

Getting a ticket that's right for you ... at the best price.

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Tuned toward travel in the South and West of England, especially on the TransWilts line and connections*

The most expensive way to make a train journey is likely to be ...

Any time

Any permitted route

Adult

With no railcard or concession

First Class

Single

For one person

Booked online by credit card

But you can probably make some big savings – let's look at each of those in turn. Not all options apply in all cases, and the terms and conditions are just summarised here for your initial guidance

Any time – can you do better ...

- * Anytime tickets let you travel at any time of day
- * Offpeak tickets let you travel outside the rush hour, and any time at weekends
- * Super Offpeak tickets let you travel at quieter times
- * Advance tickets are bought the day before travel or earlier and for the train at a specific time
- * Megatrain tickets on some routes are similar to Advance tickets

Any permitted route – can you do better ...

- * Tickets sold as “via xxxxx” or “not via xxxxx” may cost less
- * Tickets sold as “Particular train company only” may cost less

Adult – can you do better ...

- * If you are aged 60 or over, a “Senior Railcard” may get you a lower fare
- * If you are aged 55 or over, a “Club 55” promotion may be running and offer a lower fare
- * If you are aged 16 to 25, a “16-25 Railcard” may get you a lower fare
- * If you are aged 5 to 15, you can travel on a child's ticket, usually at half price
- * If you are aged under 5 (and reading this – you are very clever!) you can travel free with an adult

No railcard or concession – can you do better ...

- * If you are a member of HM forces, you can get reductions with a railcard
- * If you are a mature student in full time education you may be able to use a 16-25 railcard
- yes, at an age over 25 too!
- * If you are disabled, you can get reductions with a railcard
- * If you are travelling in the South East, you can get reductions with a Network railcard
- * If you live in Devon or Cornwall, and travel locally, a Devon and Cornwall railcard helps
- * If you are a visitor from outside the UK, you can buy BritRail tickets before you travel
- * If you are a railway employee and / or family, you may get a concession on your travel
- * If you are a railway employee at work (e.g. driving the train) you don't need a ticket
- * If you are accompanying a visitor from outside the UK, you can get a residents Britrail pass
- * If you are travelling to London for an international train or ferry connection, look at London CIV
- * Senior & disabled bus pass gets you a discount on Westbury–Weymouth & Swindon–Worcester

First Class – can you do better ...

- * If you travel standard class, closer seating & less extras included, it is usually cheaper

Single – can you do better ...

- * If you buy a period return, it will cost less than two singles
- * If you buy a day return, it will cost less than two singles (better discount than a period return)
- * If you are making multiple journeys on the same route, you can buy a season ticket
- * If you are making multiple journeys in an area, look at Ranger, Rover and Freedom tickets
- * If you are making multiple journeys and don't live in the UK, look at Britrail and Interrail passes

for one person – can you do better ...

- * If you are in a group of three or more, look at “Groupsave” tickets
- * If you are travelling with children, consider a “Friends and family” railcard
- * If you are travelling with a friend, take a look at a “two together” railcard

booked online by credit card – can you do better ...

- * Some online ticket sales companies charge credit card fees and others don't
- * Some online ticket sales companies charge postage / deliveries and others don't
- * Some Train Operating Companies give a web discount on some tickets
- * You will not be charged a credit card or delivery fee if you buy at the station / an agent
- * You can also buy on the train if you join at a station where you cannot buy tickets

There are other ways to save too ...

- * If no day return is offered for your whole journey, you may find it cheaper to buy a day return to an intermediate station at which the train stops, then a day return from there to your destination. This can also help in other circumstances, for example at the “shoulder” of peak and off-peak, or between different lines and/or train companies.
- * If you are going for a few days, but no period return is offered, you may find it cheaper to buy a period return to a destination station slightly further along the route
- * If you have a trip that involves going to several destinations, you may be able to buy a ticket to the most distant and break your journey, rather than buying separate tickets.
- * If something goes badly wrong and you are seriously delayed, you may be able to claim some of your fare back – usually in travel vouchers

And some useful add-ons too:

- * You can add a sleeping berth on overnight services from London to Scotland / the South West
- * You can add a travelcard for underground and buses to your ticket to London
- * You can add entry to a tourist attraction
- * You can add your ferry ticket to Ireland, Northern Ireland or Holland
- * You can add a local bus journey in many towns
- * You can add “weekend first” at weekends to upgrade to First Class

Do your research online - the lower cost options may be the less used and so less easy to find on a ticket vending machine, and indeed some options may be absent. And you may do better research if you've not got a queue behind you.

Everything mentioned above is legitimate provided that you stick to the terms and conditions of each pass and tickets that you use. It is your responsibility to check. Please remember that ticket conditions and options are complex, and that for some requests staff may not offer you the lowest price.

If you don't buy a ticket before you travel, when there's an opportunity at the station, or you travel on an incorrect ticket or do not adhere to the terms, you may be asked to pay the full single fare, you may be asked to pay a penalty fare, and you may be prosecuted.