

Ways to save

Here are some ideas on how to get discounts on shopping and family days out this summer

Shopping

1 Online discount store
Specialist underwear shop Figleaves, which you recently voted your favourite online clothes shop, has a new discount designer outlet online store where you can get up to 70% off men's and women's designer underwear, nightwear and swimwear. More details at www.figleaves.com.

2 Sign for money off
Some shops offer discounts just for signing up for their email newsletter. Menswear chain Burton, for example, is offering 10% off your next purchase if you register for theirs. Register your details on Carpet Right's website (www.carpetright.co.uk) and it emails you a web discount voucher giving 10% off selected purchases of more than £250. This is on top of most other in-store discounts it offers.



3 Cheaper insurance for your pet
If you are looking to insure your cat or dog, Sainsbury's Finance is offering a 20% discount for buying its pet insurance online. The offer runs until 4 August 2009. Sainsbury's

is a Which? Best Buy 'mid-level' policy. We define this as those that place a monetary limit on treatment per condition, but not a time restriction. For more, see www.which.co.uk/petinsurance.

4 Cheaper computers
We've mentioned before that you can save more than 25% on Apple laptops and desktops by buying cheap refurbished models through its online refurbished product store (www.apple.com/uk). Many shops offer similar deals.

Argos Clearance Bargains eBay store sells computers with up to 30% off the previous Argos price.

Dell Outlet (www.dell.co.uk/outlet) sells discounted refurbished Dell laptops and desktop computers. These are models returned to Dell for various reasons. All products are tested, repackaged and come with standard limited warranty and Dell service and support.

Currys.co.uk offers refurbished computers and laptops that are end of line or returned by a customer. It says all have been checked professionally, tested, data cleansed, repackaged with all basic accessories and have a full 12-month warranty. No printed manuals are supplied. For reviews of new laptops see www.which.co.uk/laptops.

5 Shop sales
As we went to press, shops holding sales included Amazon, Borders



and Mothercare. Until 30 June, Amazon.co.uk has reduced the price of selected home and kitchen appliances by up to 50%. These included, for example, the Philips Azur GC4640i steam iron, a Which? Best Buy. The price was reduced, by 33%, to £53.83 when we checked.

Borders meanwhile was offering up to 40% off the recommended retail price of bestselling books and up to 25% off travel guides.

Mothercare was offering discounts on selected items including up to 50% off maternity wear, up to 30% off toys and gifts, and up to 25% off pushchairs. See also our guides at www.which.co.



[uk/ babyandchild](http://uk.babyandchild).

6 Greener selling
If you want to make a bit of money from your unwanted books rather than just swapping them or throwing them out, you may be interested in www.greenmetropolis.com. The idea is you upload details of the books you want to sell, and for every one that is bought, you will be paid £3 (though you will have to pay postage costs). You can also buy books from the website – every title costs £3.75.

7 eBay bargains
Many items are listed for sale on eBay with spelling mistakes, which can mean they don't attract many bidders and may therefore sell for very low prices. The aptly named website www.fatfingers.co.



uk helps you track these down.

8 Bargain search
There are some sites that may be worth trying to find bargains. The website www.fixtureferrets.co.uk aims to 'ferret' out the latest special grocery offers at major supermarkets and will send you text alerts about deals. However, you have to become a member, which costs £5.20 a year. Non-members can view only promotions that save £1 or less.

Other

9 Play tennis for free
If you are inspired by the Wimbledon tennis championships and would like to play the game yourself, why not have a look at www.tennisforfree.com? This website lists all the publicly available free tennis

courts in this country.

10 Learn a language
If you want to brush up on language skills before heading abroad this summer, check www.about.com. This has free information on a wide range of subjects. In the education section, there's a lot of help on pronunciation and grammar among other areas for those who are learning Spanish, French and German.



11 Cycle routes
You can get free maps of safe cycling routes across Britain from Sustrans (www.sustrans.org), the UK's sustainable transport charity.

Transport for London offers free cycling maps covering the capital which can be ordered online. Go to tfl.gov.uk/cycling, find the heading 'routes, maps and guides' then click on 'cycle guides'. The guides that you want will be delivered to your door for free.

12 Money Saving Handbook

To order Which?'s *Money Saving Handbook*, the essential guide to being smart with money, for £9.99 including free postage and packing, call 01903 828557 and quote MS0709 and ISBN 978 1 84490 048 0. Offer closes on 30 July 2009.



Days out

13 The free tenors
If you would like a taste of free live opera, you can see it on big screens across the UK this summer. Covent Garden's Royal Opera House is broadcasting performances live to screens in cities including Aberdeen, Bradford, Bristol, Cardiff, Middlesbrough and Swansea. La Traviata is at 7pm on Tuesday, 30 June and The Barber of Seville at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 15 July.

For more information and to find your nearest big screen, visit www.bpbigscreens.mobi.

14 Free for children
Children can enjoy free days out at two Midlands attractions as long as they go with a fee-paying adult. The offer for Alton Towers theme park runs until 11 November, 2009 and is for children under 12 (children aged under four get in free anyway). Entry for children is usually £22 if booked online, or £27 if bought on the day.

Cadbury World, a self-guided tour through the history of chocolate, including

an Aztec jungle room and a Victorian street, is also offering free entry for kids. The offer lasts until 30 December, 2009. Entry for children is usually £10.10.

The vouchers you need for both offers, and further details, are available from the tourist information site for the West Midlands – www.visittheheart.co.uk/greatdaysout.

15 Two for one
If you are in the Midlands area, you can get two-for-one entry at various attractions including Warwick Castle, the National Sea Life Centre, Shakespeare's Birthplace and the Severn Valley Railway. Details from the same website as above.

16 Show me
You can find details of free events that are held in British museums and galleries, by visiting the website www.culture24.org.uk.

Its sister website, www.show.me.uk, is a great way to find out what museums and galleries have available for children.



The Aztec jungle room at Cadbury World