

Five Secrets to Saving Money When Renting a Car

When traveling, a rental car can be a great way to get around, especially in a place that does not have great public transportation. However, while there are options when it comes to where you rent a car, you need to be sure that you're not over-paying for services you either don't need or can get for a much lower price. The following five tips are great ways to save money on your rental vehicle:

- 1. Consider your insurance options.** Did you know that if you purchase the rental company's insurance, you could be paying more than 10 times the amount of the corresponding coverage through your existing insurer? Not only that, but if you opt out of the rental insurance, you could cut your entire bill by 30-40 percent. A better alternative, if you buy from a car hire broker, is to purchase insurance through that company. They usually offer much more affordable rates and better coverage.
- 2. Know your fuel options.** Each rental company is different, and so are their gas prices. Sometimes, it may be cheaper for you to fill up your gas tank before returning the rental. Other times, it's less expensive to allow the rental company to fill the tank once you return it. Before you rent a vehicle, you should know the price of gas in the area and ask what the rental company will charge per gallon. It's as simple as comparing the two prices, and it can save you upwards of \$50.
- 3. Choose the smallest car you can afford.** In the United States, most rental companies order more mid-size and full-size cars than compacts, because Americans love those big gas-guzzlers. What does this mean for you? Often times, if you've reserved a compact, the rental company may be out of them, which will force them to give you a free upgrade. Many times, you'll move up two categories for no additional charge. If you prefer to save money and you don't have a lot of baggage, selecting the compact size can save you a large sum up-front as well.
- 4. Pick up and drop off at the same location.** It is common for rental companies to charge you an extra fee if you drop off your vehicle at a different location than where you picked it up. If you're planning on a one-way rental trip, make sure you ask in advance about these fees, and if at all possible, try to drop your car off at the same location where you picked it up.
- 5. Be flexible with dates.** Just like with flying, flexibility in your travel dates can help you save money. A lot of rental companies have special offers depending on the length of your rental and what days you're traveling. Check with your rental company to find out more about these deals.

Securing a rental car for a great rate can make your vacation or trip that much more enjoyable. Before you travel, make sure you do your research and ensure your costs are kept as low as possible. And, if you're looking for a great car hire broker, visit

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