

'I save £3k a year by renting Monday to Friday' - Commuters renting mid-week digs to dodge sky-high rail fares

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Rail fare hikes and a crowded carriages mean commuters are increasingly considering an option that would once have seemed an extravagance - renting additional accommodation near to work for just the working week.

According to statistics, the average London commuter spends 75 minutes travelling to work each day – and this can be considerably longer for some.

At the same time, season ticket prices are rising faster than inflation and run to several thousands pounds a year for most commuters. When you factor in other potential costs, such as transport to, and parking at, your home station, the figure rises even higher.





Fair swap?: Commuters are avoiding the stress and expense of daily rail travel by renting a place to stay close to work.

The added bonus of cutting of hundreds of hours a year from travelling times is proving enough to persuade some commuters to rent a place to lay their head during the week.

Gill Jones, 55, has been an insurance broker for Lloyds for four years and works in an office near the Tower of London.



Battling commuting costs: Gill Jones pays £4,200 to rent in London - rather than over £7,000 to get the train

She had been used to spending up to five hours a day commuting to and from her home in Norwich but for the last three years has rented a room in a house in South Woodford in East London. She lodges with a landlady and pays £350 a month to use the room.

The cost overall is £4,200 a year. That represents a huge saving on the price of a season ticket on the

Greater Anglia line which had rocketed to more than £7,000. She works out that by living in the capital, she is saving a hefty £3,000 a year.

On top of this, she is 'buying' time – the commute, which she says had taken around five hours a day from Norwich, has been cut down to under an hour from South Woodford.

With a just a Friday night trip back to Norwich and a Sunday evening travel back to the capital to cope with, she is saving 15 hours a week. That's 60 hours a month or a huge 720 hours a year - equivalent to 17 days that would have otherwise been spent sat on a train.

She said: 'It works out from a financial point of view and a personal one. I would have to leave Norwich at 5am to get into work and have the added worry of the train not running properly, which is not good when you have meetings.

'I would get home at 8.30 or 9pm most nights, and if I had to work late I would worry when I would eventually get home.

'I EARN £900 RENTING MY DRIVEWAY'

Drivers can cut the costs of commuter parking and hard-pressed homeowners can boost their income by renting out spaces to commuters – or day-trippers looking for somewhere to park at weekends.

Business is booming with more than 50,000 homeowners regularly renting out their driveways. Prices charged can vary between £1.50 and £20 a day.

The extra money not only comes in handy for households feeling the squeeze, but drivers can benefit by paying half what they would be charged to park at a station. [Read more.](#)

'Renting in London is smooth and the hassle from the daily commute is lost. It's given me a better quality of life and on top of this, the landlady and I have become good friends.'

The set-up works for Gill as the impact on her home life is limited. She is married and has a daughter but her husband works in locations across the country during the week, while her daughter is currently at boarding school.

Gill found her accommodation through MondaytoFriday.com – a website designed for commuters looking to find a place to stay during the working week.

The site lists properties available in central London from £350 a month – £4,200 a year - which compares favourably to the costs of renting a room on a more comprehensive basis. A room in a shared house will typically cost £500-700, while a one bedroom flat would start from £1,000 for the cheapest areas.

Season tickets tipping over £4k in many towns

MondaytoFriday.com boasts that it could save users money on most commutes. For instance, a season ticket between Swindon and London is £8,388, compared to a rented room of £4,200. A season ticket from Northampton to London, a journey of just 60 miles, is £5,016 so renting could save £816.

It is not only London workers suffering sky-high fares to commute. A season ticket from Newcastle to York is £5,480, while Birmingham to Manchester is £4,964.

Read more:

- [MondaytoFriday rooms in Central London](#)