

## Special Feature: Get out of Dodge

Online travel for college students

As college students, you've got a step up on every other would-be traveler out there—airlines and travel agencies are falling all over themselves to offer you special deals. The travel industry realizes that between spring break and semesters abroad, college students comprise a major sector of their business, and they want to entice you with discounts and packages.

Spring break is an industry in itself. There are tons of companies that specialize in getting you and your buddies to the heart of the week-long ritual of drinking, tanning and clubbing. But beware: If you haven't booked your trip for this year already, you're too late. You'd be better off checking out sites like [springbreaktravel.com](http://springbreaktravel.com) for planning Spring Break 2002. This site specializes in the top four destinations for students: Jamaica, Cancun, Florida and the Bahamas. Their package trips include just about everything you'll need, including, in some cases, wrist bands for easy access to popular clubs.

The best part of the site is "Spring Break Exposed," a section with reviews and tips from students who have actually taken their trips. They'll tell you things like how much spending money you'll need, and that you're better off leaving your shoes behind for the midnight Foam Party in Cancun.

Students heading for Europe or any of the other continents for study or travel should investigate mainstays like [counciltravel.com](http://counciltravel.com), [studentuniverse.com](http://studentuniverse.com) and [studenttravelnet.com](http://studenttravelnet.com).

[Counciltravel.com](http://Counciltravel.com) is one of the biggest and oldest out there: this is your source for quick searches on airfares, buying ID cards (which you should have, especially

if you're going to Europe), rail passes, info about hotels and hostels, student travel insurance, gear, and tips for living and working abroad.

[Studenttravelnet.com](http://Studenttravelnet.com) is one-stop shopping for travelers, especially those bound for Europe. The site offers a voucher system for travel that allows you to choose a level of comfort ranging from basic to top price, and they'll give you vouchers that you can use at Ibis hotels, which are sprinkled throughout Europe.

The site also has informative message boards where you can ask experienced travelers about the best play to stay in Prague or where the hottest nightclub is in Madrid.

The best thing about traveling as a student is the discounted rates. Many airlines offer incredible discounts for students up to their 26th birthday, provided they have a valid ID.

As for places to stay, the best option for students is often hostels: They're cheap, clean and a great place to meet people. Go to [hiayh.org](http://hiayh.org) for lists of hostels around the world and specific information on each location.

Another site to check out before you buy tickets is [lsecard.com/studentflights](http://lsecard.com/studentflights), the headquarters of the International Student Card.

They offer travel rebates for people who purchase the card, which costs less than \$30. The ISE card is not just for identification; it also gets you discounts at hotels, museums, rail systems and more. The ISE site also has special airfare deals and student flights.

Remember to always check your ticket price in several places to make sure you're getting the best deal. Once you find a package, try out regular travel sites like [travelocity.com](http://travelocity.com) and [lowestfare.com](http://lowestfare.com) to see what kind of a student discount you're really getting. •



## ACADEMIC

### Literary History Online

[literaryhistory.com](http://literaryhistory.com)

English majors wanting to do research on the web will love this directory of online literary articles, journals and resources. The focus is mainly 19th century British lit., but there are several other areas, like Postmodernism, that are also covered, and there are links to other literary research sites.

Content: **A-** Usability: **A**

### Travlang's Translating Dictionaries

[dictionaries.travlang.com](http://dictionaries.travlang.com)

If you've come across a strange word in your modern languages course, try this vast dictionary site that can translate between English and all major and minor European languages, including Latin. It also works between other languages, so if you're dying to convert some Portuguese into Dutch, today's your lucky day.

Content: **A** Usability: **B+**

### The Yahoo Directory of Engineering

[dir.yahoo.com/Science/Engineering](http://dir.yahoo.com/Science/Engineering)

This comprehensive list of engineering and engineering-related sites and links offers an excellent resource for all your engineering needs. From aerospace and geography to a Usenet listing of science message boards, even a non-techie could find something of interest.

Content: **A-** Usability: **A-**

## COMMUNITY

### Tabletalk

[Tabletalk.salon.com](http://Tabletalk.salon.com)

For intelligent discussion and useful advice, try *Salon* magazine's discussion rooms at [tabletalk.salon.com](http://tabletalk.salon.com). There are a large variety of categories, including sports, health, education, house & garden, movies, music and technology, with multiple discussion threads in each. There's everything from freelance writing and spiritual health to role playing. You can view the discussions as a guest, but to participate you need to register, which is simple and will also provide you with a record of what you've read.

Content: **A-** Usability: **B+**

### Geocities

[geocities.com](http://geocities.com)

So you want to build a web site, but HTML gives you a headache? No problem—Yahoo's Web Page Builder will walk you through the whole process (works best with Windows). The templates are kind of dull, but you can have a web site up and running in 10 minutes. Thumbs up on the help section; you can add on more as you learn. If you're a beginner, this is the place to start.

Content: **B+** Usability: **A-**