



Festive football costs soar as fans fork out up to £468 to attend matches *Cost of supporting your football club away over Christmas revealed*

- **Away fans will spend more than £170 on average over the festive period watching their team**
- **Plymouth Argyle fans impacted the most paying £468 and will spend over 26 hours on the road**
- **Match-going fans will clock up 32,388 miles seeing their team in action**
- **Nottingham Forest fans will pay £42 for a ticket away at Leeds United on New Year's Day - the most expensive away ticket across all the leagues**

Plymouth Argyle fans face the highest cost and most arduous journeys to watch their team over the festive period. This is according to annual research carried out by the Football Supporters' Federation (FSF), and supported by Virgin Media, into the cost of Christmas football.

The analysis includes ticket, travel and food costs, plus journey times, incurred by supporters of all 92 clubs across the Premier League and English Football League for festive fixtures played between Boxing Day and January 4 2018.

The findings show that Plymouth Argyle fans will spend £468.43 - 11 times more than the lowest costs paid by Morecambe FC fans (£42.89). The Pilgrims will travel more than 1,000 miles to get behind their team at MK Dons on Boxing Day and Blackpool on December 30.

Premier Prices

Overall, the average fan will spend £171.37 to watch their team this Christmas, where supporters of 46 clubs will travel twice to support their teams away. In total, Premier League fans will pay the most (£182.08) to watch top-flight football over the Christmas break.

On top of costs, some fans will have to travel huge distances to attend games across the country. Total distances that will be travelled range from 20 miles (Chelsea away at Arsenal) to 1,096 miles (Plymouth Argyle at MK Dons and Blackpool) taking between 1hr 41mins and 26hrs 47mins respectively.

The findings underpin the FSF's 'Twenty's Plenty' campaign, backed by Virgin Media, which calls on clubs to cap the cost of an away ticket to £20.

Kevin Miles, Chief Executive, FSF said:

"Despite money being tight around this time of year, supporters will be travelling up and down the country over Christmas and New Year to back their teams in remarkable numbers once again.

"Away fans are a huge part of our match-going tradition and that shouldn't be taken for granted, so clubs and sponsors can and should do more in making football as affordable as possible."

As the official shirt sponsor of Southampton FC, Virgin Media is on the side of fans this Christmas by subsidising Southampton supporters' coach travel and match-day tickets for the Saints' game against Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley Stadium. Crystal Palace fans visiting St Mary's on January 2 will also have their tickets subsidised to £20 as part of Virgin Media's ongoing cap on away ticket prices at the stadium.

Key findings from the research:

Cost by League

League	Average cost (per fan)	Highest Cost	Lowest Cost
Premier League	£182.08	Manchester City - £383.63 (Away vs Newcastle United Dec 27 and Crystal Palace Dec 31)	Chelsea - £54.63 (Away vs Arsenal Jan 3)
Championship	£169.47	Fulham - £368.94 (Away vs Cardiff City Dec 26 and Hull City Dec 30)	Sheffield United - £56.88 (Away vs Derby County Jan 1)
League 1	£150.00	Plymouth Argyle - £468.43 (Away vs MK Dons Dec 26 and Blackpool Dec 30)	Gillingham - £43.62 (Away vs Charlton Jan 1)
League 2	£157.14	Luton Town - £342.53 (Away vs Swindon Town Dec 26 and Port Vale Dec 30)	Morecambe - £42.89 (Away vs Accrington Stanley Jan 1)
Total average:	£171.37	N/a	N/a

Distance travelled by League

League	Average driving distance (miles)	Most travel	Least travel
Premier League	372.06	Brighton Hove Albion - 816 miles (Away vs Chelsea Dec 26 and Newcastle United Dec 30)	Chelsea – 20 miles (Away vs Arsenal Jan 3)
Championship	358.95	Fulham - 748 miles (Away vs Cardiff City Dec 26 and Hull City Dec 30)	Sheffield United – 82 miles (Away vs Derby County Jan 1)
League 1	321.86	Plymouth Argyle - 1,096 miles (Away vs MK Dons Dec 26 and Blackpool Dec 30)	Gillingham – 59 miles (Away vs Charlton Jan 1)
League 2	353.37	Yeovil Town - 772 miles (Away vs Cheltenham Dec 26 and Morecambe Dec 29)	Morecambe - 91 miles (Away vs Accrington Stanley)
Total average:	360	N/a	N/a

Match-day ticket costs by League

League	Average match-day ticket cost	Most Expensive Ticket	Cheapest Ticket
Premier League	£29	£30 price cap	Southampton FC – £20 (Away vs Tottenham Hotspur Dec 26) Crystal Palace - £20 (Away vs Southampton FC Jan 2) Both subsidised to £20 by Virgin Media
Championship	£27.06	Nottingham Forest - £42 (Away vs Leeds United Jan 1)	Fulham – £18 (Away vs Hull City Dec 30)

League 1	£22	Doncaster Rovers - £28 (Away vs Peterborough United Jan 1)	Rochdale – £10 (Away vs Doncaster Rovers Dec 29)
League 2	£21	£24 - All Jan 1 Stevenage vs Cheltenham Town Yeovil Town vs Crawley Town Luton Town vs Lincoln City	Wycombe Wanderers - £16 (Away vs Forest Green Rovers Jan 1)
Total average:	£24.61	N/a	N/a

ENDS

Note to editors

This season, Virgin Media is subsidising every visiting supporter's ticket from every Premier League club travelling to Southampton – meaning adult fans will pay just £20 to see their team play at St Mary's. Virgin Media became the official shirt sponsor of Southampton from the 2016/17 season.

The costs incurred by away football fans are calculated based on the three rounds of fixtures between December 26 2017 and January 4 2018. 46 teams will play away twice, meaning 46 clubs will only travel once.

These findings have been calculated based on a range of factors:

- Total average cost figure is calculated based on costs incurred for match-day tickets, travel and food and drink.
- League-based averages and away attendance assumptions per league are based on Premier League data which showed 2015-16 average away attendance was 2, 262. English Football League average away attendances based on 2014-15 (latest available): Championship 1,400, League One 668 and League Two 473.
- **Travel:**
 - Football stadium postcodes were used as a proxy for point-to-point travel estimates. Driving distance and journey time were measured in miles, based on the shortest driving travel time from stadium to stadium using Google Maps.
 - Public transport travel time data was taken from Google Maps, extracted at the same time as driving information. Public transport costs were based on recommended routes as defined by Google Maps, extracted from Trainline.com on 14/12/17.
 - Train ticket prices were taken on 14/12/17 for Anytime Day Return tickets. Same day return travel assumed, therefore no cost of accommodation included.
 - Driving costs were calculated using return drive distance multiplied by a price per mile of £0.1918 to reflect potential winter weather conditions, roads works and additional congestion
 - Typical football match travel data was used to calculate the split between passengers driving to games and those arriving on public transport. An effective average was then calculated for any fan travelling to each game which blended the different driving and public transport costs. This was discounted to account for car sharing.
 - The 32,388 miles figure is based on the total distance travelled by all 92 clubs playing away games over the festive period. The total distance travelled by all away fans attending games over the Christmas period is estimated at 38,241,406 miles. This is calculated by multiplying the distance each away team will travel over this period by the average away fan attendance in that respective league.
- **Ticket Prices:** Highest price taken for an adult ticket listed on clubs' websites or, where not listed, price was quoted by clubs' ticket office on telephone for match-day tickets.
- **Food and drink:** Costs are based on survey results by league, as reported in ["Door to turnstile – improving travel choices for football fans"](#) (page 15) Campaign for better transport 2013.

RANK (Total Average Cost)	League	Team	Total avg. driving distance (miles)	Total avg. travel time (mix of car and public transport) (minutes)	Total avg. cost for being an away supporter (£)
1	L1	Plymouth Argyle	1,096	1,607	£ 468.43
2	PL	Manchester City	720	828	£ 383.63
3	CH	Fulham	748	859	£ 368.94
4	CH	Norwich City	680	905	£ 342.62
5	L2	Luton Town	457	598	£ 342.53
6	PL	Brighton & Hove Albion	816	888	£ 331.73
7	PL	Swansea City	722	1,064	£ 326.10
8	L1	Charlton Athletic	530	610	£ 312.00
9	PL	Stoke City	492	598	£ 291.64
10	CH	Reading	558	706	£ 284.60
11	CH	Wolverhampton Wanderers	516	633	£ 273.06
12	L1	Shrewsbury Town	543	768	£ 272.33
13	PL	Watford	372	389	£ 268.36
14	PL	Southampton	615	825	£ 264.97
15	L2	Yeovil Town	772	1,113	£ 249.29
16	L2	Colchester United	535	776	£ 248.36
17	L1	Bristol Rovers	537	747	£ 247.69
18	L1	Oxford United	604	830	£ 247.46
19	L2	Barnet	546	720	£ 246.14
20	CH	Sunderland	586	789	£ 240.51
21	L1	Peterborough United	366	542	£ 236.84
22	L1	Northampton Town	458	691	£ 236.62
23	CH	Aston Villa	594	746	£ 231.63
24	PL	Leicester City	413	530	£ 230.46
25	CH	Sheffield Wednesday	435	598	£ 230.25
26	L2	Coventry City	592	839	£ 224.98
27	L2	Newport County A.F.C	358	546	£ 222.37
28	CH	Preston North End	601	802	£ 221.19
29	CH	Derby County	508	673	£ 219.63
30	L2	Notts County	558	846	£ 218.13
31	PL	Tottenham Hotspur	428	490	£ 209.69
32	PL	Everton	720	900	£ 205.68
33	L1	Walsall	412	496	£ 192.70
34	CH	Leeds United	406	531	£ 190.25
35	L2	Crewe Alexandra	415	631	£ 180.77
36	L2	Forest Green Rovers	536	870	£ 178.78
37	L2	Stevenage	392	587	£ 175.56
38	PL	West Ham United	338	472	£ 173.20
39	L2	Mansfield Town	451	746	£ 172.77
40	CH	Brentford	278	329	£ 167.64
41	L2	Accrington Stanley	466	677	£ 166.88
42	PL	West Bromwich Albion	280	312	£ 160.03
43	CH	Bolton Wanderers	414	559	£ 159.08
44	L1	Scunthorpe United	464	808	£ 158.23
45	L2	Lincoln City	228	341	£ 150.61
46	L2	Cheltenham Town	220	413	£ 148.78

47	CH	Queens Park Rangers	185	360	£	141.49
48	L1	Rotherham United	281	511	£	137.36
49	PL	Newcastle United	388	461	£	135.85
50	L2	Wycombe Wanderers	184	338	£	132.17
51	L1	Wigan Athletic	278	380	£	129.14
52	PL	Arsenal	269	408	£	128.61
53	PL	Burnley	113	364	£	124.17
54	CH	Cardiff City	298	337	£	117.76
55	L2	Carlisle United	348	520	£	115.48
56	L2	Swindon Town	155	245	£	115.33
57	CH	Millwall	238	349	£	115.03
58	CH	Bristol City	204	265	£	113.90
59	L1	AFC Wimbledon	251	437	£	111.57
60	CH	Birmingham City	224	278	£	109.96
61	L1	Fleetwood Town	225	611	£	104.43
62	L2	Crawley Town	294	419	£	102.87
63	CH	Ipswich Town	240	281	£	101.98
64	CH	Middlesbrough	242	386	£	99.92
65	PL	Huddersfield Town	192	232	£	95.85
66	CH	Barnsley	224	350	£	93.66
67	L2	Grimsby Town	294	385	£	93.61
68	L1	Milton Keynes Dons	86	279	£	92.48
69	CH	Hull City	210	301	£	90.67
70	CH	Nottingham Forest	153	237	£	89.08
71	L1	Oldham Athletic	192	293	£	87.60
72	L1	Doncaster Rovers	173	200	£	86.78
73	L1	Rochdale	169	399	£	85.50
74	L2	Chesterfield	152	283	£	79.60
75	L1	Portsmouth	244	318	£	70.54
76	PL	AFC Bournemouth	190	292	£	70.39
77	L1	Bury	174	292	£	68.90
78	PL	Crystal Palace	182	245	£	67.80
79	CH	Burton Albion	116	194	£	67.37
80	L2	Exeter City	189	266	£	65.16
81	PL	Liverpool	105	218	£	61.97
82	CH	Sheffield United	82	129	£	56.88
83	PL	Manchester United	68	156	£	56.81
84	L1	Blackburn Rovers	174	307	£	54.80
85	L1	Bradford City	169	345	£	54.68
86	PL	Chelsea	20	101	£	54.63
87	L1	Blackpool	94	303	£	50.42
88	L1	Southend United	145	234	£	49.93
89	L2	Cambridge United	133	267	£	49.48
90	L2	Port Vale	114	241	£	48.93
91	L1	Gillingham	59	114	£	43.62
92	L2	Morecambe	91	206	£	42.89