

Not just those bargain dinners at the pancake house. You've spent a lifetime earning your senior citizen status. You deserve a break today, as well as for many future days, nights, weekends and holidays. Also on land, at sea and in the air. Consider the opportunities:

Restaurants: Arrange dinner visits when early bird specials are in effect, usually from 4 or 5 pm. At any time, check the menu or ask the server about senior specials.

Car rental: If the trip requires driving, make sure your license and insurance coverages are current. Check online or with your local travel agent for best senior discount deals from Hertz, National, Alamo, Enterprise and Budget.

Cruises: Many ocean and river lines include discounts for seniors. Research for specials, such as last-minute booking, seasonal sailings, seniors-only schedules, group trips and other potential savings.

Movie theaters: Most offer discounts to seniors, often for certain showing times. Senior discounts can range from 25% to 60% off the regular ticket price. SeniorDiscounts.com provides a comprehensive list of theaters honoring discounts.

Museums: Most offer discounts for seniors for certain days or times. Check for special showings, group events and other interesting occasions for senior art lovers.

National parks: Many offer entry discounts, and others allow seniors free admission on specific times and days. SeniorDiscounts.com explains how to choose, such as the best pass: Senior Pass, Annual Pass, Access Pass and Volunteer Pass.

Summary: Even when potential discounts or freebees are not listed in every part of your travel experiences, always ask about senior discounts.