



The Katie Glass Review: Land Rover Discovery Sport

The wheel deal for Generation Rent



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our finances, to discover the advantages of being fickle. So we rent Airbnbs because we can't buy holiday homes. We get turned down for mortgages so take up #vanlife. We hire designer goods and use bike-rental apps. Likewise, car-sharing apps such as Zipcar, Drivy and Turo are thriving.

Canny car makers keen to cash in are also launching their own vehicle-sharing services. BMW set up DriveNow, a car-share scheme for Beemer and Mini owners. And now Jaguar Land Rover has upped its game by launching a luxury pay-as-you-go car hire service: the Out. It lets you book a car on your phone as easily as ordering an Uber. A few clicks and, boom, it's at your door within hours. The

Out is perfect for someone like me: too lazy to schlep across town to an Avis office, too burnt out to negotiate finding a Zipcar.

With the Out there's only a handful of models to choose from: a Range Rover Sport or Velar, a Jaguar I-Pace or — my pick — a Land Rover Discovery Sport. There are no hidden extras: the price includes insurance, unlimited mileage, the London congestion charge, delivery and collection (anywhere in London zones 1-3) — but it's not cheap. The Discovery Sport costs £195 for the first day and £100 a day after that, plus a £750 deposit.

The car arrived, glittering, fat and gorgeous, with blacked-out windows and rude black alloys.

Immediately the boyfriend and I started rowing about who was going to drive it, which doesn't happen when we hire a Volvo from Avis. The Discovery Sport is a car worth staying sober for on Saturday night.

What the Out understands is that millennials want experiences. And while hiring a car is boring, pretending you're a bad boy is not. You don't use the Out so you can drive to a business meeting in Milton Keynes. You use it so you can cruise around showing off. You do it for the Instagram photos. Which no one has ever said about downloading the Hertz app.

Still, what I like about the Land Rover is that, unlike, say, a Mercedes G-wagen, it is not gangsta flash. I almost look as if I could actually have dropped £40,000 on it. It's tough and contemporary without being OTT. I cruised around east London behind my blacked-out windows looking like an aspiring grime artist, but when I drove over to Chelsea, I looked as if I were doing the school run.

Crucially, for a hire car, it was ridiculously easy to drive. It was an automatic. Foot down and you're off. It felt like riding a go-kart.

Head to head

Land Rover Discovery Sport TD4 HSE v Audi Q5 40 TDI quattro S tronic Sport



Price	
£40,715	£41,420
Power	
177bhp	187bhp
0-62mph	
9.8sec	8.1sec
Top speed	
117mph	137mph

I drove around with the glass sunroof open, as if I were sitting under the skylight in a studio flat. In fact, millennials contending with London's horrendous property market might consider renting one to live in — it's probably cheaper per square foot.

I know the Discovery Sport is supposedly a smaller SUV but I found it big enough. I felt as if I were trying to navigate the Costa Concordia around London's double-parked streets.

I worried about my £750 deposit. I panicked and got car dysmorphia, imagining it was even wider than it was every time I squeezed down a side street, not helped by the external motion sensors bleeping and the internal screams of my boyfriend bleating: "Don't kerb the alloys!"

I glided around, flattening speed bumps, looking down on other drivers — I was so high up, there was no other choice. Less fun was tackling the traffic-calming bollards littered around east London. Trying to ease a 7ft-wide car through a barely wider gap without scratching the sides was about as relaxing as asking for artisan bread in a branch of Greggs and hearing the rest of the queue snigger ("It's not Patisserie Gregory, you realise," the boyfriend helpfully reminded me).

The main downside was parking. Even with the reversing camera, I didn't bother trying to parallel park. The all-inclusive hire fee also sounds great until you

You don't hire a car like this to go to a business meeting in Milton Keynes

remember how much parking costs in the capital. If you don't have a driveway — who does in London? — you're left endlessly trying to find a space big and cheap enough. I got two tickets in a day, adding considerably to the cost. Is this why people prefer to go out of town to pick up and drop off their hire cars?

The handling was so-so. The Sport model felt pretty pointless. It was about as sporty as me in my Topshop athleisure. Its settings for snow, forest and desert were really incredibly helpful for navigating the snowy desert forest of Islington.

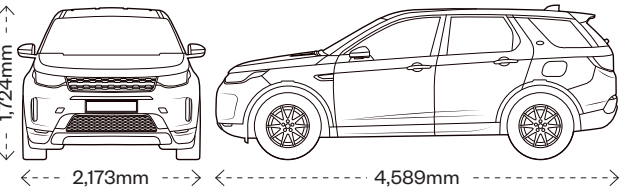
They made more sense when we left London for Kent, driving around with panoramic views of the coast, and Beyoncé playing. It'd be amazing to hire to go to Glastonbury — you could arrive looking like Stormzy's little sister. Although you'd worry about losing your deposit by caking it with glitter and mud. In theory, seven of you could borrow it for the weekend for only about £42 each, but if you did that, you wouldn't have room to pack much more than a spare pair of pants.

I'm ashamed of how much I loved riding around in it. I felt invincible and rich, even though I suspect hipsters and cyclists hated me. I worried about running into an Extinction Rebellion protest and finding Greta Thunberg and Emma Thompson in matching dungarees hammering on the tinted windows.

The worst thing was that they would have been right. The environment is on any driver's conscience these days. That's why there's an added smugness to knowing you're only borrowing these wheels. Like Airbnb, the Out gives you a chance to be someone you can't afford to be — and perhaps don't want to be all the time. You get all the thrills without having to part with £40,000.

It's like pretending to be Jeremy Clarkson for a weekend. Or taking over his column while he's away on holiday ■
Jeremy Clarkson is away

The Glassometer Land Rover Discovery Sport TD4 HSE



Engine 1999cc, 4 cylinders, turbo, diesel	Fuel / CO₂ 44.1 mpg/ 168g/km
Power 177bhp @ 4000rpm	Weight 1,894kg
Torque 280 lb ft @ 1750rpm	Price £40,715
Acceleration 0-62mph: 9.8sec	Release date On sale now
Top speed 117mph	Katie's rating ★★★★☆