

Brighton Area Buswatch



Working in partnership with Bus Users, the national charity representing bus passengers

Buswatch News – May 2022



Photo courtesy of Brighton & Hove Buses

Enjoy the holiday weekend by bus

With the Queen's Platinum Jubilee holiday weekend approaching and half term this week, there are plenty of opportunities for trips out by bus from Brighton and some good deals on fares for families and groups.

Here are some examples from Brighton. All services operated by [Brighton & Hove Buses](#) except where marked*

- Route 2 to Shoreham, continuing hourly to the South Downs Way and Steyning. There are also fine views around Warren Road in Woodingdean (also on route 2).
- Routes 7, 21, 21A & 23 to Brighton Marina with its cafés, bars and shops. The 7 runs every 8 minutes daily, 21, 21A & 23 are mostly half hourly.
- Coaster 12, 12A 12X run frequently from Brighton Station to Newhaven, Seaford, Seven Sisters and Eastbourne.
(top tip - if making a long trip, the Limited Stop 12X is up to 20 minutes quicker than the 12A).
- Tourist Trail 13X to Birling Gap, Beachy Head and Eastbourne. This replaces the 12X on Sundays and Public holidays, every half hour.
- *[Stagecoach](#) 17 to Horsham – a lovely country journey through Henfield. Hourly (no service Sundays or public holidays)

- Coaster Local 27 (Westdene Park & Ride – Brighton – Rottingdean – Saltdean) for a local ride across Brighton with some scenic views and a seafront section between the Palace Pier and Rottingdean. Every 15-20 minutes.
- Regency routes 28 & 29 to Lewes, then 29 to Uckfield and Tunbridge Wells (frequent to Lewes, half hourly to Uckfield and hourly to Tunbridge Wells)
- Breeze Up to The Downs 77 to Devil's Dyke – always a favourite, running every 45 minutes on Public holidays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- Breeze Up to the Downs route 78 to Stanmer Park, every 70 minutes, Public holidays, Saturdays and Sundays. (frequent route 25 also passes Stanmer Park entrance, daily)
- Breeze Up to the Downs route 79 to Ditchling Beacon, every 70 minutes on Public holidays, Saturdays and Sundays
- *[Metrobus](#) routes 270, 271, 272 to Pycombe (for Jack & Jill windmill and South Downs Way), Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath. 270 continues to East Grinstead (for Bluebell Line Railway) hourly. The 271 & 272 continue to Crawley with route 272 serving Wakehurst Place and Turners Hill. Each route every 2 hours, hourly to Haywards Heath. No Sunday or public holiday service on 272.
- *[Metrobus](#) 273 to Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint, Bolney, Pease Pottage and Crawley, roughly every 2 hours. No service Sundays or public holidays
- *[Stagecoach](#) Coastliner 700 to Worthing, Goring and Littlehampton with connections to Chichester and Portsmouth. Every 12 minutes, every 20 minutes on Sundays and public holidays.

As explained last month, fares can be complicated so it is best to check bus company websites. For those travelling in a group on Brighton & Hove Buses the best value is a family ticket which costs £11 on the bus or £9 in advance on the app for up to five people including two adults. If using several operators a Family Discovery ticket may be best value at £17.50.

From Saturday 28th May until Sunday 5th June Stagecoach is bringing back its school holiday group DayRider offer. Up to four people (max of two adults) can travel all day from £5. Remember to pay on the bus, bought in advance on the app the price is £9!

11X is back for the summer

The popular service which began in 2019 has been missing for the past couple of years so it is very reassuring to see it returning. You can catch the 11X from the same stops as the 12X & 13X in Brighton, Rottingdean, Peacehaven and Newhaven. Buses then go direct along the A26 and A27 to [Drusillas](#), [Charleston Farm House](#), and [Middle Farm](#). It continues to Wilmington, Polegate, Eastbourne District General Hospital, the town centre and Eastbourne Pier. The service starts from 12 June and will operate every Sunday and Public Holiday.

There are 3 journeys which operate each way, departing Brighton at 0900, 1220 and 15.45 or from Eastbourne at 1040, 1400 and 1725, [click here to view the timetable](#). We have received requests for the 11X bus to stop at Southease Station where the South Downs Way crosses the A26. We passed these requests on to Brighton & Hove Buses and the highway authority, but alas without success, so far. This is a little surprising as rail replacement buses do stop there.

Weekly Tap On Tap Off promotion extended

The £19 promotional Contactless cap for adults continues until at least 26th June, saving up to £10 on the price of a weekly scratchcard, £6 on an app based Network Saver ticket and £3.75 on the cost of a weekly City Saver ticket. This may be the best option for those travelling outside a group. There are also discounts available for two people travelling together. Best to check the [Brighton & Hove Buses](#) website

Route 12 is the best bus in the world!

High praise indeed from Radio and TV personality and former Communards band member Rev Richard Coles who has recently moved to Friston. He has become a regular user, commending not just the outstanding views from the top deck but the 10-minute daytime frequency. Richard was recently interviewed in the media, including ITV News Meridian, along with other regular users and Ed Wills, MD of Brighton & Hove Buses.

Big Lemon Sunday walks are back

Each year The Big Lemon organises a series of country walks. They are about 5-7 miles in length, lasting about 3-4 hours and ending at a country pub for lunch. A bus leaves the Old Steine at 10am, returning around 4pm and the cost is around £10 for adults or £5 for children. The next walks are:

Sunday 5 June – The Cuckoo trail

Sunday 26 June – Friston Forest and the Long Man of Wilmington

Sunday 24 July – Pevensey Levels and Herstmonceux

Sunday 21 August – Ditchling Beacon and Blackcap

Sunday 11 September – Pulborough Brooks and Amberley

Sunday 30 October – Cissbury and Chanctonbury Ring

[The Big Lemon](#) is inviting people to join them at their newly enlarged site in Boundary Road, East Brighton, near Marine Gate on Thursday 9 June to see their plans for a zero emission hub in Brighton. Please contact The Big Lemon to book.

Brighton Line Commuters folds

Sadly this long standing rail users group is closing down. It began as a social group back in the 1970s when trains had buffet cars. Members developed a good relationship with train operators and took on issues of concern to local rail users. Brighton Line Commuters had a weekly column in the Argus during the 1990s. The group has been led for many years by Shelley Atlas who often attends Buswatch meetings and has always been very helpful when rail related issues arise. We wish her well.

Brighton Area Buswatch meetings

The next public meetings with Brighton & Hove City Council and bus company managers will be on Wednesday **6 July** at 4.30pm in rooms 2 & 3, at **Brighton Town Hall**, followed by Wednesday 12 October. Numbers are restricted so please e mail Buswatch at the address below if you would like to attend or raise an issue.

Buswatch News is produced and edited by Andrew Boag, Chair, Brighton Area Buswatch. Contributions and suggestions are always welcome.

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