

Facts about the coach industry



Driving
the UK
forward



- There are circa 2,500 coach operators in the UK, 81% of which are family or individually owned. [1]
- Together these businesses provide 42,000 jobs across the country. [2]
- Coach travel is 6 times safer than car use. [3]
- Coaches make work viable in areas or during hours poorly served by rail; coach operates 24 hours a day seven days a week and can support shift patterns for industries such as airports and airlines. [4]
- The coach can be two to three times cheaper than rail travel. [5]

Coaches are a vital part of the UK's tourism economy. The facts below highlight the key contributions coaches make:

- Pre-pandemic British people made an estimated 500 million passenger journeys by coach in the UK each year. [6]
- Of the 6.3 million people who took a coach trip in 2019, 40% were 55 years old or older. [7]
- In 2019 there were 23 million visits to tourist attractions and locations by coach, which contributed £14 billion to the UK economy. [8]
- Coaches are an attractive travel option for international visitors, with 46% reportedly nervous about driving in Britain. [9]
- In 2019 more than 68,000 passengers (accounting for nearly 40% of festival-goers) were transported to Glastonbury by coach from cities as far afield as Penzance and Dundee, with 880 passengers per hour being transported in the peak period. [10]

Coaches make sure children get to school and access learning opportunities. Information about their work includes:

- Coaches transport around 600,000 children to school each day. [11]



- Pre-covid approximately 560,000 students undertook an overseas school residential trip each year. [12]
- Many thousands more students undertake day and residential trips in the UK. [13]
- 89% of schools view residential trips as extremely or very important to students and the school itself, and 94% of schools ran a residential trip during the 2018/19 academic year. [14]

The need to address air quality and the climate emergency has risen to the forefront of public and political consciousness. The facts below demonstrate the power coaches will play to reach legally-binding Government targets:

- Just one coach-load of people can keep up to 50 cars off the roads. [15]
- For coach, average carbon dioxide emissions per passenger per journey are around 1.5 times lower than rail, 5 times lower than air and 6 times lower than car travel. [16]
- Just a 15% increase in coach passenger journeys by British people each year could lead to approximately 47 million fewer cars on the road, saving over a quarter of a million tonnes of carbon dioxide and significantly reducing congestion. [17]
- The cost of ultra-low and zero emission coaches is currently considerably more – around 75% more - than the latest Euro VI diesel vehicles. [18]
- It is estimated that an electric charging point would cost between £20,000 and £35,000, plus the associated infrastructure costs which would vary depending on the site. This adds significant cost to the investment in electric vehicles. [19]



- 56% of carbon dioxide emissions come from cars & taxis, just 3% come from buses & coaches. [20]
- Through improvements to the coach fleet we can reduce carbon dioxide emissions even further – by around 56,000 tonnes over the next decade - and reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides by enough to equate to £225 million in damage cost savings. [21]

Sources

[1] CPT research

[2] CPT research

[3] DfT (September 2019) Reported road casualties in Great Britain: 2018 annual report, fatality rates data per billion passenger miles by road user type

[4] CPT research

[5] CPT research

[6] CPT analysis of 2019 DfT and National Travel Survey data

[7] CPT Coach Operators Survey, 2020

[8] CPT Research 2020

[9] VisitBritain: Foresight Issue 117, In BEIS & DCMS (28 June 2019) Policy Paper: [gov.uk/government/publications/tourism](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tourism)

[10] CPT research

[11] CPT research

[12] School Travel Forum 2019 member survey

[13] CPT research

[14] School Travel Forum 2019 school survey

[15] CPT coach strategy

[16] Zemo Partnership test data and DBEIS Greenhouse gas reporting: conversion factors 2020 [gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversionfactors-2020](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greenhouse-gas-reporting-conversionfactors-2020)



[17] Based on 2019 figures and CPT analysis of DfT and National Travel Survey data

[18] CPT research

[19] CPT research

[20] DfT Transport & Environment statistics: 2021 annual report

[21] Source: Figures provided courtesy of Zemo Partnership