

# GET A R1DE

Throughout history, people have always needed a way to get around when they don't have a car, but public transit is not convenient. The newest iteration of a “driver for hire”—which used to be only taxis—is ride hailing, through companies like Uber and Lyft.

You may have heard of these companies, but how much do you know about them? How does ride hailing work? Is it safe? And how does ride hailing compare to taxis?



Ride hailing is a hot topic! Be sure to check out the museum's online exhibits **(Exhibits > Online Exhibits)** and current events **(Current Events > Transit News)** for more information...

# Ride Sharing in the Past

**The concept of hiring a driver has been around for a long time—over 400 years! Since 1605, people have paid drivers to transport them around privately, as opposed to taking mass transportation.**

Hackney Carriages first appeared in London and Paris. These were hired out by innkeepers to transport merchants and visitors. By 1834, quick, two-wheeled, horse-drawn Hansom Cabs were zipping through cities. These new coaches, pulled by one horse versus a team, were able to move quickly and could easily maneuver around city traffic.

The first electric, battery-powered taxis appeared in 1897. They were called “hummingbirds” for the loud chirping sounds that they made. Two-way radios, invented in 1937, revolutionized the “ride-for-hire,” or taxi, industry. Now, customers could call a taxi dispatcher who would the radio a taxi driver to come pick you up.



A Hansom Cab

# Modern-Day Ride Sharing

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**People are always looking for new ways to get around that are cheaper, faster, and easier than previous methods. When Travis Kalanick and Garrett Camp were stuck in Paris on a snowy evening in 2008 and couldn't hail a cab, they came up with a simple idea: tap a button, get a ride.**

This idea led to the start of Uber. Originally, Uber was launched to help wealthy people hail a limo easier in large cities. Today, however, Uber and the ride hailing industry are changing the way people get around. Most ride hailing companies work the same way:

- ❖ Users request a ride through the company's app
- ❖ Once a driver is signaled through the app, it usually takes less than 10 minutes for a car to arrive at your location
- ❖ During the wait time and while you're in the car, you can track the car's location through the app
- ❖ The app provides a cashless payment process charging all of your rides to a credit card on file
- ❖ During peak travel times (rush hour, rainy weather, etc.), companies will enact "surge pricing," meaning your fare could double or triple (or in extreme cases, cost up to 10X the normal amount!); however, you are notified of this before you request a ride

When compared to taxis, ride hailing companies usually cost less, are easier to schedule, and are quicker and more convenient. However, there is a major downside to ride hailing: they jeopardize passengers' safety more than taxis.

# Safety Concerns

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**When you take a taxi, you are being driven by a person who has been screened and trained to drive passengers. At ride hailing companies, the drivers are not as well trained and are not screened as thoroughly.**

At ride hailing companies like Uber and Lyft, drivers are not employees—they're "independent contractors." The company wants this designation so that they don't have to pay taxes and other benefits to drivers. This also means that drivers undergo less training, have less insurance, and do not go through as thorough a background check.

One recent tragedy involving ride hailing is the story of a girl using Lyft: *A 13-year-old Florida girl riding Lyft alone in the middle of the night was killed when her 17-year-old driver drove off a wet highway into some trees. The 17-year-old driver only had a learner's permit and was using his mother's Lyft account to make money.*

There have also been a number of stories regarding assaults by ride hailing drivers on their passengers. While this happens in taxis as well, it seems to be a more common problem with ride hailing services. This is because the background check done on ride hailing drivers is more limited than the ones done by taxi companies.

Additionally, if there is ever an accident involving an injury or death, there is a much greater chance of legal recourse—action that can be taken to fix the problem—with a taxi company than ride hailing companies. Ride hailing drivers are usually able to use their existing personal auto insurance policy, not a commercial one, so if they get into an accident, the insurance company may not help.

While ride hailing companies have insurance, they often say that the driver is responsible for an accident, not themselves. When you request an Uber ride, you agree to this term: *You understand, therefore, that by using the application and the service, you may be exposed to transportation that is potentially dangerous, harmful to minors, unsafe, or otherwise objectionable, and that you use the application and the service at your own risk.*

Uber does offer a service called UberBlack, in which drivers must have commercial licensing and registration. However, the cost is twice as much as the cost for a regular Uber, so it is comparable or even higher than taxi fares.

Until ride hailing companies update their terms and conditions—or switch the classification of its drivers to employees, instead of “independent contractors”—taxis are generally safer.

# Ride Services in the Future

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## **Could there ever be “autonomous taxis?” Yes...**

Autonomous, or self-driving, cars offer the potential for better safety. In fact, both Uber and Lyft are already looking at the use of self-driving cars in the near future. Uber is currently testing self-driving cars with an Uber researcher in the passenger seat to analyze the safety and effectiveness of the service. Lyft has teamed up with General Motors and will likely introduced a fleet of self-driving taxis within the next five years. If self-driving cars can keep costs low and safety high, autonomous taxis may be the future of how you get around when you need a ride.

## **Ride Hailing Facts:**

**According to a 2016 survey, 15% of Americans have used a ride hailing service. Most are between the ages of 18 to 29.**

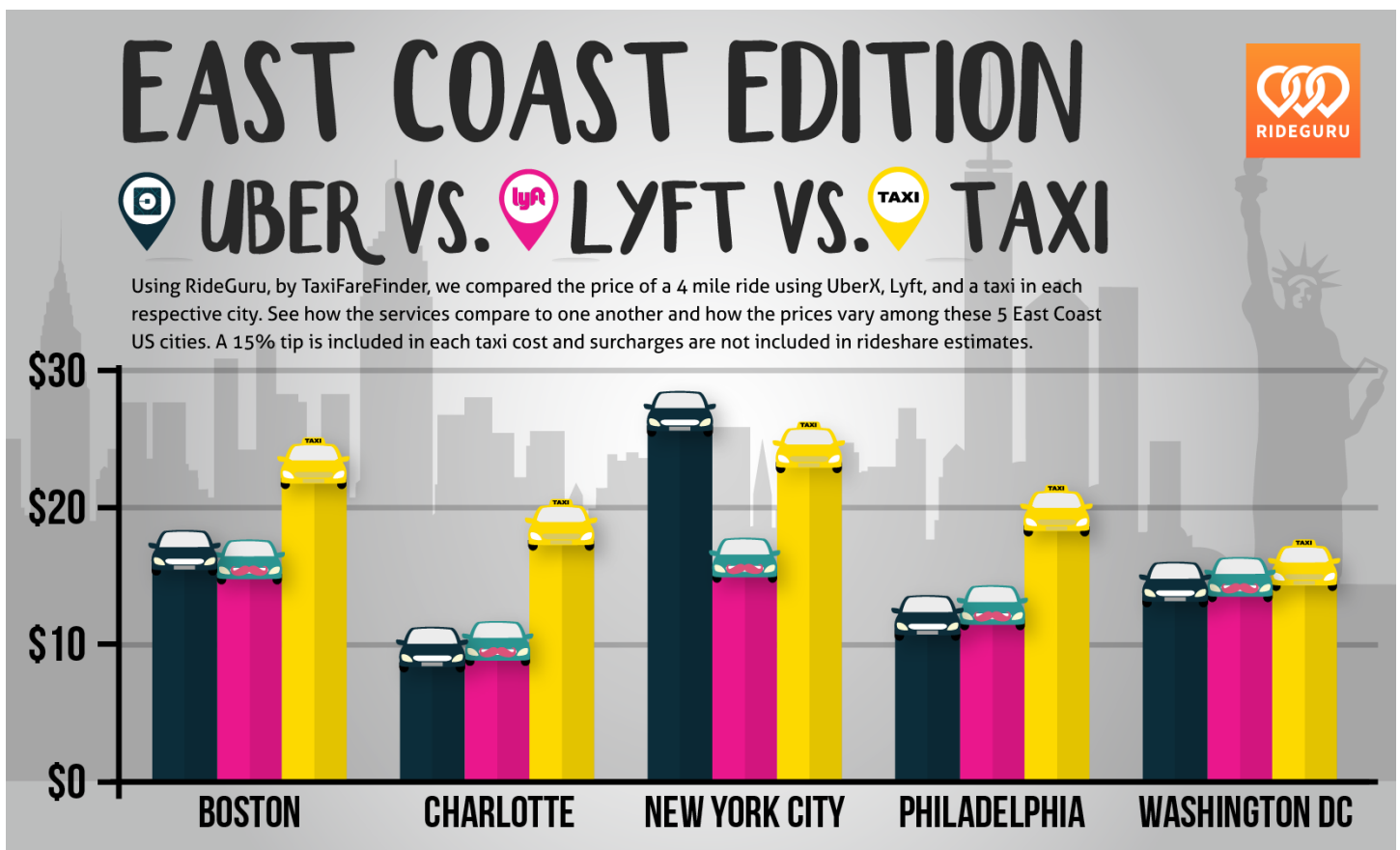
**Between 2014 and 2016, the number of ride hailing vehicle crashes has more than tripled.**

# Comparison

How do Uber, Lyft, and taxis compare?

## Uber, Lyft, and Taxi Prices Across the Nation:

(Note: This is when Uber or Lyft do not have Surge Pricing. Surge Pricing is when ride hailing services raise their rates—usually at least double or triple the normal amount, and rarely as high as 10X the amount—during times of peak demand, like rainy evenings, rush-hour, or Saturday nights.)

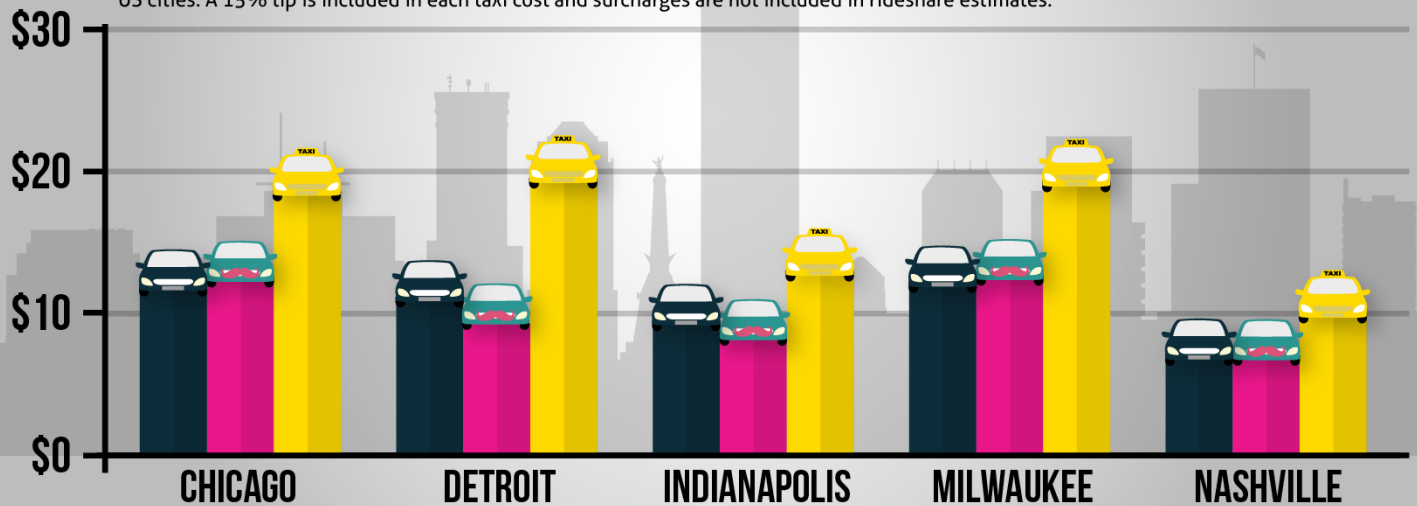


# MIDWEST EDITION



## UBER VS. LYFT VS. TAXI

Using RideGuru, by TaxiFareFinder, we compared the price of a 4 mile ride using UberX, Lyft, and a taxi in each respective city. See how the services compare to one another and how the prices vary among these 5 midwestern US cities. A 15% tip is included in each taxi cost and surcharges are not included in rideshare estimates.

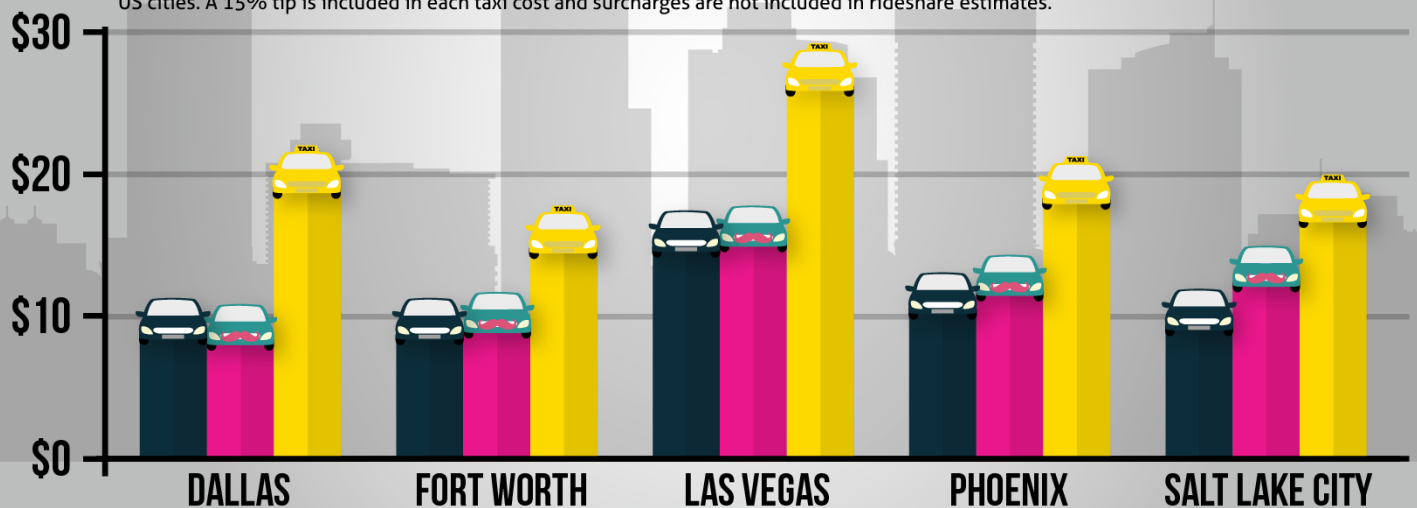


# SOUTHWEST EDITION



## UBER VS. LYFT VS. TAXI

Using RideGuru, by TaxiFareFinder, we compared the price of a 4 mile ride using UberX, Lyft, and a taxi in each respective city. See how the services compare to one another and how the prices vary among these 5 southwestern US cities. A 15% tip is included in each taxi cost and surcharges are not included in rideshare estimates.

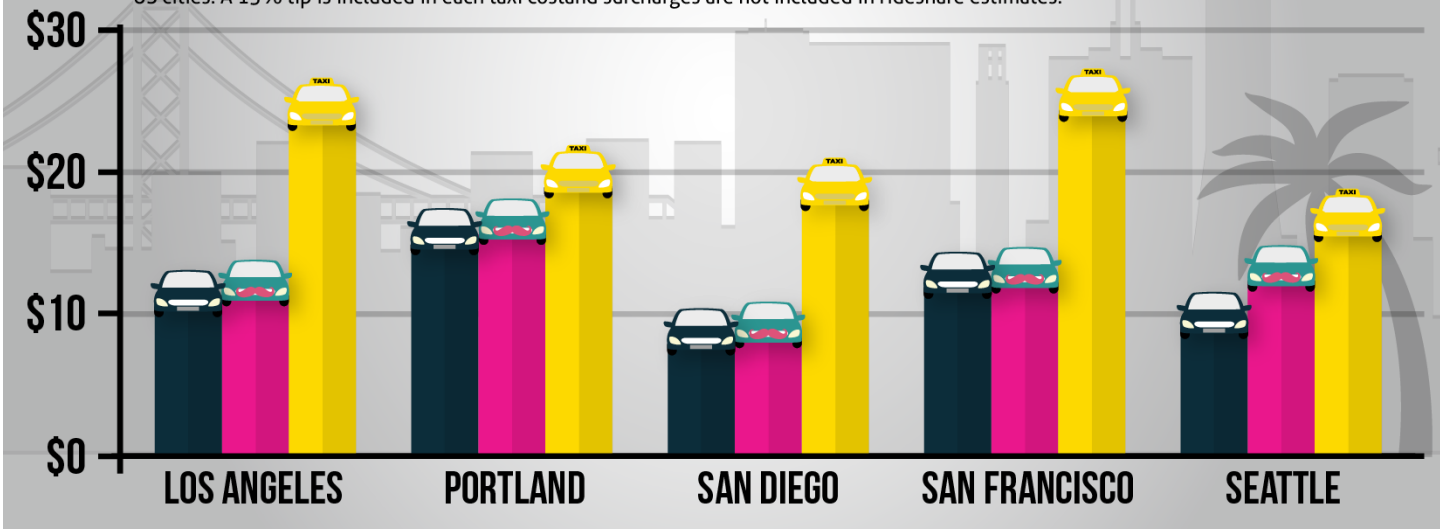


# WEST COAST EDITION



## UBER VS. LYFT VS. TAXI

Using RideGuru, by TaxiFareFinder, we compared the price of a 4 mile ride using UberX, Lyft, and a taxi in each respective city. See how the services compare to one another and how the prices vary among these 5 West Coast US cities. A 15% tip is included in each taxi cost and surcharges are not included in rideshare estimates.

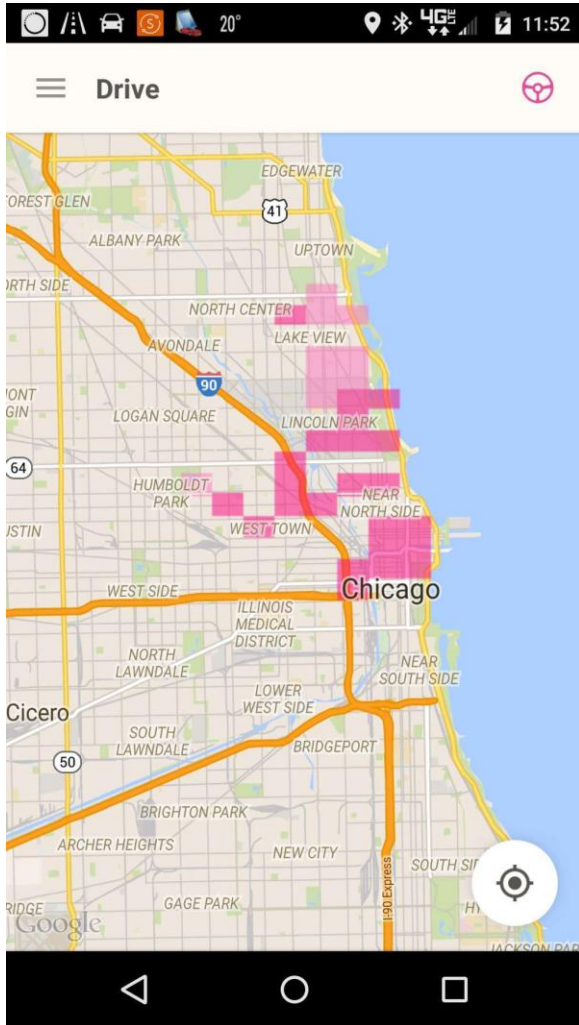


## So when are taxis cheaper?

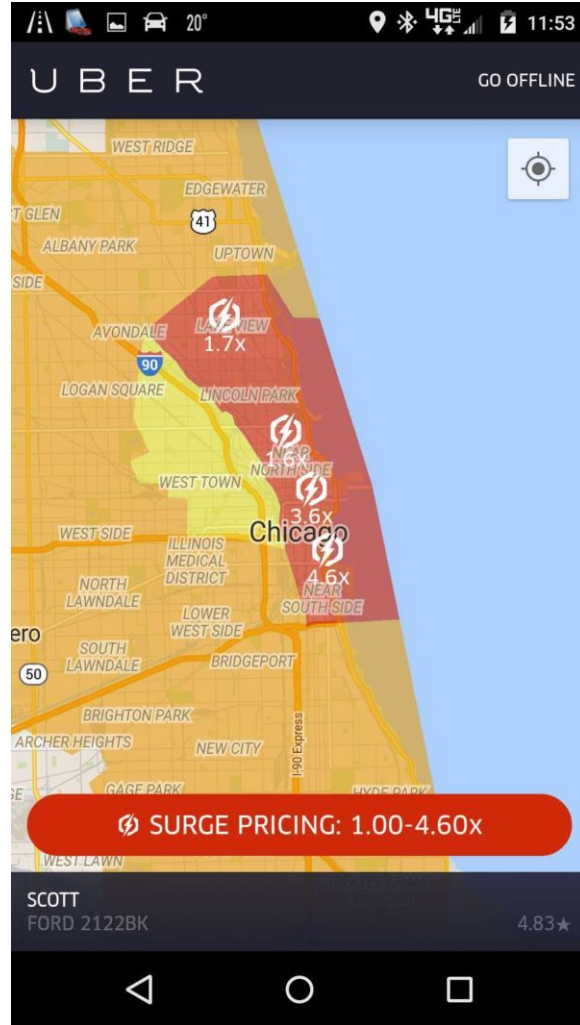
In general, taxis are cheaper...

- ❖ **During times of high demand**, like rush hour, Friday and Saturday nights, and during storms and rainy weather. (Uber and Lyft regularly charge up to 3X or 4X the normal price when the demand is high.)
- ❖ **For quick trips**, like trips where the cost is less than \$35.

# How do Uber and Lyft's Surge Pricing compare?



Lyft's Prime Time (Surge Pricing) in Chicago.  
The areas with increased prices are pink.













Uber's Surge Pricing in Chicago.  
The areas with the most increased prices are red.

(The maps display surge pricing at approximately the same time.)

# Uber, Lyft, and Taxi Driving Requirements:

Basically, this chart shows how taxis are safer:

**BEHIND THE WHEEL** 

	SAN FRAN	CHICAGO	DC	NYC	UBER	LYFT
 <b>CRIMINAL HISTORY</b>	NO CRIMINAL HISTORY	CRIME-FREE FOR 5 YEARS	CRIME-FREE FOR 10 YEARS	DISCLOSURE OF ANY FELONIES OR MISDEMEANORS	CRIME-FREE FOR 7 YEARS	PASS A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER TRACE
 <b>FINGER-PRINTS</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
 <b>DRIVING HISTORY</b>	4+ HOURS, 10-YEAR PRINT OUT OF DRIVING RECORD	NO	12 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS OF DRIVING IN DC AREA	NO	3+ YEARS OF DRIVING EXPERIENCE	1+ YEAR DRIVING, LESS THAN 3 AUTO VIOLATIONS
 <b>MEDICAL EXAM</b>	NO	MEDICAL AND EYE EXAM	NO	MEDICAL EXAM	NO	NO
 <b>DRUG TEST</b>	CHEMICAL DETECTION TEST	CHEMICAL DETECTION TEST	NO	ANNUAL DRUG TEST	NO	NO
 <b>CREDIT CHECK</b>	NO	NO	NO	INTERVIEW WITH TLC ATTORNEY TO PROVE ELIGIBILITY	YES	DMV CHECK
 <b>AGE</b>	21+	21+	ANY	ANY	21+	21+
 <b>LICENSE</b>	VALID LICENSE	VALID, UNREVOKED LICENSE	DRIVER'S RECORD WITH 8 POINTS OR LESS	VALID LICENSE	CURRENT AND VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE + INSURANCE	CURRENT AND VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE
 <b>TRAINING</b>	TAKE A TAXI CLASS AND PASS A TEST	COMPLETE PUBLIC CHAUFFEUR TRAINING COURSE	NO	COMPLETE DMV DEFENSIVE DRIVING TEST	NO	NO

For more information on ride hailing, visit [thetransportationmuseum.com/online-exhibits](http://thetransportationmuseum.com/online-exhibits)