

Dear Friend



- As Adobe PDF: http://www.aptu.org.uk/memberversions/aptunews_20170619.pdf
- As Word: http://www.aptu.org.uk/memberversions/aptunews_20170619.doc

I am pleased to be able to report that Thameslink are in the process of changing their new 'Super Off-Peak' fare so that it is valid from the first Off-Peak train. This is pending a review of the fare structure. Their press release (sent on Friday ~ but I was not near my PC until this evening) has the detail:

Thameslink makes it cheaper for passengers travelling off-peak to London

Thameslink, operated by Govia Thameslink Railway, is altering the timing of its newest train ticket to London to make it cheaper for passengers travelling on the first off-peak trains of the day but avoiding the evening peak when coming home.

Weekday Super Off Peak singles, returns and Travelcard tickets, that had been valid only on trains that arrived in London after 10.55am, will in the coming days be made valid on trains shown below, while a review takes place. These tickets cannot be used to come home during the evening peak, 4.30pm – 7.01pm.

Off Peak tickets remain unchanged and can also be used on the same trains. They cost slightly more but allow passengers to travel home during the evening peak.

Thameslink Passenger Services Director Stuart Cheshire said: "The changes we made in May were good news because they removed the very unpopular evening peak restrictions from the Off Peak tickets, saving passengers in St Albans £5.10 on the full-priced £20 Anytime ticket they had to buy previously and saving passengers in Bedford £11.80.

"They also encouraged passengers to stagger their morning journeys, providing relief for the very busy first off-peak trains.

"However, our rail user groups then told us that people didn't want to wait another 55 minutes in the morning to travel on the new, cheaper Super Off Peak weekday ticket, so we have agreed to remove this restriction while we take another look at passenger loadings."

Arthur Taylor, Chairman of the Bedford Commuters Association said: "We are very pleased that Thameslink has listened to our views and decided to make a Super Off Peak ticket available from the first Off Peak train and we look forward to [inputting into and] discussing the outcome of their review."

Neil Middleton, Chairman of the Association of Public Transport Users commented: "We are very pleased that users of the first off-peak train will now have a choice of fares, including a continuation of the old fare (with the same restrictions on the time of return) and a new fare allowing return at any time that day."

Ends

Notes to editors

The Association of Public Transport Users represents passengers at Thameslink stations from Harlington to West Hampstead Thameslink; the Bedford Commuters Association represents passengers at Flitwick and Bedford.

The cost of return tickets to London Thameslink is shown in the table below:

| Station | Valid from | Off Peak fare - Valid on services arriving no earlier than 10.00am and on evening peak services from London 4.30pm-7.01pm | Former Off Peak fare, renamed Super Off Peak and still not valid on evening peak services 4.30pm-7.01pm |
|-----------|------------|---|---|
| St Albans | 09:29 | £14.90 | £12.30 |
| Harpenden | 09:22 | £17.50 | £14.20 |
| Luton | 09:14 | £19.60 | £15.30 |
| Flitwick | 09:20 | £24.40 | £18.90 |

| | | | |
|---------|-------|--------|--------|
| Bedford | 09:10 | £29.10 | £23.10 |
|---------|-------|--------|--------|

| Station | Fare for passengers travelling Off Peak in the morning but coming home in evening peak, 4.30pm-7.01pm | | |
|-----------|--|----------|--------|
| | Old cost* | New cost | Saving |
| St Albans | £20.00 | £14.90 | £5.10 |
| Harpenden | £24.10 | £17.50 | £6.60 |
| Luton | £28.00 | £19.60 | £8.40 |
| Flitwick | £35.20 | £24.40 | £10.80 |
| Bedford | £40.90 | £29.10 | £11.80 |
| Station | Saving for 1 adult travelling as above with 4 children (Off Peak fare can be used with kids travel for £2) | | |
| | Old cost | New cost | Saving |
| St Albans | £60.00 | £22.90 | £37.10 |
| Harpenden | £72.30 | £25.50 | £46.80 |
| Luton | £84.00 | £27.60 | £56.40 |
| Flitwick | £105.60 | £32.40 | £73.20 |
| Bedford | £122.70 | £37.10 | £85.60 |

* Passengers would have previously needed to buy an Anytime ticket but can now travel on an Off Peak ticket

The Herts Advertiser has an article on the topic: <http://www.hertsad.co.uk/news/thameslink-alternates-ticket-restrictions-for-train-users-from-st-albans-and-harpenden-1-5065958>.

To note

This is not a 'permanent' change and we will be engaging with GTR on the review process and could well be asking for data to support this.

Regards

Neil

Neil Middleton

19 June 2017