

# Saving Money When Dining Out

## Research and Planning

- Research restaurants offering specials, discounts, or loyalty programs.
- Check online platforms for deals, coupons, or promotions before dining out.

## Choose Budget-Friendly Options

- Opt for lunch specials, early bird menus, or prix-fixe meals for better value.
- Share large portions or appetizers instead of ordering individual entrees.

## Drink Smart

- Skip expensive beverages and opt for water or complimentary drinks.
- Take advantage of happy hour discounts, drink specials, or BYOB options.

## Be Mindful of Extras

- Avoid ordering unnecessary extras like appetizers, desserts, or expensive sides.
- Check if bread, chips, or condiments are complimentary to avoid additional charges.

## Split Bills Strategically

- Split bills evenly among friends or family to share costs equally.
- Use bill-splitting apps or tools to divide expenses accurately based on orders.

## Utilize Discounts and Rewards

- Use dining reward programs, loyalty cards, or credit card perks to earn discounts or cashback.
- Look for special promotions like "buy one, get one" deals or discount days at restaurants.

## Practice Portion Control

- Order smaller portions or half-sized meals to save money and reduce food waste.
- Consider sharing dishes with others to sample a variety of items without overspending.

## Avoid Impulse Orders

- Stick to your planned meal choices and avoid adding extra items based on impulse or cravings.
- Review the menu beforehand to make informed decisions and stay within budget.

## Take Advantage of Freebies

- Enjoy complimentary items like bread, appetizers, or refills whenever available.
- Participate in surveys or feedback programs that offer discounts or freebies on your next visit.