



Age sometimes has its privileges. Many companies, stores and other businesses offer discounts to senior citizens. AARP, the American Association of Retired Persons, is a good resource for latest info. Membership is open to people 50 years and older, and costs just \$16 per year.

The simplest way to get instant discounts is to first decide what and where you'll be traveling. Then, when a price is quoted, ask a simple question. It happens when ordering a meal, at the theater, while booking a cruise and for other info. The words are, "What's the senior discount?" This very often results in unexpected, but very satisfying savings. Here are just a few examples of some of the best senior discounts.

National Parks love seniors. They're always a bargain for the wonderful natural features they provide, but are more enjoyable when at senior prices.

It can cost from \$50 to \$100 each time for entrance fees to the more than 2,000 National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands. Seniors (over age 62) pay just a \$10 one-time fee for a lifetime pass, available by mail or internet. There may also be up to a 50 percent discount for motels, hostels, camping, boating and swimming for facilities within the National Parks.

Depending on the season and length of stay, major hotel and motel chains may offer senior discounts. For example, when checking into Holiday Inns, there may be discounts of from ten to 30%. Hyatt also offers senior discounts of up to 50% off regular rates. No matter which chain you choose, make sure to ask the reservation person or search the website for senior

discounts.

Because retirees are a major portion of passengers, all cruise lines offer various types of senior discounts. Types of discounts are based on many factors, including season, ship size, cabin location and port visits. Norwegian Cruise Lines offers AARP members a 5% discount

When planning a cruise, check daily for online cruise line promotions, particularly those offering discounts for seniors. For seniors planning their first cruise, it may be best to deal with a reliable hometown travel agent.

There are many varieties of senior discounts available for movies, live theater, museums, public galleries, zoos, public events and other forms of entertainment. There are also free entrance days for seniors.

For movies, a good example is the AMC chain, with theaters in all of the nation's major cities. On Tuesdays, seniors over age 60 may get up to 30% off ticket prices.

With growing costs of auto and air travel, many seniors are returning to the more economical and less hectic train travel. Amtrak offers 15% discounts for seniors over age 62.

Another example of senior discounts is by Southwest Airlines. It offers up to 20% off on some senior tickets with its "Anytime" and "Wanna Get Away" promotions, also for seniors over age 65.

Traditional senior discounts at restaurants often come with attractive pricing. Many large chains offer special senior pricing and menu items. For example, IHOP has a complete senior menu for diners 55 and older, offering lower priced options. There's also the traditional early bird specials at many restaurants for seniors who enjoy dinner at 5 pm.