

 theday.co.uk/this-could-be-the-year-flying-cars-take-off-4



Unloading roads: The market for flying cars is expected to be worth \$1.5tn by 2040.

Are they a good idea? People stuck in traffic jams have long dreamed about escaping in a flying car. Now their dreams could come true.

What's happening?

Inventors have been working on the idea of a flying car for over 100 years. Now, they are closer than ever before.

Find out more

The main focus today is on a type of car called an EVTOL. This is short for "electric **vertical** take-off and landing".

Companies around the world are working on the idea, including Toyota and Uber.

EVTOLs come in many forms. Some are like huge drones. Others have electric jets. And some are even a bit like helicopters.

EVTOL makers say they are cheaper, quieter and cause less **pollution** than helicopters. The main challenge lies with batteries, which are heavy and cost a lot of money. It means that the flying cars cannot travel very far.

But there are other problems too. "Where will these vehicles be allowed to fly?" asks one city transport **expert**. "Where will they take off? Where will they land? Who decides what is possible? That's going to take a long time to get figured out."

Are they a good idea?

Some say

Yes! Traffic jams are one of the world's most annoying problems. We need big ideas to fix them. Flying cars could make travelling quicker and even greener.

No! The traffic on the ground is bad enough — to have it in the sky as well would be terrible. And for now, some worry that flying cars are not that safe either.

Others think

Some people say

"A good science fiction story should be able to predict not the automobile but the traffic jam."

Frederik Pohl (1803 – 1882), American writer

What do you think?

Six steps to discovery

1. **Connect**

How do you feel about this story? - Would you like to travel in a flying car?

2. **Wonder**

What questions do you have? - For example: Do any flying cars exist today?

3. **Investigate**

What are the facts? - Pick out one thing we know for certain from this story and one thing we cannot say for sure.

4. **Construct**

What is your point of view? - Would you prefer to have a normal car or a flying car?

5. **Express**

What do others believe? - What is the most exciting way to travel? Take it in turns to say.

6. **Reflect**

What might happen next? - Make an advert for a flying car. It could be a poster or even a short video.

Glossary

Inventors - People who create new things.

Vertical - Straight up.

Pollution - When harmful or dangerous things are put into the environment.

Expert - Someone who knows a lot about a particular subject.