

An OVERVIEW of TRAVEL in the UK:

Public transport includes buses, trains, planes and ferries.

TRAINS:

Trains are run by a number of different companies. It is worth 'shopping around' to buy a ticket, and you are advised to book early. You can find out about all trains from the National Rail Enquiries service on 08457 48 49 50 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

BUSES:

Buses are run by many different companies. The main routes between towns usually have frequent services, but some of the remote villages only have a few buses that go to them each day, or even only one each way. You can find out about buses from Traveline. Free timetables are available from bus stations, libraries or tourist information centres. To catch a bus, wait at the correct bus stop, and put out your hand to tell the driver to stop. You can buy tickets from the driver, but try to have the right money.

FERRIES:

Ferries cross rivers, harbour mouths, the English Channel, the North Sea and the Irish Sea. There are regular car and passenger ferry services to Spain, France, Ireland, Belgium, Holland (The Netherlands), the Isle of Man and the Isle of Wight, etc.

AIR:

Planes fly overseas from several airports including London Stansted, London Gatwick, London Heathrow, Luton (also known as London Luton), City of London, Birmingham, East Midlands, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh. There are also many internal flights amongst these and other UK airports.

TAXIS:

Taxis are generally expensive unless shared. They often wait at taxi ranks outside stations and in shopping and entertainment zones. Alternatively you can ring a local taxi company and book a taxi. Taxis are not allowed to drive around looking for customers, and must be licensed, showing a small licence plate on the back. They have their rates fixed by the district councils, and are inspected to make sure they are safe. Details of taxi companies can be found in the phone book, or on advertising boards.

CARS:

Cars are available to buy new or second-hand. Make sure that you are insured and that the car has tax and an MOT before you drive. Remember that in the UK most vehicles are right-hand-drive and we all drive on the left! Motorways link different areas of the country. Roads which link major towns are called A roads. Smaller roads are B roads. You can buy road maps at most petrol stations.

CYCLING and WALKING:

Many people cycle to work or for leisure. Some roads have special cycle lanes which help keep cyclists safe from cars. Special walking and cycling paths go around the whole coast and through some very beautiful places, and they're well worth finding! The UK's mapping system is called the Ordnance Survey (OS), and OS maps – showing walking and cycling routes - are easily available in most book shops.