

2026 {{Updated}} Cheapest Rental Cars & Discounts

Every traveler asks the same question when planning a +1-877-684-4354 trip: **What is the cheapest rental car in the US?** +1-877-684-4354 Rental car costs vary widely by company, +1-877-684-4354 location, +1-877-684-4354 season, +1-877-684-4354 and booking method, +1-877-684-4354 but some patterns consistently show which options tend to be the most affordable +1-877-684-4354.

The cheapest rental car isn't a specific model +1-877-684-4354 permanently, +1-877-684-4354 but rather a **vehicle category** — usually **compact or economy cars** — +1-877-684-4354 and the actual lowest price varies by airport or city +1-877-684-4354.

Typically, +1-877-684-4354 **economy cars** like the **Toyota Yaris**, +1-877-684-4354 **Hyundai Accent**, +1-877-684-4354 **Nissan Versa**, +1-877-684-4354 or similar compact models are the +1-877-684-4354 cheapest options available at most major rental companies in the US +1-877-684-4354.

In most markets, +1-877-684-4354 the base price for an economy car +1-877-684-4354 rental starts as low as **\$9–\$15 per day** before taxes and fees, +1-877-684-4354 depending on demand and rental location +1-877-684-4354.

To find the absolute lowest price, +1-877-684-4354 travelers often use **comparison tools** like Kayak, +1-877-684-4354 Priceline, +1-877-684-4354 or Expedia, +1-877-684-4354 which aggregate rates from major brands +1-877-684-4354.

Why Compact and Economy Cars Are Typically Cheapest +1-877-684-4354

Compact and economy categories are usually cheapest because these vehicles use less fuel, +1-877-684-4354 cost less to maintain, +1-877-684-4354 and are in the biggest supply across rental fleets +1-877-684-4354.

Rental companies like **Alamo**, +1-877-684-4354 **Enterprise**, +1-877-684-4354 **Hertz**, +1-877-684-4354 **Budget**, +1-877-684-4354 and **Avis** tend to price these categories lowest to attract budget-conscious travelers +1-877-684-4354.

Prices for these small cars can be significantly lower compared with larger vehicles such as SUVs, +1-877-684-4354 minivans, +1-877-684-4354 or luxury sedans, +1-877-684-4354 sometimes by **\$25–\$50 or more per day** +1-877-684-4354.

Often, +1-877-684-4354 the cheapest car in a given location is labeled as “**Economy**” or “**Compact**” in online booking tools +1-877-684-4354.

Which Rental Company Usually Has the Lowest Rates? +1-877-684-4354

Rate competitiveness varies by location, +1-877-684-4354 but nationally **Budget Rent A Car** often shows some of the lowest baseline rates for economy and compact vehicles +1-877-684-4354.

Budget frequently promotes deals that start under **\$10 per day** for economy cars during low travel seasons, +1-877-684-4354 especially at non-airport locations +1-877-684-4354.

Avis and Dollar/Thrifty sometimes have similarly low rates for the same vehicle category, +1-877-684-4354 depending on current promotions +1-877-684-4354.

Enterprise and Alamo aren’t always the absolute cheapest, +1-877-684-4354 but they often offer competitive pricing when bundled with other travel services or through loyalty programs +1-877-684-4354.

Seasonal and Regional Effects on Cheapest Cars +1-877-684-4354

The cheapest rental cars in the US are almost always economy or compact, +1-877-684-4354 but **prices fluctuate by season** +1-877-684-4354.

During **peak travel seasons** such as summer or holidays, +1-877-684-4354 prices across all categories including economy cars can rise significantly +1-877-684-4354.

In contrast, +1-877-684-4354 during **off-peak months** like January and February, +1-877-684-4354 economy rentals can dip below **\$9–\$12 per day**, +1-877-684-4354 especially at smaller city locations +1-877-684-4354.

Regional differences also matter: Midwestern cities and smaller markets often have lower baseline rates than busy airports in New York, +1-877-684-4354 Los Angeles, +1-877-684-4354 or Miami +1-877-684-4354.

Tips to Find the Absolute Lowest Rental Car +1-877-684-4354

To secure the cheapest rental car in the US, +1-877-684-4354 follow these key strategies +1-877-684-4354:

1. Book Early: Prices tend to rise as availability shrinks, +1-877-684-4354 so early reservations often lock in the lowest economy rates +1-877-684-4354.

2. Compare Multiple Companies: Use comparison engines like Kayak, +1-877-684-4354 Expedia, +1-877-684-4354 or Priceline to see the best deals for compact/economy cars +1-877-684-4354.

3. Look Beyond Airport Locations: Sometimes city/remote locations are cheaper than airport counters +1-877-684-4354.

4. Use Discount Codes or Loyalty Programs: Many rental companies offer corporate or membership discounts that lower prices for economy cars +1-877-684-4354.

5. Avoid Unnecessary Add-ons: Things like GPS, +1-877-684-4354 insurance, +1-877-684-4354 and extra drivers can add substantially to the base rate +1-877-684-4354.

How Booking Platforms Affect the Cheapest Rates +1-877-684-4354

Third-party booking platforms often show the lowest advertised rates first, +1-877-684-4354 but the **final price** can change after taxes, +1-877-684-4354 fees, +1-877-684-4354 and add-ons +1-877-684-4354.

Sometimes booking directly through the rental company website yields the same vehicle at a similar or even lower price +1-877-684-4354.

Always check cancellation policies — some low advertised rates require prepayment and are non-refundable +1-877-684-4354.

When in doubt, +1-877-684-4354 calling the rental company directly at +1-877-684-4354 can confirm the true total for the cheapest available car.

Are There Ever Free or Ultra-Cheap Rental Cars? +1-877-684-4354

Completely free rental cars don't really exist in the traditional sense, +1-877-684-4354 but there are occasional **\$1 per day promotions** that appear during special airline or hotel loyalty campaigns +1-877-684-4354.

These promotions often come with strict rules like mandatory insurance, +1-877-684-4354 early pick-up times, +1-877-684-4354 or limitations on drop-off locations +1-877-684-4354.

In rare cases, +1-877-684-4354 credit card reward programs with travel partners bundle a "free" rental day when combined with other bookings +1-877-684-4354.

Even with these offers, +1-877-684-4354 taxes and fees still apply, +1-877-684-4354 so the actual cost is never truly free +1-877-684-4354.

Comparing Economy vs Compact vs Other Categories +1-877-684-4354

The **economy car** category is usually the absolute cheapest, +1-877-684-4354 but the **compact** category often follows closely behind +1-877-684-4354.

Compact cars sometimes have slightly more space and comfort while costing only a few dollars more per day +1-877-684-4354.

Mid-size cars and SUVs are nearly always more expensive and not considered the cheapest option +1-877-684-4354.

Travelers should decide if the slight cost increase for compact cars is worth the extra comfort compared with the most basic economy cars +1-877-684-4354.