



6 Free Activities Concierges Always Recommend

Seeing a new city doesn't have to cost much.

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Have you ever used a hotel concierge? They're actually quite wonderful. Too often, while traveling, we rely on recommendations from friends, Google, Yelp, or our favorite travel blogs, without taking advantage of the very people whose job entails helping patrons find the very best things to do while on vacation. Note to self: Use the hotel concierge service more often.

These hotel staff members know the area around their establishment like the back of their hand, so their recommendations are quite valuable. And forget what you knew about concierges, they're not just for the rich and famous looking to live the luxe life. You can often use their services without spending a dime, and they can recommend a ton of free activities, too. In fact, using concierges is a great way to save money during your stay. Some will even create a custom itinerary for you based on the highlights you definitely don't want to miss out on. From the activities included in your hotel stay to those in the area that won't cost a thing, we asked a few hotel concierges what their favorite free attractions were around their establishments. Though some of their top picks are location-specific, keep in mind that many of these destinations have similar activities to offer—so when in doubt, just ask! Just take it from NYC-based concierge Patrick Trevor, who says, "Always make sure you wander because you may stumble upon some secret gems."

Learn about local history/culture

Many of our concierge experts love to recommend free cultural experiences that guests can take to get to know a bit about the history of their surroundings. If you're visiting somewhere totally new, this can be a great opportunity to get to know the city's backstory or immerse yourself into a bit of its cultural history.

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For example, places like Philadelphia and Portland have free entry to the Museum of Art, according to the concierges at [The Logan](#) and [Hotel Modera](#) respectively, while Chicago has a hidden experience called The Chicago Money Museum where patrons can learn more about how and where currency is made. The [LondonHouse Chicago](#)'s concierge Shannon Boland also loves recommending the Chicago Cultural Center as a chance to take in more about the city and see some incredible rotating art exhibits, but any large metropolitan area is bound to have a cultural center that also acts as a free sightseeing activity. If you are in D.C., Chris Adcock, the Clefs d'Or Concierge at [The Jefferson](#), recommends you check out the free Smithsonian museums, in particular, the [National Air and Space Museum](#) and the [National Portrait Gallery](#), as well as the [Library of Congress](#).