

Domestic Sentiment Tracker: September 2025

Published: 18th September 2025

Fieldwork Period: 1st to 8th September 2025

UK Results



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Introduction

- VisitEngland, VisitScotland and Visit Wales have commissioned a Domestic Sentiment Tracker to understand the impact of major events, such as the cost of living crisis, on the UK public's intent to take overnight trips, both within the UK and abroad.
- The survey addresses areas, such as: current attitude to travel (incl. concerns around travel and reassurances needed from the tourism sector), intentions of UK residents to travel for day trips, short breaks and holidays, when they plan to book and when they plan to go on their trip, as well as the destination, type of location and accommodation for their intended trip.
- This tracker is based on a UK nationally representative sample of 1,500 adults aged 16+, with additional boosts for Scotland and Wales.
- Fieldwork tends to take place at the start of each month and this wave's fieldwork was conducted between 1st to 8th September 2025
- The results (both, reports and data tables) are made publicly available and updated each wave at the following website:

https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker

Definitions used within this report

In this report, we look at the behaviour and attitudes of a number of separate audiences depending on when they intend to take an overnight domestic trip.

- October to December 2025 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between October to December 2025
- January to March 2026 Intenders: Residents of the UK who claim their next domestic overnight trip will take place between <u>January to March 2026</u>

We also segment respondents by life stage and use the following definitions:

- Pre-Nesters: Aged 16-34 without children in household
- **Families:** Aged 16-64 with children in household
- Older Independents: Aged 35-64 without children in household
- Retirement age: Aged 65+





September 2025: Scorecard of Key Metrics

Key Metrics	September 2025	Change since August 2025
% of UK adults stating 'WORST IS STILL TO COME' regarding the cost of living crisis	47%	-3%
Proportion intending a UK overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	74%	-4%*
Proportion intending an overseas overnight trip at any point in the next 12 months	59%	+2%
Preference for UK over overseas in the next 12 months (vs past 12 months)	35%	-1%
Took a domestic overnight trip in the past 12 months (September 2024 – August 2025)	64%	-1%
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead']	25%	+1%
Reduce the number of day trips due to cost of living crisis [NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips']	27%	+1%
Top 3 barriers to taking a UK overnight trip in the next 6 months	1 st Rising cost of living; 2 nd UK weather; 3 rd Personal finances.	'Rising cost of living' moves to 1 st place.





^{*} Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave N/A – due to new question wording meaning comparison to last wave cannot be done

September 2025: Scorecard of Key Themes

Key Theme	Question	September 2025	Change since August 2025
	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Accommodation' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	42%	+8%*
Accommodation	Top 3 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in October to December 2025 – % choosing 'Hotel / Motel / Inn'	45%	-3%
Accommodation	Top 3 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in October to December 2025 – % choosing 'rented house or similar'	25%	-2%
	Top 3 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight trip in October to December 2025 – % choosing 'Friends or relatives' home'	21%	-2%
Drinking/eating out	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Drinking/Eating out' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	28%	+2%
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in <u>October to December 2025</u> - % choosing 'Trying local food and drink'	32%	+1%
	% of UK adults mentioning 'Cost of Visitor Attraction' as a barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in the next 6 months	21%	+6%*
Attractions	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in <u>October to December 2025</u> - % choosing to 'Visit heritage sites'	20%	-6%*
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks in <u>October to December 2025</u> - % choosing to 'Visit cultural attractions'	24%	-1%
	Activities for UK holidays and short breaks October to December 2025 - % choosing to 'Visit family attractions'	21%	+4%

^{*} Represents a statistically significant change on previous wave N/A – due to new question wording meaning comparison to last wave cannot be done





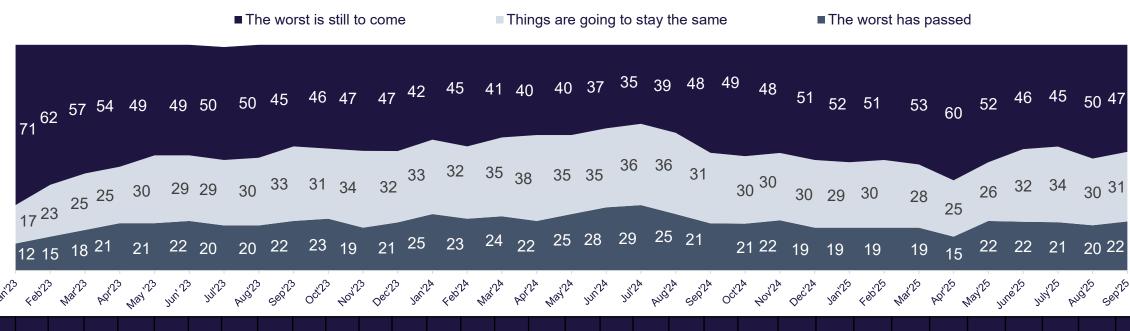


1. Current General Sentiment



Cost-of-living perceptions have rebounded compared to last month, with 47% saying 'the worst is still to come'

Figure 1. Perception of the situation with regards to cost of living crisis, Percentage wave-on-wave, UK



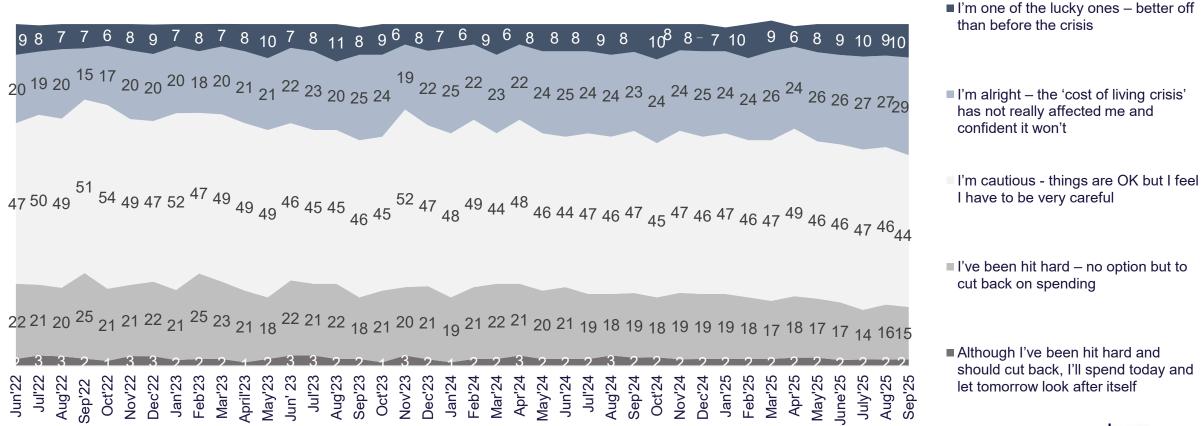
(in %)	Jan' 23	Feb ' 23	Mar' 23	Apr' 23	May' 23	Jun ' 23	Jul' 23	Aug' 23	Sep' 23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec ' 23	Jan' 24	Feb '24	Mar ' 24	Apr' 24	May' 24	Jun' 24	Jul' 24	Aug' 24	Sep '24	Oct' 24	Nov' 24	Dec' 24	Jan' 25	Feb' 25	Mar' 25	Apr' 25	May' 25	Jun' 25	Juľ 25	Aug '25	Sep '25
CPI 12- mont h rate	10.1	10.4	10.1	8.7	8.7	7.9	6.8	6.7	6.7	4.6	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.2	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.7	2.3	2.6	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.6	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.8	n/a	n/a
BOE Base rate	3.50	4.00	4.25	4.25	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.00	4.00





Due to the cost-of-living crisis, most UK adults (59%) are either 'cautious and being very careful' (44%) or have been 'hit hard and are cutting back' (15%)

Figure 2. Feelings about situation during the 'cost of living crisis', Percentage wave-on-wave, UK







2. Trip Intentions: UK and Overseas



Overnight domestic trip intentions for the next 12 months are below those that were anticipated in 2024. Intentions for autumn and winter trips are somewhat in line with last year

Figure 5. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK trips, Percentage, September 2025, UK

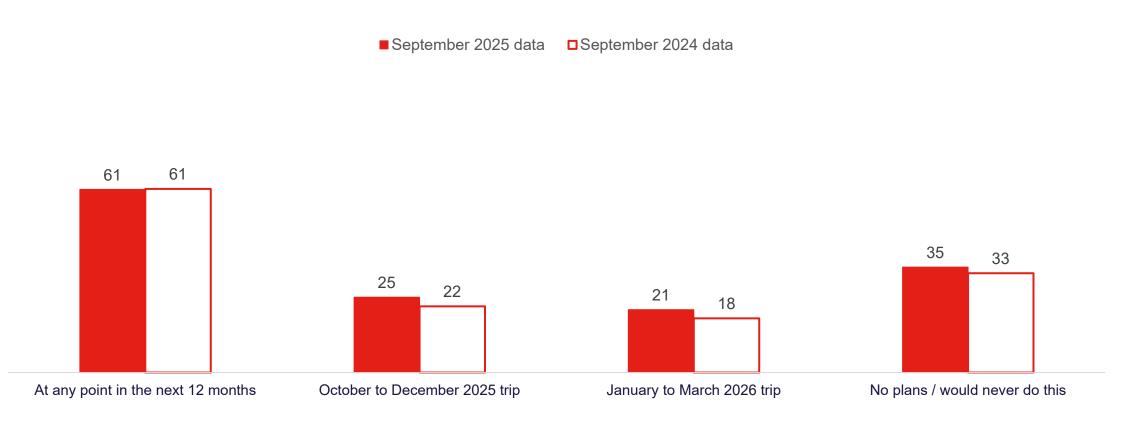






Overnight overseas trip intentions are broadly in line with 2024 levels, with 61% who are planning an overseas trip in the next 12 months.

Figure 5b. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight overseas trips, Percentage, September 2025, UK



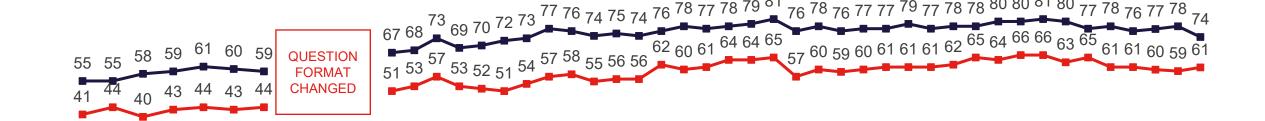


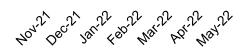


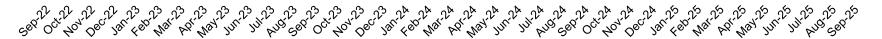
In September 2025, domestic trip intentions have fallen to levels last seen in August 2023, while overseas trip intentions are similar to those seen in the last months

Figure 6. Proportion anticipating going on any overnight UK and overseas trips in the NEXT 12 MONTHS, Percentage, Wave-on-wave, UK

■ UK overnight trip Overseas overnight trip











Question: QVB2a. Thinking of your next UK holiday or short break, when are you likely to go on this trip? QVB2b. And when else do you anticipate going on a UK holiday or short break? QVB2c. Thinking of your next OVERSEAS holiday or short break, when are you likely to go on this trip? QVB2d. And when else do you anticipate going on an overseas holiday or short break? Base: All respondents September 2025 = 1,755. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate taking multiple trips across several time periods. *no data available for July 2022.

Commitment is higher for overseas trips compared to UK trips – 71% are very committed to overseas trips in September 2025 compared to 61% for UK trips in the same month

Figure 7. Commitment to taking the next overnight UK trip, Percentage, September 2025, UK



Figure 8. Commitment to taking the next overnight overseas trip, Percentage, September 2025, UK







UK adults are more likely to choose UK trips (34%) over overseas trips (27%). UK holidays are easier to plan (57%), while overseas trips are preferred for being able experience new places/cultures (44%)

Figure 9. Difference in short break/holiday choices in the next 6 months compared to last 12 months, Percentage, September 2025, UK

■ More likely to choose UK than overseas

■ More likely to choose overseas than UK

■ Broadly the same as past 12 months

■ Don't know/It depends on the situation

 34
 27
 23
 16

TOP 5 reasons for UK preference

- 1. UK holidays are easier to plan (57%)
 - 2. UK holidays are cheaper (48%)
 - 3. Shorter / quicker travel (40%)
- 4. To avoid long queues at airports/ports or cancelled flights/voyages (35%)
- 5. I want to take holidays in places I am familiar with (30%)

TOP 5 reasons for Overseas preference

- 1. I want to visit new places/experience new cultures (44%)
 - 2. Better weather (43%)
 - 3. Overseas holidays are cheaper (28%)
 - 4. To visit friends or relatives (23%)
- 5. I'm prioritising overseas trips after missing out in the last few years (14%)

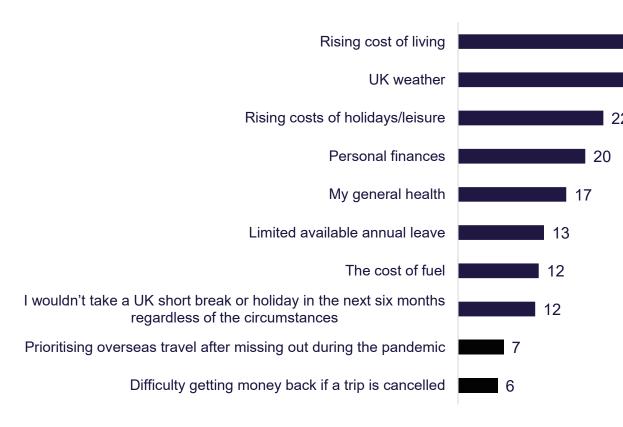
FOR THE FULL LIST OF REASONS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.





The top potential barrier to taking overnight UK trips in the next 6 months are 'Rising cost of living' and 'UK weather' both at 29%. The 'costs and finances' barrier slightly decreases in September 2025 compared to last month

Figure 10. Top 10 Barriers to taking an overnight UK trip in next 6 months, Percentage, September 2025, UK



	June	July	August	September				
	2025	2025	2025	2025				
	data	Data	Data	Data				
NET: Costs and finances	54%	52%	53%	51%				

FOR THE FULL LIST OF BARRIERS, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

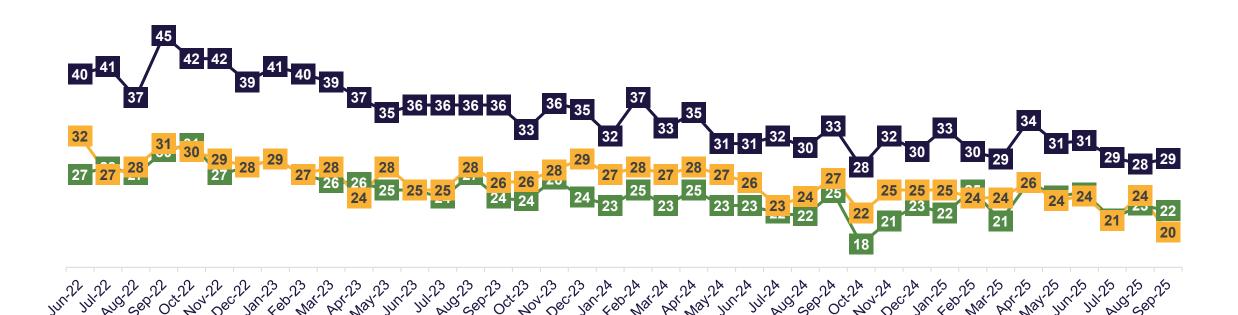




Generally, perceived financial barriers to taking overnight domestic trips are somewhat in line compared to the previous waves. However, 'Personal finances' is now at its lowest since we began tracking

Figure 10b. Perceived financial barriers to an overnight trip in the UK in next 6 months, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK

Rising cost of living Rising costs of holidays/leisure Personal finances

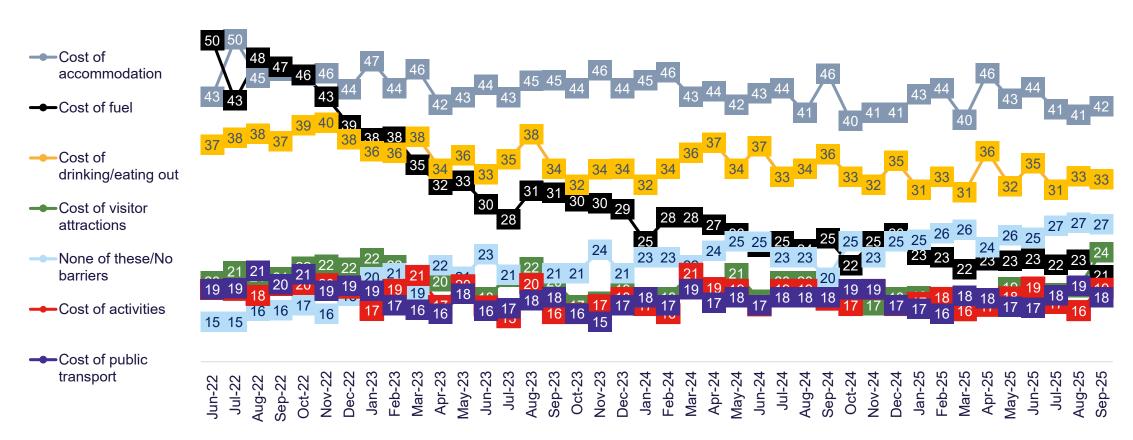






Focusing on barriers related directly to the cost of a domestic overnight trip, they have remained generally in line with the last few waves

Figure 12. Individual costs barrier to taking UK holidays and short breaks in next 6 months, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK







Question: VB7bii. Which, if any, of these costs are the main financial barriers to you taking a UK short break or holiday in the next six months? Base: September 2025 = 1,755.

UK adults plan to cut their <u>overnight trip spending</u> on eating out and accommodation. 25% will reduce the number of overnight trips they will take

Figure 13a. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks, Percentage, September 2025, UK, Full list



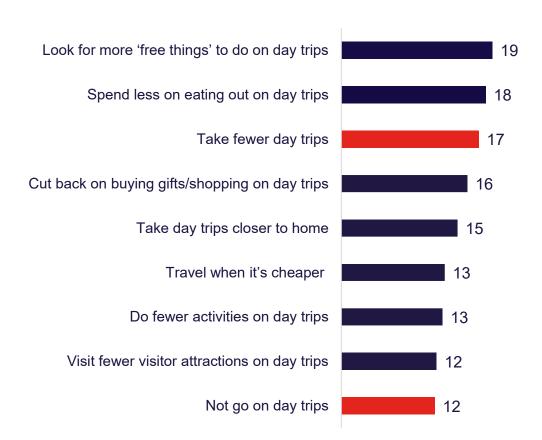
Reduce the number of UK overnight trips	June	July	August	September
	2025	2025	2025	2025
	data	data	data	data
NET 'fewer', 'not go', 'go day trips instead'	25%	25%	24%	25%





In terms of <u>UK day trips</u>, 19% of UK adults intend to 'look for more 'free things' to do', while 18% will 'spend less on eating out'. 27% will take fewer day trips or not go on any at all

Figure 13b. 'Cost of living' impact on day trips, Percentage, September 2025, UK, Full list



Reduce the number of day trips	June 2025 data	July 2025 data	August 2025 data	September 2025 data				
NET 'fewer', 'not go on day trips'	25%	25%	26%	27%				



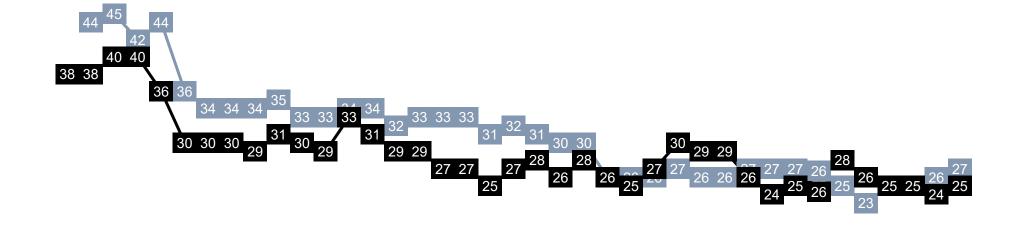


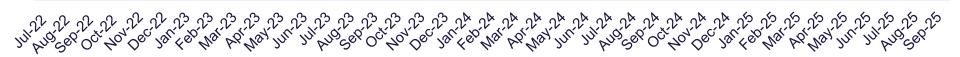
UK adults are slightly more likely to reduce the number of UK overnight trips compared to UK day trips due to the cost of living

Figure 13c. 'Cost of living' impact on UK holidays and short breaks and day trips, Percentage, Wave-on-wave, Percentage, UK

Reduce the number of day trips

Reduce the number of UK overnight trips









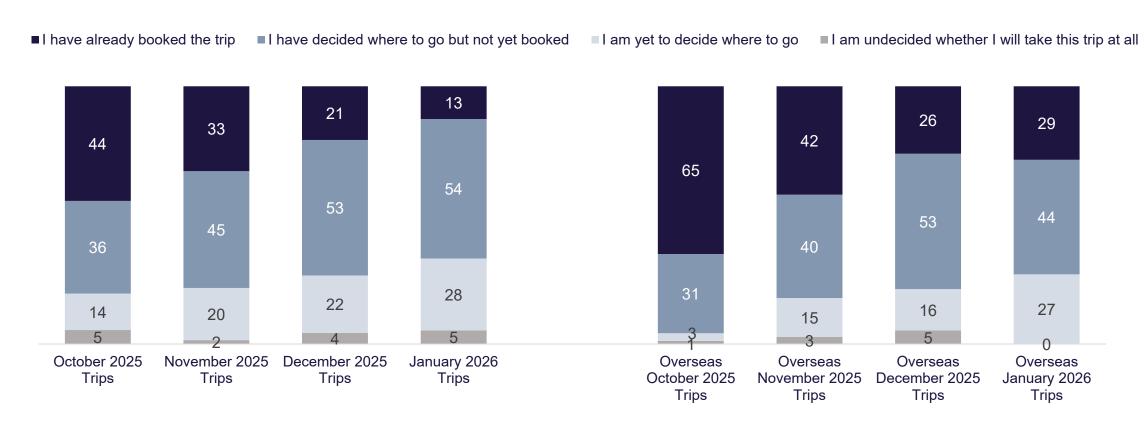


3. The Next Trip: Overnight and Day Trips



44% of UK intenders have already booked their <u>domestic</u> trips for October 2025, while 65% have already booked their <u>overseas</u> trips for the same month

Figure 15. Planning and booking the next intended UK and overseas overnight trip, Percentage, September 2025, UK

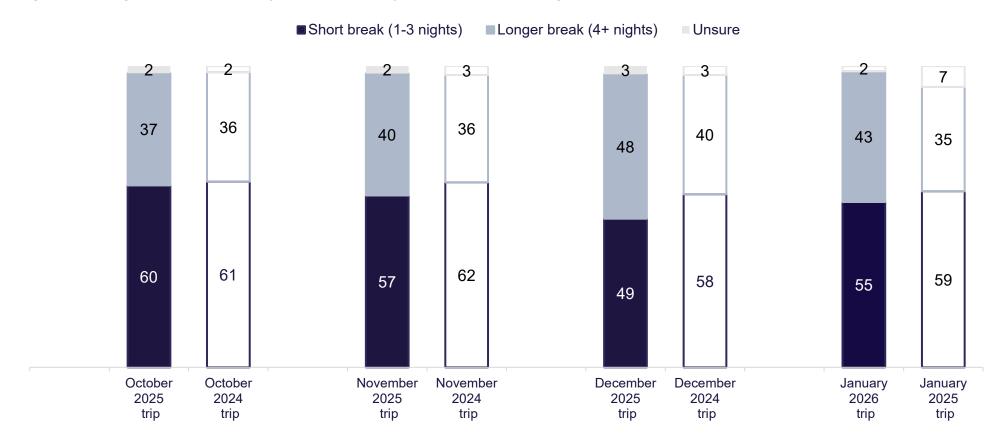






In the next few months, shorter breaks will mainly dominate. This trend is broadly in line with intentions in 2024, when short breaks were also prominent

Figure 17. Length of next UK holiday or short break by time period, Percentage, September 2025, UK







London is the most preferred UK overnight destination for trips in both October to December 2025 and January to March 2026 periods, followed by the South West

Figure 18. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip in October to December 2025</u>, Percentage, August 2025 and September 2025, UK

■ August 2025 / September 2025 data

□ August 2024 / September 2024 data

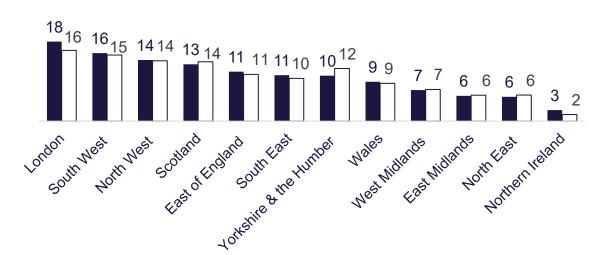
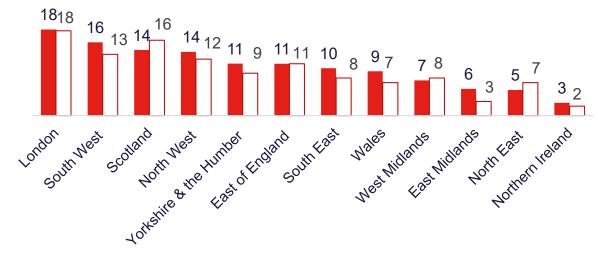


Figure 19. Where planning on staying on next UK overnight <u>trip in January to March 2026</u>, Percentage, August 2025 and September 2025, UK

August 2025 / September 2025 data

□ August 2024 / September 2024 data



Question: QVB4a. Where in the UK are you likely to stay on this next trip in <insert month>?

Base: All August to September 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK October to December 2024 n = 1051, January to March 2025 n = 286.or short break in the October to December 2025 n = 1838, January to March 2026 n = 1387. Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate staying in more than one location.





The top destination type for both October to December 2025 and January to March 2026 trips is 'A city or large town'

Figure 20. Types of destination for <u>trip in October to December</u> 2025 Percentage, August 2025 and September 2025, UK

■ August 2025 / September 2025 data

□ August 2024 / September 2024 data

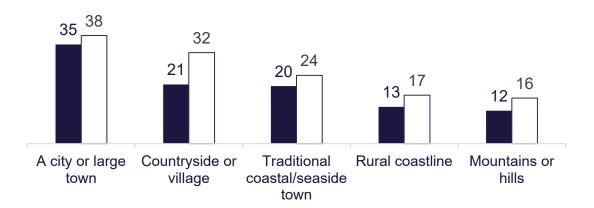
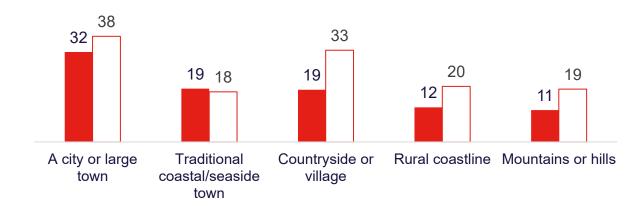


Figure 21. Types of destination for overnight trip in January to March 2026 Percentage, August 2025 and September 2025, UK

■ August 2025 / September 2025 data

□August 2024 / September 2024 data







For the next overnight trip, 'Hotel / motel / inn' is the leading accommodation type in both time periods

Figure 24. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in October to December 2025</u>, Percentage, August 2025 and September 2025, UK

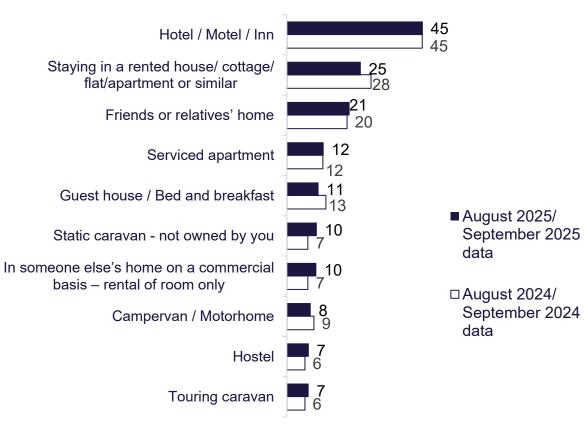
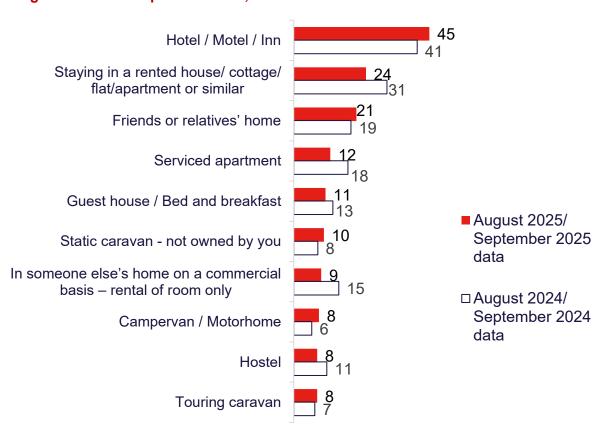


Figure 24. Top 10 accommodation types planning on staying in on next UK overnight <u>trip in January to March 2026</u>, Percentage, August 2025 and September 2025, UK



FOR THE FULL LIST OF ACCOMMODATION TYPES, PLEASE SEE THE PUBLISHED TABLES.

Question: VB6a. What type/s of accommodation do you expect to be staying in during your next UK holiday or short break in <INSERT DESTINATION FROM VB4A> in <INSERT MONTH FROM VB2A. Base: All August 2025 to September 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK October to December 2024 n = 1051, January to March 2025 n = 286, October to December 2025 n = 1838, January to March 2026 n = 1387. *New format of question including new code 'Staying in a rented house/ cottage/ flat/apartment or similar' added in July 2024 wave.





The top motivation for overnight trips October to December 2025 trips is 'Family time or time with my partner', while it is 'To get away from it all and have a rest' in January to March 2026

Figure 28. Motivations for UK holidays and short <u>trip in October to December 2025</u>, Percentage, September 2025, UK, Full list



Figure 29. Motivations for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in January to March 2026</u>, Percentage, September 2025, UK, Full list



Question: VB6fii. Which of the following best describe your motivation/s for this trip?

Base: All September 2025 respondents planning on taking a holiday or short break in the UK between October to December 2025 n=636 and January to March 2026 n = 167.

Note: Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100%.





The top activity for both October to December 2025 and January to March 2026 trips is 'Trying local food and drink'. 'Visit cultural attractions' is also top in January to March 2026.

Figure 30. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks, <u>in October to December 2025</u>, Percentage, September 2025, UK, Full list

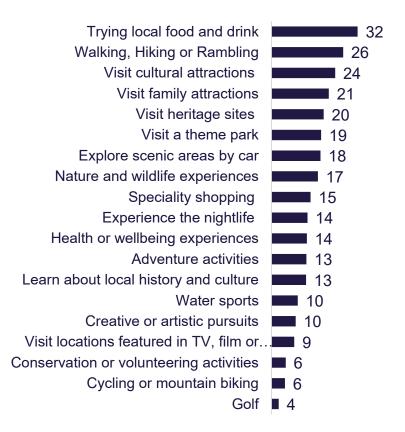
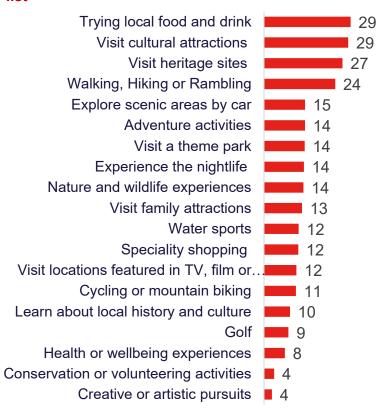


Figure 31. Activities for UK holidays and short breaks <u>in</u>
<u>January to March 2026</u>, Percentage, September 2025, UK, Full list







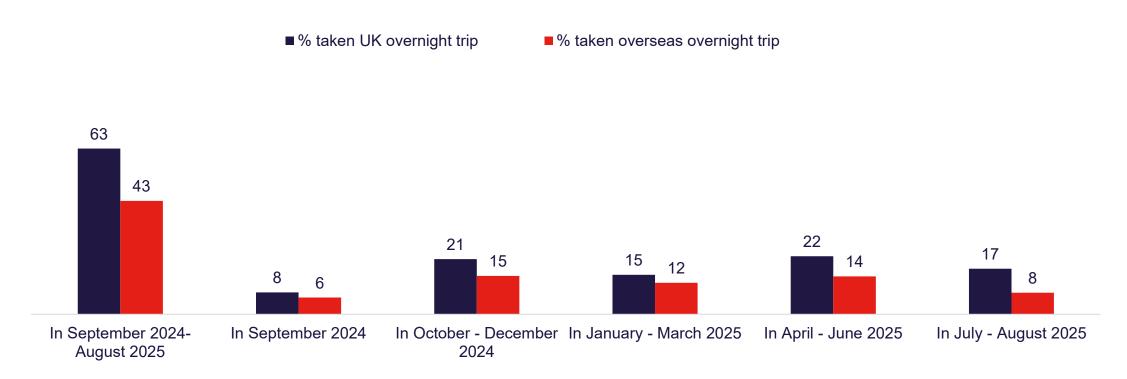


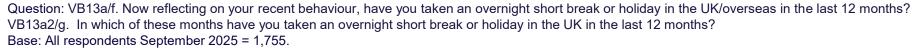
4. Past UK and Overseas Trips



About 2 in 3 (63%) have taken a UK overnight trip in the past 12 months, while 43% have taken an overseas overnight trip during the same time period

Figure 32. Proportion UK adult population who have taken an overnight UK or overseas trip in below time period, Percentage, September 2025, UK



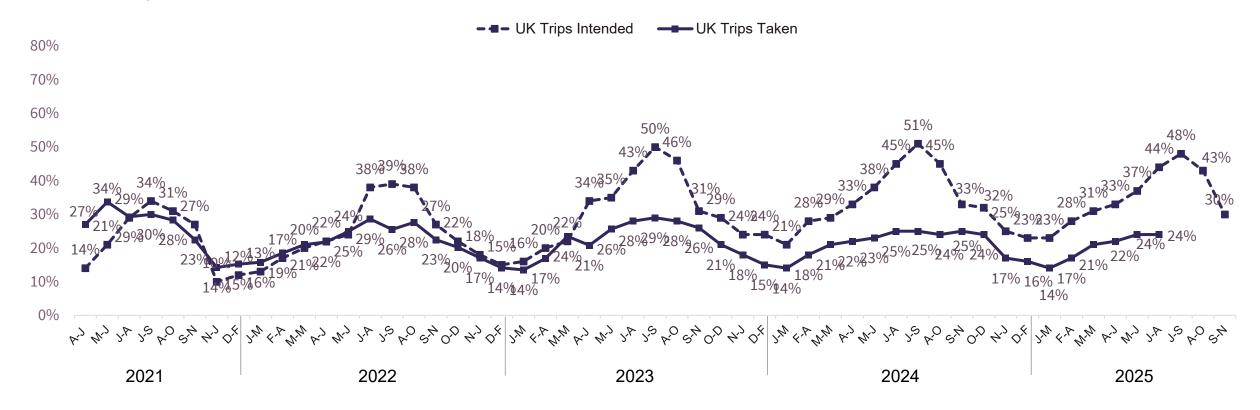


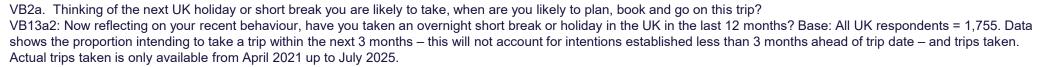




24% of respondents went on a domestic overnight trip between June and August 2025, which is in line with the same period in 2024 (25%)

Figure 32b. Incidence of UK short breaks or holidays intended within next 3 month and taken in last 3 months of UK adult population, Percentage, September 2025, UK



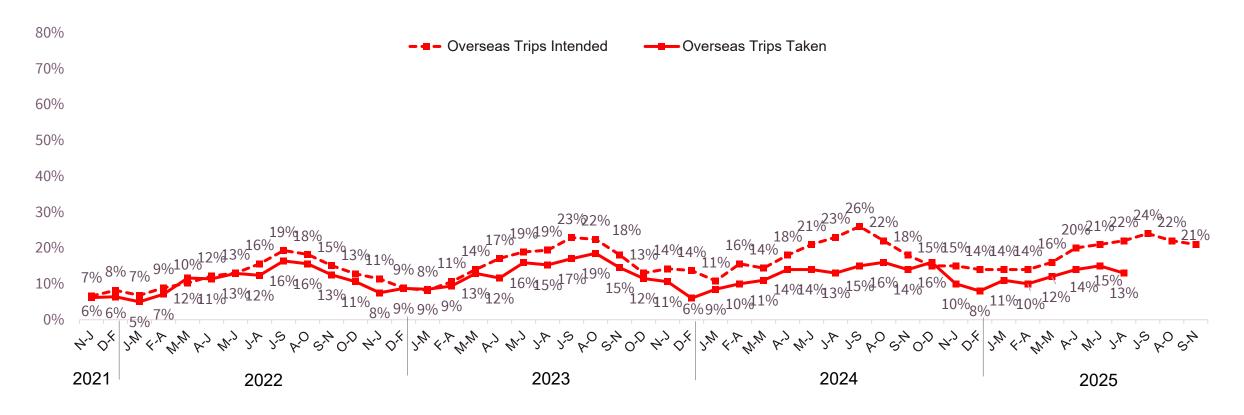






13% went on an overseas holiday between June and August 2025, in line with levels seen in the same period in 2024 (13%). The gap between intention and trips taken is smaller for overseas trips

Figure 32c. Incidence of overseas short breaks or holidays intended within next 3 month and taken in last 3 months of UK adult population, Percentage, September 2025, UK



VB2c.Thinking of the next Overseas holiday or short break you are likely to take, when are you likely to plan, book and go on this trip?

VB13g: Now reflecting on your recent behaviour, have you taken an overnight overseas short break or holiday in the last 12 months? Base: All UK respondents = 1,755. Data shows the proportion intending to take a trip within the next 3 months – this will not account for intentions established less than 3 months ahead of trip date – and trips taken. Actual trips taken is only available from April 2021 up to July 2025.





The South West was the most popular destination for domestic trips in the past three months. This is in line with 2024 when the South West also dominated

Figure 33. Destination of overnight trips taken in UK in the past three months, Percentage, September 2025, UK

■ Last three months - 2025 □ Last three months - 2024



Question: VB13c. Where in the UK did you stay on your most recent trip in <INSERT MOST RECENT MONTH>? VB13e. And which of the following best describe the purpose/s of your most recent trip in <INSERT MOST RECENT MONTH >?

Base: All September 2025 respondents that took an overnight trips in the last three months n = 425, September 2024 respondents = 434.

Note: Multiple choice questions. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents stayed in more than one location or travelled for more than one purpose







5. Overnight Business Trip Intentions (September 2025 data)



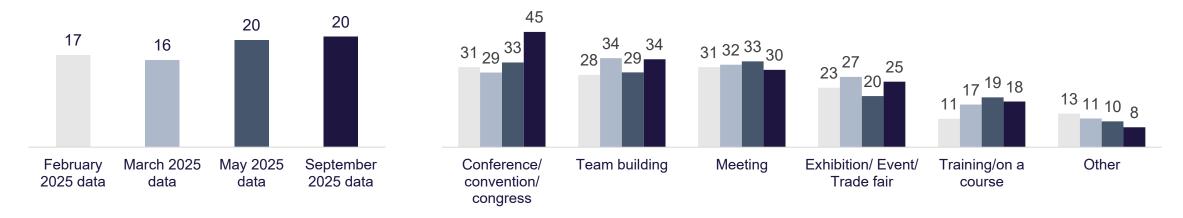
20% of UK adults in employment plan on taking an overnight business trip in the next 3 months. 'Conference' (45%) and 'Team building' (34%) are the leading reasons

Figure 35. Proportion anticipating an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, September 2025, <u>UK adults in employment</u>

Figure 36. Reasons for taking an overnight business trip in next 3 months, Percentage, September 2025, UK adults in employment planning a trip

■ February 2025 data ■ March 2025 data ■ May 2025 data ■ September 2025 data

80% of UK adults interviewed are in employment



Question: VB14a. Now looking ahead again, are you intending to take any overnight business trips in the UK in the next three months? Please only answer yes if the overnight business trips are not a feature of your job. For example, if you are a long-distance lorry driver, airline crew or delivery service, an overnight stay would be a feature of the job so you would answer 'no'. Please also answer 'no' if your only overnight business trip is a regular trip to your main place of work (e.g. a weekly or monthly trip to your office). Multiple choice question. Totals may exceed 100% as some respondents anticipate more than one business reason.

VB14b: What would be the main reason for this overnight business trip? Base: September 2025 respondents currently in employment n = 1755. All taking a business trip n = 381.







Methodology & Further Data



Methodology

- This report presents findings from the September 2025 wave of the Domestic Sentiment Tracker, with comparisons to previous months where appropriate.
- The survey is conducted online, among a sample of the UK adult population.
- In the first stage, a nationally representative core sample of 1,500 is recruited and interviewed. This sample is then 'boosted' for Wales and Scotland to ensure sufficient base sizes for separate nation analysis. The data are then weighted to make the sample representative of the UK overall and within each nation.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The current phase of this project started in April 2025 and will run until March 2026.
- With this newly commissioned phase, the questionnaire was updated to address the cost of living crisis' impact on trips intentions. It also covers the preference for domestic vs overseas overnight trips.
- Please note that because of the questionnaire updates, some questions are not comparable between this phase and the previous phases / waves.



Master Data Table

- The full data tables are published on the VisitBritain website alongside this report and questions' data not shown in this report are available to view there: https://www.visitbritain.org/domestic-sentiment-tracker
 Extra questions available in the tables are:
 - VB1b. Likely to spend more, less or about the same on holidays in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
 - VB9a/b. More/Less likely to visit leisure places in the UK in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
 - VB10a/b. More/Less likely to conduct leisure activities in the UK in the next 12 months, vs last 12 months
- To access a .csv file of the data contained within the charts, please open this report with Adobe Reader. When you have done so, navigate to the left-hand side of the page to the attachments area, symbolised by a paperclip icon, and click on the file to open the attachment.



