

# Save money on SUMMER DAYS

With some planning and insider clever ideas, fun times can come cheap – or even for free!

## SAVE COSTS ON TRAVEL

It can cost less to go by train than pay for petrol and parking, but only if you don't try to be spontaneous, says founder of Letsavesomemoney.com, Sarah Willingham. 'The trick is to book around 12 weeks before you travel, so do it now for a day out in the school holidays.' Sign up to [thetrainline.com/ticketalert/](http://thetrainline.com/ticketalert/) to receive email alerts when

discounted advance tickets are available. If you spend more than £34 a year, it's worth investing in a Family and Friends railcard which will give a third off adult and 60% off kids' fares. **✦ Travelling off-peak?** Ask your train company if you can use GroupSave, allowing four adults/kids to travel for the price of two.

'The train ticket booking site [redpottedbanjo.com](http://redpottedbanjo.com) doesn't charge a booking fee and runs a loyalty scheme with money off travel. You can also use Teens Clubcard vouchers all year round – £10 of vouchers is equal to £20 in train tickets.' *Rosa Bennett, Southold, Suffolk*



## EAT FOR PEANUTS

Homemade picnics save a packet, and most venues provide an area where you can tuck in (phone in advance to check that you're allowed to bring your own food). Sarah says: 'My kids love helping me make sandwiches and cakes and I take food wrapped in foil, so I'm not carting around bulky lunchboxes.' If eating out is all part of the fun, then check out [vouchercloud.com](http://vouchercloud.com), or download the app for restaurant deals on the go. If you're an O2 customer, visit [O2priority.co.uk](http://O2priority.co.uk) for discounts on eateries such as ASK Italian.

'Part-freeze your non-fizzy soft drinks and chocolate treats in hot weather for a chilled snack later in the day.'

*Ann Johnson (via Facebook)*

## EVEN RAIN HAS A SILVER LINING

If you're feeling adventurous, head out on a wet day – you can get good deals and it will be a lot quieter, says Duncan Skelton from [VoucherCodes.com](http://VoucherCodes.com). 'Weather-dependent attractions offer discounts on miserable days to boost visitor numbers. Sign up for updates at [weathercodes.co.uk](http://weathercodes.co.uk) or download the app to use out and about.'

## MUSEUM MAGIC FOR LESS

London's big museums, as well as The Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Welsh National Museums, the Museum of Science in Manchester and the National Media Museum in Bradford are among those that ask for a donation rather than charging. Search 'free museums' on [MoneySavingsExpert.com](http://MoneySavingsExpert.com). At others, such as the London Transport Museum, a one-day ticket gives a year's entry. 'Contact your local MP to book free tickets to climb to the top of Big Ben. My kids loved it, but you have to be fit to climb the 300-step spiral staircase!' *Gill Jowett, Epsom, Surrey*