



Transportation Mode Comparison

What is the best way to reach your destination? If all other factors (like your preferences) are the same, is it less expensive to travel across the country by plane or car? What about if you're traveling a shorter distance? We can't always predict. A comparison can be insightful and provide up-to-date information.

Try using a comparison worksheet like this one to decide what is the best transportation mode for you. A rental vehicle (like a RV) might be your primary mode of transport or it might supplement your travel; for example, when you fly to a location and then need a car to travel nearby. Before renting a vehicle, ask questions about damage insurance to supplement your auto insurance.

Options:

Travel Destination:

Drive Your Car		Fly		Train/Bus Travel		Rental Vehicle	
Gasoline ¹	\$_____	Airfare	\$_____	Ticket cost	\$_____	Rental fee	\$_____
Vehicle maintenance ²	\$_____	Parking for your car	\$_____	Parking for your car	\$_____	Insurance	\$_____
Food while traveling	\$_____	or		or		Mileage fees	\$_____
(\$_____/per day X # days)		Travel costs to airport	\$_____	Travel costs to station	\$_____	Gasoline	\$_____
Lodging while traveling	\$_____	Baggage fees	\$_____	Baggage fees	\$_____	Food while traveling	\$_____
Parking fees	\$_____	Food while traveling	\$_____	Food while traveling	\$_____	(\$_____/per day X # days)	
(for example, at hotels)		Travel costs from airport to destination, & back	\$_____	(\$_____/per day X # days)		Lodging while traveling	\$_____
Other	\$_____	Other	\$_____	Travel costs from arrival spot to destination, & back	\$_____	Parking fees	\$_____
				Other	\$_____	(for example, at hotels)	
						Other	\$_____
Total							

¹ U.S. Department of Energy, Trip Calculator, <https://www.fueleconomy.gov/trip/>.

² In 2019, AAA estimated that maintenance costs on vehicles ranged between 8.53 cents to 9.60 cents per mile, depending on the vehicle type. Source: <https://exchange.aaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AAA-Your-Driving-Costs-2019.pdf>