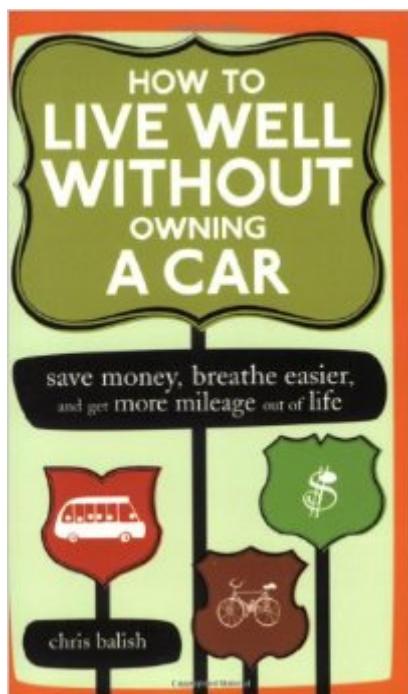


The book was found

How To Live Well Without Owning A Car: Save Money, Breathe Easier, And Get More Mileage Out Of Life



Synopsis

You don't need to own a car to live well in America. In fact, you'd probably be better off without one. In this groundbreaking guide, award-winning journalist Chris Balish exposes the true costs of car ownership and shows how car-free living can put anyone on the path to financial freedom. Using the book's car cost worksheet, first figure out how much owning a car really costs—you'll be surprised. Then, see how easy it is to transition to a car-free or car-lite lifestyle using Chris's strategies for commuting, running errands, taking trips, dating, socializing, and more. You'll also find hundreds of tips and success stories from car-free people in cities and suburbs across America. Without car payments, rising gas prices, and traffic jams to worry about, you'll have more money and leisure time to spend as you choose. Discover why getting rid of your car may be the soundest and sanest lifestyle change you can make.

Reviews

View a video clip from NBC's Today Show: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25609661/> "Chris Balish offers a mix of the practical—a worksheet to figure out a car's total cost and impact—as well as the horrifying: The average American walks just 300 yards a day." -Sierra Magazine "If ever there was a practical inducement to get out of the car trap, this is it. For the multitude of Americans stuck in traffic and spending thousands of dollars a year on their cars, Chris's lively and pragmatic step-by-step solutions provide a way out." -Jane Holtz Kay, author of Asphalt Nation "Chris Balish's book can help environmentally conscious Americans live their values. If you're concerned about pollution and global warming, follow the program in these pages. There can be life without a car. And a good life at that!" -Ed Begley, Jr., actor and environmental activist "[Chris Balish's] prescriptions are feasible and most important, reasonable." -San Antonio Express News "Even if living car-free or car-lite isn't for you, you'll still learn a lot from this book. I did." -Michelle Singletary, Washington Post

Listen to Chris Balish talk about living car-free in Los Angeles on NPR's Morning Edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What I liked best about this book is that rather than relying on idealistic enviro-speak, it focused primarily on the fiscal benefits of not owning a car. Balish articulately argues that if you can do the home-to-work commute without a car, spending money on car ownership is throwing money into a sewer. I especially liked Ch. 6, which describes Balish's own non-idealistic journey from SUV driver to nondriver. And as Balish points out, time in a car is wasted time compare to time bicycling, walking or using public transit. The first two modes give you an opportunity to exercise, and the last gives you an opportunity for productive reading (unless, of course, you live in a place where transit is TOO good, in which case you will not have a seat to yourself and thus will have less opportunity to read). Also, Balish does not limit himself to walking and public transit, but instead discusses less obvious (to me) alternatives such as carsharing, bicycling, carpooling and motorcycles. He even cites websites devoted to these modes, to assist those of us who don't know much about these options. Having said that, this book is not for everyone. Balish himself points out that "Families with children might find it difficult" to live car-free as well as "People who live in rural areas." Even these groups can get something out of the book: for example, Balish discusses how a two-car family might be able to function as a one-car family. And I do wish Balish had addressed a few more objections in more detail, such as:
*In some cities, it may be hard to avoid driving without either (1) living in (or at least passing through) high-crime areas or (2) spending a premium on housing in order to live in a coveted intown neighborhood.

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