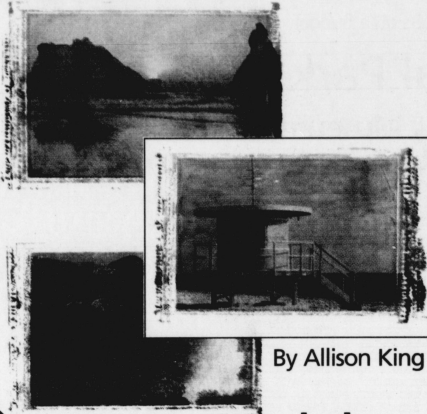


# Spring Break 2005

Ft. Lauderdale Daytona Beach Fort Walton Beach South Padre Island Cancun Panama City Bahamas Jamaica Gulf Shores Aruba Virgin Islands



By Allison King

## Cancun, cruising highlight Break

With Spring Break less than three months away, hotels and resorts start will soon start to fill — will you be stuck in the sand? Look inside for tips on planning for safety, the best local alternative spots for Spring Break'ers on a budget and check out the top ten must-visit spots in New Orleans.

The wind is warm on your face and the sun is beating down as you sip on a cocktail and watch all your worries float by. Sit back, relax and enjoy a week of freedom.

### It's Spring Break!

Dan Wilkins, senior travel specialist at Pegasus Travel Inc., said this year's predicted most traveled spot for spring break is once again Cancun, Mexico.

Cancun has been the hot spot of Spring Break travel for the last few years. However, due to the hurricanes in the Caribbean this past year, he believes Cancun will most likely gain more travelers this Spring Break.

"Not only is Cancun beautiful, but it is also a relatively safe place to vacation, which is important to most travelers since the attack on 9/11," Wilkins said.

On the flip side, another popular option for Spring Break travel is cruising. Junior Caitlin Williams said she took a cruise to the Western Caribbean Islands last Spring Break and plans to take another cruise this spring break, but to the Eastern Caribbean.

"I just loved everything about the cruise," Williams said. "The Caribbean waters are so beautiful, and the islands we visited were so unique."

"There were also many different activities on the ship, such as shows, art exhibits, dinner with the captain and — not to mention — the casino. It was the best vacation I have ever been on."

Both Wilkins and Williams agree that wherever students intend to go for Spring Break, taking an all-inclusive trip is the best way.

With all-inclusive packages, vacationers do not have to worry about pinching pennies when they go out to eat because the food is included. Some all-inclusive packages also include drinks.

However, just because the food is free does not mean it sacrifices quality or quantity.

"The food on the cruise was amazing," Williams said. "They offered a variety of entrees for each meal and they all were incredible. Also, the waiters and waitresses treated you like royalty every time you entered the dining area."

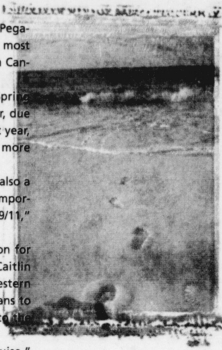
For students who would prefer to stay on land, Cancun has a group of excellent resorts offering all-inclusive packages. Wilkins suggests a few of the most notable places that vacationers rave about are the Palaces and the Riviera Resorts.

These two resorts are popular because they not only offer free food and drinks in their all-inclusive packages, but there are also free excursions to places such as the Mayan Ruins.

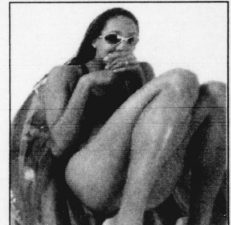
"The beauty of these resorts are normally what attracts most vacationers, but once they've experienced what the resorts have to offer, this is what brings them back," Wilkins said.

Regardless of where you plan to travel this year for Spring Break, early planning is important. Spring Break travel is heavy, so beware that hotels and resorts will be booked early.

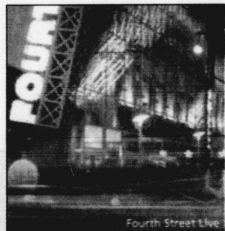
Whatever hot spot you happen to find this year for spring break may be full before long. So start booking your vacation now and when the time comes you can sit back, relax and enjoy the warm breeze.



Check out helpful tips to make Spring Break safe and worry-free with planning advice from the experts. **Page 4**



Tan and work with eCampus. Head to the beach and help the university bookseller promote eCampus right on the beach. **Page 4**



Breaking on a budget? Check out local attractions to spend Spring Break closer to home. **Page 2**



Bolting toward the Big Easy? Must-visit locales in New Orleans from voodoo cemeteries to the best oysters. **Page 4**

## Cruises an all-inclusive alternative

Spring Break cruising a popular and cost-efficient way for guaranteed fun for a fraction of the costs of a normal trip. **By McKenzie Coury**

For the past several years the popularity of Spring Break cruises have increased among college students, according to Emily Jennings, a recent cruiser.

"Cruise ships have begun to cater to the needs of college Spring Breakers," Jennings said. "They offer several different packages with different time lengths and destinations. They have the typical Spring Break contests and events as well."

There are trips ranging from 3-12 days that visit several different islands. These ships are equipped with different lodging, casinos, pools, layout decks and bars.

"There is plenty to keep college students busy," Jennings said.

Another reason cruise ships have increased in popularity is because many former Spring Break hot spots are beginning to turn away the usual visitors.

"Cancun has made a strong attempt to

cut down on Spring Break travelers," said Lucy Boblitt, owner and manager of Travel 2 in Louisville, Ky. "Now, there are only seven hotels that are designated for Spring Breakers. The rest of the hotels have banned Spring Break travelers all together."

Boblitt said other Florida cities have begun to follow this trend as well.

"What really turns Spring Breakers on about cruises is the fact that they get to see so many different islands in such a short amount of time," Boblitt said.

Cruises offer great deals specifically for Spring Breakers.

These include contests and special events to participate in, open bars, buffets, and many things to keep busy. Boblitt recommends the five-day Bahamas cruise that costs around \$300. This cruise starts in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and goes to the Bahamas. It includes hotel accommodations for five days and four nights, a buffet breakfast (on the ship), three lunches and three dinners. "That is a great deal for young kids," Boblitt said.



# Without a beach

Local attractions if you can't make it to the coast

By Casey Luttrull

**H**ave you ever wanted to go somewhere during Spring Break but just couldn't afford it? Or maybe work kept you from taking the week off. Here are a few activities that are local and less expensive for Breakers on a budget.

## Mammoth Cave National Park



**M**ammoth Cave is the longest cave in the world, with over 350 miles of surveyed passages, right here in Kentucky. There are many different tours available ranging from an hour and 15 minutes to three hours.

- ▶ The Historic Tour allows you to see many of the caves' greatest features and lasts around two hours.
- ▶ The Violet City Lantern Tour is only lit by the lanterns you're given to carry and lasts around three hours.

Besides going on tours, the park also offers hiking, canoeing and horseback riding.

It is recommended that you make reservations for a tour at least one day in advance.

For more information, visit their website at [www.nps.gov/macac/](http://www.nps.gov/macac/) or call (270) 758-2180.

New Mexico Institute of Technology

Green Cave, Mammoth Cave Park, Cave City, Ky.

- ▶ Price: \$5 to \$15
- ▶ Distance: 130 miles
- ▶ Directions: Take the Bluegrass Parkway to Elizabethtown. Then follow I-65 South to Exit 53 at Cave City. Another 15 minutes of driving will bring you to the park visitor center.



Fourth Street Live in Downtown Louisville.

4thstlive.com

## Fourth Street Live

**F**ourth Street Live is an open-air entertainment district made up of live concerts, restaurants, clubs and stores, all located on a two block section of Fourth Street in downtown Louisville.

It has everything from the first ever Maker's Mark Bourbon House & Lounge to Lucky Strike Lanes, which offers a combination of dining, bowling and multimedia.

There are also live concerts held every week on an outdoor stage that is located right in the middle of it all.

Concerts usually start around 10 or 11 p.m. and last around three hours. Afterwards the street becomes a huge open-air bar.

For more information, visit their website at [www.4thstlive.com](http://www.4thstlive.com) or call 812-282-LIVE.

- ▶ Price: \$5 cover charge
- ▶ Distance: 75 miles
- ▶ Directions: Take I-64 West to the I-65 South exit. Then follow I-65 south to Exit 136 (C. Jefferson Street toward downtown). Turn left onto Brook Street. Turn right on Muhammad Ali Blvd.

## Natural Bridge

**S**eventy-eight feet long and 65-foot high, the Natural Bridge is a time-forged sandstone arch that overlooks the Daniel Boone National Forest.

The park offers a total of ten hiking trails that range from one-half mile to seven-and-a-half miles. You can take a trail to the top of the arch, walk across it or take other trails that will allow you to view the native plants, animals and other natural rock formations.

Maps to the park are available at the Hemlock Lodge located in the park. For more information visit their website at [www.state.ky.us/agencies/parks/naturalbridge.htm](http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/parks/naturalbridge.htm) or call (606) 663-2214.

- ▶ Price: Free
- ▶ Distance: 55 miles
- ▶ Directions: Take I-64 East to Exit 98 (Mountain Parkway). Then follow Mountain Parkway to Exit 33 at Slade. Turn right onto KY 11. Natural Bridge is about two miles on the right.

## Cincy Museum Center

**T**he Cincinnati Museum Center is home to the Cincinnati History Museum, the Museum of Natural History and Science, Cinergy Children's Museum and an OMNIMAX Theater.

The Cincinnati History Museum has all the history you'll ever want to know about Cincinnati and the surrounding areas. You can actually walk down the streets of the historic city and even interact with characters from the same time period.

The Museum of Natural History and Science allows you to step back 19,000 years into the Ice Age with one exhibit and another allows you to explore recreated Kentucky limestone caves.

The Museum Center is also home to an OMNIMAX Theater.

The screen is displayed on a five-story dome, which creates the feeling that you are actually in the film.

For more information visit their website at [www.cincy-museum.org](http://www.cincy-museum.org) or call (800) 733-2077.

- ▶ Price: \$15.75 to visit four attractions

- ▶ Distance: 85 miles
- ▶ Directions: Take I-75 North to Exit 1G, US 50 West (River Road). Next take the Gest Street exit and turn right onto Gest Street. Travel to the first traffic light (Freeman Avenue-Winchell Avenue) and turn right. Then turn left on Ezzard Charles Drive straight to the Museum Center entrance.

## Torrent Falls

**T**orrent Falls Climbing Adventure offers the first via ferrata style rock climbing in the United States.

The course is divided into four different degrees of difficulty. There is a beginner level, intermediate level, advanced level and the black diamond level.

According to Mark Meyer, Owner of Torrent Falls, it takes around two to three hours to make it all the way around the course without exiting each section, or you can also keep climbing the same section over and over.

Included in the package are training, all the gear you need and an all day pass to climb.

This is a great place to go if you have never climbed before.

For more information visit their website at [www.torrentfalls.com](http://www.torrentfalls.com) or call (606) 668-6613.

- ▶ Price: \$29
- ▶ Distance: 60 miles
- ▶ Directions: Take I-64 east to Exit 98 (Mountain Parkway). Then follow Mountain Parkway to Exit 33 at Slade. Turn right onto KY 11. Torrent Falls is approximately seven miles on the right.

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## Work and tan with eCampus

By Molly Keeler

This is no ordinary Spring Break. For one thing, you're getting paid. And another, you're going on spring break for free.

Is this for real?  
"We guarantee the cheapest, fastest and easiest way to buy and sell books," said Matt Montgomery, president and CEO of eCampus.com. In fact, what you probably don't know is that eCampus isn't just about buying and selling books.

Montgomery said eCampus began traveling to popular Spring Break destination sites such as Daytona Beach and Jamaica to promote their services.

The company's motto, "Fast, cheap and easy," was Montgomery's marketing approach to reach students all across the United States.

Since eCampus is an online bookstore, many students might not know the service exists. "I wanted to be able to get students attention, so I thought, what better a way to travel on spring break where half the students in the United States would be traveling to," Montgomery said.

Each year, Montgomery chooses 10 women to travel to spring break with him and his eCampus crew. One of these 10 women, Rachael Gilliam, 20, a former student living in Lexington, met Montgomery at a restaurant where she was a hostess.

"I met Rachael at Rafferty's where she was a former hostess and gave her my card to contact me about going on spring break with eCampus.com," Montgomery said. Later that week, she gave Montgomery a call, interested in traveling on Spring Break with eCampus. A month later she was off on assignment, getting paid to be at the beach.

During an interview with Gilliam, she

set a large photo album of pictures on the table. All of her pictures from spring break with eCampus.com filled the pages. Gilliam explained that the purpose of the trip was to promote eCampus.com.

"Spring break was a blast, but it was a lot of work, too," Gilliam said. Everything was paid for. The women were driven down in yellow eCampus Hummers and stayed in suites at the Tropic Sun Towers hotel in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"All of our meals were paid for except for dinner, but we never even had to pay for that because we bought groceries when we arrived at the beach," Gilliam said.

Montgomery said the women were completely safe, and had two supervisors near them at all times.

Early each morning, Gilliam and the others had to be on the shore. They worked from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the beach every day with students to provide e-mail addresses for eCampus.com. This extended eCampus.com mailing list was turned in and used as a key marketing strategy.

The main goal of the trip was to spread the word, and let everyone know that eCampus.com is the best "bookstore." Gilliam spread the word by handing out free t-shirts, hats and other items in exchange for students' email addresses. She cruised up and down the beach everyday until 4 p.m.

Each night Gilliam and the others were expected to be at Razzies, a popular dance club on the strip, to host games such as "the booty shake contest," and "the hottest guy." Those who were 21 received free drinks all night.

By 1:30 a.m., we were ready to head back to the hotel and get some much needed sleep. "Eight-thirty in the morning always arrived too soon," Gilliam said.



## Big list for the Big Easy

By Ashley Kessinger

### Make a wish on Marie Laveau's grave.

Make a wish on Marie Laveau's grave. Legends say that the queen of voodoo, Marie Laveau, will grant wishes to people who visit her grave. The grave is located in the St. Louis Cemetery and is marked by an X. Many locals warn visitors to beware of the power of voodoo, which is still practiced by fifteen percent of the population. However, if you are not brave enough to visit the grave, there are many shops in the French Quarter to experience the influence of voodoo in New Orleans. Not to mention, bringing back a voodoo doll is a good way to freak out your friends or maybe enemies?

### Shuck 'em and eat 'em.

Oysters that is. This slimy, yet satisfying cuisine staple is on the menu in every restaurant from the Garden District to the French Quarter. Along with oysters, you can find crayfish and shrimp. All of which a Spring Breaker must try once to get the full Big Easy experience.



### Catch some beads on Bourbon Street.

Mardi Gras isn't the only time that Bourbon Street gets crazy. Perhaps that is why thousands of Spring Breakers flock to New Orleans and crowd the street every year. With a variety of bars, clubs and restaurants, Bourbon Street has a little bit of everything for everyone. You can make a fool of yourself as your sing karaoke at Razzo's, watch live performers at The Bourbon St. Blues Bar, or have your palm read at Marie Laveau's House of Voodoo. Even people who are not yet 21 can have a blast getting into the action on the street. Not to mention, the beads provide a party all its own. Don't forget to check out the Bourbon St. web cam archives when you get home. It helps you to remember what you actually did that night.

### Refuel at Café du Monde.

After a long night of drinking Hurricanes and Horny Gators, there is nothing a Spring Breaker needs more than a strong cup of coffee. At the infamous Café du Monde, located in Jackson Square, the coffee is laced with chicory. Anyone with a stronger stomach could also grab some beignets, a French doughnut topped with powder sugar. A few of these and a cup of coffee are cheap enough for the college student's budget, yet tasty and filling enough to hold you over 'til oysters and beer at dinner.

## Planning for Break safety

By Ryan McCorry

Many students planned their Spring Break trips early, especially if they are leaving the country for popular destinations such as Cancun, Acapulco, and the Bahamas.

Before arriving at our final destination, however, there are myriad things to do before ripping off clothes, getting into bathing suits and lathering on sunscreen.

"Spring Break vacation for a college student should expand the student's horizons by visiting a location he or she would not ordinarily go with the family," said Lance Harvey, CEO of Schools Tours of America. "(Students) should be careful to do the proper research to make certain the area is safe to teenage tourists and is routinely frequented by spring break visitors."

### Stay in safe areas

Students do not want to end up in a bad or dangerous area especially when they will be consuming a great amount of alcohol.

If students intend to drink alcohol, it is especially important to plan your lodging in a safe, patrolled hotel zone with safe access to the central party zone.

Remember the proverb, "you get what you pay for." Students who are traveling unfamiliar locations, especially outside the country, should spend the extra money while booking their trip to place themselves in a stable and well-known hotel chain. Many resorts offer an all-inclusive meal and drink plan.

Harvey said he typically tells his clients to bring enough money for three meals a day, admissions, cab fares and any extra nighttime entertainment.

"Obviously the cost fluctuates if alcohol is involved," he said.

Students must also remember to bring extra money in case of unanticipated necessities or emergencies.

Of course, upon arrival, students should take account of the various activities the area offers and devise a budget on the first night of the trip. Ideally, students should research the location on the Internet to get a general ballpark figure on the various costs before arriving.

### Plan for the worst, expect the best

Spring Breakers may be seen as easy targets for crime or scams and have a tendency to become inebriated during their trip, so travelers should always try to place safety first and prepare for the worst case scenario.

Harvey said there are four important items that a spring breaker should not leave home without:

- ▶ Travelers checks instead of a lot cash;
- ▶ photo copies of your ID and passport to keep it in a separate location from other valuables;
- ▶ a credit card and/or ATM card to pay for those unforeseen emergencies and
- ▶ a good international calling card. Cell phone range can be unpredictable, especially when out of the country.

With a little bit of planning and research, students should be able to have a great Spring Break.

Although it might take extra time, planning and packing to make sure you have a safe trip will make it all worthwhile after hitting warm sand and wild waves.

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