

10 **QUICK** AND
EASY WAYS TO
REDUCE YOUR
RETIREMENT
EXPENSES



If you're thinking about retirement, you're probably trying to find ways to cut costs. If saving money is on your mind, here are 10 quick ways to reduce retirement expenses.

SELL THAT EXTRA CAR



Arguably one of the greatest perks of retirement is eliminating that daily commute. Since you'll likely be spending less time in the car, consider sharing one with your spouse. Selling that second car can put a little extra money in your pocket and cut insurance, maintenance and gas bills.

Once you're over the age of 70 ½, you must take withdrawals from retirement accounts each year. If you don't take out the correct amount, you'll face a 50 percent tax penalty and find yourself paying income tax on the amount that should have been withdrawn.



TAKE YOUR EXACT REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION



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SIGN UP FOR MEDICARE WHEN ELIGIBLE

Delaying signing up for Medicare can be costly. You have a seven-month enrollment window with three months before and after your 65th birthday. If you sign up late, you could face a costly, but easily avoidable Part B premium increase.

Though you can sign up for Social Security payments at 62, this could reduce your checks by 20 to 30 percent. If possible, delay receiving your checks until the Social Security Administration considers you at full retirement age (66 if born after 1954, 67 if born after 1960). Or even consider waiting until age 70 to maximize your payments.

DELAY SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

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LOOK INTO DENTAL, VISION & HEARING COVERAGE

Many people don't realize that Original Medicare, or Parts A and B, offers no prescription coverage or extra benefits. In fact, if you sign up for Original Medicare and add on a Part D drug plan plus a Medicare supplement, you will still be responsible for dental, vision and hearing expenses. Because one dentist visit alone can cost hundreds of dollars, consider Medicare options that offer you that extra protection.



6 RELOCATE TO A LESS EXPENSIVE CITY

Since your location was previously dependent on jobs and school districts, now is the time to branch out. Consider moving to a location that gets you the most for your retirement funds. Things like lower taxes, reasonable housing prices, cheap rent and affordable healthcare are especially important.



A major benefit of retirement is not being tied to traditional holidays or school years. Traveling in the off season — even if by a week — can save you hundreds on airfare, hotels and tourist hot spots.



7 TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The amazing thing about enjoying nature is that it's usually free. State parks and eclectic local neighborhoods are free to walk around and explore. As a side bonus, you'll get some exercise in the process.

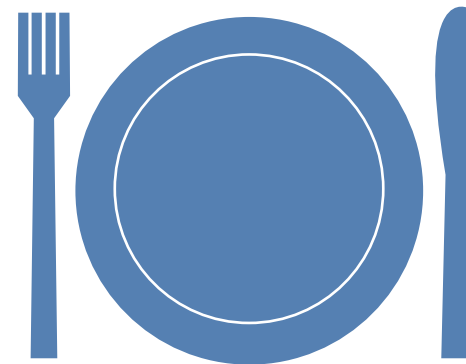


9 FIND DECENT DRUG COVERAGE

As mentioned above, Original Medicare does not offer prescription drug coverage. Prescriptions can be incredibly expensive, so make sure you find a plan that not only offers comprehensive coverage, but doesn't come with an ever-changing premium.



Eating out can add up quickly. If you eat your big meals at home, but meet friends for appetizers or dessert, you can save money, while still trying out the local cuisine.



10 EAT OUT FOR SMALL MEALS

