

North London Outdoor Group

Fact Sheet 2: Transport Arrangements

1. WEEKENDS

On most weekends, we organise transport for you, so please tell the weekend organiser as soon as possible if you plan to make your own travel arrangements. We normally use members' cars and we may sometimes ask you to pay your share of the transport costs in advance so that we have a firm idea of numbers. When we use members' cars, each passenger pays a fixed cost per mile, which is shared equally between all drivers. (Anyone who has chosen to make their own travel arrangements is excluded.)

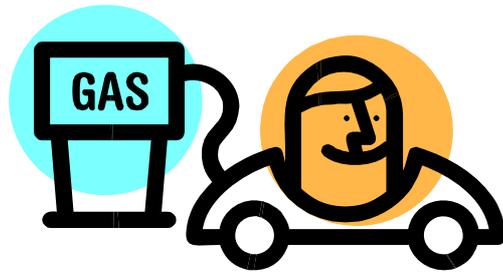
Before the weekend, the organiser will ask you what times you'd prefer to travel. Many people travel after work on the Friday, returning to north London on the Sunday evening (or Monday evening on a Bank Holiday weekend). However, some people prefer to travel at different times (for example setting off during the day on the Friday).

The weekend organiser allocates members to cars, and each car's passengers meet the driver at a time and place agreed by the driver and passengers. Please contact the weekend organiser before the weekend to confirm final arrangements.

Members make their own travel arrangements to and from the agreed meeting place. There is not usually enough time for the driver to travel around picking up passengers from their homes.

If you are delayed, please try to get a message to the weekend organiser on his/her mobile phone.

We often do not have the time to stop for anything to eat on the outward journey, so it is worth bringing some food for the Friday evening, or eating before you set off. We generally aim to arrive back in Barnet by 9.00pm on the last day of the trip (although this cannot be guaranteed if traffic is exceptionally heavy).



2. SHORT-NOTICE CANCELLATIONS

If a member cancels their place on a group weekend at short notice, they may still be liable for transport costs. The rules are as follows:

1. If a member cancels their place on a group weekend with less than two weeks' notice, and this results in drivers receiving less money than expected, the member cancelling their place must pay the full cost of transport as if they were coming on the weekend. This applies whatever the reason for cancellation, so if members require insurance against cancellation for reasons such as illness, they are advised to take out their own personal travel insurance to cover such risks. Until they pay their transport cost, they will not be allowed to book on any further group weekends. In this situation, the Group will reimburse the affected driver after the weekend, and the person who cancelled their place must reimburse the Group.
2. Rule 1 also applies if a member changes their travel plans less than two weeks before the weekend, having previously stated that they wish to be included in group transport.
3. Rules 1 and 2 do NOT apply if a member cancels their place or opts out of group transport before the weekend organiser has finalised the transport arrangements.
4. A member making a short-notice cancellation (as described in the above rules) will not be liable for petrol costs IF they are able to find someone else to take their place on the weekend. However, finding a replacement at short notice is the responsibility of the person cancelling their place, and NOT the weekend organiser's responsibility.

5. Before finalising the transport arrangements, the weekend organiser **MUST** check whether anyone wishes to travel independently (i.e. be excluded from group transport). Anyone who wishes to travel at a different time of day from the rest of the group (on the outward or return journey) should opt out of group transport unless they can find at least one passenger who wants to travel at the same time as them.

3. INFORMATION FOR DRIVERS

If you have a car and take it on a Group weekend or day walk, you receive a contribution towards your fuel and running costs. For day walks, each passenger pays their driver directly.

For weekends away, each passenger in group transport contributes an amount based on the Group mileage rate. The current rate is published in the Group Newsletter. The total amount paid by all the passengers is shared equally among all drivers in group transport, regardless of the number of passengers in each car.

The amount payable is based on the total distance from Barnet 'Everyman' Cinema to the hostel(s) and back again, according to an online route planner such as the AA Route Planner or Google Maps. The quickest reasonable route is used (not necessarily the shortest in distance). An allowance of 10 miles per day is added to allow for any local trips from the hostel(s) and/or unplanned detours such as avoiding traffic jams. For example, this would be 20 miles for a normal weekend away, or 30 miles for a Bank Holiday weekend. Passengers should also be prepared to pay their share of any parking charges or road tolls.

You only receive the mileage rate if the weekend organiser agrees that your car is needed. If you offer to drive as part of group transport, you agree to take at least 2 passengers, and can offer to take more if your car can comfortably accommodate them (and their luggage). However, you also agree to be a passenger instead (or to take fewer passengers than your car can accommodate) if asked to do so by the weekend organiser.

The rates per passenger are worked out to give a reasonable total for a small car if it carries 3 people including the driver. The amount paid by the passengers only covers two thirds of this. The other third is the driver's share of the transport cost. The mileage rate is intended to cover "per mile" costs including fuel, oil, servicing and tyres. It is not intended to cover fixed costs such as car insurance and road tax.

The mileage rate is based on the price of petrol in the Barnet area, and on figures from the AA for other motoring costs.

Drivers should not expect to receive any extra payment if some part happens to wear out or break on a group weekend or is damaged for any reason.

The weekend organiser will endeavour to minimise the number of cars needed, while accommodating members' preferences regarding travel times, and avoiding requiring drivers to take more passengers than they can comfortably accommodate. On some weekends, some cars of 2 people will be needed, so all drivers will receive slightly less petrol money than usual. On other weekends there may be 4 people in some cars, so all drivers will receive slightly more petrol money than usual. Over time, this should balance out.

Drivers should ensure that seatbelts and head restraints (if originally fitted to the vehicle) are available for use on all seats occupied by passengers.

4. LIABILITY

Please note the following in connection with an EC Directive on Holiday Organisers:

"Any transport sharing arrangements made are deemed to be between individuals and it is the responsibility of the individual participant to satisfy him or herself that the driver has appropriate insurance cover.

Everyone taking part in activities of the Group does so at their own risk. Neither the Group nor the Association will be held responsible for any accident, injury or loss occurring as a result of any Group event or in connection with any travel to any such event, however caused."