

REAL SIMPLE

life made easier, every day



Yunhee Kim

How to Save on Summer Entertainment

This season was made for having fun. Here are five ways to have lots of it — without spending a fortune.

by Maura Kelly | May 2009

Buy a national-park pass. The \$80 permit, good for a full year, gives you access to 58 national parks, from Acadia to Yellowstone. In addition to hiking and camping, many parks also offer white-water rafting and horseback riding. (Go to nps.gov for the closest park.)

Enjoy a minor-league baseball game. Box seats cost about \$15, which is \$30 or so less than a comparable ticket at the majors. The stadiums are smaller, so parking is a breeze and the concessions have shorter lines. (To find a nearby team, check out milb.com.)

Go berry picking. There's no entrance fee, the scenery is delightful, and you'll find bargains on delicious fresh fruit. (Locate a pick-your-own farm in your state at pickyourown.org.)

Be a tourist in your own town. CityPASS, now available in 11 cities nationwide, offer discounts on admission to popular venues, like museums and aquariums. Prices range from \$44 up to \$247 for a pass to five attractions located in Southern California. (For more information, visit citypass.com.)

Book as a group. Many arts organizations will give a discount of 10 to 50 percent to parties of 20 or more people (and sometimes to groups as small as 10.)