

England Domestic Overnight Trips Summary – Visits to Friends and Relatives (VFR) - 2015

How to read these tables

The below tables summarise trip characteristics and demographics of travellers for domestic overnight trips taken to visit friends or relatives in England in 2015.

'Trips' are classified as trips or journeys away from home involving an overnight stay, taken by adults aged 16 and over and accompanying children aged up to 15. Each adult or child present on the trip counts as a trip, for example, a family of 2 adults and 2 children taking a trip away would count as 4 trips. Each line should be read separately – it is not possible to combine trip results from the GBTS survey.

'Nights' are the number of nights away taken by adults and accompanying children on these trips. Each night away spent by an adult or a child present on the trip counts as a night. Thus, a family of 2 adults and 2 children taking a 3 night trip away from home would count as 12 nights.

'Spend' is the expenditure relating to these trips. It includes costs paid in advance of the trip, costs paid during the trip itself and also any bills relating to the trip received after returning home. It covers costs paid by adults on the trip for themselves and on behalf of others on the trip, including children. It also includes costs paid on behalf of the person taking the trip, such as an employer paying the cost of a business trip.

All numerical results are in millions. All data is from the Great Britain Tourism Survey (GBTS).

Visits to Friends or Relatives - England	Trips	% of Trips	Nights	% of Nights	Spend	% of Spend
	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	%
VFR trips	40.55	100%	111.68	100%	4,655	100%
Destination type						
Seaside	4.32	11%	13.19	12%	594	13%
Large city/ large town	18.73	46%	47.81	43%	2,209	47%
Small town	11.06	27%	29.23	26%	1,091	23%
Countryside/ village	7.62	19%	20.59	18%	751	16%
Regions visited						
West Midlands	3.83	9%	9.24	8%	396	9%
East of England	4.5	11%	11.78	11%	430	9%
East Midlands	3.18	8%	8.1	7%	268	6%
London	5.15	13%	12.88	12%	729	16%
North West	4.47	11%	12.45	11%	496	11%
North East	1.69	4%	5.07	5%	220	5%
South East	7.87	19%	20.97	19%	819	18%
South West	6.69	16%	19.61	18%	886	19%
Yorkshire & the Humber	4.2	10%	10.63	10%	392	8%

Visits to Friends or Relatives - England	Trips	% of Trips	Nights	% of Nights	Spend	% of Spend
	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	%
Accommodation						
Total Commercial Accommodation	8.72	22%	18.64	17%	1,734	37%
Serviced Rented Accommodation	7.08	17%	13.2	12%	1,405	30%
Hotel/Motel	5.95	15%	10.64	10%	1,190	26%
Guest House / B&B	1.12	3%	2.46	2%	200	4%
Self-Catering Rented Accommodation (including Camping & Caravan)	1.39	3%	4.7	4%	291	6%
Camping and Caravan	0.8	2%	2.54	2%	103	2%
Self-Catering Rented Accommodation (excluding Camping & Caravan)	0.73	2%	2.48	2%	209	4%
Own home/ friend's home / relative's home	32.39	80%	91.74	82%	2,878	62%

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	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	%
Transport Used						
<u>Total Public Transport</u>	9.16	23%	29.63	27%	1,221	26%
Train	6.98	17%	22.98	21%	932	20%
Regular bus\coach	1.23	3%	3.62	3%	125	3%
Organised coach tour	0.18	0%	0.58	1%	38	1%
Plane	0.62	2%	1.85	2%	119	3%
Boat\ship\ferry	0.14	0%	0.6	1%	7	0%
<u>Personal Transport</u>	31.33	77%	81.93	73%	3,425	74%
Car	30.54	75%	79.97	72%	3,347	72%
Car - owned	30.08	74%	78.8	71%	3,290	71%
Car - hired	0.46	1%	1.18	1%	57	1%
Other	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	%
Month Trip Started						
January	2.84	7%	6.5	6%	263	6%
February	3.02	7%	6.96	6%	324	7%
March	2.59	6%	7.82	7%	305	7%
April	3.49	9%	9.39	8%	407	9%
May	3.53	9%	8.8	8%	399	9%
June	3.2	8%	8.17	7%	404	9%
July	3.48	9%	10.18	9%	430	9%
August	3.89	10%	11.91	11%	491	11%
September	2.4	6%	5.89	5%	285	6%
October	2.82	7%	7.66	7%	311	7%
November	2.42	6%	5.29	5%	296	6%
December	6.88	17%	23.13	21%	742	16%

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	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	%
How Trip Booked						
Booked online	10.55	26%	30.45	27%	1,770	38%
Didn't book online	30	74%	81.23	73%	2,885	62%
Did not make any firm bookings before trip	25.08	62%	68.45	61%	2,117	45%
Firm booking	14.12	35%	39.79	36%	2,365	51%
Through a high street or on- line travel agent (e.g Thomas Cook, Expedia)	1.55	4%	4.26	4%	314	7%
Directly through a tour operator or travel company, (e.g. Haven, English Country Cottages, Superbreaks)	0.66	2%	1.88	2%	132	3%
Directly through an accommodation provider (e.g. hotel, B & B, cottage owner)	6.32	16%	14.66	13%	1,123	24%
Directly through a transport provider (e.g. rail, air, sea, coach)	4.81	12%	16.17	14%	683	15%
Directly through a Tourist Board or Tourist Information Centre	0.13	0%	0.34	0%	24	1%
Through some other source	1.45	4%	4.53	4%	228	5%
Don't know	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	%
Activities Undertaken on Trip						
Just relaxing	13.83	34%	40.84	37%	1,666	36%
Short walk\ stroll - up to 2 miles\ 1 hour	8.54	21%	27.28	24%	1,099	24%
Sightseeing on foot	6.86	17%	21.91	20%	1,191	26%
Sightseeing by car	3.44	8%	12.39	11%	556	12%
Attending a special event of a personal nature such as a wedding, graduation, christening, etc.	3.28	8%	7.71	7%	507	11%
Centre based walking (i.e. around a city\town centre)	2.96	7%	9.75	9%	482	10%
Long walk, hike or ramble (minimum of 2 miles\ 1 hour)	3.76	9%	13.8	12%	586	13%
Visiting a beach	2.49	6%	10.08	9%	433	9%
Visiting a country park	2.13	5%	8.32	7%	338	7%
Special shopping for items you do not regularly buy	1.37	3%	4.42	4%	274	6%
Visiting a garden	1.53	4%	6.11	5%	269	6%
Visiting a museum	1.84	5%	7.76	7%	405	9%
Visiting a cathedral, church, abbey or other religious building	1.38	3%	5.32	5%	285	6%
Visiting a historic house, stately home, palace	1.27	3%	6.06	5%	243	5%
Had a picnic or BBQ	1.51	4%	5.85	5%	248	5%

Going to the cinema	1.51	4%	6.95	6%	286	6%
Visiting a castle\other historic site	0.83	2%	3.19	3%	164	4%
Swimming (indoors or outdoors)	0.97	2%	3.54	3%	214	5%
Visiting another type of attraction	1.19	3%	3.63	3%	198	4%
Visiting an art gallery	0.82	2%	3.08	3%	205	4%
Going to the theatre	0.87	2%	3.01	3%	218	5%
Viewing architecture and buildings	1.08	3%	4.43	4%	289	6%
Visiting a wildlife attraction\ nature reserve	0.73	2%	2.84	3%	102	2%
A live music concert	0.87	2%	2.6	2%	198	4%
Visiting a theme\amusement park	0.64	2%	2.29	2%	121	3%
Watching wildlife, bird watching	0.72	2%	3.08	3%	99	2%
Attending a food\local produce event (e.g. food festival, farmers market)	1.05	3%	3.46	3%	196	4%
Sunbathing	0.54	1%	2.47	2%	115	2%
Running, jogging, orienteering	0.64	2%	3.03	3%	140	3%
Visiting a zoo\safari park	0.55	1%	2.41	2%	74	2%
Watching a live football match (not on TV)	0.55	1%	1.76	2%	114	2%
Watching other live sport (not on TV)	0.44	1%	1.72	2%	73	2%
Other sightseeing (e.g. on a coach, boat trip)	0.43	1%	1.52	1%	94	2%
Spa\beauty\health treatments	0.27	1%	0.79	1%	94	2%
Other arts\cultural event\show	0.21	1%	0.73	1%	37	1%
Golf	0.28	1%	0.68	1%	33	1%

Cycling - on a road\surfaced path	0.38	1%	1.64	1%	97	2%
Attending an outdoor fair\exhibition\show (e.g gardening or agricultural show)	0.57	1%	2.14	2%	112	2%
Informal sport (e.g. cricket, rounders, football, skateboarding)	0.4	1%	1.47	1%	44	1%
Another arts\cultural festival (e.g. a book festival)	0.18	0%	0.8	1%	31	1%
Visiting an aquarium\sea life centre	0.24	1%	1.09	1%	89	2%
Canal\boating trips	0.2	0%	0.78	1%	92	2%
Visiting an interpretation\visitor\heritage centre	0.24	1%	1.22	1%	51	1%
A music festival (e.g. Glastonbury)	0.31	1%	1.07	1%	102	2%
Horse riding, pony trekking	0.14	0%	0.52	0%	14	0%
Going on a guided tour - on foot, bus or other transport	0.27	1%	0.8	1%	66	1%
Taking part in indoor sports - 5-a-side football, gym, exercise, badminton, basketball, ice hockey, etc.	0.33	1%	1.09	1%	105	2%
Visiting a scenic\historic railway	0.3	1%	1.42	1%	85	2%
Taking part in outdoor sports - football, rugby, hockey, cricket, athletics, etc.	0.34	1%	1.57	1%	115	2%
Other watersports - non-motorised (canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, surfing, body boarding)	0.12	0%	0.43	0%	21	0%

Field sports - hunting, shooting etc	0.13	0%	0.5	0%	46	1%
An indoor exhibition such as Ideal Home, a motor show or holiday exhibition	0.23	1%	0.79	1%	28	1%
Mountainbiking	0.09	0%	0.51	0%	37	1%
Genealogy/tracing ancestors	0.1	0%	0.68	1%	14	0%
Fishing - sea angling	0.04	0%	0.14	0%	3	0%
Fishing - coarse fishing (still water\pike & perch)	0.05	0%	0.17	0%	8	0%
Fishing - game fishing (river\salmon)	0.02	0%	0.06	0%	3	0%
Organised adventure sports (whitewater rafting\sphering\canyoning\gorge walking)	0.05	0%	0.14	0%	30	1%
Sailing\yachting	0.1	0%	0.31	0%	26	1%
Snow sports (e.g. skiing, snowboarding)	0.01	0%	0.02	0%	1	0%
Motorsports	0.04	0%	0.09	0%	4	0%
Other watersports - motorised	0.03	0%	0.13	0%	4	0%
Any other single particular activity	3.84	9%	10.06	9%	394	8%
None	0.14	0%	0.96	1%	20	0%

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Lifecycle						
16-34, Unmarried, no children	7.28	18%	22.39	20%	816	18%
16-34, Married, no children	2.87	7%	7.6	7%	289	6%
16-34, Married or unmarried, with children	3.44	8%	8.63	8%	208	4%
35-54, Married or unmarried, no children	5.83	14%	13.83	12%	901	19%
35-54, Married or unmarried, with children	7.41	18%	17.2	15%	677	15%
55+	13.73	34%	42.03	38%	1,763	38%
Car	30.54	75%	79.97	72%	3,347	72%
Car in household	35.77	88%	94.45	85%	4,150	89%
No car in household	4.78	12%	17.23	15%	506	11%
Children						
With children	11.13	27%	26.51	24%	930	20%
No children	29.42	73%	85.17	76%	3725	80%
Working						
Working full time	22.88	56%	54.26	49%	2,682	58%
Not working	17.67	44%	57.42	51%	1,974	42%
Marital Status						
Married	23.9	59%	60.93	55%	2,660	57%
Not married	16.65	41%	50.75	45%	1,996	43%

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Social Grade						
AB	17.9	44%	46.21	41%	2,309	50%
C1	12.4	31%	36	32%	1,322	28%
C2	5.33	13%	14.58	13%	555	12%
DE	4.92	12%	14.89	13%	468	10%
Age						
16-24	6.49	16%	20.76	19%	669	14%
25-34	7.09	17%	17.87	16%	644	14%
35-44	6.52	16%	15.88	14%	656	14%
45-54	6.72	17%	15.14	14%	923	20%
55-64	5.74	14%	15.51	14%	793	17%
65+	7.99	20%	26.52	24%	970	21%