

Military Deals and Discounts

A Guide to Summer's Best Deals

Brought to you by



Veterans United
Home Loans

Your VA Mortgage Center

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Introduction

Between entertaining the kids when they're out of school and family vacations, the summer months can be incredibly busy for families across the nation.

Even though you're busy, make sure to keep military discounts and deals in mind and save money.

From theme parks to ice cream cones, using your military discount can save you and your family a lot of money all summer long.

Theme Parks

If you're looking for thrills this summer, check out these military discounts offered at theme parks in your area.

Austin's Park: For those considering a trip to [Austin's Park](#), consider visiting on a Monday to receive a special military discount (\$10.95 with a valid military ID).

Busch Gardens, SeaWorld and Sesame Place: Through the "Here's to the Heroes" program, active duty personnel, Reservists and Guardsmen are eligible for free admission. Visit the [attraction website](#), select your state of residence and then register for your free tickets.

Cedar Point Amusement Park: If you are a thrill seeker and want to ride the world's tallest roller coaster, check out the [Cedar Point Amusement Park](#) in Sandusky, Ohio. Active and retired military personnel can get \$10 off a regular priced adult admission for themselves and immediate family.

Coca-Cola World: Visitors to the Atlanta area should check into [Armed Forces appreciation program](#) at Coca-Cola World. Upon presentation of a valid military ID, active and retired military personnel will receive one complimentary pass. Guests and dependents are not included.

Dollywood: [Dollywood](#) offers amusement park fun for the whole family in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Military personnel receive 30 percent off regular ticket price.

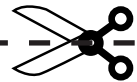
Legoland: Active military personnel visiting [Legoland](#) receive a 10 percent discount on one-day admission tickets at the gate and through guest services with presentation of a valid military ID.

Six Flags: Families and friends visiting any of the [Six Flags](#) resorts can check the individual sites for information about military appreciation days. Bases will often purchase bulk discounted tickets and sell them at the base to military personnel.

Universal Studios Orlando: Universal Studios in Orlando, Fla., participates in Leisure Travel offices on an individual base level. Check this [military link](#) to see if your base or a base near you has tickets available.

Universal Studios Hollywood: [Universal Studios](#) in Hollywood offers discounts to all members of the Armed Forces, active duty and retired, other Department of Defense personnel and dependents. Tickets can be purchased on base or over the phone at (619) 767-6000.

Worlds of Fun: If you will be in the Kansas City area, check out the great discounts offered to military personnel and their dependents at Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun. The cheapest deals can be found through the ITR offices on base. A discount is given at the gate with the presentation of a military ID. Adult admission tickets are discounted to \$35.99 for Worlds of Fun and \$25.99 for Oceans of Fun. Check out this [military discount page](#) for even more information about different options.



Interesting facts:

Cedar Point Amusement Park is known as the roller coaster capital of the world and has the world's tallest roller coaster.

Disney World was almost located in St. Louis until funding from brewer Anheuser Busch fell through.

Dollywood was originally known as Goldrush Junction before Dolly Parton bought and redesigned it.

Sea World began as a marine-themed restaurant with a show and has grown into the one of the most popular theme parks in the country.

Water Parks

Water parks are a great way to spend the day if you're looking to cool down in the heat of the summer. Keep a little more money in your wallet by using these great military discounts at these popular water parks.

Great Wolf Lodge: The [Great Wolf Lodge](#) is a family oriented water park with locations across the nation. Check their official website to find locations nearest you and call ahead for specific military discounts as they vary by time of year and length of stay.

Schlitterbahn: Schlitterbahn is a popular water park with locations in Texas and Kansas. If your base is near a water park, check with the local leisure office to learn more about military base days. Here is an [example](#) of the participating bases near the Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels, Texas. For a full list of locations check the main [website](#) and search for military discounts.

Wild Mountain Water Park: Taylor Falls, Minnesota, is home to the [Wild Mountain Theme Park](#). With everything from water slides to go-karts, Wild Mountain is a great spot for an active family. Service personnel and their family receive \$10 off a Wild Mountain Water Park, Alpine Slides & Go-Karts Superday Pass. This discount is valid anytime the park is open and is available with presentation of a valid military ID.

Wild Waves Theme Park: Wild Waves Theme Park is one of the Northwest's best waterparks. With more than 20 rides for the entire family, Wild Waves has something for everyone. Wild Waves shows its appreciation to those who have served our country by offering \$5 off [daily admission tickets](#) with a valid military ID.

Disney

Visiting [Disneyworld](#) or [Disneyland](#) is a vacation in and of itself. With massive parks, families can stay an entire week and still not see everything. Use these military discounts to save money on a variety of options on Disney tickets.

Disneyland: For those visiting or living in the California area, Disneyland is also offering great military promotional deals. Active or retired personnel may purchase up to six 3-day park hopper tickets for only \$99 each, plus tax.

Disney World: Active and retired U.S. military personnel or their spouses can receive special discounts on park tickets as well as room reservations. Disney is currently offering a few different options to military personnel to fit different types and lengths of vacations.

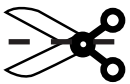
Disney World options:

Disney 4-day military promotional tickets with park hopper option for \$138 each, plus tax.

Disney 4-day military promotional tickets with water parks fun and more option for \$138 each, plus tax

Disney 4-day military promo tickets with park hopper and waterparks fun and more options for \$165 each, plus tax.

Disney military promo 3-day park hopper tickets for \$99 each, plus tax.



Zoos

Zoos are a great day activity for families with children of any age. Popular zoos with military discounts are listed below. Be sure to check zoos in your area for military discounts as well.

Houston Zoo: The [Houston Zoo](#) offers free admission for military members and their families with a valid military ID.

San Diego Zoo: All active duty and U.S. foreign military personnel with valid military identification are given a free one-day pass to the [San Diego Zoo](#) and Wildlife Reserve. Dependent family members receive a discount of 10 percent off one-day passes. Military bases in the surrounding areas also provide passes at a reduced price.

North Carolina Zoo: Military members receive \$2 off general admission tickets with a valid ID at the [North Carolina Zoo](#) in Asheboro, NC.

Atlanta Zoo: [The Atlanta Zoo](#) offers a discounted admission price of \$16.99 for anyone presenting a valid military ID.

Minnesota Zoo: Receive \$2 off adult admission tickets and \$1 off child admission tickets at the [Minnesota Zoo](#) with a military ID.

Travel

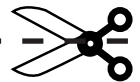
Whether you're flying, driving or riding a train, check out the military discounts you can use to get to your summer vacation destination.

Amtrak: Those traveling by rails this summer will be glad to know they can save even more money by taking advantage of the [Amtrak military discount](#) program. Active duty military personnel, their spouses and their dependents are eligible to receive a 10 percent discount on the lowest available rail fare for most Amtrak trains, including travel on the Auto Train.

Buses: If you're travelling by bus this summer, you might want to check out the military discounts offered at [Greyhound](#). Active duty and retired military personnel and their dependent family members receive a 10 percent discount on the walk-up fare.

Did you know:

For those travelling longer distances by bus, look into the Greyhound maximum fare program for military members. Once enrolled, you pay a maximum round-trip fare of \$209 anywhere in the continental United States.



Airlines

For most, the convenience of air travel makes it the most popular form of transportation for vacations. Many airlines offer different military discounts, incentives and special programs.

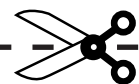
United Airlines: [United Airlines](#) offers reduced fare on point-of-sale domestic flights to active duty personnel. This discount extends to spouses and dependent children as well. As with most airline military discounts, you must call the airline's booking agent as discount and availability varies by flight.

American Airlines: [American Airlines](#) offers several special discounts exclusively to active duty personnel. Discounted airfares, relaxed advance purchase requirements and preferred boarding privileges are among the most used. Call 1-800-433-7300 to make reservations.

Southwest Airlines: [Southwest Airlines](#) offers special military fares for the men and women (including dependents) in the Armed Forces. For more details, availability and booking information call 1-800-I-FLY-SWA.

Hawaiian Airlines: Those flying with Hawaiian Airlines should definitely look into their military discounted fares. More information on the program can be found on their [discounts page](#).

Delta Airlines: Although information about military discounts can't be found on the Delta Airlines website, Delta does offer special military rates for active duty personnel and their dependents. Call the reservation line at your departing airport (a list can be found at this [site](#)). Booking agents will know specifics and dates for discounted flights.



Hudson News:

Whether you're waiting to take off, stuck during a layover or waiting out a delay, everyone has done some shopping at the airport. Hudson News is a popular airport store with locations around the country. If you find yourself stopping at one along your journey, make sure to ask about the 20 percent military discount on all purchases excluding newspapers, magazines and tobacco products.

Airline	1st Checked Bag Fee	2nd Checked Bag Fee
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United	Domestic: \$25 Caribbean/Central America/Mexico: Free Other International Flights: Free	Domestic: \$35 Caribbean/Central America/Mexico: \$40 Other International Flights: \$70
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American	Domestic: \$25 Mexico, Caribbean & Central America: Free Europe/India: Free	Domestic: \$35 Mexico, Caribbean & Central America: \$30 Europe/India: \$60
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Southwest	Free	Free
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Hawaiian	No fee for active military and qualifying dependents	No fee for active military and qualifying dependents
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Delta	Domestic: \$25 Europe: Free Mexico, Caribbean & Central America: Free	Domestic: \$35 Europe: Online: \$60 At Airport: \$75 Mexico, Caribbean & Central America: \$30
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Did you know:

The weight limit for checked bags on all airlines is 50 lbs.



Car Rental

Renting a car can make traveling to a new place a lot easier. Car rental agencies are known for their great military discounts. Here's a look at a few major ones:

Alamo: Military personnel traveling on official business or tour-of-duty orders receive these extra benefits when renting from [Alamo](#):

- No underage driver fees (minimum age for rental is 18)

- Collision Damage Waiver (CDW) included

- Frequent traveler benefits with Alamo's major travel partners

- 550 participating locations worldwide to accommodate on-duty travel

Benefits for leisure or unofficial travel include:

- Discounted rates for federal government employees and military personnel

- Frequent Traveler benefits

- 550 participating locations

- Family members with dependent identification are eligible for leisure rates

Avis: When travelling on official business in the U.S., [Avis](#) promises free collision insurance coverage, no additional or underage driver fees, free unlimited mileage and highly competitive rates.

Thrifty: [Thrifty](#) offers free GPS rental, free one-car-class upgrades, free blue chip express program membership and free Thrifty airport parking to current military and U.S. government employees at locations nationwide.

Dollar Car Rental: There are a number of different perks for military personnel traveling on official government business and on leisure time when renting from [Dollar Car Rental](#). Below are the company's benefits for federal employees on **official government travel:**

- U.S. Government Car Rental Agreement terms
- Competitive rates
- On-airport convenience at most major locations
- Unlimited mileage
- Free LDW/CDW insurance
- No underage fee
- Complimentary Dollar Express Rental Program membership
- Frequent flyer miles or credits with participating airlines
- Free car upgrades

Below are some of the company's benefits for **leisure travel:**

- Applicable to government employees and retired government employees
- Preferential government leisure rate
- 5-percent off rental rates
- On-airport convenience at most major locations
- Complimentary Dollar Express Rental Program membership
- Unlimited mileage allowance
- Frequent flyer miles or credits with participating airlines

Budget: Budget offers a military discount that varies depending on time of year and location. Most generally the military discount amounts to 10 percent off rental prices. You can visit this [link](#) to set up a reservation with the military discount already applied. For information on current discounts and rates you can call your local Budget location.

Hertz: [Hertz](#) provides the following benefits to military and government employees on **official travel:**

- No underage driver surcharge
- No extra charges for additional drivers
- Unlimited mileage
- LDW included
- Liability included
- Space available upgrades
- Complimentary membership in Hertz #1 Club Gold.
- Discounted Rates

Below are some of the company's benefits for **leisure travel:**

- Discounted Rates
- Space available upgrades
- Complimentary Hertz #1 Club Gold membership.

For more information on the Hertz #1 Club Gold program, you can call 703-683-9273 and to begin your government and military travelers reservation you can visit this [link](#).

National Car Rental: [National Car Rental](#) offers discounted rates for U.S. government and Department of Defense travelers on official business. Benefits include full LDW, no underage fees, frequent travel benefits with National's major airline partners and more than 550 participating locations. Military leisure rates are available, but the additional benefits are not included.

Hotels

Traveling in the summer months can be expensive. Make sure you don't overspend and take advantage of military discounts at hotels and branches across the country.

Best Western: [Best Western](#) offers low discounted hotel rates to U.S. government employees and military personnel traveling on official business or leisure. For more information and to make a reservation, visit Best Western's [Military Discount page](#).

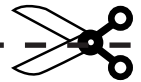
Nickelodeon Suites Resort, Orlando, FL: Nickelodeon Suites offers a military appreciation program with a number of different discounts and deals throughout the year. Their official [military discount webpage](#) has details on what deals are going on at any given time.

Starwood Hotels: Starwood Hotels include popular locations such as Westin, Sheraton and St. Regis. Starwood has negotiated with the government to provide great deals on the per diem program. For locations and reservations visit [Starwood's website](#).

Intercontinental Hotels: Government and military rates are available at more than 3,000 [Intercontinental](#) locations. The discount will vary based on location, date and availability. The Intercontinental hotel group includes Intercontinental Hotels & Resorts, Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Indigo, Holiday Inn, Staybridge Suites and Candlewood Suites.

Choice Hotels: Choice Hotels is a worldwide chain with more than 6,000 locations. Choice Privileges Armed Services program is designed for all current and retired military personnel and their eligible dependents with appropriate military ID. The following benefits are offered in the military appreciation program:

- Automatically receive Elite Gold level upon joining
- 10% point bonus on all stays
- Exclusive Customer service and reservations phone number
- Exclusive member offers
- Earn points at over 5,000 locations
- Earn airline rewards for stays
- Redeem points for free nights worldwide (no blackout dates)
- Receive in-hotel benefits



FYI

Comfort Inn, Quality, Sleep Inn and MainStay are all included in Choice Hotels.

Summer Essentials

Everyone has their favorite summer activity and whether you enjoy ice cream after a hot day, laying out and catching some sun or catching a summer blockbuster at the movie theater, check out these discounts to save you money this summer:

Movies

Here are some larger movie theater chains that offer military discounts across the country. Be sure to check with your local theaters to find out about discounted movie tickets in your area.

IMAX: Get \$1 off any ticket at all [IMAX theaters](#) with a valid military ID.

Regal Movie Theaters: Get matinee prices on movies any time with a valid military ID at any Regal Movie Theaters location. Check the [website](#) for a location near you.

AMC: [AMC](#) does not offer a military discount at the ticket window, but tickets are distributed to military bases where they can be purchased at a discounted price.

Cinemark: Present your valid military ID at the box office of any [Cinemark Theater](#) to receive a discount. Discount specifics are determined by location and film.

Ice Cream

Cool down on a warm summer evening with some ice cream from these stores that offer military discounts.

Baskin Robbins: Participating Baskin Robbins locations offer a 10 percent discount with presentation of a valid military ID. Use the [store locator](#) to find a participating location near you.

Cold Stone: [Coldstone](#) stores offer 10 percent off any purchase with a valid military ID.

Sunglasses

Sunglasses are a necessity whether you spend a lot of time outdoors or just a lot of time driving.

Harber Vision: Harber Vision offers 50 percent off their line of military-inspired sunglasses, rated for even the toughest activities. You can visit the company's [website](#) for more styles and information.

Vacations

Big or small, summer getaways are essential to many people in the United States. Below are a couple places where you can find military discounts for your vacation plans.

Military Travel Zone: [Military Travel Zone](#) is an online travel agent dedicated to finding the best deals and discounts for military personnel during any trip. With a large database of what hotels, activities and restaurants offer the best military discounts, the people at this website can help you find everything for your trip on a budget.

Travel Agencies: Although the days of visiting your travel agent for every trip seem to be over, travel agents can still be an excellent resource for getting the best deals and locations on your next trip. Check out these travel agents specifically for military personnel or ones that offer discounts.

When should you consider a travel agent?

If you're going on a cruise. Although booking websites include cruises, the best deals are often found through an agent.

If you're going on a trip that will have more than three connecting flights.

If you or a fellow traveler has special needs or disabilities.



Cruises

Cruises are a great option for a family interested in a wide variety of activities during their vacation. Lounging on deck, rock climbing, swimming, sight seeing and great dining are all available on modern cruise ships that travel anywhere from the Caribbean to Alaska and beyond.

Carnival Cruises: [Carnival Cruises](#) travel the Caribbean, the Alaskan coastline, the northeastern and Canadian coasts as well as Mexico and Europe.

Active and retired military personnel receive anywhere from a 10-50 percent military discount depending on the time of year, destination and length of cruise. To learn more about specific discounts you can contact Oscar Vegara of the Carnival Company at 1-800-819-3902, ext. 82614, or email overgara2@carnival.com.

Royal Caribbean Cruises: [Royal Caribbean Cruises](#) explore more than just the Caribbean and offer exclusive rates for active and retired military personnel as well as spouses of currently deployed service members.

The specific discounts vary depending on length of cruise, destination and time of year. At least one person in each room must be eligible for the discount to be in compliance with the discounted rates rules.

Popular cruise locations:

Mexico: Cozumel, Costa Maya & Puerto Vallarta

Caribbean: Aruba, Cayman Islands, St. Kitts & Martinique

Alaska: Ketchikan, Juneau & Skagway



Landmarks

Landmarks are a part of every summer trip. Check out the ones below that offer special military discount opportunities.

Hard Rock Café: Whether you're looking for a T-shirt for your collection or just a good meal, make sure to ask about the 15 percent discount on everything except alcohol and charity merchandise for anyone with a valid military ID at Hard Rock Cafés. To see if there will be a Hard Rock Café in the city you plan on visiting, check out their [store locator](#).

Space Needle: Active military with a valid ID will receive \$2 off their admission ticket to the Seattle Space Needle.

Statue of Liberty: The Statue of Liberty provides complimentary tickets to the landmark itself to military personnel with valid IDs; prices for the ferry ride can be found on the landmark's [website](#).

Kennedy Space Center: Tickets to the [Kennedy Space Center](#) can be purchased through the ITT/MWR office on participating bases. At the ticket window, a \$4 discount off regular admission costs is awarded with a valid military ID. For more information on specific discounts you can visit the military offers page [here](#).

Graceland: For Elvis fans, [Graceland](#) offers 10 percent discounts off mansion tours for those with a valid military ID. Check out more information about tours and information on their [tickets and reservations page](#).

Empire State Building: Visitors to the Empire State Building with a valid military ID receive tickets for \$16 with tax, a \$6 discount off regular adult admission tickets.

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