

Breaking News English.com

Trump wants US to have tiny 'kei' cars after Japan trip – 8th December 2025

Level 4

Big change may be coming to American roads after a visit to Japan by Donald Trump. America's popular SUVs may soon be rivalled by the four-seater, 660 cc "kei car" from Japan. President Trump has a fondness for this small car. He wants it to be made in the USA. He wrote on his Truth Social website: "I have just approved tiny cars to be built in America." He added that the cars were "inexpensive, safe, fuel efficient, and quite simply, amazing".

Kei cars make up around a third of all cars in Japan. They are suited to the narrow streets of Japan's big cities. However, laws are needed to make the cars legal in the US. The website Quartz reported that: "There are lingering concerns that [kei cars] are too small and slow to be driven safely." The Transportation Secretary said: "If Toyota or any other company wants to make smaller, more affordable and fuel-efficient cars, we have cleared the deck."

Level 5

Huge change may be coming to American roads after a visit to Japan by President Donald Trump. America's much-loved SUVs may soon be rivalled by a four-seater, 660 cc car that is very popular in Japan — the "kei car". President Trump has developed a fondness for this small automobile. He wants kei cars to be manufactured in the USA. He wrote on his Truth Social website: "I have just approved tiny cars to be built in America...just like they are so successfully built in other countries." He added that the cars were "inexpensive, safe, fuel efficient, and quite simply, amazing".

In Japan, kei cars account for around a third of cars on the roads. They are ideally suited to the narrow streets of Japan's densely populated cities. However, laws must be passed to make the cars legal in the US. The website Quartz reported that: "There are lingering concerns that [kei cars] are too small and slow to be driven safely...on highways." US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy will remove all barriers to their production. He said: "If Toyota or any other company wants to make smaller, more affordable and fuel-efficient cars, we have cleared the deck."

Level 6

A momentous change might be coming to American roads following a visit to Japan by U.S. President Donald Trump. America's ubiquitous, muscular SUVs may soon be usurped by a four-seater, 660 cc car that is hugely popular in Japan — the "kei car". President Trump seems to have developed a particular fondness for this miniature automobile. He wants to pave the way for kei cars to be manufactured in the USA. He wrote on his Truth Social website: "I have just approved tiny cars to be built in America. Manufacturers have long wanted to do this, just like they are so successfully built in other countries." He added that the cars were "inexpensive, safe, fuel efficient, and quite simply, amazing".

In Japan, kei cars account for around a third of all new vehicle sales. They are ideally suited to the narrow streets of Japan's bustling, densely populated cities. However, legislation needs to be passed to make the cars road-legal in the USA. The website Quartz reported that: "Most kei cars don't clear federal rules, and there are lingering concerns that the vehicles are too small and slow to be driven safely...on highways." Trump has directed his Transportation Secretary, Sean Duffy, to remove all barriers to their production. Mr Duffy said: "If Toyota or any other company wants to make smaller, more affordable and fuel-efficient cars, we have cleared the deck so they can...sell them in America."