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Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances  
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**Four Major League Ballparks Worth A Special Trip**

**By Jonathon Hardcastle**

This park opened in 1992 and pays homage to the early days of baseball. With its graceful wrought iron embellishments and brick façade, Oriole Park set the new standard for modern ballparks and is still considered the best park in the country by purists. Architects incorporated the B&O Railroad warehouse into the design of the park, creating a pedestrian area called Eutaw Street where fans can stroll before and after the game. Players who actually hit the warehouse with a home run receive a commemorative plaque on the spot. For a relatively new park, Oriole Park has its share of baseball history. On September 6, 1995 Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record of 2,130 consecutive games, one of baseball's most treasured records.

**Fenway Park, Boston**

Fenway is one of only a few remaining original ballparks built in the early 1900s. With its distinctive "Green Monster" left field wall, Fenway presents a challenge to even the best hitters in the game. Ballpark aficionados will appreciate the manual scoreboard that has been used since the park was built in 1912 and the only ladder in play in the major leagues. History buffs will revel in visiting a park that has been home to such baseball greats as Cy Young, Ted Williams, Carlton Fisk and Carl Yastrzemski. At one time, Fenway was also host to the longest drought in World Series history however, the Red Sox finally won the Series in 2004.

**Wrigley Field, Chicago**

Another historic ballpark, Wrigley Field hosts the Chicago Cubs, the "lovable losers" of baseball. Wrigley is more famous for the historic moments that have happened there than for its comfort or amenities. In fact, the ballpark did not have outdoor lighting until 1988. But it was the site of Babe Ruth's famous "called home run" in 1932 and Kerry Wood's 20 strikeout game in 1998. Wrigley is the home of many quirky traditions including flying a flag bearing a "W" or an "L" atop the scoreboard at the conclusion of every game.

**AT&T Park, San Francisco**

## Four Major League Ballparks Worth A Special Trip

Widely considered the best ballpark in the country by fans and players alike, AT&T Park (formerly Pac Bell Park) was built in 2000. Privately funded by baseball fan and Giant's team owner Peter Magowan, AT&T Park offers fans spectacular views of San Francisco, an innovative children's play area and the best public transportation access in the major leagues. Home runs splash into San Francisco Bay where boaters and kayakers float, listening to the game.

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## **Minor League Baseball Is A Great Family Value**

**By Kadence Buchanan**

More families are opting out of the great American pastime of attending major league baseball games than ever before. Some are staying home and watching the games on television, but growing numbers of families are flocking to minor league ballparks. Minor league baseball attendance has grown every year, reaching a record high 39 million during the 2005 season. Major league attendance has continued to decline in many markets.

Although many explanations have been offered by Major League Baseball including changing demographics and competition from other sports and entertainment venues, cost is an undeniable factor in lagging attendance. The average cost for a family of four to attend a major league baseball game in 2005 topped \$170.00 for tickets, refreshments and souvenirs but not including parking. The cost for that same family to attend a minor league baseball game in 2005 was \$80.00, less than half the cost of attending a major league game.

For that price, minor league fans are treated to performances by up-and-coming young stars who may be tomorrow's Barry Bonds or Alex Rodriguez. Minor league baseball follows the same rules as major league, and most minor league teams are associated with a major league team. Because of this association, minor league fans may occasionally be treated to an appearance by a major league star rehabbing from an injury in the minor leagues. Additionally, in some parts of the country, minor league stadiums play host to major league teams during spring training. Thomas J. White stadium in Port St. Lucie, Florida is the home of the Single A St. Lucie Mets during the regular season, but in the spring it's the New York Mets training facility.

## Four Major League Ballparks Worth A Special Trip

Fans often sit right along the baselines with nothing separating them from players but a railing. Players frequently sign autographs before and after the games. Because of the growing popularity of minor league baseball, teams have been able to build increasingly attractive stadiums with amenities that rival their major league counterparts. Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Florida was built with the same architecture and amenities as larger stadiums like Baltimore's Camden Yards and Turner Field in Atlanta but offers fans an intimate experience that is not available at the larger parks.

For more casual fans, minor league teams offer entertainment like performances by local music artists, fireworks and special promotions like disco night or Christian night. Some parks, like Hammons Field in Springfield, Missouri, have children's play areas near the bullpens and on-field activities for children including running the bases, games and contests.

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