

When we need to travel for work or socialising it's always worth considering what might be cheaper options.

## Travel by car

If you use a car for getting around for daily routines there are some measures that can help reduce costs

- **Route planning** - by planning your route in advance you may be able to find the most fuel-efficient way to get to your destination. If you have a smartphone with a map app, you can go to the map settings and set it to prefer fuel-efficient option.
- **Fuel finders** - there are various websites that will allow you to input your postcode and car registration in order for you to compare prices nearby. Be cautious of signing up for fee-paying websites as there are many that are available free of charge.
- **Car share** - if you know someone who travels the same route as you it may be worth discussing a car share agreement. This can reduce the amount you both need to spend to travel. Make sure you have a clear agreement and how any costs will be covered.
- **Fuel-saving tips** – take some time to find out some ways you can reduce your fuel consumption, such as removing unnecessary (heavy) items from your car. You can get motoring advice and tips from organisations such as the RAC, [www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/how-to/fuel-saving-tips/](http://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/how-to/fuel-saving-tips/) and The AA [www.theaa.com/driving-school/driving-lessons/keeping-cost-car-driving-down](http://www.theaa.com/driving-school/driving-lessons/keeping-cost-car-driving-down)

## Travel by train

Train travel can be expensive, but there are some ways that allow consumers to get more affordable tickets.

- **Advanced train** - booking in advance can often provide options for cheaper train tickets, so if you know when you are travelling try not to leave it until the last minute.

- Ticketsplitting websites - there are several ticket-splitting websites that can offer substantial discounts for travellers. The sites do the work for you, you just need to add your travel details.
- Discount cards - it is worth looking at what travel cards are available to you and if you will save money on ticket discounts, even after you have paid for the card. <https://www.railcard.co.uk/>
- Print tickets - it is free to print your tickets at the train station, from the ticket machines available. Many people use electronic tickets on their smartphones. You may need to check your data costs for keeping your connection on, if necessary. You also need to check your battery power to avoid your phone switching off, which could incur a fine if you cannot present your ticket.

However, with all these options and standard tickets, you may buy it is important to check before you buy what flexibility there might be with the ticket or what refunds might be available if there is a change to your journey. More information about refunds can be found here.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/holiday-cancellations-and-compensation/getting-a-refund-for-a-cancelled-or-delayed-train/>

[https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times/fares/ticket\\_types/ticket\\_refunds.aspx](https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times/fares/ticket_types/ticket_refunds.aspx)

## **Travel by bus**

Bus travel tends to be run locally and varies from place to place. You will need to find out who your local bus provider is and what prices/ discounts and travel cards they offer.

There may be circumstances where you are eligible for free bus travel, but you will need to contact your local authority to check eligibility and how to apply.

For consumer advice, you can contact Citizens Advice consumer advice service 0808 223 1133, Welsh-speaking adviser 0808 223 1144.

Relay UK - if you can't hear or speak on the phone, you can type what you want to say: 18001 then 0808 223 1133.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/if-you-need-more-help-about-a-consumer-issue/>