

# MORE ABOUT MOORE'S Model T

**H**EEDING the warnings of online commenters, Moore arranged for a practice driving session of a Model T in his native England prior to his arrival in the United States.

Moore purchased a 1924 model for roughly \$13,000 from a 93-year-old Texas man who had owned his Model T for 51 years. The car was shipped to Virginia, where Moore began his journey in early July.

Successfully driving a nearly 100-year-old car required Moore to unlearn many of the conveniences of modern vehicles. His Model T has three pedals – and none of them do what you would expect, he said.

“It took some getting used to,” he added. “I did a lot of stalling in the first few days. Luckily, Virginia was quite quiet on that particular Sunday. ... It’s quite something technique-wise.”

Though his Model T predates cellphones by more than half a century, Moore’s is retrofitted with a USB outlet, which helped him stay connected to his cellphone’s GPS system.

The car features other aftermarket updates such as upgraded brakes and overdrive, though he stayed well below the common highway speeds – his top speed was just 37 mph.

Other charms include the need to enter the car from the passenger’s side, removing the driver’s seat to refuel (the gas tank is located underneath the seat), side



**“It’s an amazing story about what one humble machine could to change the world. This car was the universal car. ... Henry (Ford) loved it so much, he was reluctant to move on. He really thought this was the only car the world would ever need.”** – British travel journalist Tim Moore on his trip across the United States in a Model T.

curtains to keep out rain and a hand-operated windshield wiper. The car has a modern touch of comfort – a beaded seat cushion – which also signified to Moore that the vehicle was being driven on a regular basis over the years.

Despite swapping a bicycle for a car, Moore still experienced a demanding trip. While he was able to travel a little more than 200 miles on a good day, the drive was physically exhausting.

“That’s a superhuman achievement for man and machine alike because it’s quite physically punishing,” Moore said. “(The car) gets blown around a lot. It’s quite a physical operation.”

Despite his challenges with the Model T, before he flew back to England Moore arranged to have the car shipped to West London, where he lives.

“This always tends to happen when I do these things,” he said. “I get really attached, and I can’t bear to just sell it to the nearest person.”



**“If I’m going to go across the states ... I could do it in the most iconic vehicle I could find. And there was only one car in town for that, really,”** Moore said.