



How to Find Luxury in a Financially Responsible Life

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Financial success doesn't come without saving and it doesn't come without making hard choices about what to spend money on. So how do you enjoy some "luxury" in your life without emptying your wallet?



Consider these 5 strategies to help balance it out:

1) Free time

With all our responsibilities, free time can feel pretty scarce. Declare one or two days a month to be a "stay-cation" where you turn off your responsibilities and do whatever you want. Write it down on the calendar. Take care of things early so that you don't feel pressured by other responsibilities. Plan some fun things that you want to do. That free day will be one of the most luxurious things you give yourself - and it doesn't cost a dime.

2) Monthly allowance

Create a small line item within your budget that gives you a specific amount of money to spend on *whatever you want*. The key factors here are; the money **MUST** be within your overall household budget, and the total you spend **MUST** stay within the allotted line item amount.

3) Focus on experiences

Instead of filling your spare time or vacation time with expensive trips, try instead to fill that time with activities and experiences that will stick with you and help you understand the world better. Skip the tourist destination and instead choose an experience closer to you that pushes you in a new direction.

4) Keep it contained

The problem with luxury is, often the more luxury items

you have, the less appreciation you have for each one. If you have tons of luxury items around your home, it makes your luxury car seem less special by comparison. A better approach is to have a "luxury sanctuary" in your life, where you designate one area in which you can truly enjoy and appreciate the luxury.

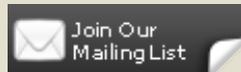
5) Save the luxury

Filling the rest of your life with inexpensive items, "bang for your buck" purchases, generic supplies and so on has several huge benefits for the luxuries in your life. It means you can afford those luxuries while also being able to save for the future. In short, frugality in most areas of your life can subsidize your "luxury sanctuary."

Source: www.thesimpledollar.com

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