

Ways to save

How to enjoy free days out and discounts on shopping this summer

Free time

1 Free music concerts

The BBC Proms concerts, which are on at the moment, are hugely popular but there are plenty of free alternatives if you like classical music. London Symphony Orchestra musicians give free concerts on Friday lunchtimes at LSO St Luke's, Old Street, London. Each concert begins at 12.30pm and lasts 45 minutes. No need to book seats, just turn up. See lso.co.uk/learn/aboutmusic. Music colleges often hold free concerts. The University of Leeds School of Music offers recitals on Friday lunchtimes. See www.leeds.ac.uk/music/concerts. The Royal College of Music performs from 6-7pm on Fridays at the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London. See www.nationalgallery.org.uk/whats-on/music.

2 See films outdoors

You can enjoy free films outdoors at a number of venues across the country this summer. For example, Manchester city centre's first open-air cinema is showing classic films such as *Grease* and *The Graduate* alongside more recent movies such as *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*. The Screenfields events are from 9pm

every Thursday at Spinningfields, off Deansgate. See www.spinningfieldsonline.com for details.

The Scoop, an open-air amphitheatre next to London's City Hall, is showing free films every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 16 September and 2 October. Films start at 7pm and are first come first served.

It's worth checking with your local council to see if they have plans for any similar events.

3 Films first

If you love film, you might be interested in signing up to free websites that offer you the chance to attend preview screenings for nothing. Register on the site www.seefilmfirst.com and it emails details of film screenings that are available. Momentum Pictures has a preview screening club (www.momentumscreenings.co.uk) you can join. This is again free. In both cases, there's no guarantee of how many screenings you will be offered.



4 Free National Trust

If you love visiting National Trust properties, you may be interested in a list that the charity has put together of places that it takes care of that you can visit for free, and free things you can do at National Trust properties. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/forfree for more information.



5 Cricket in the park

The Ashes cricket series between England and Australia is sure to be a highlight of the summer and you can watch the matches free of charge on big screens at a series of cricket in the park events. Venues include **Cambridge**, Parkers Piece – Sat 1 and Sun 2 Aug (Edgbaston Test); **Derby**, Markeaton Park – Sat 8 and Sun 9 Aug (Headingley Test); **London**, Regent's Park – Sat 22 and Sun 23 Aug (Brit Oval Test). There are other activities as part of the event. Visit the England and Wales cricket board website

(www.ecb.co.uk) and click on 'The Great Exhibition' for more.

6 Free swimming

If you are aged under 16 or over 60, you could use your local swimming pool for free.

Nearly 300 councils in the UK now offer this to the over 60s and nearly 200 councils do the same for under 16s. For details, visit www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/sport and click on the 'where you can swim for free' link or check your local council's website to see if it participates in the scheme.

WHICH? MONEY

Looking for a Best Buy credit card or savings account? Every month Which? Money brings you 10 pages of Best Buys plus links to our website to check the latest rates.

If you need best-value insurance cover, we bring you Best Buys for home, car and travel. And we name financial service providers that give the best service.





General

7 Free for parents
There are websites that can help cut the cost of a new baby. Some are better than others and, we should point out, some are full of advertising. But some are worth trying. The site www.babyfreebies.co.uk aims to help you find free stuff and covers everything from discounts on clothes, to free days out and parents' clubs.



8 Audio holiday guides

If you're visiting a new place on holiday this summer, an audio guide can be a great way to find your way round. There are plenty you can buy, but there are free alternatives, too. You can get more than 40 free audio guides of cities at iaudioguide.com (the site also offers paid-for versions). Many tourist information sites offer free audio guides. For example, visitbath.co.uk has a free audio walking tour of Bath, following in the footsteps of its most famous resident, Jane Austen. See visitbath.co.uk and click on 'Discover Jane Austen's Bath' to download the guide.



9 Fitness Network
If you want to use gyms across the country, you may be interested in the UK Fitness Network scheme. This is a joint venture between not-for-profit leisure centres. Membership lets you use gyms across the UK. Visit www.ukfitnessnetwork.org for more.

10 Educate yourself
Some universities and colleges offer free learning resources including video lectures on the internet. You won't earn a degree by this free route, but it's a good way to improve learning. The Open University (www.open.ac.uk/openlearn) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (ocw.mit.edu) are among those that offer material free of charge.

Looking for better value

11 Skype for free
If you have a 3G mobile phone with the network 3, you can now make unlimited free calls using the Skype internet-based phone service system. Skype is usually used to make free calls from computer to computer. Using it on a 3G mobile means you can make unlimited calls and texts to anyone signed to Skype around the world. Find out more at www.which.co.uk/freeskypecalls.

12 NHS dentists
Do you pay for private dental care because you think it's impossible to get an NHS dentist? Our research from January shows that nine in ten people who tried to get an NHS appointment in the last two years were successful. But that still left 3m people unable to get an NHS appointment.

To help, Which? has published a new guide on dental care at www.which.co.uk/dentist. This includes an online dentist finder so you can find an NHS dentist in your area.

If you are paying private dental costs because you assume you won't be able to get NHS treatment, we think it's worth trying again. For more on making an appointment with an NHS dentist or doctor, see p16.



13 Brand goods
If you are interested in finding designer products more cheaply, you could try a website such as www.brandalley.co.uk. The online retailer offers designer clothing and accessories from brands like Prada and Yves Saint Laurent at discounted prices and emails members with details of what is available. This isn't a place to find the cheapest goods, but it offers a chance of finding well-known names less expensively.

14 Camera bargains
As autumn gets nearer, keep an eye out for camera bargains. Manufacturers typically refresh their line-ups twice a year and sell off their end-of-line stock to make way for Christmas models arriving soon.

TELL US YOUR MONETSAVERS

If you have great ideas for saving money, we want to hear from you. Whether your tips can save pennies or pounds, whether you save on the cost of shopping, cleaning the house or doing the washing up, let us know how you do it. Email paul.ryan@which.co.uk with your ideas or write to him at 2 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 4DF and help your fellow members to save money.