

## What discounts can I get when I'm disabled?

Martin Lewis's MoneysavingExpert website has a users forum with a new thread: "**What discounts can I get when I'm disabled?**".

<http://forums.moneysavingexpert.com/showthread.php?t=2561839>

I've listed the comments which are most likely to be useful to people in West Yorkshire. I don't guarantee that the comments can be relied upon, so don't complain if you don't get one of these: just be thankful for any that you do use!! If you know of any more discounts, why not sign up to the forum and let other people know.

- **Days out and evening trips to theatres**
- **Bus, rail and car discounts**
- **At home**
- **Guides to other discounts**

### ***Days out and evening trips to theatres***

#### ***Daytime***

#### **Merlin (the company that run Alton towers, Legoland, etc)**

- Merlin's Magic Wand is a charity run by merlin's (company that run Alton towers, Legoland, etc) that grant tickets and help with travel costs to those with a disabled child. I was recently awarded 5 tickets to Legoland and £116 travel costs for my son. It took 1 week for the tickets to arrive from applying online. They award tickets to families with a disabled person. The link is <http://www.merlinsmagicwand.org/>
- Depending on disability you can also get an 'exit' pass for Legoland too. We had to show DLA to get carer in at the ticket office and then we went inside the gates to the right where the Customer Services are and showed a letter saying from the Paediatrician saying that my daughter was autistic and could not stand in queues then the three of us had our hands stamped. We could then go on any ride that my daughter went on from the exit point. You just go to the exit of the ride show your hand stamps to the person running the ride and you get to go on straight away.
- We've used the exit system at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Alton Towers and Legoland. I've just had to take my blue badge to the guest services on arrival.
- Some people (but not all) have been refused a free carer pass from Merlin when using Tesco clubcard vouchers, as they say that they are heavily discounted the pass in the first place. I told them that they were discriminating against disabled people, but they stuck to the guns, which meant I had to use Tesco clubcard vouchers for me too! Also at Cadbury's World, some people have had to pay cash for the disabled person to get the carer in free. It seems to depend on the person who's on duty.
- So a tip, if you want a Disabled Merlin Pass (i.e. with the free carer pass) buy the Merlin Pass in the winter on-line (e.g. on the Legoland or Merlin Pass site) as there are often huge discounts. For example in January they were selling Individual or Disabled Merlin Passes for half price, so £75 instead of £150!  
N.B. This discount often works out cheaper than renewing a pass (if you are buying an individual or Disabled Pass). If you have an existing pass you could buy a cheap one in the

winter and then exchange the voucher (at Legoland, etc) for the new annual pass when your other one runs out.

### **Other places**

- I went to Knowsley Safari Park a couple of months ago; my my disabled partner and I got in for free. We just showed the blue badge.
- Diggerland: The disabled person pays but their carer goes free. No reason why disabled people can't have fun!
- LONDON EYE - allow for a free carer and 'fast track' you for free. Needs to be booked beforehand though.
- Hi, I recently contacted Beamish Museum for my parents to see what discount disabled guests get. Unfortunately they do not offer any discount for disabled people but do admit their carers in free of charge. You just have to tell the staff at the entrance who is the carer and off you go. It is a saving of £16 for an adult or £13 for a 60+ so worth having.
- Cadbury World also do free entry for carers - you need to call them and usually book in advance. [www.cadburyworld.co.uk](http://www.cadburyworld.co.uk)

- National Trust (England) has an admission policy for disabled people which admits the "necessary companion" or personal assistant of a disabled visitor free of charge, on request, while the normal membership, or admission fee, applies to the disabled visitor. To save having to 'request' a companion's free entry each time you go, you can apply for an '[Admit One](#)' card to be issued.

[http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-visits-essential\\_info/w-visits-essential\\_info-disabilities.htm](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-visits-essential_info/w-visits-essential_info-disabilities.htm)

- There's no charge for the card, it is in your name but it takes quite a long time to arrive so book early! Maybe take a deep breath before checking out their website; the text is archaic and a bit patronising. Not only do carers get in free but there's free use of a scooter - you may have to prebook them in busy periods though.
- Also if you really like going to these lovely places then you can buy a disabled person an annual membership for £37.50 and then request a carer free card which can be used for any carer. Well worth the money. We have bought one and saved tons of money.
- My son is in receipt of DLA and I also receive Carers Allowance for him. We have had a number of free or 'cheap' days out. We now take the letter from his doctor stating that he doesn't understand the concept of queuing and he lacks social skills, as well as the letters stating that we get DLA and Carers Allowance, as some places have wanted to see all 3 letters before allowing a carer to enter for free or issuing exit passes.
- Anglers can get a discount on the Environment Agency rod license. Look for the concessionary box.

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/recreation/fishing/31497.aspx>

### **Evening**

- If you want free stuff, you can go and watch TV shows being filmed for free such as X Factor, QI or other programmes and you get to jump the queue and again, get really good seats. Applause store: <http://www.applausestore.com/> is a great source for loads of different shows, or the BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/tickets/>

and the access is always good for disabled people. I managed to get tickets for X Factor last year and they were very helpful.

- Apply for a card which gives free cinema tickets for carers accompanying disabled people: <http://www.ceacard.co.uk/>
- Almost every concert ticket I have booked lets carers in for free. Before paying for any shows or attractions in London, check with the actual theatre or attraction (not the booking agencies) and always ask if there is a discount for the disabled. Shows are a fraction of the price, carers are sometimes free, or also discounted.

## ***Bus, rail and car discounts***

- Free road fund for one vehicle for anyone receiving the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.
- All major toll bridges offer a disability discount- but all differ. It's worth checking in advance. For example, the Severn Bridge only requires the blue badge to be shown at the time of crossing and the Humber requires pre registration. If you are a Blue Badge holder, you are entitled to free passage through the Dartford Crossing. Apply to the Dartford Crossing web-site direct.
- If you have a valid blue badge you can park in the short term car park at any BAA Airport and pay the normal long term rate. You have to phone BAA parking first and pre book. When finally leaving the car park you go to the manned pay kiosk and pay whilst showing your blue badge. It makes life so much easier as you can also call from phones in the car park and get picked up by wheelchair or buggy and taken to check-in.
- If you have or are buying a Disabled Person's Railcard or have a Blue Badge you can get a free copy of the Rough Guide to Accessible Britain. <http://www.accessibleguide.co.uk/>  
You just need to enter your Railcard number or the issuing authority of your Blue Badge to prove entitlement.
- There are discounts for ferry travel through Mobilise - you need to be a member. <http://www.mobilise.info/>

## ***At home***

- BT offer a free directory enquiries service for people who can "prove" they are unable to handle or read a directory. For details, call 195 from a landline.

## ***Guides to other discounts***

- Government guide to tax relief and reductions for disabled people: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/FinancialSupport/Taxreliefandreductions/index.htm>
- There is a definitive guide on not just discounts for us disabled people but also incentives and benefits, produced by RADAR called: "[If only I'd known that a year ago ... 2010](#)" and it costs £14.99. It has probably saved me thousands of pounds over the years and yes, I wish I'd bought it years before I actually did! Amazon has the 2009 issue - used - from £1.39 plus £2.75 P&P. There probably isn't a lot of difference.

- Also, invaluable for some of us, the National Key Scheme for [accessible toilets](#). **Accessible toilets** are the ones that have been built or adapted so that disabled people can get access into them and to use them. The keys also fit a lot of these new self-cleaning street toilets. The cost of a key about £3.50 and can pay for itself within a short time (pun intended).

<http://nks.directenquiries.com/NKS/page.aspx?pageid=10&tab=National+Key+Scheme&level=2>

- Have just found out about a website that allows you to list your unwanted mobility aids for free, or to buy 2nd hand mobility aids. It is <http://disabledgear.com/>

### *The Family Hub (Leeds)*

<http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org/category.aspx?cat=Disability>

- This forum correspondent works for Leeds city council as an information officer for disabled children and their families/carers and just ran an article about a variety of discount cards and activities. The main cards are:

Metro Bus Pass: contact metro on 0113 222 4444 for information about a concessionary pass for a companion to travel at a discounted rate as well as the disabled person!

Cinema card at [ceacard.co.uk](http://ceacard.co.uk) has already been mentioned

Sports centre concessions, just call in to a local council sports centre and a carer will be admitted in to a swimming or gym session with a paying disabled child/young person. New centres are opening up around the city and are really quality.

Bowling discounts at hollywood bowl. Just call 0113 279 9111 for more info from the kirkstall road bowling centre and ask about their 'H' card

Hope this helps and if you are interested in more you can read the full article in A Brighter Future magazine on <http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org> website