



GUIDE TO RENTING AN EXOTIC CAR

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
Why Should You Rent an Exotic Car?	3
How to Find a Good Exotic Car Company?	5
What Kind of Exotic Car Should You Rent?	7
How Old Should You Be to Rent an Exotic Car?.....	8
What Are the General Fees Involved in Taking an Exotic Car on Rent?	10
Are There Any Hidden Fees?	11
What Type of Gas Should You Put Into an Exotic Car?	13
Till What Time Can You Keep Your Rented Exotic Car?	14
What Do You Need to Know About Insurance for Exotic Cars?	15
Tips for When Driving a Fast Car	16
Driver and Passenger Safety When Driving a Fast Car.....	17
What Happens If You Get Into an Accident With Your Rented Exotic Car?	19
What Are the Average Rental Prices for Exotic Cars in Different Cities?.....	21
Summary.....	22

Introduction

What is an exotic car? Is it a Bentley Continental GT, a Mayback Guard or a Rolls-Royce Phantom? Or is it an Aston Martin Vantage Roadster, a Lamborghini Gallardo or a Maserati GrandTurismo? The thing is, these are all exotic cars (for a complete list of exotic cars, please [click here](#).)

Renting an exotic car can cost several hundred dollars, thousands even. But it is a small amount if you compare it to how much you would have to pay if you want to buy the car.

There are many occasions for which you might like to rent an exotic car. It could be an anniversary, a marriage or even a work trip. Maybe you just want to get a feel of how the vehicle handles before you buy it. It could even be that you want to go out in style somewhere or that you want to impress a special someone.

The simplest reason could be that you just want to experience the excitement and thrill that comes with driving a luxury car, something only a few people do in their lives.

One person who had rented a Lamborghini Gallardo said that when he got behind the wheels and drove the car it to the highway, he realized that the car was worth every penny he had paid and that he could have paid even more to rent the car. He said the first few miles were pure bliss and that he felt like a mega star from Hollywood. When he finally stopped the car to get some coffee, he was still feeling the adrenaline rush. He said it was a lot of fun and recommends that people should drive a luxury car at least once in their lifetime.

Why Should You Rent an Exotic Car?

There are so many reasons why you should drive an exotic car over a standard car. The best thing is, you do not need to own an exotic car to drive it. If you have always wanted to go on a spin in an Aston Martin or a Bentley, just rent it for a few days. It is an exhilarating feeling and you will not regret it. Thanks to rental schemes, your dream can be a reality.

Advantages of renting an exotic car

Exotic car rental companies have broken the glass ceiling and now anyone who has a license and valid insurance can drive one. These cars are some of the finest examples of man-made engineering marvels on the planet. They come with the finest accessories. The driving experience in these cars is in another league altogether. It is actually a privilege to drive such a car.

✦ **You will join an exclusive club**

There is no doubt that exotic cars are exclusive. Most people would not have even seen a Bentley or a Maserati, let alone drive one. But for a small rental fee, you can drive them and join the exclusive club of those who have driven such cars.

✦ **The experience of driving the car compensates for the rental fee**

If you compare the rental fee to how much you would have to pay to buy the exotic car, it might not seem that bad. It is another thing if you want to drive a Rolls-Royce Phantom, but if you are willing to settle for something lesser, you can actually drive decent exotic cars for less than \$1,000 per day.

✦ **The cars will be in top shape**

Exotic car rental companies keep their cars in top shape because they are targeting a different kind of customer. Musicians, traveling diplomats, celebrities cannot take their cars with them, so they prefer to rent exotic cars. They would want the car they rent to be in perfect shape. Therefore, exotic car rental companies spend a lot of time maintaining these vehicles.

✦ **A complementary crash course in driving the car**

You may also receive a crash course in driving the car. For example, the Lamborghini Aventador has gear shift paddles behind the steering wheel. If you are used to a driving stick or automatic, you will have trouble getting the Lamborghini Aventador to move.

Or take the example of the Lamborghini Gallardo Superleggera. If you want to experience true braking, you must press the left leg brake pedal on this car. The brakes on this car are unparalleled. The slightest push of the brake pedal will send all passengers in the car pitching forward.

In order to help first-time drivers overcome such hurdles, many exotic car rental companies offer quick crash courses on how to handle the car. This is useful because it helps you get a feel of the vehicle and is bound to improve your driving experience.

✦ **Driving an exotic car is a lot of fun**

Just think about all the looks of envy you will get from bystanders and other drivers. In fact,

this is one of the reasons why many people invest in exotic cars. These looks will make up for the rental fee you may have paid.

Now that we have gone over the benefits, let us consider how to choose an exotic car rental company.

How to Find a Good Exotic Car Company?

Now that you have decided to rent an exotic car, the next step is to select a exotic car rental company. Unfortunately, there are many shady exotic car rental companies out there that just want your money. How would you separate the chaff from the grain here? Here are a few tips.

✦ Check if the company owns the car that it has advertised

Some exotic car rental companies are basically brokers or middlemen for the actual owners of the cars being advertised. They may not own the car, which means that they may not be responsible for its maintenance either. Since they are just renting the cars out on behalf of the owners or getting it from other rental companies, they would not be as interested in customer service as a bonafide exotic car rental company.

✦ Stock photographs on the website

Many exotic car rental companies have stock images on their websites. It may so happen that they do not even have the car. Look for a exotic car rental company that has put up actual photographs of its fleet on its website.

✦ **Visit the showroom or car yard and check the car in person**

When you are searching on the internet, you may come across companies that have not listed their address. It is usually because they do not have an address. Some of these 'companies' may even be operating from homes. A good exotic car rental company will have a showroom where all the cars are displayed. To be doubly sure that you are dealing with a proper company, visit the showroom to see the car in person.

✦ **Wide range of choices**

Not everyone may be able to pay a rental fee of \$1750 a day for a Ferrari 458 Italia. The company you intend to rent a car from should offer a number of choices. If they only offer a handful of cars, you may end up renting one even though it does not fit your requirements and/or budget simply because you do not want to make a bad impression..

✦ **Insurance and license**

The rental company must be properly licensed and insured. You may also have to pay a little more for insurance coverage, but in case you ever have an accident, at least you will not be hounded by the exotic car rental company to pay for the damages.

✦ **Complimentary services**

Many exotic car rental companies will go the extra mile for their customers by providing complimentary services. This can range from a complimentary delivery or pick up to a pre-

programmed navigation system. Typically, a good exotic car rental company will do its best to make your rental experience pleasant.

✦ **Transparency**

Some exotic car rental companies advertise very low prices, but when you get there to take delivery of the car, you are suddenly hit by a barrage of obscure taxes and hidden fees, which will raise the cost substantially. Ensure that the exotic car rental quote has all charges in detail.

Next, let us see how to choose an exotic car for rent.

What Kind of Exotic Car Should You Rent?

Unless you live in a big city like New York or Las Vegas, which is home to a significant number of the rich-and-affluent, it would be difficult to find an exotic car rental agency in an average city, that will rent you a super high-end car.

To make profits out of these cars, the exotic rental agency would have receive at least a couple of thousand dollars in rental fees. In this situation, you might have to make do with a relatively cheaper exotic car.

There are many factors that could affect the kind of exotic car that you would choose. Here are some of them.

Your budget

Be ready to shell out a couple of thousand dollars for high-end cars like the Rolls Royce Drophead or the Ferrari 599 GTB. The average cost of renting a Rolls Royce Drophead is \$1750 and this is on the weekdays. The price will almost triple on the weekends.

The occasion

Do you want to rent an exotic car to impress a date? Then you could do with a Lexus IS-F. Is it a special occasion like an anniversary or a wedding? If this is the case, a Lamborghini LP640 Roadster will not do. You would want something more subtle like a Mercedes E class or a BMW 7 Series.

Maybe you already have an exotic car in mind that you always wanted to drive. If this is a one time only wish, do not let the rental price tag stop you.

The thing is, there are many varieties of exotic cars and the customer is literally spoiled for choice. But bear in mind your priorities and budget, and you should be able to shortlist an exotic car that you can rent.

How Old Should You Be to Rent an Exotic Car?

According to data taken from the California Department of Motor Vehicles, a 16 year old is 3.7 times more likely to get involved in a car crash than any other driver. Drivers in the age group of 16-19 years are also 2.7 times more likely to be involved in car crashes than other drivers.

Exotic cars cost a lot of money. That is why exotic car rental agencies have to pay higher insurance on them. So naturally, exotic car rental companies are hesitant about renting cars out to young people.

The age at which an individual becomes eligible for a full driver's license is different in different states. It ranges from 16 years, 6 months in Alabama to 21 years in the District of Columbia. While most car rental agencies will allow you to rent a standard car once you reach the age of 21 years, you might have to turn 25 before you will be allowed to rent an exotic car.

This is probably because of the assumption that older drivers, with their considerably longer driving experience will have the maturity to handle the exotic car in the way it has to be handled.

If you were thinking about taking an exotic car to your prom night, do not despair. Some car rental agencies are flexible with age requirement, provided you are willing to pay a little extra. Some may even arrange for you to be chauffeur-driven in your rented exotic car for an additional fee.

Note that it may not be enough that you are above the required age. Some exotic car rental companies will also check your driving record for any violations before they agree to rent you an exotic car.

What Are the General Fees Involved in Taking an Exotic Car on Rent?

There are many kinds of rental fees that you have to pay on an exotic car. Here are some of them.

Daily rent: The daily rental fee for the car will depend on the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP), the demand for the car, the model year, how long you plan to rent the car and whether it is a weekday or a weekend. Generally speaking, higher the MSRP higher the rental fee. But this does not hold true always. Here is an example.

Gotham Dream Cars is a well known exotic car rental company. The Rolls Royce Drophead has an MSRP of \$427,000. You can get this car from Gotham Dream Cars by paying a rental fee of \$1750 on a weekday. Gotham Dream Cars also has a \$278,000 Ferrari 458 Italia. The rental fee on this car is also \$1750 (on the weekdays).

The rental fee on most exotic cars increases on the weekends. At Gotham Dream Cars, the rental fee on the Ferrari 458 Italia is \$4850 on the weekend, which is nearly three times the weekday rental fee. Note that you will have to pay the weekend rental fee, if you plan to rent the car on Friday.

Some exotic car rental companies also give free miles. These are not exactly free because the rate would have been adjusted in the rental fee. Others do not offer any free miles and so their charges will be lower. If you exceed your daily quota of free miles, you will be charged for every additional mile you travel. This will usually be around \$2/mile.

Delivery and pick up fee: Some exotic car rental companies will also charge a delivery fee, if you want the car delivered to you. Maybe you want the car to pick you up at an airport

or railway station.

The delivery fee may also be waived as a complementary gesture if you are renting the car for a few days or if the rental fee is high. It will depend on the company policy but there is no harm in asking. There is no hard and fast rule and if you are lucky, they might just waive it off, as a goodwill gesture.

If you want the exotic car company to pick up the car from your home or from any other location, you might be able to do so by paying them a pick up fee. Some companies will even deliver the exotic car to a different state, though in this case the company might ask for rental fee upwards of a week.

Refundable security deposit: If you are renting an exotic car, be ready to pay a refundable security deposit. For example, Gotham Dream Cars collects \$7,500 as a refundable security deposit on the \$427,000 Rolls Royce Drophead and only \$2,500 on the Mercedes-Benz S550, which costs \$96,000. The MSRP may be a factor why the company is charging a higher security deposit, but it can also be because the Mercedes-Benz S550 is far more common than the Rolls Royce Drophead.

But be careful here. If you are late, the company may deduct late fees from your refundable security deposit.

Are There Any Hidden Fees?

The rental fees and the delivery/pickup charges are not the only charges that you will be paying on your exotic rental car. Many exotic car companies charge additional fees, apart

from their general fees. These 'hidden' fees may increase the cost of renting the car substantially. Some of these charges are optional (charged per day, for example insurance) while others are surcharges and taxes. Expect your final cost to rise by at least 10%. Here is a small list of hidden fees that you should be aware of.

Optional charges

Loss damage waiver: This is a type of insurance against damage to the vehicle, to property or another person. The exotic car rental company is waiving its right to charge you for any damage to the vehicle.

Personal accident protection: This will cover some medical expenses, ambulance expenses and even death, if you are involved in an accident with your exotic rented car.

Supplemental liability insurance: This cover will give you increased protection, in case you are sued by a person whom you have injured in an accident. It basically safeguards your personal assets and your personal insurance.

Surcharges and taxes

Toll/fuel surcharge: Some states have cashless roads (no option to pay toll through a traditional tollbooth). But it does not mean that you will not have to pay a toll. A camera will capture your exotic car's license number and the state will bill the company for the toll. Therefore, some exotic car companies will also charge toll surcharges.

Sales tax: The sales charge will depend on the state. For example, in the state of New Jersey, the sales tax is 7%. The sales tax is charged on the total of the rental fee, the

delivery and pickup fee, and the fuel toll surcharge.

State surcharge: The state surcharge is calculated on a day to day basis. In New Jersey, it is \$5 per day. Suppose you are renting the exotic car for 5 days, you will be charged \$25 as state surcharge.

What Type of Gas Should You Put Into an Exotic Car?

If your exotic rental car needs premium fuel, the rental company will tell you. Or there might be a placard near the fuel inlet that says, 'Premium Fuel Only'.

Premium fuel is *recommended* for some cars, while it is *required* for others. There is a difference. If it says *recommended*, it means you can use normal fuel, while *required* means you have to use premium fuel.

If you do not use premium fuel where it is *required*, the engine will start knocking. But on the other hand, all modern car engines have knock sensors, especially exotic cars. When this mechanism senses engine knocking, it retards the spark.

But premium gasoline can give you better mileage. Exotic cars are not exactly known for their fuel economies and on some exotic cars it is woefully low. If you are driving long distance, you may actually benefit from using premium gasoline.

Fueleconomy.gov is a website managed by the U.S department of energy. It gives economies for most popular cars. According to the site, the 2013 Bentley Continental GTC (S6) gives a fuel economy of 12 miles per gallon in the city and 19 miles per gallon on the

highway. If you use E85 fuel (85% denatured ethanol and 15% gasoline), you will get 8 miles on the gallon in the city and 14 miles per gallon on the highway.

On the other hand, if you are only renting the exotic car for a day or two and you are not going to be traveling much, you can use normal gasoline and it should not make much of a difference.

Till What Time Can You Keep Your Rented Exotic Car?

The clock will start ticking on your rental period the moment you drive the car away from the exotic car rental company's lot. The rental period is usually for 24 hours. Note that most exotic car companies offer pick up and return services. Some may charge you for this service, but most do not.

If the return time exceeds the start time, the exotic car rental company will bill it as an extra day. The irony is, someone else may have booked the car after you and you will have to return the car, even though the company has charged the full day's rental fee for being late. If you refuse to pay the late fees, the exotic car rental company may deduct it from your security deposit.

Some exotic car companies offer a 59 minute grace period. Sometimes, there are emergencies and you may not be able to return the car at the appointed time. If you return the car within 59 minutes of the expiry of your rental period, you will not be charged any late fees. But this is a complimentary service and not all exotic car rental companies offer it.

Note that different car rental companies have different rules. The best thing to do would be to make inquiries beforehand. It would be futile to regret later that you were not aware of the rental company's rules. If you cannot avoid being late, contact the company and tell them the reason for being late. Maybe they will consider your request.

What Do You Need to Know About Insurance for Exotic Cars?

Exotic cars are expensive and not many insurance companies are willing to insure them. The ones that do, charge a high premium. The exotic car rental company has no option but to pass some of the burden over to the customer. This is because too many collisions may cause the exotic car company's insurance policy for the vehicle to get canceled.

Some exotic car rental companies will perform a background check, credit check and a driver's license check before they agree to rent an exotic car to someone. Others will intentionally hike the security deposit.

The insurance excess on exotic cars is usually large. The insurance excess is the amount you will have to pay if you damage the vehicle after you rent it.

Many exotic car rental companies will ask you to buy additional insurance even if you are covered by your personal insurance company. If you do not purchase this insurance and if your personal insurance coverage is not enough, your application for renting the exotic car might be rejected.

The insurance amount is usually not much and it is common knowledge that accidents cannot be predicted. When you are paying so much money to rent an exotic car, what is a

few more dollars. So it is recommended that you buy this insurance coverage.

Do not forget to read the fine print on your rental agreement. Many people do not read their agreements properly. When they get into accidents, they come to know that they are liable for the damage.

Tips for When Driving a Fast Car

Driving a fast car calls for more responsibility when compared to driving a standard car. The faster the car, the higher the chance of meeting with an accident.

According to StatisticBrain.com, more than 25,000 people from the U.S have died from car crashes in 2012. Many of the victims were driving fast cars. Needless to say, most of these accidents could have been prevented if the drivers had driven more carefully.

Here are a few tips for when you are driving a fast car.

Plan ahead

Most drivers simply keep their eyes on the traffic ahead. When the car or vehicle ahead applies its breaks, they apply their breaks. Make a habit of looking at least two second ahead of the vehicle in front. This way you will be aware of any danger.

Be ready to act quickly

Do not grip the steering wheel too tight. You can avoid getting into accidents if your

reactions are fast enough. Your hand movements should be precise and smooth. This is what race car drivers do. This will prevent the car from rolling over, increasing your chance of keeping control.

Decrease the distance between your body and the steering wheel by a bit

You do not have to go too close. Just an inch or two will do. This way, your elbows will bend a little more. Your arm muscles will fire more rapidly, improving your reaction speed. Do not go too close to the driving wheel (keep a distance of at least 10.5 inches), because otherwise you will be too close to the airbag.

No matter what car you drive, these tips are helpful. If you are going to drive a fast car, be mindful of these tips and use them when you are driving. Do not drive without putting on the seat-belt. Your life could depend on it.

Driver and Passenger Safety When Driving a Fast Car

Whichever car you drive, always be careful and drive safely. It is even more important to drive safely, when you are behind the wheels of an exotic car.

Exotic cars like the Ferrari F430 Spider have a low stance. Their power to weight ratio is also higher. Therefore most exotic cars have better acceleration and handling compared to standard cars. However, the qualities that make these cars such a pleasure to drive can also become their Achilles heel.

For example the increased power makes passing maneuvers on exotic cars easy but it

increases the chance that the car's wheels might lose traction. Loosing traction, even for a few seconds is a very dangerous situation because you may not get a chance to regain control of the vehicle.

Exotic cars usually come with high performance tires. The suspension components on them are also stiffer. This is the reason why exotic cars handle so well on dry roads, but it can be a detriment when the weather is not so good. For example, when it is raining heavily. The firm suspensions on exotic cars do a good job of keeping the car steady when you have to take a strong turn. But they are less compliant when there are imperfections on the road, for instance bumps and potholes.

High performance tires come with treads that improve handling and grip. However, they may not perform when it is raining, or snowing. It can be exhilarating to push a exotic car to its limits, but if you do not heed the limits and go overboard, it can have disastrous consequences.

Here are a few safe driving tips:

The first and foremost safety rule is to always wear seat belts when you drive. Seat belts can really save lives and prevent injuries. All passengers in the car, including those who sit in the rear seat should wear safety belts.

Do not talk on your cell phone when you are driving a fast car. If you have to take the call, use it with a hands-free device. Never take notes or try to find phone numbers when you drive. If you have kids under the age of 13 years, they should sit in the back seat of the car. If you have a toddler or an infant, place them in a safety seat.

Do not drive if you have been drinking alcohol or taking any medications which can make you drowsy. Thousands of people driving under the influence of alcohol are killed in crashes every year.

Always take care when you are changing lanes in a fast car. Avoid haste and give the proper signals when cutting into a lane.

Be very careful when you are driving in bad weather. Heavy rain, fog, snow and ice can decrease visibility on the road, making driving very dangerous. It is better to drive slowly in such weather than to get into an accident and regret it later.

Do not drive too close to the vehicle in front of you. Always maintain a considerable distance between the vehicle in front and your car. If the driver in front brakes or if there is any accident, at least you will have sufficient time to brake.

Follow these tips when you are driving a fast car to ensure your safety and that of your passengers.

What Happens If You Get Into an Accident With Your Rented Exotic Car?

It depends on the state the accident took place in. For example, if you have rented an exotic car in California, you are responsible for any damage to the car regardless of whose fault the accident was. You will also have to pay for any loss of revenue while the car is being repaired.

To save yourself from this liability, you can purchase a Collision Damage Waiver. When you have this waiver, you are relieved from all responsibility when it comes to damage to the car. To claim this waiver, you should have complied with all the rental agreement terms.

The cost of the collision damage waiver will depend on the car, the make and the rental fee. For more details, please check with the exotic car rental company. Note that this waiver will not protect you if your exotic car was stolen because of your failure to exercise ordinary care.

It is also a good idea to check if your personal insurance offers coverage for rental cars. If it does, you will get maximum protection. If there is no such provision, there might be a deductible.

There is another kind of insurance called Renter's Liability Protection. This coverage will protect you from paying for any damage you might have caused with the rental car to a third party's property.

Note that all these optional coverage become void if you engage in

- ✦ Wanton, willful, or intentional reckless behavior with the car.
- ✦ Drive the car under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ✦ Push or tow anything with the car
- ✦ Engage in a speed test, a contest or engage in driver training with the car.
- ✦ Provide the rental company with fraudulent information.
- ✦ Use the car to move hazardous materials.
- ✦ Involve the car in a case which could be charged as a felony.

- ✦ Use the car on an unpaved surface or if the damage to the car resulted from driving conditions or the road.

What Are the Average Rental Prices for Exotic Cars in Different Cities?

Exotic car rental companies like Gotham Dream Cars have branches in many cities. Their rental charges will generally not change from state to state, though the sales tax and the state surcharge might differ. This might influence the final rental fee. For example, in Massachusetts the sales tax is 6.25%, whereas in New York, it is 8.88%. Some states do not charge any sales tax on exotic car rentals.

The charge will change if the rental companies are different. Here is a list of the average rental price for different exotic car companies in three different cities, for one day (data from Gotham Dream Cars). The charges may include pickup and delivery charges. Other charges that may be applied are toll/fuel surcharges, sales tax and state surcharges. Note that the rental fees for some of the cars are the same.

Exotic cars	Rent in Boston	Rent in New York	Rent in Philadelphia
McLaren MP4-12C	\$2791	\$2437	\$2231
Ferrari F430 Spider	\$1882.75	\$1412	\$1376
Lamborghini Gallardo	\$1882	\$1412	\$1376
Maserati GranCabrio	\$1882	\$1412	\$1376
Porsche 911 Carrera 4S Cabriolet	\$1351	\$812	\$876

Summary

If you have ever wanted to drive an exotic car, you can do so by renting it. But nearly all exotic car rental companies rent their cars only to those who have reached the age of 25 years. The rental fees on exotic cars are much higher than standard cars, but it is worth it.

When you sign up, note the rental fees carefully. Ask for a written quote. This is important because apart from the basic rental fees, there might be other hidden fees, which might raise the cost of renting an exotic car substantially. Note that the rental fees will differ from state to state.

But most all, be careful when you drive an exotic car. Do not be rash when you are driving and follow all the rules. Many people have lost their lives or have been severely injured in accidents involving exotic cars. These cars are also very expensive. If you damage the car and if you do not have enough insurance, you may end up paying a lot of money out of your pocket.