

# Vacationing On a Budget

If you are struggling to choose between taking a summer vacation and staying on track for your budget goals, consider these options:

- ▶ **National parks.** At a national park, you can have a life-changing experience on a tight budget. Introduce children to history and the country's natural wonders, or simply relax and recharge. To learn more, visit [nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov).
- ▶ **Camping.** Want to relax in the outdoors without breaking your budget? Camping is a great option. Just pack your tent, stock up the cooler, and head to a favorite destination (or your own backyard). If you've never camped before, consider renting what you need from an outdoor equipment retailer.
- ▶ **Vacation off-season.** Instead of going to a popular destination, pick a place that tends to be less busy during the summer months. Put the savings toward a winter getaway.
- ▶ **Walk.** If you are vacationing in a city, it may be more convenient to stay in a central location within walking distance of most destinations. This will decrease transportation costs and minimize the hassle of dealing with traffic and parking.

- ▶ **Shop for discounts.** Many destinations offer discount codes and other options that will cut costs. A little research may yield some great deals.
- ▶ **Bring your own food.** Staying at a hotel? Consider booking a room with a kitchenette and making your own meals. It'll save you a bundle!
- ▶ **Staycation.** A staycation (or stay-at-home vacation) is a great way to relax and recharge while still saving money. Use the time to work on house projects, catch up on your streaming queue, or focus on a favorite hobby. You could also plan day trips in the area or spend time exploring your city.

LifeMatters can offer more suggestions on how to plan a low-cost vacation. Call 24/7/365.



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