

Where to Find Gift Card Freebies This Holiday Season

The biggest holiday bargains this season may be pieces of plastic. Check out these savings of up to 20 percent.

By [Karla Bowsher](#) | about 14 hours ago



Although 25 percent of us still have unused gift cards from last year, 62 percent of us plan to give a gift card as a holiday gift this year, according to a recent [Consumer Reports](#) poll.

Maybe that's why so many restaurants are willing to make their gift cards more appetizing by offering to give you a free gift card in exchange for buying one.

Whatever their reason, you may as well take advantage of the freebie offers if you're among the 62 percent who plan to give a gift card – or even if you're not. Paying \$100 for a \$125 gift card is like getting a 20 percent discount, whether you pass the cards on to loved ones or keep them for yourself.

Below is a list of more than 20 regional and national chains that are giving away free gift cards or meals if you buy a certain amount of gift cards. If you plan to purchase them in person, just call your local restaurant first to make sure their location is participating. If you purchase them online, make sure you see the freebie before you enter your [credit card](#) info.

Restaurants

[Benihana](#)

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- [4 Reasons Credit Cards Are Better Than Ever Before](#)
- [Today's Deals: Cyber Week, Scrapbooking, Restaurants, and a Free Photo With Santa](#)
- [13 Smart Things to Do Before Year-End](#)
- **If you buy:** \$50 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$10 bonus card that's valid Jan. 2 through March 31
- **Offer available:** In [restaurants](#) and [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 31

[Boston Market](#)

- **If you buy:** \$25 gift card
- **You also get:** \$5 bonus card that's valid through Jan. 31
- **Offer available:** In [restaurants](#)
- **Offer ends:** While bonus card supplies last

[California Pizza Kitchen](#)

- **If you buy:** \$100 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$20 bonus card that's valid Jan. 3 through March 6
- **Offer available:** In [restaurants](#) and [online](#)

- Offer ends: Dec. 24

Carrabba's Italian Grill

- If you buy: \$100 in gift cards
- You also get: \$20 bonus card that's valid Jan. 1 through Feb. 10
- Offer available: In [restaurants](#) and [online](#)
- Offer ends: Dec. 31

Champps Americana

- If you buy: \$50 gift card
- You also get: \$15 extra points card
- Offer available: In [restaurants](#)
- Offer ends: Not specified

Cheesecake Factory

- If you buy: \$25 if gift cards or e-gift cards
- You also get: Slice of Joy Card, redeemable for a free piece of cheesecake at a future visit between Dec. 26 and March 31
- Offer available: In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- Offer ends: Dec. 25

Cici's Pizza

- If you buy: \$20 in gift cards
- You also get: A card for a free meal that's valid in January
- Offer available: In [restaurants](#)
- Offer ends: Not specified

Fuddruckers

- If you buy: \$25 gift card
- You also get: \$5 bonus card that's is valid Jan. 1 through Feb. 29
- Offer available: In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- Offer ends: Dec. 31

Hooters

- If you buy: \$25 gift card (or \$50 gift card)
- You also get: \$5 bonus card (or \$10 bonus card) that's valid Jan. 2 through Feb. 29
- Offer available: In [restaurants](#)
- Offer ends: Unknown

Joe's Crab Shack

- If you buy: \$25 in gift cards
- You also get: \$5 bonus card that's valid Jan. 1 through Feb. 12
- Offer available: In [restaurants](#) and [online](#)
- Offer ends: Dec. 31

Long John Silver's

- If you buy: \$20-plus in gift cards
- You also get: Free piece of whitefish fillet
- Offer available: In [restaurants](#)
- Offer ends: Not specified

Macaroni Grill

- If you buy: \$25 in gift cards
- You also get: \$5 bonus card that's valid Jan. 2 through Feb. 29
- Offer available: In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- Offer ends: Jan. 1

Maggiano's Little Italy

- **If you buy:** \$100 in e-gift cards
- **You also get:** \$20 e-bonus card that's valid Jan. 1 through Feb. 29 and a free subscription to Wine & Food magazine
- **Offer available:** [Online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 31

[Outback Steakhouse](#)

- **If you buy:** \$100 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$20 bonus card that's valid Jan. 1 through Feb. 10
- **Offer available:** In restaurants and [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 31

[RA Sushi Bar Restaurant](#)

- **If you buy:** \$50 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$10 promotional card that's valid Jan. 2 through March 31
- **Offer available:** In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 31

[Ruby Tuesday](#)

- **If you buy:** \$50 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$15 bonus coupon
- **Offer available:** In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 31

[Smokey Bones Bar & Fire Grill](#)

- **If you buy:** \$50 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$10 bonus card
- **Offer available:** In [restaurants](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 24

[Sonny's Real Pit Bar-B-Q](#)

- **If you buy:** \$50 gift card
- **You also get:** \$10 in bonus cards
- **Offer available:** In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Not specified

[Souplantation & Sweet Tomatoes](#)

- **If you buy:** \$50 in gift cards
- **You also get:** Meal pass for the gift recipient
- **Offer available:** In-[restaurant](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Dec. 31

[Stir Crazy Fresh Asian Grill](#)

- **If you buy:** \$100 in gift cards
- **You also get:** \$25 bonus card that's valid Jan. 15 through March 15
- **Offer available:** Not specified
- **Offer ends:** Jan. 3

Dessert and smoothie places

[Rita's Ice Custard](#)

- **If you buy:** \$10 in gift cards
- **You also get:** Regular-size Italian ice, frozen custard, Gelati, Blendini, or Misto
- **Offer available:** In-[store](#) availability not specified; [online](#)
- **Offer ends:** Not specified

[Jamba Juice](#)

- **If you buy:** \$25-plus gift card
- **You also get:** 16-ounce smoothie, or a coupon for a free 16-ounce smoothie that's valid through Jan. 10
- **Offer available:** Not specified

- **Offer ends:** Jan. 3

[Smoothie King](#)

- **If you buy:** \$25 gift card
- **You also get:** Smoothie
- **Offer available:** In [stores](#)
- **Offer ends:** Unknown

Source: Money Talks