

Money Saving Tips for the Budget-Minded Camper

Are you new to camping and looking for ways to enhance your experience on a small budget? Maybe you want to introduce your kids to camping, but don't want to spend a lot of money on equipment until you know they are going to enjoy it. Perhaps you're planning a once-a-year camping excursion as part of a reunion with old friends or family.

If any of these apply to you, or even if you're an experienced camper, then check out the following money-saving tips.

Additionally, renting is the answer for experienced campers who are making a highly specialized trip and might need unique gear they would otherwise not use. And it's a great way to test out new equipment before making the commitment to buy it.

Ask your campground if they have camping equipment for rent. If not, call outdoor gear suppliers or rental companies near you to inquire about camping equipment rentals, or go on-line to Lowergear.com to learn more.

Another great option is rental cabins. Many campgrounds now offer cabins to rent, from simple primitive units to luxurious models with all the comforts of home. It's a fantastic way for families to enjoy the campground experience without investing in expensive equipment.

One way to save around the campsite is to substitute everyday items you might already have around the house for things purchased primarily just for camping. While a lantern certainly provides extra light around the picnic table at night, one can probably get by without it. Flashlights can easily provide any necessary light, and the glow from a campfire will always help too.

A barbecue grill is another item that can be considered more of a luxury than a necessity. Better yet is a small camp stove that will do everything from boil water to fry eggs or potatoes. But even better is simply cooking over an open fire. Most campsites are equipped with a fire ring, and many even have cooking grates. A simple search on the Internet will yield dozens of favorite recipes and methods.

Use your imagination and you'll find all kinds of ways to save. A five-gallon bucket is not only great for hauling small gear, but it also works as a stool for sitting around the fire. Rather than buying expensive packets of freeze-dried meals, freeze homemade soups and stews in freezer bags. They help to keep things cold in the cooler all weekend, and can be easily heated for a delicious meal.

By renting equipment and using some ingenuity, both new and experienced campers can enjoy a camping vacation - even when on a tight budget.

A great way for beginners to get into camping without spending a ton on new gear is to rent your equipment instead. For example, a small family could rent a tent, sleeping bags, and a camp stove for a weekend trip and spend less than a fourth of what it might cost to purchase the same gear. Renting is also a great idea for established campers who may need an extra tent to bring along for grandkids or friends on a one-time special occasion when purchasing just doesn't make sense.



... both new and experienced campers can enjoy a camping vacation – even when on a tight budget.