60	£76.90	£27.74



Cardiff to Southampton	£210.01	£52.50	£319.20	£79.80	£27.30
Manchester to London	£251.45	£62.86	£358.40	£89.60	£26.74
Bristol to Leicester	£205.38	£51.35	£308.40	£77.10	£25.76
Manchester to Cardiff	£243.31	£60.83	£345.60	£86.40	£25.57
Cardiff to London	£216.60	£54.15	£315.20	£78.80	£24.65
London to Manchester	£262.68	£65.67	£358.40	£89.60	£23.93

Renting a car through Veygo by Admiral for a week can cost less than £200 (not including fuel), while individual train tickets can be as much as £182 for one person, so teaming up with friends, family or neighbours to return home for Christmas celebrations could see some big savings.

Cost of an upgrade

As well as saving some cash, driving also offers a group of people travelling together other convenience benefits. These include heading off whenever you want, getting from door to door without the need of a taxi, additional space for luggage and presents, your own choice of in-car music or radio stations and as many comfort stops or detours as you like.

You're also guaranteed a seat when it comes hiring a car, unlike the train where often your only option is to upgrade, and that doesn't come cheap.

For those travelling home by train upgrading to first class can see prices almost quadruple (192%). While upgrading from train service to a rental car that boasts plenty of space, is just an extra 69p per person³.

In fact, two out of the top three complaints in 2017-18 across franchised, non-franchised and national rail services relate to the amount of room on trains and the facilities on board.

Office of Road and Rail Complaints by category⁴

National or franchised classification	ORR complaint category	Percentage of complaints in 2017-18
Franchised	Punctuality/reliability (i.e. the train arriving/departing on time)	25%
	Facilities on board	8%
	Sufficient room for all passengers to sit/stand	7%
Non-franchised	Punctuality/reliability (i.e. the train arriving/departing on time)	24%



	Facilities on board	11%
	Sufficient room for all passengers to sit/stand	7%
National	Punctuality/reliability (i.e. the train arriving/departing on time)	25%
	Facilities on board	8%
	Sufficient room for all passengers to sit/stand	7%

With almost one in 10 national trains cancelled in the last three months of 2017⁵ alone, the highest proportion of complaints received by rail companies relate to the punctuality and reliability of the service.

Veygo by Admiral has partnered with Europcar to offer a different way for people to rent a hire car. The price quoted by Veygo is the price you pay, there are no extra charges at the counter. Comprehensive cover is provided by Admiral, so you deal directly with them if there is an accident. And unlike with most car hire, Veygo by Admiral can offer competitive prices for the under 25s.

Jean-Baptiste Limare, head of Veygo by Admiral said: “Trains can be unreliable, uncomfortable and overpriced; not something you want to be faced with during the Christmas period which is already an expensive and busy time. If you are travelling over Christmas, especially as a group, it’s worth weighing up the price of train tickets with the cost to hire a car.

“Many young drivers who don’t have access to a car may feel like they have no choice but to catch a train or bus, and that’s largely down to the fact that the rental market is traditionally difficult for drivers under 25 to access a vehicle. But this isn’t the case, not only does Veygo offer under 25s the opportunity to rent a car, it also alleviates some of the financial pressure put on young drivers who feel that their only option is to get a train.

“When renting a car as a group, perhaps travelling home from University, taking a trip with friends or working away, you could stand to make some big savings which is always welcome, but especially over the Christmas period.

“Get together a group of friends, colleagues or neighbours who are heading the same way as you and get in the Christmassy mood right from the start of your journey home by turning up Chris Rea on the radio, something you can’t do in the quiet carriage.”

Ends

Notes to editors:

¹ Research looked at 50 journeys across the UK and calculated the total cost of the journeys and split between four people travelling. Train fares were sourced from the National Rail Website, outward journey taking place on 20th December as close to 10am. Tickets were individual standard class and open returns. Car cost were sourced from the Veygo website, based off a small car, a Fiat 500, or similar with space for four people. Outward journey taking place on 20th December at 10:10am and returning 27th December at 12pm.

² Based off Fiat 500. Petrol costs taken from <https://journeyprice.co.uk/> based of the average cost of petrol 126.80p and driving at 35 mpg.

³ Train fares were sourced from the National Rail Website, outward journey taking place on 20th December as close to 10am. Tickets were individual first class and open returns where possible. Where open returns not available, single first class tickets were selected. Of the 50 journeys only 36 journeys had first class tickets available. Compared to the average increase of renting a small car like a Hyundai i30 which seats five people and has space for three bags.

⁴ Sourced from <http://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/browsereports/>

⁵ Stats sourced from <http://dataportal.orr.gov.uk/browsereports/> New Performance Measure – Cancellations by TOC – Table 3.66. In 2016-17 Period 10 -13 9.2% of trains were cancelled

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About Veygo by Admiral

Veygo by Admiral launched in 2017 to provide insurance options for ‘drivers with no cars’. Whether they are learning to drive, or have passed their test but don’t own a car.

It offers flexible insurance that provides comprehensive cover to the person borrowing the car. This means the car owner’s insurance policy and No Claims Bonus are unaffected if the person borrowing the car has an accident.

Veygo Learner Driver insurance allows provisional licence holders to get valuable on-road experience. To be added to a friend or family member’s policy as a learner driver can be costly and could affect their No Claims Bonus if there is an accident – this cover protects them from that and keeps prices down.



Learners can choose to be covered by the hour, day, week or month and get an indicative quote in under 2 minutes. The cover will only be valid if they are accompanied by a full UK driving licence holder and will end once they have passed your test. Cover can be provided from 2 hours to 90 days, so learners only pay for what they need.

Part of the Admiral Group; its comprehensive insurance is underwritten by Admiral.

Admiral (a trading name of EUI Ltd and part of Admiral Group plc) is a UK based insurance company, founded in 1993 to specialise in car insurance. Admiral offers insurance products such as home insurance, travel insurance, pet insurance, van insurance and learner driver insurance. Admiral was also voted the UK's Best Car Insurance Provider at the 2017/18 Personal Finance Awards and the Admiral Group employs over 6,200 people in the UK and has over 4 million UK customers.