

Sun and fun Cancun, South Padre popular vacation spots for spring break travel

Travel through the Web site to plan for spring break '96



Cliff A. Hicks

"I want to get out and go somewhere for Spring Break, but I don't have time to call a hundred people planning! What do I do?"
"Don't fret! You can use your trusty World Wide Web! In just minutes, a few button pushes can have your whole vacation reserved and ready to go."
No, really, it's as easy as one, two, six. I don't need a car, a flamethrower and a silly infomercial to tell you that. And I can get you what you need to know. Leave it all to me; I'll have your vacation mapped out before you can say "I'm going to Disneyland!"
Okay, first thing's first. Were you planning on traveling in or out of the

United States?
What? Oh, I know. I'm too poor to leave the country, too.
Fine. Good ol' United States it is then. Are you planning on going anywhere in specific? Hmm? Oh. Great... you're not sure. Not even a general idea? Sigh. All right, I suppose we'll just have to start from the top then.
Well, let's start out by planning the basics. Did you want to stay cheap during the vacation?
Sorry, stupid question. Youth hostels are cheap (real cheap! Under \$20!) and clean. There's a list of them at (<http://gnn.com/gnn/bus/ayh/usa.html>) Pick out the section of America you're planning to visit and then look via state and city. You can save a lot of money by going hostel. Everyone needs to keep as much change as possible in their pockets, right?
What? You've got money? Why don't you tell me these things when you sit down and pick up this paper and ask me for cyber travel advice? I would've asked for a consulting fee.

All right, all right, let's see.
Good hotel, huh? There's a major listing at (http://www.excite.com/Subject/Life_and_Style/Travel/Hotels/Hotel_Chains/s-index.html) that will give you the major hotel chains in America.
Heck, you can even reserve rooms over the Web for many places. The nicest system reflects the best chain, so I'm stuck recommending the Holiday Inn, (<http://www.holidayinn.com>). There are others too. Best Western (<http://www.travelweb.com/bw.html>), Marriott (<http://www.marriott.com>), Embassy Suites (<http://www.embassy-suites.com>), Hilton (<http://www.hilton.com>) and more.
If you were considering skiing, the city of Vail, Colo., where people tell me the skiing is marvelous, has its own web page, (<http://vail.net>). Here you can look at hotels, restaurants and anything else you would ever want to know about the city. Vail's all the rage

See CYBERBREAK on 6

Students can break for education Museums provide spring vacation alternatives

By Patrick Hambrecht
Senior Reporter

There's nothing college students love more than visiting museums, and spring break offers the rare opportunity to visit three or four specialized houses of learning in the same week. What bliss!
Happily, there is a wonderful new crop of hip travel books aimed at the pre-Social Security set, among them "The Outrageous Atlas" by Richard and Laurine Rogers, "The Wild West Guide" by Michael McCoy and "The Cockroach Hall of Fame and 101 other Off-The-Wall Museums" by Sandra Gurvis.
The only real loser in the bunch is the Rogers' book, which provides no information you couldn't find on a map. But both McCoy and Gurvis' books shine with practical vacation detours. Here are a few:

- The (Hormel) First Century Museum is located in Austin, Minn., the birthplace of SPAM, Dinty Moore Stew and other near-organic edibles. George Hormel, a pioneer of the Industrial Revolution, found a way to combine functionalist form, mass production and tasty pork products. You will reel with emotion as you bemoan the sad story of Hormel company embezzler R.J. Thomson. Then you will celebrate a small climax of freedom when Hormel president R.L. Knowlton presents Boris Yeltsin with a can of SPAM.
Bug fans wondering how they could ever scrape together the money to travel to London, St. Petersburg or Onderstepoort, South Africa, can rest easy. There's a tick museum right here at home.
- The U.S. National Tick Collection is situated cozily at the Georgia

Southern University in Statesboro, Ga. More than a million dead parasites soak up alcohol at this informative haven. Here you can learn how ticks unmiraculously evolved over millions of years with no real changes at all.
• Few of us ever got a chance to really say goodbye to Nathan C. Meeker after we were robbed of his charm and easygoing wit in the Meeker Massacre of 1879. But we can still pay our respects today at the site of the Colorado killing, where the Indian agent and his nine employees were decimated in a Ute Indian Raid.
In the future, these three tourist attractions will probably consolidate into one main facility for easy access. But until then, the U.S. National Tick Collection, the First Century Museum and the site of the Meeker Massacre are only a disjointed and rambling road trip away.

By Mike Kluck
Senior Reporter

College students often have been accused of procrastinating, being lazy and putting things off.
But when it comes to planning for spring break, some local travel agents said many college students were well-prepared and had planned early for their getaway.
John DuPont, owner of Travel Agents International at 70th and O streets, said some of his office's college spring break clientele started planning for their spring break trip as early as October and November.
Because of their early planning, DuPont said, the college students were able to secure some of the lowest fares to their particular destination.
"When it comes to spring break travel, the college kids are really serious and will book early," DuPont said. "The favorite places are really hard to find and book right now."
DuPont said if students were still

interested in going somewhere for spring break and had not made reservations, there were still openings—if they're willing to pay.
But Vicki Grieser, manager of Travel & Transport at 70th and Van Dorn streets, said students wishing to go to Mexico for spring break may be out of luck because Mexico is "booked solid."
Dave Bowden, manager of International Tours of Lincoln, located at East Park Plaza Mall, said students should start checking with airlines and travel agents early and often until they find a sale for the fare they want.
Bowden, Grieser and DuPont all said that over the years Cancun, Mexico, and South Padre Island, Texas, have become a more popular vacation spot than Florida.
"Cancun is real popular among college students this year," Grieser said. "College students don't even think about problems going to Mexico. All they think about is getting away to sun and fun."
Grieser said the most popular va-

cation spots in Florida among college students were not beach destinations, but in-state at Orlando with Mickey Mouse at Walt Disney World.
Besides Cancun and South Padre Island, a new spring break trip has become increasingly more popular this season.
A three-day cruise has been booked by many college students this season and is affordable, Grieser said.
Grieser said she did a price comparison between taking a cruise and going to Colorado to go skiing and found a three-day cruise was cheaper than flying to Colorado and skiing during the same time period.
But, Bowden said, most college students who go skiing for spring break from Lincoln tend to drive to Colorado instead of flying to save money.
He said if students drove to Colorado and had a friend or relative to stay with out there, a ski trip was not too expensive.
All three agents said students should make sure their trips were well-planned so they were as enjoyable as possible.



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