

Managing your finances for summer fun



Summer's well and truly on its way and you have a big list of fun things to do. The question is how can you afford it all?

Here are a few simple ways you can make the most of your time and money.

- 1. Budget** - What is your income and expenditure? Work out all your bills, including rent, household bills, car expenses, food, medical expenses, travel, dry-cleaning and obviously don't forget the hairdresser and beautician trip! What do you have left over after bills for spends?
- 2. Brainstorm** – Brainstorm all the types of things you want to do, include holidays, days out, birthdays and events that you are aware of. Think about, realistically, what you will need for each event (don't forget to include Christmas and New Year in your planning).
- 3. Save** – Once you know how much you earn each month and the amount you are going to need to enjoy your summer, you can create a savings plan. Put some money aside each month (or pay day) to go towards all the things you want to do. Transferring the month into a separate savings account, so that you can't touch it, on pay day, is a great way of actually achieving your saving goal. You may have a little less this month, but you will be amazed by how you can still do everything you normally do, AND save money for all the fun things you have planned.
- 4. Stick to it** – Can you reduce your expenditure in any way to help you save? Do you really need that extra handbag which will go in the box with all the others and only be pulled out once a year? Supermarkets are making it really easy for us to save now, with increased discounts, offers and rewards for bulk buying, make the most of the offers when they are available.
- 5. Celebrate** – Once you get to summer, spend, spend, spend and have fun. You'll be so happy that you planned your finances around what you want to do and that you can do it all! Enjoy, you deserve it!

