Headline: Things to know before renting an EV

Deckhead: AAA lays out blueprint to make sure all goes well

Better pricing, knowledge and accessibility are driving consumers to purchase electric vehicles. They’ve gone from becoming high-end toys to reasonably priced, everyday cars.

EVs provide a number of benefits. Consumers who drive them spend as much as 60% less on fuel costs annually than those who drive gas cars, according to AAA. EVs also are better for the environment.

EVs even are trickling into the rental market. Consumers are finding that renting an EV while on vacation is a smart way to test whether one is for them. AAA offers advice to those considering renting EV.

***Make sure you understand how EVs work –*** The operation of an EV is different from a gasoline-powered vehicle. An electrically powered vehicle immediately accelerates as opposed to a more gradual acceleration. Another difference is how they are fueled. EVs require charging stations that are found via your smartphone in public areas like parking garages and shopping malls. Some might offer free charging. It’s wise to be conscience of where charging stations can be found.

***Consider range of EV carefully –*** Different models come with different ranges and choosing one that meets your needs is essential. Considered a model that comes with an extended range if you are taking a long road trip. Some models include features that increase the range of your vehicle. Most EVs can travel as much as 300 miles on a full charge.

***Don’t forget about insurance when renting an EV –*** Insurance often is overlooked when renting an EV. Making sure you have the proper coverage is essential. This will help protect your finances if something happens while driving the vehicle and provide peace of mind and assurance you are adequately covered. Speak with a AAA Travel Advisor to ensure you have adequate coverage.

***EVs are the eco-friendly option –*** EVs have lower running costs and produce significantly fewer emissions, making them an eco-friendly and cost-effective option. EVs can produce zero tailpipe emissions, meaning they produce less harm to the environment than traditional gas-engine vehicles.

***Expect that the experience will be different –*** Most people need to become more accustomed to EVs and all the nuances with which they come. Expect the driving experience to change and take time to feel fully comfortable behind the wheel.

***Tips for renting an EV –*** Check the charging infrastructure of the area you plan to visit. Most EVs come with a charging cable and plug for use at home, but you might need additional cabling if you plan to use public-charging stations. Also consider the cost benefits of renting an EV. Charging the EV should be cheaper than filling it up with gas, which should reduce your overall rental costs. And don’t forget about the insurance. Many rental companies offer special packages for EVs but read the fine print carefully before signing up. It’s also important to be aware of any restrictions.

Cutline: ELECTRIFYING – Be sure to have a solid understanding of EVs before renting one. Image: AAA.