



Minibuses

Travelling by minibus! Often, especially if you're able to hire a minibus, driving to rally can be one of the cheapest ways to get there. There are some rules on who can drive minibuses, and some places have further restrictions as part of their insurance. The best places to contact are your local Scout and Guide districts, division and counties who should be able to point you to places to hire them from - these may be specific groups in the local area or the council or similar. You should also contact your students or sports unions as they may have minibuses to hire or a deal with a local company to provide minibuses to societies you can make use of.

There are various different types of minibus that you should be able to hire with a car license.

With 9 seats (including driver) these are often called a MPV. Legally these are just a car so if you've passed your test you can drive one.

With 10-17 seats (including driver) these are full minibuses and to drive them on a car license you'll need to be over 21 and have passed over 2 years ago. To drive them on a car licence, they should be ones that don't require 'D1'. Minibuses which require 'D1' are those whose maximum vehicle weight exceeds 3.5 tonnes (or 4.25 tonnes if accessibility equipment is fitted). You'll generally find 12 seaters and quite a few 15 seaters can be driving without 'D1', which is still lots of space to get to rally. More information on this can be found on the Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/driving-a-minibus>

When driving a minibus, whether it requires 'D1' or not, you'll also need a 'section 19' permit to allow people to contribute to the costs of transport (either directly or indirectly). When driving under a 'section 19 permit', you will need a physical permit to transport members of the group it is issued to. You can find details of permits here and can apply for one in the name of "Student Scout and Guide Organisation" using this link at cost of £5: <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/running-your-section/administration/section-19-minibus-permits/>

Many minibuses will have some additional constraints as part of the insurance- this may include being over 25, taking a course called 'MiDAS' or taking part in a vehicle familiarisation. If there's a cost for this you can include that in the cost of travel, or if they're happy to drive for multiple events then you can split the cost over the next year.

As there are requirements about age and time since passing you may struggle to find any eligible drivers in your club currently, but why not contact some of your recent graduates? If past members are driving a minibus to rally then they're eligible for associate membership and to join us there. Potentially there may be members of other clubs who have moved to your area for work, so they can also join you as an associate!

Filling all the seats on a minibus may be difficult for smaller clubs, but why not look at organising something with other nearby clubs? Several clubs could get a local train to a nearby city and all go to Rally in a minibus from there.

What you can expect to pay for a minibus varies significantly, you may get charged per mile, per day + fuel, or some combination. You can expect to pay at most 95p/mile, but often if you're just paying for fuel it will be much less.

Remember, if you are driving any vehicle to Rally, you should check that it's in road legal condition, take ample breaks and remember to fill it up with fuel from time to time!

Grants

While travelling can be expensive, you can also look if there are any grants available to support you. Currently there are lots of 'getting back together' funds open for applications. Your SU or University is likely a great place to talk to and may have funding available themselves. Some funding might require your SU to receive money on your behalf as a charity too. Places like Rotary Clubs, Freemason Lodges and even local supermarket branches are all great sources of funding.

You can also ask your local Scout and Guide areas. Many maintain funds to help those with a low income to take part and travel to events. As students you'll likely qualify as low income and while you may think these are for big international trips many funds will also support travel in the UK and with COVID may have more funds for UK travel this year.

Trains

We encourage as many people as possible to take the train to rally, as the most environmentally friendly mode of transport and the fastest way to get to the North East. Durham Train Station is on the East Coast Mainline and has direct trains from pretty much every corner of the country. If travelling from London, you can get a LNER train from London Kings Cross in just under 3 hours or from Edinburgh in just under 2 hours. If travelling from Lancashire or Yorkshire, we recommend Transpennine Express Trains, who can get you from Manchester to Durham in just 2 hours. If travelling from the Midlands or South West, then we recommend taking Cross Country, who can get you from Birmingham to Durham in just 3 hours!

Train Tickets

To get the best price on train tickets, you need to book as early as you can. Advanced tickets are only valid for the service specified on them, but are the best value tickets available! Another way you can save money on train tickets is by 'split ticketing', which is the process of splitting your journey into multiple tickets (but probably on the same train). Due to the weird ways the British railways work, this can often work out cheaper than buying a single ticket between your start and end destination. A lot of websites can do this for you, including but not limited to <https://www.splitticketing.com/>.

If you haven't already got one, we recommend getting a railcard in order to get further reductions in your ticket cost. A 16-25 railcard costs £30 for a year and saves you a 1/3rd on tickets, meaning you only have to be planning to spend £90 a year on train travel before you save as much as its worth!

If travelling by TP Express exclusively, you can get amazing priced tickets as a student if you follow this link (<https://www.tpexpress.co.uk/special-offers/student-train-tickets>). Tickets between Leeds and Durham have been as low as £6 each way when booking using this link, so it's highly recommended if you're coming from anywhere in the north. Please note that this link will only find tickets for which the travel can be exclusively done using TPE services, however this includes locations such as Liverpool, Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds, Hull, York and Edinburgh!

If you are travelling together as a group then you may be able to get group rates on your tickets. Rail Operators typically can generate group ticket prices for any group over 10 in size, so if there's a lot of you from one club or city travelling, try to get in touch with the train operator you would be using to see if you can get a decent group deal!

If you want anymore advice about train or any other form of travel, please visit [#viking-transport](#) on the Discord and we will try to help!

Flying

If you're travelling long distances, then you could look at flying to Rally! There are lots of websites like SkyScanner which find cheap flights and if you don't have (or skip) Friday lectures and can be flexible on travel times you're likely to find a deal out there. While many budget airlines will restrict you to hand luggage, don't be afraid to board wearing lots of warm layers. You can also look at making use of the indoor accommodation or tented village to reduce what you need to bring or ask another club if they'd be able to give you a tent space. We'd encourage you to use the comments and the [#viking-transport](#) [Discord](#) channel to match make things like this.

Coaches

One of the cheapest options to get to rally is to go by coach. Though being a bit slower than other modes of transport, coaches are a cheap and stress free option as they usually have less stops than a train and you don't need to worry about getting off at the right stop as much. You can also get a Young Person Coach Card for £12.50 which gives you even more money off and you can normally get your money back in savings within 1 - 2 trips.



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