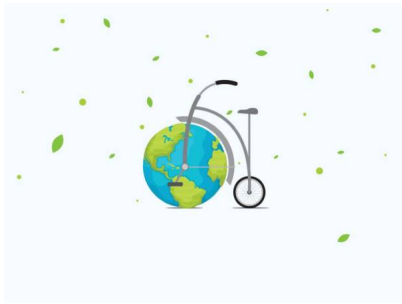


# TOP 5 CAR-FREE CITIES TO VISIT



In some parts of the world, there are cities where traditional land transportation, such as buses and cars, is virtually nonexistent due to the lack of space. In these travel destinations, people primarily transport themselves on water, in the air, on bicycles, or by walking. Car-free cities with these characteristics often have unique geographical features that make conventional transportation impractical. By examining a few examples, we can better

understand how this situation affects the daily lives of both residents and visitors. Tourism Review presents some car-free cities to see how they function without traditional transportation.

## Venice, Italy

Venice, Italy, is one of the top travel destinations in the world, but it lacks conventional ground transportation. Built on a series of 118 islands, the city is interconnected by numerous canals. Cars cannot be driven to the town, so transportation is handled by gondolas, water taxis, and vaporettos. This unique layout is an integral part of Venetian identity and draws tourists from all over the globe.

**Benefits:** A car-free environment helps preserve air quality and reduce noise pollution. Cruising the canals, a cultural experience, also enhances the city's charm.

**Drawbacks:** Continuous maintenance of the channels is necessary to prevent flooding. Accessibility poses challenges, particularly for individuals with reduced mobility, and mass tourism can overwhelm local services.

## Giethoorn, the Netherlands

Giethoorn, often called the "Venice of the North," is a quaint Dutch town notable for its lack of roads. Residents and visitors primarily navigate the city by boat on its picturesque canals, and many also choose to travel on foot and by bicycle. This unique and tranquil atmosphere promotes a healthy lifestyle.

**Benefits:** Giethoorn boasts a quiet and clean environment, mainly due to the limited use of motor vehicles. The city is a popular travel destination for those seeking tranquility and stunning landscapes.

**Drawbacks:** Transporting goods can be challenging since there are no conventional roads. Additionally, during peak tourist season, the city may become crowded, disrupting its usual peaceful atmosphere.

## Mackinac Island, United States

On Mackinac Island, Michigan, the use of motor vehicles has been prohibited since 1898. This practice helps preserve the island's historic charm, as transportation is limited to bicycles, walking, or horse-drawn carriages. This commitment to maintaining a vehicle-free atmosphere gives the island a unique character that attracts many visitors.

**Benefits:** Historic preservation attracts visitors by creating an immersive experience in the past.

Additionally, a cleaner environment with reduced noise pollution is another significant benefit.

**Drawbacks:** The island's economic reliance on tourism makes it susceptible to seasonal fluctuations. Moreover, emergency response can be more complicated due to the limited presence of motor vehicles.

## Sark, UK

Sark, one of the Channel Islands, has a policy that bans motor vehicles. Residents primarily get around by bicycle and cart, using tractors only in emergencies. This decision demonstrates a commitment to preserving the environment and maintaining a peaceful atmosphere on the island.

**Benefits:** Positive aspects of the car-free approach include environmental preservation and intense community life. The island attracts visitors seeking a tranquil lifestyle in harmony with nature.

**Drawbacks:** However, significant challenges include natural isolation and higher living costs due to limited transportation options.

## Firostefani, Greece

The village of Firostefani in Santorini is renowned for its narrow stone paths where vehicles cannot circulate. This characteristic makes the town an authentic destination, providing gorgeous views of the Aegean Sea and a unique cultural experience.

**Benefits:** The reduced number of cars helps maintain clean air and creates a unique atmosphere that tourists value.

**Drawbacks:** Transporting groceries can be difficult, particularly for residents with special needs, and the influx of tourists may strain the limited infrastructure.

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