

# Easy ways to save money on train travel

There are a number of ways to reduce train travel costs without compromising on convenience:

- Using single fares rather than return tickets
- Booking “advance” tickets
- Travelling “off-peak”

Another way of saving money on fares is to divide each journey into stages. For example, if travelling to London, consider purchasing a single fare ticket to Swindon, and then a separate ticket from Swindon to London. This can be reversed for the return journey. We undertook this exercise in June 2014 and found that on a flexible “anytime” ticket from Swansea to London Paddington, this could save as much as £66 per journey (including transaction fees) compared with an “anytime” return ticket on the same train. The traveller can reserve a seat for the entire journey so there is no disruption

Booking tickets online via one of the Business Travel Service providers (via the SUPC Travel Services Framework agreement ) can also save money compared with offline bookings. In some instances there is no transaction fee for online booking, the only additional charges being for first class posting of tickets. Some travel management companies also offer domestic hotel bookings with no transaction fees—further details are available via GeM.