



Djibouti plug-in electric vehicles phev

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If you are considering plugging into the electric vehicle revolution but worry about the potential hassles and uncertainties of charging on the road, a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV, for short) could be the right car for you.

PHEVs bridge the gap between a regular hybrid and an EV. Unlike a regular hybrid, which recharges its battery using only its gas engine and brakes, a PHEV can also be plugged in to add electric-only range, usually between 20 and 40 miles. It can charge overnight from a standard household outlet, so you don't need to purchase and install a special charger.

Once the electric range is depleted, the gas engine provides power for longer trips. If you, like a majority of Americans, tend to drive less than 40 miles a day, you could end up visiting the gas pump just a few times a year. (For more background, read [The Words You Need to Know Before You Buy a Hybrid, EV, or PHEV](#).)

There are currently more than 30 PHEV models for sale in the U.S., ranging from small hatchbacks to luxurious SUVs. Most are based on existing gas-only vehicles or hybrids. Last year, sales of PHEVs grew by 60 percent--a larger increase than for EVs or conventional hybrids, according to CR's analysis of vehicle sales numbers.

PHEVs are also becoming an increasingly important part of automakers' strategies to meet emissions rules that cap carbon pollution from cars. "Consumers will have a wide variety of choices, from battery electric, to plug-in hybrid to regular hybrid, and even gasoline vehicles," EPA administrator Michael Regan told Consumer Reports. "You'll see a combination of these vehicles being sold for the foreseeable future."

While fully charging a pure EV at a conventional 120-volt outlet can take several days, charging a PHEV from a standard household outlet takes much less time. (The models we tested took an average of 14 hours to charge at a 120V outlet, but a Level 2 [240V] charger can top up the battery in just a few hours.) Most PHEVs don't work with public DC fast chargers.

If you don't have a garage or somewhere to plug in, or if you mostly drive long distances, a PHEV isn't the right choice for you. For example, when the Hyundai Tucson PHEV is driven with an empty battery, it gets 4 fewer mpg in our tests than the hybrid version. If you never plug it in, a Tucson PHEV could cost \$150 more each year on gas than if you'd bought the conventional hybrid version. As with pure EVs, highway driving and temperatures below 40° F can reduce a PHEV's electric driving range.

Reliability can vary significantly among PHEV models, so check the CR reliability rating of any model before you buy. Many of the least dependable PHEVs are from brands that struggle with reliability in general. By contrast, auto manufacturers that usually make reliable vehicles also tend to make trustworthy PHEVs, says

Steven Elek, program leader for automotive data analytics at CR. "The most reliable automakers have proved it's possible to build a reliable PHEV, like Toyota's Prius Prime and RAV4 Prime," he says.

Generous federal tax credits for leasing a PHEV can add up to serious savings. For example, a well-equipped Hyundai Tucson SEL PHEV currently costs \$34 per month less to lease than a base-model Hyundai Tucson Hybrid Blue, even though the rest of the lease terms are similar. If you're trying to decide between an EV and a PHEV, fuel savings and tax credits could make leasing an EV the better choice from a financial standpoint. But you'll still have to charge on the road.

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