



Car hire Lofoten Islands: our tips and advice

By Floriane

If you're here, you're planning a trip to the **Lofoten Islands**... and frankly, it's a great idea. This archipelago in the north of Norway made a huge impression on us, as much for its landscapes as for the way we discovered it. But one question quickly came to mind: **how do you go about renting a car in Lofoten without making a mistake?**

Between possible airports, price differences depending on the season, sometimes unclear insurance and rental conditions in Norway, it's normal to have a lot of questions:

- where to rent a car in the Lofoten Islands, and especially at which airport?
- what are the pitfalls to avoid when booking?
- is it really necessary to take out supplementary or excess-free insurance?

In this guide, we share everything we've learned in the field about how to **rent a car in the Lofoten Islands with peace of mind**, avoid **unpleasant surprises** and **control your budget**.

Why is renting a car in Lofoten (almost) essential?

So let's get straight to the heart of the matter! Yes, it's possible to visit the Lofoten Islands without a car... but **renting a car in Lofoten changes the whole experience**. It's what allows you to travel without constraint and transform your stay into a real road trip, to the rhythm of the landscapes.

- **Public transport:** although buses exist on the Lofoten Islands, they are clearly limited and impractical for exploring the archipelago. Connections do not serve all sites, and frequencies are low.

And at the height of summer, that's far from anecdotal. Being able to postpone your visits means you can avoid the crowds, especially on the most popular spots. That's what we did when we visited the famous [village of Reine](#) and its emblematic hike. We started the climb at around 7pm, just as most other hikers were heading back down. We finished at night... but with the midnight sun, it was still light out, and best of all, **we were almost alone** at the viewpoint.

- **Take weather constraints into account** : On the Lofoten Islands, the weather clearly plays with your nerves... and with your itineraries. As recounted in our article **on our** [7-day itinerary in the Lofoten Islands](#), on the third day we woke up to a thick mist. In the morning, visibility was almost zero, to the point of completely spoiling the panoramas. Then, without warning, the skies cleared in the afternoon, offering totally different landscapes. With a car, you can easily adapt your route to the weather on a day-to-day basis, because weather applications are not very reliable in Norway as a whole, because the weather is so changeable.

In short, the car offer **total freedom to explore the archipelago**.

□ With a car, you can easily :

- explore the archipelago's [scenic route](#), the A10, at your own pace
- reach the [most beautiful spots](#) and **emblematic villages** scattered across the archipelago
- access to the [archipelago's wildest beaches](#), often far from the main roads
- leave early in the morning or come back late without having to depend on a timetable
- change plans at the last minute depending on light or weather conditions

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Where and when to rent a car in the Lofoten Islands

When you start planning a road trip to the Lofoten Islands, one of the first questions you ask yourself is: **where to rent a car?**

Rent a car directly from the airport

In most cases, renting **a car as soon as you land is clearly the simplest and most economical solution**, as it's generally cheaper to rent at the airport than elsewhere.

➔ The main airports for **car rental in Lofoten** are :

- [Car rental at Svolvær airport](#) Svolvær airport: ideal if you start your trip in the north of the archipelago
- [Car rental at Leknes airport](#) Leknes airport: well-situated for exploring central and southern Lofoten
- [Car rental at Bodo airport Bodo](#) or [Tromsø](#) often less expensive, but located on the mainland

We have compared rental prices on several sites from **Leknes or Svolvær** airports located on the archipelago, and the prices are always higher.

Book early

□ If there's **one car rental tip to remember** (which also applies to [hotels in Lofoten](#)), it's this: **book as early as possible**, especially if you're traveling between June and August.

Anticipating allows :

- more choice of vehicle type
- pay less
- avoid having to adapt your itinerary due to a lack of available cars

What's the best car rental company in Lofoten?

If you've come this far, it's probably to answer a very simple question: **how do you find a good car rental in the Lofoten Islands without making a mistake?** And above all, how to pay the right price without cutting corners on insurance or conditions. We'd like to make it clear right away: **there's no such thing as the perfect rental company for everyone.**

Rather than relying on individual reviews or the name of a particular rental company, the most effective solution is to **compare offers**. Not to choose the cheapest at all costs, but to understand what's really included and make a choice suited to your trip.

Having tried out a number of comparators since we started traveling, this is exactly

why we recommend the [Discover cars comparator](#), and quite honestly, it's saved us an incredible amount of time every time. In just a few clicks, we were able to :

- compare prices between **local** and **international agencies** such as Sixt, Hertz, Avis...
- **check insurance** coverage and deductibles
- avoid **unpleasant surprises** when you collect your car, thanks to our **many reviews**.

In such a remote area, it's essential to know exactly what's included in the rental price, especially when you're on a road trip lasting several days.

On the Lofoten Islands, car rental is more limited than elsewhere in Europe.

In high season, some models disappear very quickly, and prices can climb from one day to the next. Comparing agencies therefore becomes almost indispensable.

☐ [Compare car rental prices in Lofoten Islands with Discover cars](#)

How much does a car rental in the Lofoten Islands cost?

The [car rental budget in the Lofoten Islands](#) can clearly **weigh heavily in the overall cost of the trip**. Prices vary enormously depending on the period, the type of vehicle and when you book.

The average cost is :

- ☐ **between €70 and €120 per day in summer**, sometimes more in very high season
- * **a little cheaper out of season**, but with less choice
- ☐ significant differences depending on departure airport

On our trip, we could clearly see the difference if we **booked in advance**. Within a few weeks, the fare could almost double.

Insurance: what you really need to look at before booking

In Lofoten, it's best to be well covered. The roads are in good condition, but weather conditions, wind and gravel, and the crowds on narrow roads can quickly lead to surprises.

Before confirming the rental, we recommend that you check :

- the amount of the **deductible**
- what's included in the event of damage (windows, tires, rocker panels)
- exclusions related to unpaved roads

Using a comparator allows you to see this information in black and white, without having to scrutinize every agency website. For us, this was a clear reassurance before hitting the road.

☐ **Our insurance tip** : For those who want to travel with real peace of mind, there's also a [comprehensive coverage option offered by Discover cars](#).

This supplements the basic insurance provided by the rental company and covers

up to **€3,000 in additional costs**, particularly in the case of excess redemption or for certain damage often excluded from conventional contracts. It was much cheaper than taking out the rental company's insurance at the counter.

What type of car should I rent in the Lofoten Islands?

On the Lofoten Islands, your choice of vehicle has a real impact on the comfort of your trip. Contrary to what you might think, it's **not at all necessary to rent a large 4x4**, but you do need to adapt the car to the season and your way of traveling.

Small car, SUV or 4×4: which to choose?

On our road trip, we opted for a compact car, and to be honest, **it did the job very well**. The main roads, especially the E10, are in excellent condition and perfectly suited to this type of vehicle.

A compact car is more than sufficient if :

- you travel mainly between May and September
- you stay on the main roads
- you'll mainly be stopping off at villages, beaches and viewpoints
- you want to limit your rental budget

If your program includes a lot of hiking, secluded beaches and impromptu detours, it's best to have a small car for easy parking, as parking lots on the archipelago are generally small.

And in winter, is a 4×4 absolutely necessary?

Winter is a different story. Snow, ice and strong winds can complicate driving. That said, in Norway, rental cars are fitted with suitable winter tires, often studded.

Is it possible to travel by electric car?

If you're looking to rent a car in Norway, you'll soon notice that **electric cars are everywhere**. And that's no coincidence. The country is often referred to as the electric vehicle capital of the world, with a very favorable policy and massive adoption by local residents.

So, on paper, taking an electric car to the Lofoten Islands may seem like a logical choice. In reality, the situation is a little more nuanced. Charging stations do exist, but **they're few and far between across the archipelago**, especially when you get away from the main towns. Given the distances, changing weather conditions and frequent detours, this can quickly become a constraint on a road trip.

For this type of trip, we recommend opting for **a hybrid car**. It allows you to enjoy the benefits of electric power over short distances, while retaining the freedom of internal combustion, without having to plan each trip according to the availability of charging stations.

Driving in the Lofoten Islands: what you need to know

Driving in Lofoten is generally very pleasant. The roads are well maintained, the signs are clear and the scenery makes every drive spectacular. But there are a few rules and peculiarities to bear in mind before you get behind the wheel.

On the Lofoten Islands, the most important things to remember are :

- **Speed limits are low** and very strictly enforced (50 km/h in towns, 80 km/h on trunk roads).
- **Low beams**: must be on at all times, even in daylight.
- **The permitted blood alcohol level in Norway is extremely low** (0.2 g/l).

In other words, a single drink can be enough to exceed the limit.

- **There are many speed cameras**, both fixed and mobile
- **Animals can cross at any time** (we were lucky enough to see several herds of reindeer, foxes and even a moose and its calf), even on the main roads, as in Norway as a whole, driving at night is not recommended.
- **Wind can be strong**, especially on bridges and open areas

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Road closures and traffic conditions

In Norway, and even more so in Lofoten, **traffic conditions can change rapidly**, especially in winter. Heavy snow, storms and reduced visibility can lead to road closures, sometimes for a few hours, sometimes for several days, depending on the weather.

□ Before hitting the road, **we really advise you to check out the website or app [Vegvesen Trafikk](#)** (the Norwegian public roads administration).

The information is updated regularly, allowing you to check whether a road is open or not. Simply change the language at the bottom of the page, then click on the map for details.

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Roadworks: a frequent occurrence in summer

For our part, in June and July, we didn't encounter any road closures, but **many sections were under construction**. This is quite common in summer, when Norway takes advantage of the fine weather to maintain its roads.

□ When there's work going on, an opening car guides the traffic. It carries a sign reading "**Ledebil - Flog meg**", which obviously made us laugh a lot. We simply follow the car, wait a few minutes, and drive off again.

□ [Car rental in Lofoten Islands at the best price](#)

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In the end, driving in Lofoten requires vigilance, a little anticipation and a lot of flexibility. Here, more than anywhere else, **the road is an integral part of the trip.**

We **really enjoyed** writing this article. If you have any other suggestions, please feel free to leave a comment below. We spent 2 months in Norway, so check out our other articles about this incredible country.

Don't hesitate to leave us a **note** or **5 stars** below, to let us know if you're planning this trip, to ask any questions you may have, below we'll answer you with great pleasure. You can check out our [Instagram stories from our Norway trip](#), to give you a taste of what's in store!

Before you leave, **find all our articles to help you organize your trip:**

- Our itinerary and complete guide for your [road trip to the Lofoten Islands](#)
- [Our budget in Lofoten](#)
- ☑nos [meilleures hôtels aux îles Lofoten](#) pour rayonner.
- [Vaerøy Island](#) : our favorite of Norway's Lofoten Islands
- [Lofoten Islands: must-see beaches](#)
- [Offersøykammen](#): a beautiful hike in the Lofoten Islands off the tourist trail
- [The most beautiful places on the Lofoten Islands](#): in photos and on our map
- [Visit the must-see village of Reine](#) + its mythical hike

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