



How to Finagle A Low-Cost Night (or Day) Out

Nervous about a presentation on Monday and payday still a week away? We all need a few hours to blow off some steam, but you don't have to blow your budget to do so. Grab a few friends or your significant other for a memorable and frugal night (or day) on the town.

For a minimal expense, you can visit a winery and embark on a decadent wine tasting tour. Sample the year's finest reds and whites while learning a thing or two along the way. If you don't know where to start, ask a local wine shop or search online.

Nothing's more humbling to the soul than supporting a local charity. Spend an afternoon at the food bank, lifting boxes or stocking shelves, or gather pals for a Habitat for Humanity home-building afternoon. When your day is complete, that presentation won't seem quite so bad.

Be adventurous and discover the beauty surrounding you. Many of us take for granted everything we see on a day-to-day basis. But sometimes the most spectacular scenes are right in your own backyard. Take a hike, go berry picking or drive to the beach. Pack a scrupulous lunch and blanket for a relaxing picnic in the grass.

Scout out a local book signing or poetry reading. Coffeehouses, libraries, universities and small book shops are a great resource for free or low-cost entertainment – from literary events to small acoustic shows, and some even offer relaxing cappuccinos and herbal teas alongside.

Find a local park and go on a duck feeding stroll. Bring bread or crackers to toss on your path, enjoying unrushed conversation, soda, coffee or tea along the way.

Grab a latte, biscotti or hardy scones on a low-cost coffee date. Enjoy an afternoon of caffeine, sweetness and conversation. With these creative ideas, you can still be stylish on a tight budget.

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