Ballpark E-Guides

True Insider Fan Guides To MLB Ballparks

20 Ways To Score Great Deals on MLB Tickets



Tips, Tricks and Insider Advice for More Baseball for Your Money!

More baseball, less money.™

Greetings my friend! Happy to see that you've signed up for the Ballpark E-Guides e-mail newsletter. I hope it helps you make the most of your next visit to the ballpark, whether it's your home ballpark, a local rival ballpark, or one you've never visited.

Part of that, of course, is getting the most bang for your buck.

So in this PDF I'm sharing with you my best tips for saving baseball tickets, which is usually your biggest expense at a baseball game. (I also help you save on getting there, food at the game, and other things, so be sure to check your newsletter!)

Just FYI…there are a couple of affiliate links in this document; and if you use them to make a purchase Ballpark E-Guides earns a commission, at no cost to you.

So without further ado…here are the tips you signed up for. I'm looking forward to sharing ballpark tips with you!

Tip #1: Sign Up For Team Ticket Alerts.

This is my favorite tip. Each MLB team sends out weekly e-mails to subscribers with their latest offers. You can save a bunch with them, especially when teams struggle at the gate.

You'll learn when tickets go on sale, including presale opportunities, which is often the best way to get face value prices without the third party markup for popular games. Sometimes teams waive ticket fees for a period of time, which is a significant savings.

You'll also learn about giveaway nights, group savings, discounted food nights, fan clubs, bonuses for kids, and any other promotions. Teams will often even send you a deal for your birthday. (Check out how I took advantage of that here.)

To sign up, you need an account with MLB.com. Sign in, go to "Account" and then "Manage Subscriptions". Select "E-Mail Newsletters", and then check off the ticket guide boxes for every team you plan to see.

Tip #2: Buy From The Team Website (Sometimes).

We'll talk about my friends at Gametime, but buying from the team website can be the best deal.

The team site will often let you select seats and see the view, and if you can get your hands on some discount codes (which usually only work from team newsletters, but you can try a coupon code site), you can save a few extra bucks that way.

For low demand games, you'll have a larger selection buying from the team, and you can set your price point and search for seats in your price range.

By the way, many teams have a "ticket specials" section on their site, and you can find sweet deals there. The Yankees, for example, are surprisingly generous; don't assume going to a game is expensive simply because a team is popular.

You can also check for ticket discounts for veterans, first responders, teachers, students and others. Most all teams have offers like these of some kind.

Tip #3: Use The Box Office.

Yes, those ballpark box offices still exist, and in most cases (check with the team first), the team won't charge you additional fees at the box office. That's worth buying on game day, or a short trip if you're close.

Teams have ticket windows inside the ballpark too, so if you plan to go to more than one game, definitely take advantage of the convenience and no fees.

Some teams, like the Red Sox, have a game day ticket window, where you can purchase leftover tickets that were returned to the team or whatever. It may require a wait in line, but that's well worth it to see the Yankees and Red Sox for face price at Fenway.

That's a famous insider trick among Sox fans, by the way, but you're getting the info just for signing up. Ballpark E-Guides has your back!

Tip #4: Use Gametime For Resale Ticket Deals.

There are plenty of third party resellers out there, many of them with similar offerings price-wise. Gametime is my favorite, and that's why I chose them as The Official Ticket Reseller of Ballpark E-Guides.

I have nothing against StubHub, SeatGeek and others (although some forum dwellers definitely do); I just prefer Gametime for several reasons: they offer views from your seat, a low price guarantee, and they also guarantee your tickets.

I use Gametime exclusively now when I'm not using the team website. I've never had a single problem with them, and I've scored some fantastic deals especially on game day.

One caveat; Gametime tickets do include fees, but they're shown in the price. In other words, what you see is what you'll pay, with no annoying surprises.

So be sure to download the Gametime app on your phone (here from Apple or here from Google Play), and use this link when you're ready to order tickets.

Also, about those ticket fees…

Tip #5: Go To The Checkout Screen When Comparing.

As you undoubtedly know, fees are a significant cost with any event tickets. Some providers are better about at least including them in the price (which again is why I love Gametime).

I'm all for comparing multiple ticket providers with the team website. Just make sure that with whatever you compare, go all the way to the checkout screen.

With some resellers, you'll see a surprise fee or even a couple before you buy. Be sure you're at the real "commit" screen and then compare prices.

You shouldn't have to do this, honestly; if a provider doesn't allow me to see ticket prices with fees before buying, I don't use them. But just saying.

Tip #6: Look For Low Demand Games.

This is the best move if your only desire is to see a game at a ballpark. The difference in prices between high and low demand games is often huge, and knowing simple tips can save you a ton on tickets.

April is by far the best month for cheap baseball tickets. Kids are still in school, it's still cold, and no one knows which teams are really good yet. If you're looking to visit a place like Fenway or Wrigley on the cheap especially, and you can swing it, April is the time to do it. (Although the ivy on the Wrigley fence is still brown in April, which doesn't look great.)

Weekday games are almost always cheaper than weekend games, and choosing the right opponent definitely matters. Pick a game against a distant opponent who hasn't been good in recent years.

Most teams have dynamic pricing, but I would go with Gametime first for low demand tickets.

Tip #7: Wait Until Close To Game Time.

This tip is especially useful if you're going with one or two people to a low demand game, and it's not a life altering thing if you miss the game.

Starting about a couple days before the game starts, start checking Gametime frequently to see what deals are out there. It helps to have a realistic price you're willing to pay, but be ready to jump on a good deal when you see it, because it likely won't last long.

There's no reason why you can't show up at the venue and be ready to buy when something becomes available. I took my soon to see Rush at Madison Square Garden doing this, and landed a deal just as the gates were opening. (And yes, I used Gametime!)

This tip works well with my next one…

Tip #8: Use The Weather.

Most season ticket holders don't go to all the games, and on a day that's less pleasant weather-wise, they might look to unload their extras.

This can work to your advantage on a super-hot or super-cold day, even for high end seats that offer access to climate-controlled lounges. If you don't score access to clubs, most ballparks have restaurants where you can duck out of the elements if needed.

This works better in cities with weather extremes and open air ballparks, obviously…some Minnesota April evenings are crazy cold, and Atlanta can have unbearable July afternoons.

Be sure that you're prepared for either with extra layers or extra water and sunscreen, and know where you can warm up or cool off. (My ballpark seating guides often help you with that.)

If you can hack that, you can often find sweet deals on resale tickets, even for high end seats.

Now for the corollary of these tips…

Tip #9: Buy Early For High Demand Games.

If you want to see Opening Day or marquee rivalry matchups like Yankees-Red Sox on summer weekends, you should plan well ahead.

Buying through the team at face value is probably going to be the best deal for games that quickly sell out.

Keep an eye on your newsletter and look for ticket pre-sales, multi-game packages, and when tickets go on sale. If you can swing it, go to the box office when tickets go on sale.

Many team pre-sales happen during the holidays. If a team offers multi-game packages that include some low value games, you can give those as gifts or re-sell them if you can't make the extra games.

Tip #10: Get To Know Season Ticket Holders.

Season ticket holders get all sorts of perks. They get the better seats before they go on sale to the public. They might also have preferred parking, access to ballpark restaurants and clubs, and discounts on team gear using their barcode.

So put some feelers out to your friends on social media, at work, or wherever, and find out who in your area or where you want to visit is a plan holder. If you find one or two, see if they'll offer you a fair price to take games they don't want off their hands.

Be sure to ask what perks they have. I've accessed restaurants and high end clubs at Yankee Stadium and Citi Field with very cheap tickets this way; it's great for finding unique food items, escaping the elements, or even a table with a view.

If you don't personally know any plan holders, you can find them out there…

Tip #11: Get Familiar With Facebook Ticket Resellers.

So this one falls under assumed risk, and I recommend due diligence, but it can be a great way to save a bunch on tickets.

For most any team, you can find Facebook groups where season ticket holders offer their extras at discounted prices, most importantly to help fans avoid the sizable ticket fees.

In many cases, groups are run strictly by moderators who make every effort to verify season ticket holders and protect people from scams. That said, I would spend some time in these groups and get familiar with the folks before buying.

Like I said, there's no guarantee here, and I wouldn't trust anything that looks too good to be true. But if you don't mind the risk you can find some very nice deals…and the best part is, if you buy from someone and it works out, you know you can probably trust them in the future.

Tip #12: Check Craigslist, eBay, and Others.

Again, there's no guarantee for tickets on Craigslist or eBay, although on eBay you can at least check seller ratings. But people do offer their extra tickets here, and it's another place where you can compare prices.

Think of this like the way we all used to do it…going to the venue before the game and seeking out scalpers or people with extras. You might find a great deal, especially as you get closer to game time.

I was never scammed buying from scalpers or on eBay, although I understand the trepidation about it. If you'd like to learn more about how to avoid Craigslist scams, here's a useful piece.

Just use basic common sense; don't fall for anything too good to be true and verify the seller however you can.

Tip #13: Bring Your Friends.

If you're willing to put in the effort to gather a bunch of co-workers or friends to join you for a game, it's well worth it.

Most teams offer discounted and/or fee-free pricing for group tickets, and they might have group discounts on certain nights. There's usually a contact at the team that can explain all of the benefits and will help you order tickets.

Some teams, like the Brewers and Cardinals, offer multiple all-inclusive seating areas, where food and drinks are included in the price of the ticket. That can be a great savings over typical ballpark eats and libations prices.

But the best part of gathering a group is the perks for the group leader. I've actually gotten four free tickets to another Phillies game just for putting a group together, and Phillies tickets aren't cheap. A free game is always worth that effort.

So find out who else wants to enjoy some baseball. You can sell them on the "team-building exercise".

Tip #14: Get The Ballpark Pass.

This one is ideal if you live in the ballpark vicinity and can attend a few games. Most all teams these days offer a “Ballpark Pass”, that allows you to attend every game over a month or even for the season, at a price that is a steal if you attend even half the games.

These passes are usually a standing room ticket, and in my seating guides, I help you make the most of a standing room ticket. You can usually find a great spot to watch the game.

In some cases, teams will allow you to upgrade to a better seat using the MLB Ballpark app, but honestly, ushers aren’t likely to throw you out of the cheaper seats so long as it’s not a sellout.

This is a great way to see multiple games with high demand opponents, say if you want to see the Phillies and Yankees play at Citi Field in the same month.

Tip #15: Join The Fan Club(s).

Team fan clubs for adults aren’t as prevalent as they once were, but almost every team has some sort of a kids fan club. Definitely look into these if you’re bringing the kids; memberships are usually free or inexpensive and will include tickets for the little ones.

In addition to a complimentary ticket for one or more games, fan clubs may offer discounted tickets for other games, and the kid will get some cool swag, discounts in the team store, and other extras.

My son loves to run the bases after Sunday games, but I can tell you that there’s often a long wait for this; kids who are fan club members will usually get front of the line access. (You’ll thank me for that tip.)

So take advantage of Red Sox Kids Nation, Yankees Universe, or whatever team fan clubs are out there, they’re well worth it in savings.

Tip #16: Help Your Fellow Human.

I consider this a highly underrated tip. If you’re a charitable sort who will work for baseball, check the team’s community page. (You might have to search for “<team> community”.)

Many teams will have 5K runs or some such events where participants will receive a ticket, gear or some sort of reward. Or they’ll offer tickets for giving blood or donating coats or something like that. Some teams have a “going green night”, where you get in for free if you agree to clean up trash between innings.

I’m not suggesting you do it just to get tickets, but if you’re involved with a charitable organization, sometimes teams will donate tickets for a worthy cause. Keep it in the spirit of helping your fellow human, of course.

Remember when I showed you how to sign up for ticket alerts? Check to see if there’s a “community news” checkbox; some teams have those and you can find out more in your e-mails.

Tip #17: Use The Right Credit Card.

If you're a dedicated fan like me who goes to see a lot of baseball, there's savings to be had in using the right credit card.

Capital One is currently the Official Credit Card for MLB, and last I checked you get cash back on MLB tickets; as much as 8%. (Bonus tip! You also get significant discounts from my friends at MLBShop).

MLB also still loves MasterCard, and you can often find deals on pre-sales that are only for MasterCard holders. The Yankees in particular offer some sweet deals for MasterCard customers.

There's also the "ballpark name bonus". If you have a Citi MasterCard for example, you can get discounts on Mets tickets (among other things at Citi Field). Check to see if that applies to Citizens Bank cardholders in Philadelphia (on and off in my experience), PNC cardholders in Pittsburgh, etc.

Tip #18: The Secret Cheap Seats.

Some teams, like the Nationals and Brewers, have seats with questionable views that they will offer very cheaply on game day. The Uecker seats in Milwaukee, for example, go for just five bucks as I write this.

You can search for "game day <team> tickets" to see if there's some secret deals out there. You might have to get in line on game day good and early, but it's worth it for the savings.

The Nationals and Cardinals are two teams that have some terrific standing room spaces, even if they're far from the action. You can find plenty of first come first serve seating, sometimes even with tables and counters.

Here's a tip that you didn't hear from me: if you have a distant seat, check online to see what tickets are still available, and find one of those seats. You won't be able to snag a club seat this way, but you can definitely improve your view in the low end sections.

Tip #19: Look For Seat Upgrades.

I don't know how common this is anymore, but I'm including it anyway. Once you're actually in the ballpark, check the Ballpark app to see if you can upgrade your seats at a discounted price.

I read about this a lot from Braves fans; in the Turner Field days it used to be a popular way for fans to get a better seat just before the game starts, at much less than they would have paid.

Teams aren't going to give you the high end chef buffet seats for two extra bucks, but you can probably find a better deal on a good seat.

Again, this varies by team and is often based on ticket inventory, but it's worth a look. Typically upgrades are available starting 90 minutes before gametime. Find your team's tab in the navigation bar, and click on the "Upgrades" button.

Tip #20: Check Your Memberships + Team Sponsors.

There's a ton of sites like Groupon and local outfits that might offer discount codes or other benefits, but you might already belong to an organization that offers ticket discounts.

AAA often offers discounted event tickets; you can also look at your credit union, employer benefits, your own bank (see what I said about credit cards), etc.

The Dodgers have in the past offered special ticket pricing for Bank of America employees for certain games. In 2026, Suncoast Credit Union offered its members 35% off of Rays tickets. It doesn't hurt to check.

You can also look into whether team sponsors offer deals. In my travels, for example, I've seen BP offering Brewers tickets with every fill up, and discounted Guardians tickets for accumulating points at local Drug Mart locations. I don't think either of those are still available, but just illustrating. You can find the prominent sponsors and see if they offer anything to fans.

There you have it my friend; 20 great tips for saving big bucks on baseball tickets. I have used just about all of these tips at some point in my travels, and I pay less for live baseball than I did in my younger days, even adjusted for inflation.

I'm here to help you with plenty more about your favorite ballpark or one you'd like to visit; be sure to check out my newsletter for the latest updates, or visit https://BallparkEGuides.com for great tips on seating, parking, transit and food at the game!

See you at the Yard!