

Save money on upmarket cosmetics

This month our money-saving feature expands to offer more detailed tips on finding cheaper cosmetics, free wireless internet surfing, discount websites, rail fare refunds and free book swaps



1 If you want to buy cosmetics as a present or for yourself, try high-street shops rather than department stores.

Our shoppers found TK Maxx, TJ Hughes, Tesco pharmacies and Superdrug selling cosmetic ranges by Clinique and Elizabeth Arden cheaper than some department stores.

At Superdrug, we found the biggest difference for Elizabeth Arden Visible

Difference Refining Moisture Cream Complex (75ml). Superdrug sold this for £16.95, while Debenhams had the same product for £41. Clarins One Step Facial Cleanser (200ml) was £13.95 at Superdrug, £15.50 at Debenhams.



TK Maxx told us it sells goods at up to 60 per cent off the recommended retail price because its buyers aren't tied into arrangements with suppliers.

If you're heading to the US this summer, you could bag cosmetics at less than half the UK price, partly helped by a favourable exchange rate.

We found Clinique Dramatically Different Moisturiser (125ml pump)

retailing for \$23 (£11.56) at US department store Macy's.

The same product was £27 at Boots, Debenhams, House of Fraser and John Lewis in this country.

2 If you want to use a laptop computer while you're out and about, there are websites that list where there are free wireless internet

hotspots in cities round the world. Check www.thecloud.net and then click on the 'get online' menu and scroll down to hotspot locator for hotspots across the UK and Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

Try also www.free-hotspot.com/find_home.htm or check www.ilovefreewifi.com for the US. This last site lists 94 hotspots in New York alone. Other sites such as www.wiffreespot.com list international airports with free access.



3 There are some websites that collect up a range of discounts offered by different retailers. For example, www.vouchercodes.com highlighted discounts from Amazon.co.uk (up to 50 per cent off some books and box sets), Debenhams (15 per cent on all home purchases) and Opodo (£10 discount on European flights). www.ukfrenzy.co.uk had discounts on Laithwaites Wines (£22 off a case of wine plus two free bottles of wine), and goods from Littlewoods (£15 off your first order of £25 or more).



4 A survey last month found that just four out of ten rail travellers felt they were getting good value. So it makes sense to know when you

can get a refund. Many passengers know they can claim if a train is cancelled, or there's a strike, but if you use London Underground you get a refund if your journey is delayed by 15 minutes. Get the form from www.tfl.gov.uk or at stations. For overground trains, if you arrive at your destination an hour late, you can claim at least 20 per cent of the cost of that journey in travel vouchers, if the delay is for reasons within the train firm's control. Some will even refund for a half-hour delay.



5 You could try registering on a free book swap site such as www.readitswapit.co.uk if you are looking for some holiday reading.

The idea is that if you have a book that you no longer want, you can register it on the site and then exchange it with a book listed by another person on the site. You pay the postage on the book that you send. You can reject a swap you don't want and afterwards you can give the person a feedback rating. Those with better ratings get to swap more than one book at a time. www.bookhopper.co.uk and www.nothingbutbooks.co.uk are other book-swapping sites.