

Press Release

17 April 2008

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CHEAPER ADVANCE FARES AND SIMPLER TICKETS FOR CROSSCOUNTRY CUSTOMERS

From Sunday 18 May 2008, CrossCountry is introducing a number of changes to its fares including significant reductions for tickets purchased in advance.

Customers have been quick to recognise the discounts available by booking their journey early and using CrossCountry's new website 'crosscountrytrains.co.uk'. From May, customers are able to make even greater savings on many journeys in both First Class and Standard accommodation. These tickets can be purchased up to 6pm the day before travel, subject to availability which will vary depending on the time of travel, with more offered in off-peak periods when trains are less busy.

Examples of new prices for single Advance fares include:

From	To	Old cheapest price	New cheapest price
Birmingham	Manchester	£8.00 Standard £26.00 First Class	£5.50 Standard £13.50 First Class
Birmingham	Derby	£5.00 Standard £10.50 First Class	£3.00 Standard £7.50 First Class
Plymouth	Edinburgh	£26.00 Standard £50.00 First Class	£17.50 Standard £46.00 First Class
Wolverhampton	Reading	£9.00 Standard £31.50 First Class	£7.50 Standard £17.00 First Class

For those wishing to enjoy First Class travel, CrossCountry is introducing a new First Class off-peak ticket, the First Saver Return, at prices well below the normal fare.

First Class and Standard single and period return fares will see a small increase averaging 3.1%, and there will be some changes to ticket conditions to make discounted tickets available on less crowded trains.

- CrossCountry is bringing its ticket restrictions into line with those of other long-distance train operators. On weekdays from 18 May, all Saver tickets will only be valid for travel after

9:30am, and Cheap Day Return tickets will be available for travel after 9:30am and not between 3:30pm and 6:15pm. These simple ticket restrictions replace over 20 different confusing conditions that presently apply.

- For most journeys under 50 miles CrossCountry is removing period returns and replacing them with day return tickets in the same way as those provided by other train operators

Standard Season Tickets, Savers, Cheap Day and Standard Day return tickets are not increased and Group travel products and Weekend Upgrades also remain unaltered.

Commenting David Watkin, CrossCountry's Commercial Director, said: "These new advance fares offers huge savings for customers able to book in advance and be flexible about the time they travel.

"Like most train operators we can suffer crowding at peak times on some services, but have spare capacity in the off-peak. Also, too often customers tell us the fares system is complicated and confusing. These measures make it clear when reduced price off-peak tickets can be used and will decrease discounted travel at peak times when our trains are already very busy."

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**Please find notes to Editors, CrossCountry facts and figures on the following page.
For more information please contact the CrossCountry Press Office on 0121 654 7010.**

Notes to editors

CrossCountry summer Saturday HST services are as follows:

09:41 Newcastle – Newquay
09:40 Newquay – Newcastle
24 May to 6 September (inclusive)

07:24 Manchester – Newquay
15:22 Newquay – Manchester
24/31 May and from 5 July to 30 August (inclusive)
On other summer Saturdays, these trains will be formed of Voyagers.

07:35 Bristol Temple Meads – Paignton
10:32 Paignton – Newcastle
24/31 May and from 5 July to 22 August (inclusive)
On other summer Saturdays, these trains will be formed of Voyagers.

CrossCountry started operating on 11 November 2007. The franchise, which is the most extensive in the UK, will run until 31 March 2016. For further information on CrossCountry services and future franchise plans log on to www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk

CrossCountry facts and figures

STATIONS SERVED: 133

ROUTE MILES: 1,654

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 288

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,800

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: Penzance to Dundee (701 miles)

CrossCountry is part of the Arriva group which operates transport services in ten European countries, employs more than 37,000 people and provides more than one billion passenger journeys every year. For more information about the Arriva group visit www.arriva.co.uk

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