



Transportation in the UK

Travelling in the UK, and your choice of transport (driving yourself or using public transport) can feel very different to what you're used to, depending on your country of origin.

It is useful to familiarise yourself with the different ways you can travel, and which option is best for you, depending on where you live (for example, in London, you are more likely to use buses and the tube rather than drive) and whether you're travelling for work, shopping or for visiting different places.

Driving

In the UK, we drive on the left, which may take some getting used to if you are used to driving on the right! You will also need to find out if your driving licence allows you to drive in the UK or if you'll need to take additional tests. For all this information and more, visit:

- www.gov.uk/driving-nongb-licence

Our blog is also packed with useful information, including speed limits and our top tips for UK driving.

- [The ID Medical Guide to Driving in the UK](#)

Public transport

Buses and coach travel in the UK

Depending on where you live, you can buy a variety of different types of bus and coach tickets. These may include single journey tickets, one-day, weekly or monthly tickets as well as student or over-60 passes.

Trains in the UK

There are 22 train operating companies providing rail services in the UK. The on-board services they provide - such as baby changing, cycle space and catering - vary from service to service. Check with the train company you wish to use or visit the National Rail website for more information on their services.

Buying tickets

There are a variety of ticket options available, depending on when and where you want to travel.

If you are visiting central London it's best to use public transport. Most Londoners avoid driving as the roads are busy and hectic. The traffic in central London is dominated by taxis, buses, commercial vehicles and cyclists.

If you do drive in the 'central zone' in London, you will have to pay a Congestion Charge. The charge is payable Monday to Friday between 7am and 6 pm and the zone is identified by signs and road markings displaying a white 'C' on a red background. You can pay this online or at local newsagents.

There are four categories of ticket fares across the network:

- Anytime
- Off-peak
- Super Off-peak
- Advance

By booking in advance or travelling outside of peak hours you can get significant savings. Travelling at peak times will likely cost the most. You can buy tickets online and collect at the station from www.thetrainline.com.

Always buy your tickets before you board the train – even if the queues are long and you’re going to miss your train. If you board the train without a valid ticket, you may be liable for a penalty fare.

For more information on getting around the UK via public transport, please see our blog, which contains lots of useful information and advice:

[**ID Medical's Guide to Getting Around via the UK's Public Transport System**](#)