

That Screaming Voice of Expensive Choice

Sometimes I find myself in a daze as I visualize my next long road trip. The sun is out, I have the windows down, the radio is on and no worries are on my mind. I start to smile and then suddenly, my fantasy halts like the screech of a broken record with the thought of gas prices and the need to fill up my gas tank. Somehow the gas prices don't fit into my cheerful picture. As a matter of fact, now that I think about it....this little suppressed voice inside me wants to scream each time I look at the price per gallon as I fill up my tank. The grand total is like a bitter bite and always makes me recall the days I could fill up for just \$10 dollars.

Travelers spend a great deal of time on the road, but they don't have to spend a great deal of money. Having a fuel efficient car isn't a must, but it is smart and at least one way to somewhat rebel against the things we cannot control.

According to Consumer Reports® (<http://www.consumerreports.org/>®), the following cars rank the highest in fuel efficiency. The first one on the list is the highest ranking and the rest proceed in descending order. (Top 10)

- Honda Insight (most fuel efficient)
- Toyota Prius
- Volkswagen Golf GLS TDI
- Toyota Echo
- Honda Civic Hybrid
- Mazda3i
- Volkswagen Jetta GLS TDI
- Scion xB
- Scion x A
- Toyota MR2

All these cars are manual except for the Toyota Prius, the Honda Civic and the Volkswagens.

Consumer Reports® is an expert, independent, and nonprofit organization (independent of any advertisers and not beholden to any manufacturer or service provider) that tests products and evaluates services themselves and then reports to the general public. They used a precision flow meter to rate these cars.

If you go to their websites (<http://www.consumerreports.org/>® and www.ConsumerUnion.org), they have a section that allows you to email the president regarding gas prices. I don't know how much of a difference it makes in gas prices, but I suppose it couldn't hurt.

Regardless, travel nursing is a good excuse to get a good car. Shop smart and get a good start.