

1.

New Zealand Car Rental

Customers who demand superior service and value hire Apex rental cars. With a wide section of over 15 different types of vehicles including small economical cars, medium-sized and full-size sedans (轿车), station wagons (旅行车), 4WDs and people movers as well as 14 conveniently located branches throughout New Zealand, you can be sure to find a vehicle that is perfect for your travel needs.

Guaranteed No Hidden Costs

When you hire a car from Apex Car Rentals, there are no hidden surprises. All rates include GST (消费税), comprehensive insurance and unlimited kilometers. Apex also offers a very affordable Collision Damage Waiver upgrade option which allows customers to reduce their legal responsibility for paying money for damage in the event of an accident to \$ 0.

With Apex there are no hidden costs, guaranteed:

- * No extra charges for one-way hires and free airport/hotel transfers
- * No booking or administration fees
- * No credit card processing fees
- * No extra driver fees
- * No surcharges for seniors and drivers under 25
- * No hidden fees; all rates include GST, insurance and unlimited kilometers

Free Ferry Tickets

Crossing Cook Strait? Your vehicle ferry ticket could be free, and Apex can help you book passenger tickets. Check vehicle availability for more information.

Apex Car Rental Optional Extras

GPS navigation hire	\$ 7.60/day
Affordable Roadside Assistance Cover	\$ 4.00/day
4G portable wi-fi units hire	\$ 12.00/day
Child and booster seats (车载的儿童座椅)	\$ 12.00 each
Winter Extras	
Ski and snowboard racks (搁物架) hire	\$ 25.00 each
Snow chains hire	\$ 25.00 each

【1】Which of the following is an advantage of Apex Car Rentals?

- A. It values private cars for free.
- B. It has 15 branches in New Zealand.
- C. It has more than 15 types of vehicles.
- D. It has a wide section of payment methods.

【2】On what condition will you be charged extra fees?

- A. Hiring a driver. B. Purchasing insurance.
- C. Paying by credit card. D. Renting a child seat.

【3】What can we learn from the text?

- A. Apex can't help you book passenger tickets.
- B. You needn't pay to rent Ski and snowboard racks or snow chains.
- C. There are extra charges for one-way hires and airport/hotel transfers.
- D. Customers can pay no money for damage due to their legal responsibility.

2.

Just over 12 months ago I gave myself a challenge: give up spending on all but the essentials for a whole year. It hasn't always been easy, but a year on I am wealthier and wiser. Embarrassingly, I have also realised just how much money I've squandered down the pubs in restaurants and through mindless shopping.

Free of any financial worries, I was spending without thinking. Stuck in a cycle of consumerism, I was struggling in vain to spend my way to happiness. Giving up spending for a year was an extreme approach, but I wanted to taste extreme frugality, shake up my spending patterns and overpay my mortgage instead of shopping. I could continue to pay my bills, including mortgages, broadband(宽带), phone bill, charity donations, life insurances, money to help my family and basic groceries.

It was not easy, especially in the first few months. There were lows, such as when I missed my favourite jazz concerts and hit films. There have also been some awkward moments when I've turned up to a friend's house for dinner empty-handed. I did a lot of washing up at my friends' houses in return this year.

I did find new ways to live, however. Using sites such as Eventbrite I have been to film screenings, wine tasting evenings and theatre productions for free. Living in London I have a wealth of free cultural activities on my doorstep and I've been to more art exhibitions this year than ever before. I even managed a free holiday, cycling the

Suffolk and Norfolk coast and camping on beaches. It's something I'd never done before and probably wouldn't have, were it not for the challenge.