

Holiday travelers more likely to stay close to home

By Deanne Nelson
Staff Reporter

Although Christmas is usually thought of as a time to be with family and holiday travel is usually family oriented, some students choose to take advantage of the time away from school to make it friend oriented.

"Spring break is more devoted to leisure travel, while Christmas is usually devoted to going home to family," said Pam Ellis, travel consultant at Contact Travel, 4001 S. 48 St. "Although some students do choose to go to Disney World or skiing."

Ellis said most of the travel agency's business for Christmas involves booking airline flights to students' hometowns while spring break bookings concentrate on warm climates and fun.

Jean Schutz, travel consultant at International Tours of Lincoln in East Park Plaza, said that when friends do travel together at Christmas the most common place to go is to Colorado for skiing because of proximity as opposed to the typical spring break vacations "in the south."

Students who travel together at Christmas are commonly roommates or fraternity or sorority groups, Ellis said.

Packages which include airfare, hotel or condominium accommodations, bus transfers and ski lift charges are popular with traveling students, Schutz said, because they are convenient to arrange.

"Ski rental is not usually included because people who go to Colorado from here usually have their own skis," she said.

The most popular Colorado skiing areas are Vail, Aspen, Colorado Springs and Beaver Crossing, Schutz said, which is the most inex-

pensive and ideal for low-budget students.

Travel accommodations for a trip to places like this or to the warm-climate areas must be made far in advance, she said.

"You can't expect to arrange a Christmas trip in October or No-

vember because airlines are usually booked solid by then, as well as hotels," she said.

Planning for spring break, although it may seem far into the future, should be done soon after Christmas, she said.

To help in planning a spring

break or family vacation or honeymoon, Ellis said, Contact Travel offers video rentals of more than 100 destinations. This "video library" gives a birds-eye view tour of the destinations with tips on sight-seeing, places to eat and how much money to bring, she said.

Ellis said these videos can be rented for \$2 per day or \$3 a weekend and show destinations ranging from Europe to Mexico to Caribbean cruises. The rental fee is deducted from the package price when the customer arranges a tour through the agency, she said.

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