

8 Cost-cutting Tips for Date Nights

With the high cost of gasoline, an evening out with your other half isn't always feasible. Here are eight ways to cut the cost of an evening out.

- Subscribe to online newsletters at favorite places such as comedy clubs, shopping areas, and theatres. You'll receive information about discounts, specials and upcoming events. Some places offer free tickets when sales are low.
- Use the *Entertainment* book to save up to 50 percent off activities like golf, sporting events, home shows and more.
- Go or call a local automobile dealer before the next car show comes to town. Sponsoring dealerships often receive numerous free tickets to give away. The same goes for other niche exhibits and expos.
- Check out www.restaurant.com for gift certificates to local restaurants at up to 70 percent off. (Note: There are various denominations and some restaurants have restrictions.) This is a great way to try a new or upscale eatery.
- Check for early-bird special at a neighborhood restaurant or one you've always wanted to try without the kids. Many times you can receive a three-course meal for portion of the cost.
- Look into free concerts at area parks and recreation centers near you. You'll discover many freebies by checking out the parks and recreation web sites or state parks.
- Scan the weekend section of daily newspapers for money-saving coupons, upcoming events and festivals.
- Buy tickets for opening night of community plays and musicals. Many times the first night of production is discounted to work out any kinks in the performance. If you can't make it to opening night, ask about weekday discounts.

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