Changes in latitude, changes in attitude

The most popular spring break destinations continue to be the beach, but other locations are also popular

By Matthew Winkler
Managing Editor

Spring break was originally designed to give students a break during the first few months of winter to catch up on their studies. Now it is seen as a small vacation for students to go enjoy activities that cannot be had at their respective schools.

This spring semester is no different as students choose more and more exciting places to venture for the break.

Many travel agencies, including STA travel, offer student packages for spring breakers.

The most popular idea is still finding a beach. In 2006, the most popular spring break destinations were Acapulco, Cancun and Cabo San Lucas, respectively.

A seven-day student package for any of these particular destinations will cost the student around $1,000 and includes hotel accommodations as well as airfare. Some other popular beaches include Costa Rica and Jamaica. These student packages are in the $400 range.

Staying in the states, students can visit spring break hot spots such as Panama City, Daytona or Miami Beach. Hotels in these areas range anywhere from $70 a night to nearly $200 a night.

The West Coast is also not short of the spring break experience. There are student specials for trips to Hawaii and southern California, but these trips can be as expensive as traveling out of the country.

Expect to pay around $1,000 for roundtrip airfare and hotel accommodations. If you are looking for a cheap trip with some enjoyable experiences, Las Vegas may be your next logical choice.

Popular Spring Break Destinations

- Acapulco, Mexico
- Breckenridge, Colo.
- Panama City Beach, Fla.
- Killington, Vt.
- Cancun, Mexico
- London
- Amsterdam

Rooms at local hotels start from as low as $18 a night.

All these destinations are geared toward the college crowd, so finding any form of entertainment will not be hard. Also gaining popularity are students seeking colder weather. Ski trips are gaining more and more popularity for students on break.

Two of the most popular skiing destinations are Killington, Vt. and Breckenridge, Colo.

There is currently a spring break special on www.statravel.com, that offers five days of skiing and lodging for $340.

Breckenridge also has some student specials ranging from $370-$380, which include five days of lodging and four days of skiing.

Other major ski destinations are Copper, Colo., Mont Saint, Quebec and Mt. Snow, Vt.

Europe also has some other popular destinations, which include fives days of skiing at any of these European locations.

Current student packages on www.statravel.com have prices to London and Paris around $600, which includes roundtrip airfare as well as a hotel. The Madrid and Amsterdam specials lack roundtrip airfare, but do include lodging from $30 a night.

Whether your destination is only a few hours away or completely across an ocean there are many deals that cater to the college student.

Check out such websites as www.statravel.com, www.studentuniverse.com, www.travelocity or www.statravel.com to find out more deals that fit into the student budget.

Streak comes to halt

After two years of not winning a single road game, the Jackets finally break the streak. Page 52

The race is on

Students discuss the importance of primaries as well as their thoughts on the presidential election. Page 14

Local options provide break alternatives

By Evan Zasoski
Senior Staff Writer

Stuck in Atlanta over spring break? Of course you are. You’re a broke college kid.

But fear not. We here at the Nullfeel your pain and have lovingly crafted for you this list of activities that can keep you busy in Atlanta over the break.

March 17
St. Patrick’s Day Parade—Downtown

What could possibly bring spring break quite like a holiday and its ensuing parade practically dedicated to beer? It’s all the fun of the traditional spring break locale but for a mere fraction of the price. Think of all the Killians those savings could buy.

Price: Free

11th Annual Downtown Dash for Diabetes

If you are looking for some exercise, then this race might be the ticket. The race starts at 9 a.m. in Hunt Park located near Georgia State. The race takes place in the streets surrounding Hunt Park. Proceeds benefit the Diabetes Association of Atlanta.

Price: Registration fee of $20

March 20—March 25
Sweet Charity—Fox Theatre

The classic play comes to the Fox with Molly Ringwald in the leading role. Check it out.

Price: $19 - $46

March 22—March 24
Atlanta Ballet: An Evening of New Works and American Classics—Fertl Center

So tired of Tech that you can’t even be bothered to leave campus? Well, you’re in luck, because the Atlanta Ballet is coming right to you with some of the finest dancing this side of the former Iron Curtain.

Price: $15 - $80

March 22—March 24
High Museum Atlanta Wine Auction—High Museum

Granted, it’s not quite as proletariat friendly as the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, but it still involves drinking, and really, isn’t that what really matters when we’re talking about what to do over spring break? Plus, when else are you going to have the opportunity to wander around the High totally sloshed?

Price: $15 ($12 with Student ID)

March 23
Wynton Marsalis—Symphonic Hall

For those of you out there who enjoy a bit of the old jazz music, Wynton Marsalis is one of the biggest names in the business these days. Barring Miles Davis rising from the dead as a trumpet-playing zombie, you’re not gonna do much better than that.

Price: $37.80 - $81.00

March 24
Pete Yorn—Earthlink Live

Everyone’s favorite indie rock singer/songwriter is coming to town, and you, the lucky few stuck in Atlanta over the break, get to check him out.

Price: $25

March 25
ING Georgia Marathon

Participate in the inaugural ING Georgia Marathon. All runners receive a medal, a shirt, a commemorative poster as well as other free prizes. Race starts at 9 a.m.

Price: $95 (Registration due by March 19)
Proper prior planning key to successful spring break

By Craig Tabita
Assistant News Editor

Making a last minute fill-up on your car is essential before hitting the road for spring break. Also, checking the oil and all other fluid levels is important to avoid having unexpected car trouble on your trip.

With spring break only a few weeks away, take the time now to be aware of everything you will need to ensure that you will have a fun and safe week away and avoid some headaches down the road.

After all, spring break is about relaxing and not having to worry; the last thing you want to happen during your vacation is to be bogged down with undue stress. When it comes time to leave, take a good look around your dorm, apartment or house. Go ahead and turn off anything that might overheat and explode, such as your computer or appliances.

On a somewhat related note, be respectful of your neighbors and check that any alarm clocks aren’t still set to go off in your absence. Think carefully about everything you will need during your trip, and don’t pack anything more than that. Heavy bags are a pain to lug around and it gives you more stuff to worry about keeping track of.

Some things are essential, though. Your cell phone charger falls into this category. So do, unfortunately, whatever textbooks and other school materials you’ll need to read and re-read because every one of your professors decided to schedule an exam for the week when you come back. Check your class schedules if you haven’t already, but try to find a balance and see if you can avoid both being overly distracted while you’re out having fun, and coming home unprepared.

Some other essentials are deodorant, a toothbrush, sufficient socks and underwear, and your house or dorm keys.

Failure to have any of these with you is going to cause a lot of problems. Use your judgment to figure out what else you have to pack, and have it all done the day before you leave, because rushing around at the last minute is going to cause said judgment to be a little off.

Hopefully as you walk out the door you have some idea of where you’re going and what you’ll be doing. Maybe you don’t. If not, then you’re not out of luck, although your options are going to be a lot more limited as you get closer to the date of departure.

Consider taking advantage of AirTran’s X-fares program that lets travelers between the ages of 18 and 22 grab a cheap seat on one of their flights, with no reservation required, if there is an empty seat.

The only problem with doing so is that you might find that hotels aren’t quite so accommodating to your last-minute planning.

If that’s the case, you can shave a day off your expensive stay by sleeping at the airport in a sleeping bag. Trust me from experience, Los Angeles International Airport can be a comfortable enough place to snooze.

Some people are traveling close enough to home that the mode of transportation will be driving. If you are driving, be sure to have a full tank of gas. Also make sure your car is not low on fluids or oil, or is in need of major repair. The last thing you want to be doing on break is catching a ride with a tow truck.

If your vacation destination requires you to get around with public transportation, make sure you pay attention to exactly which bus, train or plane that you are about to board. In 1982 a Thai woman went to Malaysia on a shopping trip, hopped on the wrong bus to return home, and only made it back this month after being lost for 25 years.

Finally, when it comes down to actually enjoying whatever possibilities your destination has to offer, try to spend some time seeing the real heart and soul of the place. Tourist traps are abundant and give you a pretty empty feeling after you are done with them.

It’s an unwritten rule that the best and most fun things to do in a city never get well-publicized. Take a chance on finding some of them, like all other things in this world, a little bit of risk can go a long way.

It’s Time to Sign up for Fall 2007 Housing

February 14 - February 28
at: www.housing.gatech.edu
Short road trips provide cheap, exciting journeys

By Matthew Winkler
Managing Editor

Spring break is a coveted time to any college student. The beach is usually the only criteria for a spring break destination, but also a road trip can make a break very satisfying. Not every student can afford to find a party and a beach, so staying near campus and taking a short adventure may be the best option for some.

These road trips are cheap and can be done alone or in large groups. So, for those who are staying in the Atlanta area, there are plenty of destinations that can satisfy the need to escape.

Some of these road trips are short and could easily be done in a day while others are meant to keep you for several days. All offer a unique experience while being enjoyable at the same time.

### Cumberland Island

**Driving Time:** 5 hours  
**How to get there:** Take I-75 south to I-16 to Savannah, then take I-95 south.  
**Reason to go:** Cumberland Island is part of Georgia’s barrier islands and part of the Cumberland Island National Seashore. The island is very secluded and contains protected forests and beaches.

Only 300 visitors a day are allowed on the island. Cumberland Island has everything from hiking and swimming to shark tooth hunting and camping. Also, one can visit the 1908 Greyfield Mansion which was originally built for a Carnegie heiress. To escape the grind of the urban lifestyle, Cumberland Island is the place to go.

### The Lost Sea

**Driving Time:** 2.5 hours  
**How to get there:** Take I-75 north to exit 60 in Tennessee.  
**Reason to go:** According to Guinness Book of World Records, Sweetwater contains the largest underground lake in the world. Designated as a Registered National Landmark, the cave maintains a constant temperature of 58 F and is part of a large, historic cave system known as the Craighead Caverns.

So far, roughly 13 acres have been given every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. tours are given in glass-bottom boats, where visitors can see the largest rainbow trout in North America. Tours are given from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the tour only costs $12.

### Dahlonega Gold Museum

**Driving Time:** One hour  
**How to get there:** Take GA-400 north.  
**Reason to go:** Visit the site of America’s first gold rush. When gold was first discovered in North Georgia in 1828, thousands flocked to the Cherokee land to try to stake their claim to the riches years before the famous California gold rush.

The rush was so successful that a U.S. branch mint was built in 1838, and produced over $6 million in gold in its 23 years of operation. The museum is housed inside the Lumpkin County Courthouse, the oldest courthouse in Georgia. Inside the museum one can see coins, a gold nugget, some minted coins and tools used during the mining operations.

### Athens, Ga.

**Driving Time:** One hour  
**How to get there:** Take US-29 north.  
**Reason to go:** Athens has much to offer anyone who is looking for entertainment during the break. Rolling Stone ranked Athens as the number one college music scene in America. Every week, plenty of bands perform in the numerous clubs and bars that dot the Athens landscape. Also while in Athens, one can visit such weird landmarks as the world’s only double-barreled cannon or the tree that owns itself.

If you’re looking for some quick entertainment geared toward the college crowd then Athens may be a quick trip to take.

### Blue Ridge Mountains

**Driving Time:** One hour  
**How to get there:** North on I-75, 1.85 or GA-400.  
**Reason to go:** Withover a dozen state parks dotted around the northern region of the state, the outdoors can be an exciting detour from the grind of the semester. All state parks offer camping grounds as well as lodges for guests to stay. During the day, hiking, fishing and sightseeing can be enjoyed through one of the most scenic regions of the state, while having the benefit of a campfire can be enjoyed at night.

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**ECUMENICAL ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

**FEBRUARY 21st**

**PRAYER SERVICE 7:00 AM**

LUTHERAN CENTER – 190 5TH STREET  
(Entrance is off the alley between 4TH and 5TH STREETS)

**WORSHIP SERVICE 6:00 PM**

WESLEY FOUNDATION – 189 4TH STREET  
(CORNER OF 4TH AND FOWLER STREETS)

**FREE DINNER FOLLOWING THE SERVICE**

Both services are open to all people, regardless of religious affiliation – or lack thereof.
ATL offers free entertainment

Free tours of the State Capitol Building are available Monday through Friday. The tour gives an inside glimpse of lawmaking in Georgia.

By Blake Israel
Contributing Writer

During spring break, if you're not already committed to plans, take a moment to take advantage of the free activities in and around campus.

One of the more interesting free activities is taking a tour of the State Capitol Building. Tours are free and given every Monday through Friday, 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. While on tour one can learn the history of the Capitol as well as the legislative process. A visit to the Senate and House of Representatives gallery is also included.

The tour concludes at the Georgia Capitol Museum, which contains the Hall of Valor, Georgia’s valuable collection of historic battle flags. Just a short distance away from the Capitol is Centennial Olympic Park. This park is an excellent place to go to unwind and relax. The park also now has free wireless internet.

Tours of the governors’ mansion are also available for those interested. This Greek Revival-style house first opened in 1968 and contains such historically significant items as a signed first-edition of Gone with the Wind, as well as the torch Muhammad Ali used to light the 1996 Olympic flame. Tours are available Tuesday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Also of historical and cultural significance is the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Located on Auburn Avenue, one can visit the grave of the famous civil rights leader at Ebenezer Church as well as King’s birth home.

Also located nearby is the historic Fire Station No. 6, where a history of the desegregation of the Atlanta Fire Department can be heard.

For those wanting to go further in history, the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is just a short drive up I-75 north.

The battlefield is 2,884 acres of protected land that marks one of the historic battles of the Atlanta campaign led by Union Gen. William T. Sherman in the summer of 1864.

The land contains small peaks, numerous hiking trails as well as markers indicating important points on the battlefield.

A civil war museum and an observation deck are also located on site for visitors.

If history is not your interest then maybe viewing free art is. The City Gallery East offers free admission into its exhibit of high-quality art produced by local artists.

Since its opening in 1993, the gallery has displayed art not typically seen in the more mainstream, commercial galleries. The gallery is located at 675 Ponce De Leon Ave. and is open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

All these activities are free and offer an enjoyable experience to all. Whether your interest is art, history or politics, Atlanta can accommodate those that are on a tight budget.