

11 Spring Break Destinations That Won't Break the Bank

You may still be working your way through the icy chill of winter, but warmer weather is just around the bend. This means Spring Break 2018 is right around the corner, so it's time to start planning. But what if you're on a budget – is it possible to find a Spring Break destination that doesn't break the bank?

The answer, of course, is yes. Whether you're looking for a late-season week on the slopes or are ready to break out your bathing suit and sunscreen, you can find exactly what you're looking for without paying too much. In fact, here are 11 spring break destinations to consider if you want to have fun without destroying your budget on airfare (8 tips

Beach-Goers

If you're looking to get a tan and feel some sand between your toes, you're not alone: TravelMag has found that the vast majority of spring break travelers head toward the beach. So, which beaches are not only trip-friendly but also wallet-friendly?

Florida Beaches

According to the aforementioned TravelMag rankings, Florida holds the title for the most top ten spring break destinations. It's no wonder, either, with cities like Panama City Beach (#1), Miami Beach (#5), Daytona Beach (#6), and Fort Lauderdale (#8) giving travelers plenty of options.

Luckily, you can also find some pretty decent deals on airfare to each of these cities. For instance, CheapFlights.com found that spring break beachgoers traveling between March 4-26, 2018 can snag airfares that average \$277 (Miami), \$243 (Daytona Beach), and \$285 (Fort Lauderdale).

Reminders

- * Please help us in welcoming Luis Cordero to the Maintenance Department. Luis brings a wealth of knowledge and a positive attitude to our Community. We are very excited to have him on the team..
- * JSO recommends following the #9PMRoutine. This new initiative encourages everyone to make sure their vehicles are locked and all valuables are removed by 9:00 p.m. every night.
- * Save some time, pay your rent online! Every resident is furnished with an online Resident Portal account so you can not only pay your rent online, but enter in maintenance requests as well. If you don't have one or need help accessing yours, please email heritage@leclairinc.net
- * Towels for the Fitness Center are there for your convenience, please ensure when you are done to return them to the basket to be cleaned.
- * Save this in your phone!
Afterhours maintenance line (for emergencies only)
– **904.229.4773**



If Panama City Beach is your top pick, consider going over the week of April 21-28 instead, if you can. During that time, fares are expected to drop by 6%, according to Booking.com. Considering all that Florida has to offer – including sunshine, clear waters, sandy beaches, and exciting nightlife – it’s well worth keeping on the short list.

Myrtle Beach, SC

Lined with beautiful beaches and surrounded by amusement/water parks, it’s no wonder Myrtle Beach is the #7 most popular spring break destination. And if you’re considering this South Carolina getaway for spring break, you’re in luck: airfare is fairly affordable!

Over the week of March 21-28, flights average \$423 according to CheapFlights. While this is a notable jump above Florida, it’s also likely that beachfront housing and Airbnbs will also be more affordable than those in the Sunshine State.

If you’d rather travel to Myrtle Beach a little later in the season, you can save around 26% by going the week of March 31 through April 6, according to Booking.com.

Nassau, Bahamas

If you’re looking to stick a stamp on your passport, consider heading to the Bahamas! Airfare to this island paradise will average \$378 over the spring break holiday, making it a very affordable trip option. While you won’t see the Bahamas on the top 25 spring break destinations list, this is likely due to simple logistics – besides, you’ll dodge the crazy crowds on the stateside beaches!

A Cultural Experience

Looking for something beyond bikinis and a sunburn? Then you may want to head toward one of the country’s culture-rich cities for an unforgettable (and affordable) experience this spring break.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Famous for its food, music, and, of course, Bourbon Street parties, New Orleans is an unrivaled travel spot. And luckily, it’s also budget-friendly!

Over the week of March 21-28, airfare to the Big Easy averages only \$307. You can also stay a little ways off of Bourbon Street to save a bit on accommodations. *Don’t forget to try the beignets!*



Nashville, Tennessee

Want to dive into a never-ending musical experience, paired with a unique nightlife and decades of history? Then Music City might be just what you need.

Nashville is full of live music venues on every corner, offering some of the country's most well-known – and up-and-coming – talent a stage. The food is incredible, offering southern charm (and tasty barbeque) everywhere you look. Airfare isn't bad, either, averaging \$420 over the 3/21-3/28 spring break week.

Austin, Texas

If you want to experience live music, a unique southern experience, and the unending party that is 6th Street, you need to head to Austin.

Deep in the heart of Texas, this city was dubbed the Live Music Capital of the World... and with good reason. There is no shortage of incredible musicians performing every night. Paired with nearby lakes, plenty of sunshine, and southern food that you'll want to write home about, this city offers it all. Oh, and airfare? You're looking at about \$304 for a spring break trip.

See the Landmarks

Spring break is a great time to visit some of the country's biggest attractions before the summertime crowds take over.

Niagara Falls

Did you know that Niagara Falls is *also* known for its beautiful tulips? Well, it is, and you can plan a breathtaking trip over the spring break holiday that allows you to not only take in the sights but cross an item off of your bucket list.

In early spring, you can expect to pay an average of \$389 for airfare to the beautiful waterfall. Afterward, you can check out nearby offerings, such as the tulips, wineries, and even a quick crossover into Canada.

The Grand Canyon

Who doesn't want to see the Grand Canyon, especially when it's early enough in the season that you can avoid sweltering temperatures?

Plan a fun hike through the country's biggest landmark, and enjoy low airfare to boot. In fact, over the March 21-28 week, you'll only pay an average of \$335 to Phoenix. Oh, and the crowds are pretty much null that time of year, too – double bonus!

- Saving on Spring Break travel



Anytime you travel alongside most of the nation, you can expect some costs to rise. Saving on airfare is the first way that you can ensure your spring break trip doesn't break the bank, though.

Be sure to use acquired miles to save on the airfare that you *do* pay, and cash in those hotel rewards if you aren't staying in an Airbnb. You still have a few weeks to rack up additional cash back rewards on your credit card of choice, which you can then use towards gas, rental cars, and even groceries.

Article by: Johnny Jet, Forbes Contributor

Nothing to do??? Join the fun!!

Gate River Run

This is the [largest 15K in the United States](#). The route takes runners through Downtown Jacksonville and across many of our famous bridges.

Salt Life Fest

Come celebrate the "[Salt-lifestyle](#)" at SeaWalk Pavilion.

Collective Con

Three days of pure excitement and fun featuring celebrity guests, comic book creators, voice actors, cosplayers, artists, writers, anime, video gaming, live music and more. [Collective Con](#) takes place at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds in Downtown Jacksonville.

World of Nations Celebration

Get your passport ready to go around the world in just two days. [This outdoor festival](#) in downtown's Metropolitan Park showcases the culture, music, and food from dozens of nations.



Northeast Florida Veg Fest

Riverside Park hosts this day-long festival presented by the Girls Gone Green in celebration of exactly how their gardens grow. Bring the family for [a Saturday packed with entertainment and education](#) about good health and ecological sustainability. Don't worry, there's a beer garden, scavenger hunt, and pie eating contest too!

GastroFest

Come to the Riverwalk Southbank & the MOSH for this celebration of great gastronomy grub. The currency is as green as the mindset at [GastroFest](#) so BRING CASH and use **#GreeningGastrofest** to let social media know how you're contributing (recycling, carpooling, etc.) to keeping things as green as possible.

Jax Home & Patio Show

Come to the Prime Osborn Convention Center for the 50th anniversary of this local Jacksonville [outdoor accoutrement extravaganza](#).

Jax Science Festival

The Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) and The Foundation Academy present [one of the smartest and coolest science festivals](#) in the state. Come to FSCJ's south campus to learn some new scientific tricks and the perfectly rational and evidenced-based logic behind those tricks.

Jax Book Festival

Celebrate your favorite literary rock star at the Main Library in Jacksonville. This event, the second year in a row, will include book signings, meet-and-greets, classes on self-publishing, and much more. Come take part in a [burgeoning local tradition](#).



HERITAGE
DEERWOOD

LEMON SHERBET CUPCAKES

Ingredients

- CUPCAKES
- 1 cup (8 oz.) salted butter, softened
- 2 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 3 cups (12 oz.) all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon table salt
- 1 (8-oz.) container sour cream
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 30 paper baking cups
- FROSTING
- 1 cup (8 oz.) salted butter, softened
- 3 tablespoons lemon zest
- 1 (32-oz.) pkg. powdered sugar
- 8 to 9 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 to 2 drops yellow liquid food coloring



Prepare Cupcakes: Preheat oven to 350°F. Beat 1 cup softened butter at medium speed with a heavy-duty stand mixer until creamy; gradually add granulated sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating just until blended after each addition. Stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with sour cream, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat at low speed just until blended after each addition. Stir in 1 tablespoon zest, 1 tablespoon juice, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Place 30 paper baking cups in three 12-cup standard-size muffin pans; spoon 1/4 cup batter into each baking cup.

Bake in preheated oven until a wooden pick inserted in centers comes out clean, 20 to 23 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks, and cool completely, about 20 minutes.

Prepare Frosting: Beat 8 ounces softened butter and 3 tablespoons lemon zest at medium speed until creamy, 1 to 2 minutes. Gradually add powdered sugar alternately with 8 tablespoons lemon juice, beating at low speed until blended after each addition. Add up to 1 tablespoon lemon juice, 1 teaspoon at a time, beating until desired consistency is reached. Add food coloring, and beat at high speed until well blended and frosting is light and fluffy, 1 to 2 minutes

Spoon frosting into a ziplock plastic freezer bag. Snip 1 corner of bag to make a small hole. Pipe about 1 1/2 tablespoons frosting onto each cupcake.

Lime Sherbet Cupcakes: Substitute lime zest for lemon zest and fresh lime juice for lemon juice. For frosting, substitute fresh lime juice for lemon juice, and 1 to 2 drops green liquid food coloring for yellow.

Orange Sherbet Cupcakes: Substitute orange zest for lemon zest and fresh orange juice for lemon juice. For frosting, substitute orange zest for lemon zest and 1 tablespoon lemon juice and 7 to 8 tablespoons fresh orange juice in place of 8 to 9 tablespoons lemon juice. Substitute 1 drop red liquid food coloring for yellow. *Recipe by Southern Living*