

## Discounts for Senior Citizens

A senior discount is a reduction in the base price/cost of a product or service to a person of a particular age. This practice is a way of honoring those citizens who have supported the American economy for fifty plus years. Whether the discount is for early bird dining or MBTA use, the intent is to help seniors economically and encourage their business, especially during quiet times of the day or week. The definition of senior varies, with a range from 50 to 65 and older. Not all discounts are published so you should always ask - politely, cheerfully, optimistically and respectfully – for one. Usually you can get only **one** discount – a senior citizen or AARP or AAA, etc.

Here is a partial list of businesses that give senior discounts – in all situations, it is important to ask about their current policy.

- MBTA – a Senior Transportation Access Pass (65+) entitles the bearer to ride buses for 15 cents, subway for 25 cents and Express buses & commuter rail for ½ price.
- Amtrak – offers a 15% discount to persons 62 or older, except on Auto Train & 1<sup>st</sup> class tickets
- Greyhound – if you are 62 or older, join Greyhound Seniors Club for \$5/year and get 10% off regular fare
- Airlines – offer two types of discounts: 1) a percentage discount of about 10% off regular fares; and 2) senior multiple-coupon books. The age range is 55 – 62. American, Continental, Delta & United offer discounts. Some airlines have senior clubs which may be worth the membership fee if you fly frequently
- Rental cars – offer a discount of 5-10% for seniors
- Motels, hotels and resorts – 37 motel chains offer discounts of 10-30%
- Internet services – AOL, Compuserve Microsoft & Prodigy offer senior discounts
- Banks – most offer senior discount plan of some type (i.e. free checking account)
- National Parks – Lifetime Golden Age Passport costs \$10 for those 62+ (with age and citizen identification) allows **free** admission to National Parks for all passengers in a private vehicle. It offers 50% discount on camping and other use fees
- Stores – many stores offer senior discounts – often on specific days
- Restaurants – may offer an early-bird discount on dinner (hours and discounts vary)
- Movies, amusement parks, theatres and museums – usually offer senior discounts that amount to 10 –50%.

These are just a few of the businesses that offer senior discounts. It is useful to be a good comparison shopper because not all “senior discounts” are the best deal – though usually they can offer tremendous savings.