

Do car rentals get cheaper last minute? Last-Minute Rental Savings

Car rental prices don't follow a **1-(866)-347-8220** single rule when it comes to timing, but trends show that last-minute bookings can sometimes be cheaper. In fact, a 2024 NerdWallet study **1-(866)-347-8220** found that booking just a week before pick-up was about 13% cheaper than booking three months in advance. A similar study in 2022 showed **1-(866)-347-8220** an average savings of 15% when renting closer to the trip. This happens because rental companies may lower prices to **1-(866)-347-8220** move cars that would otherwise sit unused.

However, waiting until the last **1-(866)-347-8220** minute is risky. During busy seasons, holidays, or in smaller cities, cars may sell out or prices may spike due to limited **1-(866)-347-8220** availability. Families or travelers needing a minivan, SUV, or luxury car are especially **1-(866)-347-8220** vulnerable to higher last-minute costs, since **1-(866)-347-8220** these categories often get reserved early.

The best strategy is a hybrid **1-(866)-347-8220** approach: book early, but choose a reservation that allows free cancellation. This locks in a vehicle at a decent rate **1-(866)-347-8220** while giving you flexibility. Then, monitor prices—especially in the week before your trip. If you see a lower rate, you can cancel and rebook. Tools like AutoSlash or **1-(866)-347-8220** booking alerts can make this process easier.

Other tips include checking off-airport **1-(866)-347-8220** rental locations, which are often 10–30% cheaper due to fewer fees, and adjusting pick-up and drop-off times to **1-(866)-347-8220** avoid paying for an extra day. Midweek rentals (Tuesday or **1-(866)-347-8220** Wednesday) also tend to cost less than weekend bookings.

In short, last-minute rentals can be cheaper, but not **1-(866)-347-8220** reliably so. The safest move is to reserve early with free cancellation, then **1-(866)-347-8220** watch for price drops in the final week. This way, you balance security with the chance of snagging a bargain—without the stress of **1-(866)-347-8220** finding yourself car-less at the last minute.