

Travel All Ways accessible to students

Although it may be the beginning of winter term, many students have their minds on spring break. Since plane tickets and low-rate vacation deals are based on availability, it's a good idea to see your travel agent as soon as possible. (Rates listed are estimates provided by All Ways Travel)

Mexico:

Mexico is probably the most popular spring break choice for students looking to get away. In addition to sunny days and balmy nights, Mexico offers a variety of cultural resources. Mexico offers everything from archeological sites to disco dancing, from modern art museums to scuba diving.

Currently the best deal is Mazatlan, starting from \$518 per person. This price includes airfare, hotel for 6 nights (based on quad occupancy) and taxes. Compare this price to Cabo San Lucas which round-trip airfare alone ranges from \$537-\$750. Puerto Vallarta is already sold out and tickets for Mazatlan are going fast.



All Ways Travel located on the second floor of the EMU is currently booking travel packages for students for Spring Break.

Disneyland:

Another popular place to go for spring break vacations is Disneyland in Anaheim, California. The best deal currently offered is \$325 per person which includes 3

days hotel, airfare, and a 2 day pass to Disneyland, with unlimited use of all attractions. Compare this to Disneyworld, Florida which is between \$800-\$900 for a 4 day package.

Ski Vacations:

There are many ski resort areas in Lake Tahoe including Squaw Valley and Heavenly Valley. For \$630 per person, this deal includes airfare from Portland, 6 days hotel, "skierized car" and a 5 day ski pass good for a number of ski resorts in the area. For about the same price and options, a package is also available to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Those wanting to head North to Canada can enjoy skiing at Whistler. This package is about \$330 per person for a 4 night stay in accommodations similar to a "large condo", 3 days of skiing with an interchangeable lift ticket. This price excludes airfare, for further details consult Always Travel.

Budget Vacation-Las Vegas

This package for \$325 per person includes roundtrip airfare from Portland to Las Vegas, transfer, and an accommodations in a nice hotel such as Hara's, Treasure Island, or the world's largest hotel the MGM Grand.

— Rachel Beyda



Planes fly overhead at Mahlon Sweet Airport taking people to their chosen destinations.

Cheap travel for students possible

Let's face it. If you don't have a lot of money, you probably won't be staying at the Hilton for spring break.

But, it doesn't mean you have to stay in your buddy's VW bus either.

With around \$350 and a little creativity, students can travel and stay anywhere they want.

So, in the spirit of cheap fun, here's some ideas.

Housing. Don't let anyone tell you different. Cheap hotels are in abundance anywhere you go. The trick is that you have to reserve in advance if you plan on heading to some of the spring break hot spots: like, four months ago.

If you're still clueless about what roof can cover your head, getting others to join in on the cost is the best solution. A \$100-a-day hotel is still only \$33 three ways, meaning that for seven days you can have affordable housing.

Camping is also an alternative as long as the weather is good. But, think of renting an Uzi if you're roughing it in Miami.

Cars: The best deal in car rentals is free. Most major rental companies hire students to drive their cars from one end of the country and back.

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'Let's Go Europe' makes trips winning ventures

With the *Let's Go Europe* book in our hands, we thought we couldn't lose. We were going to spend the whole day on trains from Sweden to Berlin, and when we got into the German city about midnight, we were going to simply walk down the street from the train station to this neat-sounding youth hostel ... just like *Let's Go* said we should.

The part about making reservations in advance (and not just showing up in the a.m. and expecting a room) was our own fault for not reading, and it turned into a \$300 mistake, the cost of two rooms that night in an overly nice Berlin hotel.

Let's Go is the young person's bible in a strange land, be it the city of Rome, the country of Turkey, or the state of California. There's a *Let's Go* edition for every one.

The subtitle for *Let's Go* reads "budget guide," meaning its goal is to tell the reader what the best deals are for that area. For each major city in the European edition, there's listings for accommodations, food, sights and entertainment. All listings are updated yearly in the new edition.

The guide is the perfect companion for the college-age traveler, to whom most of the entries seem to be directed at, and apparently, many others would agree.



Whether it be at listed places such as the Tunnel, a popular Vienna pub, at popular sights such as the Berlin Wall, or simply at train stations in each city, *Let's Go* seemed to be in every young traveler's hand, guiding them to the cheapest hostel, the coolest place to get a liter of beer, or the hippest discotech in town.

This is the one downfall of the book, however; everyone has it, so travelers tend to flock to the same places. Travelers we saw in Berlin reappeared in Prague and then in southern France — it got to be a little much sometimes, but, then again, travelers shouldn't be afraid to step off of the beaten path.

Perhaps it had more to do with the fact that we had gotten off at the alternate train station in Prague more than it had to do with trying to avoid all of the *Let's Go* devotees, but we found the most enjoyable hostel of our trip without the help of the book.

The place was a dive, that was no doubt. The young men working there spoke virtually no English, and there were things living in the showers.

It was out in the middle of nowhere.

But, it did have a full-refrigerator supply of the best (and cheapest) beer to be found in Europe. We could come and go as we pleased, and it was roughly \$10 apiece, a steal by most hostel standards.

This was better than the Viennese hostel that we had to stay at, which was recommended by *Let's Go*. This place gave us a curfew (!), robbed us on a price for the night, and was out in the middle of nowhere.

Needless to say, we spent twice as much time in Prague as we did in Vienna.

The best thing about this book is not how it lists choices for the "budget" traveler, it's that *Let's Go* can be relied upon as a lifesaver. Whenever you're lost, confused, or just plain scared of an area you have no knowledge of, turn the pages of *Let's Go* to the city you're in and find a place you can sleep in, a restaurant you can eat in or a pub to get a beer in.

Thanks to the *Let's Go* guide, I was able to phone a hostel and get some decent-enough directions to find a bed for the night. That beat the hell out of sleeping in an alley in the rain.

The only thing *Let's Go* didn't help me with was dialing the damn phone. Oh well.

— Jake Berg

TORTOISE

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bring your sleeping bag and stretch out," he said. "You are right next to someone though. You wake up with someone in your face. It's not for someone who's touch-conscious or someone who doesn't like to be touched by strangers."

University graduate David Bess warns that the sleeping arrangement might not be agreeable to all passengers. "It was really tight," he said. "There were a lot of people and we had to sleep really close together. I like to move around when I sleep and I kept kicking the person next to me."

For the more daring souls, there are the Adventure Trips which take passengers on group trips to varied destinations. There are trips that go to Baja and continue to Central America during the late winter and early spring. In February, there will be a 14-day trip for approximately \$349 with a \$71 supplement for food, round trip included. There is also a 9-day trip for about \$249 with \$51 for food. Reservations must be made by telephone.

Other trips go to Alaska and the Grand Canyon during the summer

months. Also, during March, the bus will be host to a language school on wheels. Those interested should contact the Green Turtle Adventure Line for information.

So, it's not first class. A shiny happy stewardess won't appear at your seat every six and a half minutes to refill your flute of champagne. You won't have the pleasure of opening your bag of nine peanuts and cherishing them for the rest of the flight. The Green Tortoise promises none of this gratuitous treatment. What you get is simple, but it is more than adequate.

The Tortoise is generally comfortable, whereas the Greyhound bus tends to be an experiment in torture. While the Greyhound seems to be comfortable, once you sit down and stay there for an hour, you begin to wonder if the aisle would be more comfortable or perhaps even the bathroom.

The Green Tortoise is, indeed, perhaps more fitted for those with a sense of adventure. You can see the scenery in a more authentic fashion. For what you get, the price is very reasonable. And, to be sure, it is much more comfortable than a camel.

— Fleeta Morson

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