Advantages and Disadvantages of Renting a Car When You Travel

Let's start with the advantages and disadvantages of renting a car when you travel.

Advantages of renting a car when traveling:

- You'll enjoy much more latitude in where you can travel.
  A rental car will give you the personal and reliable transportation you need to travel wherever you like, far further away from the hotel or resort than you would have been able to otherwise. Having your own wheels will make taking day trips (and especially day trips at your own pace) much easier. If you're traveling somewhere where there are many spots for day trips within driving distance, a rental car is an especially good idea.
- You can follow your own pace when exploring your destination.
  Having a rental car means that you get to decide when you go to visit each spot and landmark in your destination. If you don't have your own wheels, you might find it annoying to have to go along with the pace of an organized tour or have to get to know public transportation schedules. Also, if you go to a day trip destination and find that you want to stay longer, you can (as long as you can find accommodations, of course).
- The only travel expenses you'll have within your destination will be that of your rental car and gas.
  Renting a vehicle will mean that you won't have to pay for organized tours transport or public transportation.

Potential disadvantages of renting a car when traveling:

- Renting a vehicle will significantly increase the cost of your vacation.
  You'll have to make the cost of the rental vehicle part of your vacation budget. Depending on how much money you have to play with, this might mean having to cut back on other parts of your getaway. Sit down and really examine your priorities for the vacation, and find out everything you can about the destination and whether or not a rental car would be best for you and your personal goals while away. Take a look at your accommodation costs, food costs, and the cost of admission to the tourist attractions you want to visit. Remember to keep an adequate budget for any extras and emergencies, too. Travel is usually full of surprises, no matter how well you plan. So make sure that your budget is more than ample for what you plan.
- Parking might be a hassle.
  Renting a car will mean you will need to find a place you can park it at your accommodations. Make sure to discuss this and make arrangements you're your hotel in advance. There may be a daily fee attached to this. Also be aware that parking might also come with a fee in many different tourist areas. You don't want to feel like you spent your whole vacation searching for parking spaces, so make sure to find out what the situation will be in your destination.
- It's possible that you will find you don't really need a vehicle.

If you rent a car, you might find that you don't need it after you get there. This might especially be the case if your destination has lots of reasonably priced organized tours and top-notch public transportation. So make sure you do your research and find out in advance whether a rental car is actually needed.

- Renting a car always involves a level of risk.
  If you rent a car, you are taking the risk that you might get into an accident or somehow cause damage to the vehicle. This is why you must ensure that you are covered by insurance. Check to see if your insurance for your primary vehicle covers rental vehicles as well, and how extensive the coverage is. If it doesn't, you will need to purchase insurance from the car rental company.

As we can see, whether or not renting a car will be a good idea depends on your specific needs, budget, and the circumstances of your planned vacation.

Types of Car Rental Companies

There are two different kinds of car rental company. Let's go over them below.

- Companies that own cars and operate local rental counters: This type of rental car company is the type that most of us are most familiar with. The company owns the vehicles that it rents out, and it operates local rental counters in different areas for people to pick up and drop off cars.
- Brokers who allow you to compare rates between companies: Finding a car rental broker with an excellent reputation is often a fantastic choice for travelers. This is because rental brokers have the volume and leverage to negotiate for better prices from rental car companies for their consumer clients, who are often renting a vehicle for a longer period of time than a business client who may just need the car for one day. A reputable car rental broker will be able to get you a lower price and the rental price you are quoted should include all the extra charges. If you have ever rented directly from a rental car company before, you know that the total price can end up being as much as double what you are quoted. The type of all-inclusive car rental packages offered by good brokers could make planning your vacation budget much less stressful.

Types of Rentals

- Round Trip: A round trip rental means that you will pick up and return the vehicle at the same destination. For example, if you were renting a car while in Paris, France, you would pick up the rental car in Paris, France and then drop if off in the same location after you were done with it at the end of your trip.
- One Way: A one-way rental means that you will pick up the rental car at one place and then drop it off at another. An example of a one-way car rental would be if you rented a car to take a road trip within Spain. You would pick it up in one location in Spain and then arrange to drop it off in another part of the country, after your road

trip is over. With a one-way rental, you might want to fly in to one part of the country and then fly out from another far away. This is a fantastic way to give you a thorough experience of the country as a whole.

- International: This means that you drive your rental car across an international border and drop it off in another country. An example of this would be if you rented a car in France and arranged to drive it to Spain and drop it off there.

Rental Car Classes

There are a number of different rental car classes. You should learn about each to decide which one will be best for you and your journeys. Remember to keep in mind how many people you will be traveling with and make inquiries to ensure that the vehicle you choose will comfortably fit everyone.

Mini/Small/Sub-Compact/Compact/Economy: If you want a practical and fuel-efficient car, think about renting a vehicle in the mini/small/sub-compact/compact/economy categories. This is an ideal solution for many travelers on a budget. Keep in mind, though, that there will be limited legroom and much less space for luggage and other things during your journeys on the road.

Midsize: If you want a bit more space and comfort but still don't want to break a limited budget, think about renting a midsize car. This will give you more room than a compact or economy car for luggage, as well as more legroom. You can probably fit at least three mid-sized suitcases or bags in this car while leaving plenty of room elsewhere.

Full Size: A full-size car is a great option for travelers who want more space for luggage and more comfort and space overall than they would find in compact/economy and midsize options. You should have room in the car to easily bring along four medium-sized bags.

SUV: If you want more space than a car can provide, check out options for renting an SUV. You'll find that an SUV provides lots more space, providing great leg room and ample space for luggage and other things for your trip on the road. An SUV is an especially good choice if you will be taking part in activities that require equipment (such as skiing).

Van: A van might be exactly what you need if you're traveling with a larger group of the whole family. A van will give you lots of room to spare, helping to make your road journeys more comfortable and relaxing for everyone (especially kids). A van will give everyone room to keep things to amuse them on the road (such as games), as well as space for a great deal of luggage.

Pickup: There may be certain circumstances under which one might want to rent a pickup truck. If you think this might be for you, keep in mind that there won't be much legroom and probably won't be practical for most road trips.

Premium/Luxury/Exotic: If you have an ample budget and really want to make your trip one you'll always remember, you could even consider renting a luxury, premium, or exotic car. If you're traveling to Europe, this will be especially exciting as there is such a range of famous premium cars available there.

Hybrid or Electric: If you're considering renting a hybrid or electric car, do your due diligence to ensure that you will have the necessary facilities to keep the car running.