

# The Big One Transport Guide

## Introduction

The Big One will be a carefully planned and organised, lawful, supported, peaceful, inclusive non-violent direct action, focused on The Houses of Parliament, Westminster. With the goal set for The Big One to be the most inclusive action that XR UK has ever designed, it is vitally important that each and everyone one of us removes as many potential barriers to participation as we can. Beyond questions about what the action is and why XR thinks it will work, rebels and future activists (we hope!) alike are wondering how they'll travel to London and where they'll stay. This page is about the former and will be regularly updated as more information becomes available. Check back later!

Group transport options have many advantages. Much of the work and stress involved in travelling long distances can be eased for activists heading to The Big One if they can just turn up to a coach pick up point. The feedback received from Local Groups shows that there is appreciation for building up the sense of shared purpose ahead of an action. Finally, where affordable, subsidising costs for people seeking to take part will make it even easier for commitments to be made.

For The Big One, XR UK is advising that Local Groups arrange the transport themselves. This has many benefits:

- Local Groups know their rebels and the community groups they are speaking to and can book transport specific to their needs.
- Local Groups can get started right now, making calls to transport providers.
- Distribution of tasks to the decentralised network limits the amount of work any one person bears. Thanks for helping out!

To make arranging transport as easy as possible, XR UK has written a guide that will help Local Groups decide whether to book transport, how to do so, ticketing, best practice on the day, and what support is available from XR UK teams.

## The Basics

**The key dates for The Big One are 21st April to 24th April.** These are the dates where we'll occupy the space around the Houses of Parliament, referred to as 4 Days of Occupation.

**21st April is the day to show the power of a mass movement.** This is the day to focus on getting the maximum number of people to come together.

The gathered movements will deliver a demand of Parliament on the Monday. Sustaining the numbers **through to the 24th** will send a clear message to politicians when they return to sit. If possible, activists should commit to staying for the whole 4 day period and plans should be made accordingly.

**Bookending the 4 days of Occupation will be 4 days of Preparation from 17th April to 20th April and 4 Days of Decision from 25th April to 28th April.** Remember this as

4/4/4. The teams working on delivering a safe and well organised action would appreciate the help to prepare and pack down but these dates are not to be prioritised over the occupation.

Before starting to book transport, you will need to build an accurate picture of the needs of your local group and the wider community interested in attending The Big One. Start having conversations in your spaces and record those that would like to travel as a group, moving people towards firm commitments where possible: Drop a message in your Signal and Telegram channels, and send out an email on your mailing list. It's also useful to know when people plan to return. We'll talk more about vehicle sizes later but once you have commitments from about 20 people, you're tending towards looking at organising transport as a group. The Transport Team for The Big One will be in contact with LGs where high interest in mass transport options has already been expressed and get those groups started. Once you have determined the interest in your group and wider community connections, it's time to look into the practicalities of financing transport.

Renting group transport can be quite an expensive cost to bear as a Local Group and, for all of the advantages listed in providing this service for the community and removing barriers to protest, it sometimes isn't possible to do. Nor does XR UK have the funds to support coaches coming from across the nations and regions to Westminster. This guide includes how to set up ticket sales to help you recoup costs but the priority for local groups is to plan within budget and this may sometimes mean grabbing a cheap ticket on a bus rather than travelling down as a group. Further into this guide is a section on how XR UK and the Nations & Regions can offer financial support.

## Booking Transport

### Shopping around

It is best to book transport well in advance to ensure availability so let's get started. The first thing you'll need to do is find transport providers. There are a number of options available to you:

- Local providers
- National providers such as National Express
- Comparison websites such as <https://www.coachhirecomparison.co.uk/>
- Booking tickets in coaches running regular trips to London

A quick search on Google Maps for 'coach companies near me' will show just that. Click on a pin to see more including website information and contact details. Local companies may offer cheaper options than national companies, however some may not service long journey trips and are often slow to reply to inquiries. If local companies do offer long distance journeys they should only be used if you are returning on the same day otherwise you'll be paying for deadhead costs of the vehicle returning to the area they're based.

National companies will accept long distance journeys, deadhead costs will be less, and it is likely that Low Emission Zone and Ultra Low Emission Zone costs will already be covered (but always double-check).

Comparison websites can generate a number of quotes quickly, saving you time. They will take commission, possibly increasing costs. Regardless of how you found a company, you will need to do due diligence and check their reputation: We want you to have a safe and comfortable journey! Look for reviews and comments online, for example on Google Reviews. If a company doesn't have an online presence, steer clear.

Another possibility, should your group feel too unsure about numbers or raising the deposit to book a whole coach, would be to block book onto buses that run regular trips to London. Companies that provide this service include:

- [Flixbus](#)
- [Megabus](#)
- [National Express](#)

You can check first that they do run a service at the right time and from near you. Also they have various cancellation policies and differ over whether you need the names of all passengers when booking - so it's good to check.

The best way to do this block booking would be to choose the bus that suits you, survey your Local Group and when you have gathered a block of people, 10, 20, 30, whatever size you decide, and then book the seats. Going down this route allows your group to repeat this as long as seats are available. Obviously, it's a good idea to encourage people to book as far in advance as possible.

Doing this kind of block booking can provide a little more flexibility, and less financial risk, though it reduces some of the benefits of having a whole vehicle to yourselves - i.e. sense of solidarity, the chance to create links between people, teach songs, share info etc.

## **Booking**

Once you've found prospective companies or got some basic quotes from a comparison site, it's time to contact the companies. Share the key details of the journey but remember this is also your opportunity to ask lots of questions!

### **The details you should provide:**

1. The name under which the booking will be made
2. The purpose of the journey.

Extinction Rebellion's name may make companies reluctant to offer their business so where possible it is best to offer an additional individual's name too and explain that this will be a well-organised, safe, facilitated demonstration.

3. Whether the booking is for a one way journey or return

Returns are difficult to plan for; while many will want to travel to The Big One on the same day, 21st April, you may find that people can stay at the action for differing amounts of time depending on their prior commitments. If you can't guarantee a reasonable occupancy for a return journey do not book it.

4. The number of seats needed, which will determine the type of vehicle, coach or minibus, needed
5. The date and time of the journey(s)
6. Pick up address(es)

Rely on local knowledge from coach companies for the best. Bear in mind the various locations your passengers will be coming from. Try to choose a central pick up location and be aware of the additional costs people will incur in travelling to the pick up location.

7. Addresses of any intermediate stops
8. How many extra passengers that will be picked up at intermediate stops
9. Drop off address(es)

The Big One also coincides with - and cooperates with (it does not disrupt) - the world-famous London Marathon on Sunday and its younger sibling, the Mini-Marathon, on Saturday. These events will impact traffic on all four main days of the big one. Those events will run north of Westminster, so to enable ease of traffic flow, we strongly **recommend arranging pick-up and drop-off points south of Westminster**. You can find coach stops on the Transport for London website, where you can also view a map. Please note that some stops may require a fee. Link here: <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/coach-drivers/>

Additionally, we have been in discussions with the Big One Action planners, who have informed us of potential delays and congestion due to additional pressures on the road network, including road closures in and around Westminster/Central London.

Therefore, **we advise you to avoid Victoria coach station and the Embankment as drop-off locations**, as these places are likely to be extra congested. To assist with the drop-off process and help your rebels get right into the activities of the big one, our stewarding team will be available to greet any coaches on the morning of Friday and Saturday that drop off at **Millbank, the Northbound coach stop by Tate Britain**. Stewards will be in place from 09:00 am to 12:00 am on the 21st and 22nd. This stop is south of Westminster, so it should hopefully reduce the possibility of delays.

10. The potential additional needs of passengers

## 11. Luggage space required

You should inquire about:

1. Whether you can upgrade the booking to a larger vehicle and what extra costs are involved
2. Whether a deposit is required and their cancellation policy

Typically, a coach / minibus hire company will ask for a 20% deposit and cancellation policies differ greatly. Funding will be covered in another section of this guide.

3. Their breakdown policy
4. How additional costs such as tolls and Emission Zone charges will be covered
5. Whether you are able to eat and drink on the coach

## Ticketing & Eventbrite


Tracking bookings and attendance is crucial to transport plans and for this, the Transport Team recommend using the website: Eventbrite. Eventbrite offers simple management of payments and refunds of tickets.

[Ticketing and Eventbrite](#)

## Communicating that You're Organising Transport

It's time to spread the word that you've booked travel arrangements. Each Local Group is different in which communication platforms they prefer: Signal, Telegram, Mattermost and emails are all valuable tools.

[Message Templates for Transport Comms](#)

 How to advertise your LG Transport

Once you have your coach booked you are going to want to advertise the coach! This guide has some handy information on how to get people to book onto your coach!

Click this link to view:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1op9BHDNxbBBfegHk38\\_OcLCDIJScExwHsICisDbMmpA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1op9BHDNxbBBfegHk38_OcLCDIJScExwHsICisDbMmpA/edit)

XR UK would like to build a picture of how many Local Groups are organising transport and where from. Filling out this [form](#) to tell us your Local Group has booked

transportation and XR can promote that you're on your way to The Big One. XR UK can even help you advertise your transportation through [Rebel Ringing](#).

## On the Day of Travel

Smooth running of the travel operation requires lots of systems in place that should be arranged in advance of the day itself but, most of all, make sure to arrive at the pick up point to meet your transport!

The person who has access to the attendees list from the Eventbrite platform should print off the attendees list and bring it to the coach to tick people off as they arrive. Leave no rebel behind! Remember, share this data with as few other people as possible, and those you do share it with must have signed the Volunteer Agreement. This print-off should then be shredded and disposed of. If you have arranged with the transport provider any accommodations for additional needs, then this is the time to reiterate these needs.

A comms point person should be nominated to be the point person and communicate between your group and the transport company. This will ensure that any changes to the schedule can be relayed to the group efficiently. The point person will also need to communicate with members of their group who will be at The Big One but not travelling with them to let them know whether the plan is on schedule or if plans have changed.

Plan to keep the coach tidy. Bring bin bags, cloths, and other materials necessary to maintain the vehicle in the same state as when it arrived. You may have to pay cleaning bills otherwise. Consider bringing a mask with you if you are going to be in a confined space with poor ventilation for a few hours.

Depending on the arrival destination, you may have to pay a fee. After the coach has departed you will need to telephone the number for your stop, available here: [Coach drivers - Transport for London](#)

Make sure you have payment options available.

## Financial Support

As the campaign progresses and the crowdfunder grows the amount of support XR UK can offer will change. The support XR UK can offer at this time is 1:1 guidance through contacting the [Transport Team](#). If there are special circumstances which necessitate looking beyond your group's ability to fundraise, then please do contact us. An example would be if your group is providing transport for low income activists. XR UK may also be able to fund deposits ahead of ticket sales if there is evidence that tickets will be sold and seats will be filled.

Another point of contact for you is your national or regional teams which also have budgets available to help with transport costs. If you don't know who to contact in your Nation or Region, feel free to email the above address and we'll point you in the right direction.

**XR UK recognises that a rebel's financial situation may also place an additional barrier to participation. One of the aims of The Big One is inclusivity, everyone is needed to be there at Parliament in April.**

**To help rebels with transport costs associated with coming to The Big One, XRUK has set up a transport subsidy scheme.**

**Funds are extremely limited! We politely ask you to consider if you need this support so we can offer this support to those who need it the most. XRUK will be prioritising rebels with accessibility needs and those on low income.**

**To find more information on the transport subsidy scheme, follow this [link](#).**

If you are passionate about supporting people to be there at Parliament for The Big One, please consider donating to our [crowdfunder](#). Your donation will help fund The Big One including funding the transport costs of activists.