

Hitchhike

A Student Guide to Cheap Travel

Explore the Civil Defense Caves

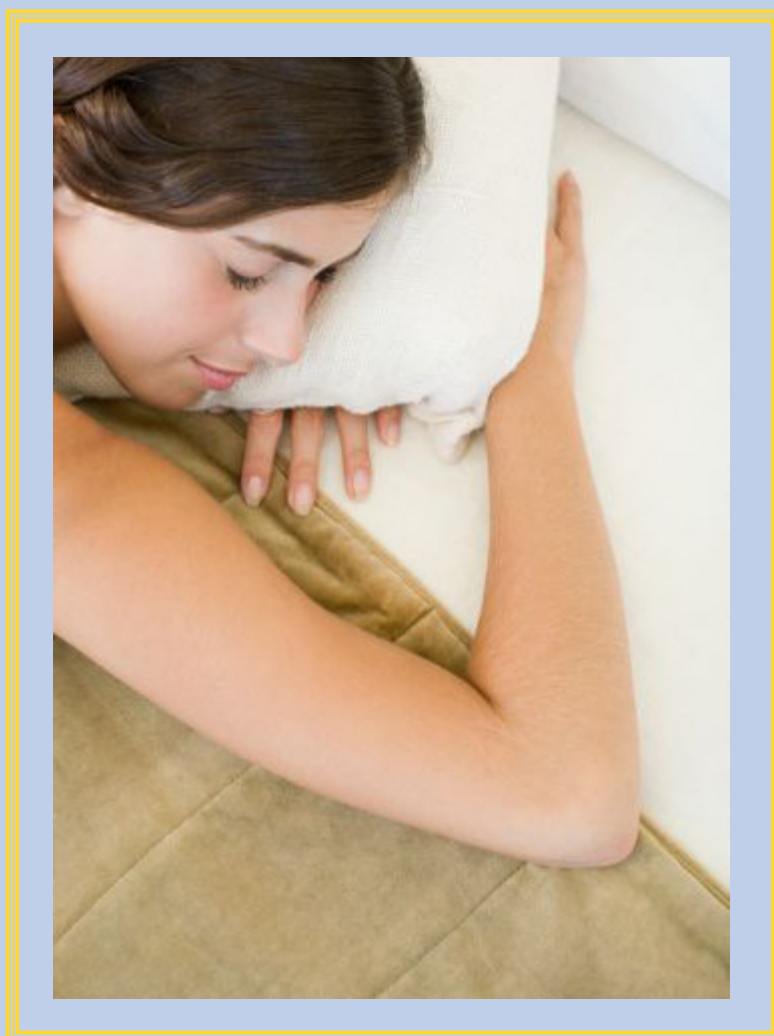
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Travel in **Style**



From the Editor



Hastily taking pens from our small notebooks,

we began brainstorming about possible ideas for a magazine centered on travel. Stories raced through our minds like the destination trains of Europe, ranging from simple day hikes to extravagant tours of France, Russia, and Italy; but something was missing. Our initial excitement began to waver as we attempted to pinpoint the hole in our thinking. Suddenly, our Editor in Chief raised her head and revealed her vision for our magazine: to bring the excitement and intensity of travel to one of the poorest groups of people in America—college students. Her statement became the watch cry of the magazine staff. *Hitchhike* represents our dedication to offer thrilling experiences without shattering the tight budget of college students.

We have come a long way since then, but this first issue of our magazine represents every aspect of our initial vision. Each section resonates with potential, reflecting in some small way the common perception of young college students: excited, motivated, unconquerable, and determined. Ranging from day trips to weeklong getaways, our articles offer a place to let the strengths and stresses of college life pour out into the world.

For many, this idealized view of higher education may seem too remote to directly apply. To you, we at *Hitchhike* offer hope; ideals fade when they are not used, so participate in the art of travel and you will wake the explorer within, awake the explorer and witness the creation of ideals. We are able to say that because of our collective experience we know the potential that awaits those willing to put forth effort in hopes of discovery. Thus, *Hitchhike* revolves around discovery, and discovery revolves around an inherent human need.

Hitchhike

A Student Guide to Cheap Travel

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Explore

Tackling the Darby Wind Caves and the Rexburg Civil Defense Caves

As World War I was raging across Europe, a crew of men endured 22 months in the Antarctic when their ship was destroyed by ice. Of course, they knew what they were getting into—an ad posted for the expedition read, Men Wanted: For hazardous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger.

Living in Rexburg, Idaho, many BYU-Idaho students can identify with this description of what these explorers were expected to deal with. For 8-12 months, we navigate the frozen tundra of campus struggling with loads of homework, bad roommates, and low-paying jobs. Luckily, the stranded Antarctic crew had the explorer Ernest Shackleton to lead a remarkable journey to rescue them, but we can only push on to graduation.

We all need a little break from the scholarly slog of campus. We all need a little adventure, which can be hard to come by in a small town, and the desire to escape the mundane and discover the extraordinary brings out the explorer in all of us. As a student, you may not have the money to finance an expedition to the ends of the earth, but you can take your own icy journey to the center of the earth not far away from little Rexburg. Join the ranks of student spelunkers and visit the often heard of yet little-known Civil Defense and Darby Wind Caves.



A ready-made fallout shelter

The Civil Defense Caves have a unique history which ties into national security. The Civil Defense Caves were named during the general atmosphere of the Cold War. David Monteyne, a cold war historian says, "From 1945 to the early 1960s, there was a textual explosion of apocalyptic nuclear disaster narratives by journalists, novelists, and filmmakers."

This fear of attacks and invasion arose mainly because of the Cold War, the rise of Communism, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. America's fear, especially of nuclear attack, prompted national safety programs, the building of home fallout shelters, and the idea of using caves as natural homeland security sites. These large, ready-made underground caverns seemed like time and money-saving nuclear fallout shelters to Civil Defense specialists.

In the year 1940, the President of the National Speological Society (NSS), Bill Stephenson, wrote a letter to the Advisory Committee of the Council on National Defense explaining what the value of caves might be to the United States:

1. Their use as storage places for strategic materials, especially gasoline.

“*There's where people would've retreated had missiles struck Idaho, assuming they had time to find the caves and hide.*”

2. Their use as air-raid and permanent shelters for evacuated civilian population.
3. Their possible use as factories for highly specialized or important military implements.
4. Their use as possible prisons in case of actual war.
5. The location of caves may possess a military value where heavy equipment is to be operated in a cavernous region.

These recommendations never became a national reality due to the inconvenient locations of large caves and high costs of implementing any of the programs suggested, but some caves in Idaho were temporarily considered as shelters.

Columnist Pat Murphy writes, "Just north of Shoshone on Highway 75, a sign points to a 'civil defense shelter' in Mammoth Cave ... There's where people would've retreated had missiles struck Idaho, assuming they had time to find the caves and hide."

Rexburg, Idaho may not be considered a prime target for a nuclear attack, and the largest caves in the area certainly aren't easy to find, but clearly locals were aware of the possibility of finding shelter in the caves and named them accordingly. The Civil Defense Caves near Rexburg may be the most well-known defense caves in the U.S. Today, if you google "Civil Defense Caves," the first pages that pop up are about the caves by Rexburg and how to get there.



Wind, ice in Fossil Mountain

The Darby Wind Caves share a national heritage but also offer stunning personal narratives. The Wind Cave and connecting Ice Cave are ensconced in Fossil Mountain, named for the millions of fossils in it from the Paleozoic Age. The mountain is in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness of Caribou-Targhee National Forest, and the area is surrounded by cliffs with waterfalls and boulders. The two caves worm their way through the Darby Formation, a thick layer of 350 million year-old dolomite.

The caves, the formation, and the small town of Darby, Idaho get their name from an early settler. According to the Genealogical Society of Teton County, “[Darby] was an early settlement and Post Office on the bench ... It was named for Jim Darby, who settled on then named Goodfellow Creek in 1882. The creek and the town soon came to be called Darby.”

Although the Wind Cave at the end of the Darby Canyon hike usually isn’t dangerous for a prepared visitor, rumor holds it that in the 1950s, four girls from a nearby LDS camp and one of their adult leaders were struck by lightning in the cave, where they had gathered to seek refuge from a summer storm.

Farther in the mountain than the Darby Canyon Wind

Cave is the lesser-known Darby Ice Cave. This ice cave occurs from the water collected in it being frozen by cold air passing through the cavern.

This freezing effect usually lasts for about seven months, and then the ice melts slowly during the remainder of the year. Because the lava rock which encases the ice acts as an insulator, the temperature of the Ice Cave is rarely warmer than 35 degrees.

The trip from the Wind Cave into the Ice Cave starts with a 40 foot rappel, so this second stage of the caves is only for those with ice-climbing experience. Teton County Search and Rescue Coordinator Doug Meyer explains, “Once you enter Ice Cave and pull your ropes, you’re committed to go through and out Wind.”

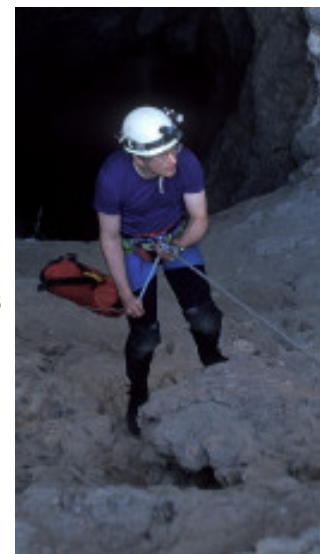
Due to runoff in the spring, the ice in the bottom cave can get plugged so climbers can’t get through the cave, and on August 26, 2007, a group of cavers got stuck inside a shaft between the two caves.

Meyer continues, “The trapped pair spent the night chipping away at an ice wall that prevented them from passing through. SAR hacked from the opposite side, and eventually the cavers were freed.”

Confused about what equipment to bring?

Although the climbers who got stuck in the ice cave couldn’t anticipate the exact obstacles Mother Nature threw at them, at least they had the equipment to help facilitate their rescue. The National Speleological Society recommends bringing the following:

- Three independent light sources per person
- Spare batteries and parts for each light source
- A helmet with a chin strap that meets UIAA standards
- Proper clothing and gloves
- Knee pads
- A space blanket or large trash bag
- Food and water
- A pack



A taste of spelunking

Caves offer some extraordinarily unique geographical features. Both the Civil Defense and Darby Wind Caves are considered lava tube caves. Lava tubes are formed when molten lava flows steadily in a confined channel. When the source of the lava stops flowing, the lava within the channel eventually flows out. This leaves behind a tube with a relatively flat floor. However, the walls and ceilings are often strung with lava formations known as stalagmites, stalactites, columns, soda straws, and helictites. All of these structures are visually stunning yet very fragile.

BYU-I student Heather Wilson says, “On the walls you can see ice crystals forming like snowflakes. It looks beautiful.”

They say opposites attract, and the opposing forces of wind and ice have definitely come together to form a marvel of nature.

“*They say opposites attract, and the opposing forces of wind and ice have definitely come together to form a marvel of nature.*”

“Kill nothing but time”

Caves are considered a valuable and precious national resource. When knowing where to go, how to get there, what equipment to bring, and a strong sense of preparation are added to the mix, discovery potential is solidified.

Although the caves are a place to explore and have fun, the motto of the National Speleological Society should always be followed: “Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but carefully placed footprints, kill nothing but time.”

Time, yes time seems to dominate the life of college students, but imagine if for a moment they could slay time’s incessant beat. To freeze the world in moment of inspiring bliss has been the dream of poets and artists for centuries. Now that dream is offered to anyone willing to plunge beneath the earth.

Perhaps it is the potential discovery; perhaps it is the history, geology, or even the thrill of absolute darkness which allows a single moment in time to become an unfading resolution.

Regardless of what or how, caving offers a taste of what it means to be immortal. Go caving and find a way to kill time; kill time and tap into the wonders of human imagination.



Heading to the caves? We’ve got directions!

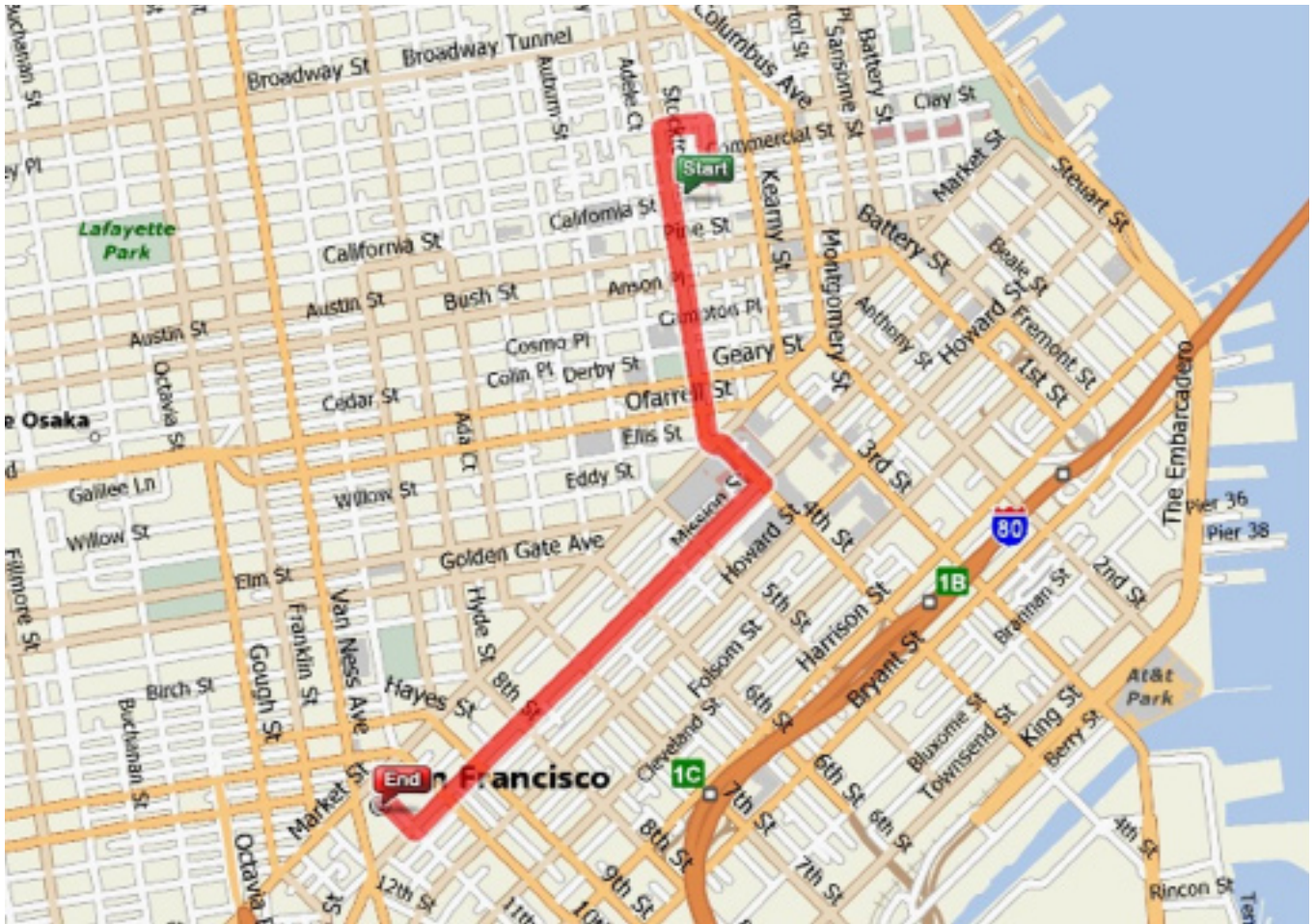
CIVIL DEFENSE CAVES

1. Start at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Rexburg, Idaho
2. Travel North on the Wal-Mart Road (2nd East), keep going straight on this road past the Highway 20 exit.
3. Travel sixteen and a half miles from the exit on Salem Highway.
4. Travel past the Sand Dunes on this highway towards Kilgore, Idaho.
5. Turn onto the dirt road that is indicated by a tall white sign that says that the Caves are five miles away.
6. After about three miles there is a fork in the road – take the left fork.
7. The road ends in an open area that serves as parking. The cave can be found just north of the parking area.

DARBY WIND CAVES

1. Located in the Darby Canyon, 20 minutes from Driggs.
2. From Highway 33, the turnoff is just south of the Spud Theater and may be easy to miss. (Look for sign indicating Darby Canyon, visible from the highway.)
3. To reach the trailhead, continue driving down the road past the Girl’s Camp.
4. In order to reach the caves you will need to hike since they are only accesible by foot.
5. The hike hike is approximately 3.5 miles either way and can be done in about two hours.

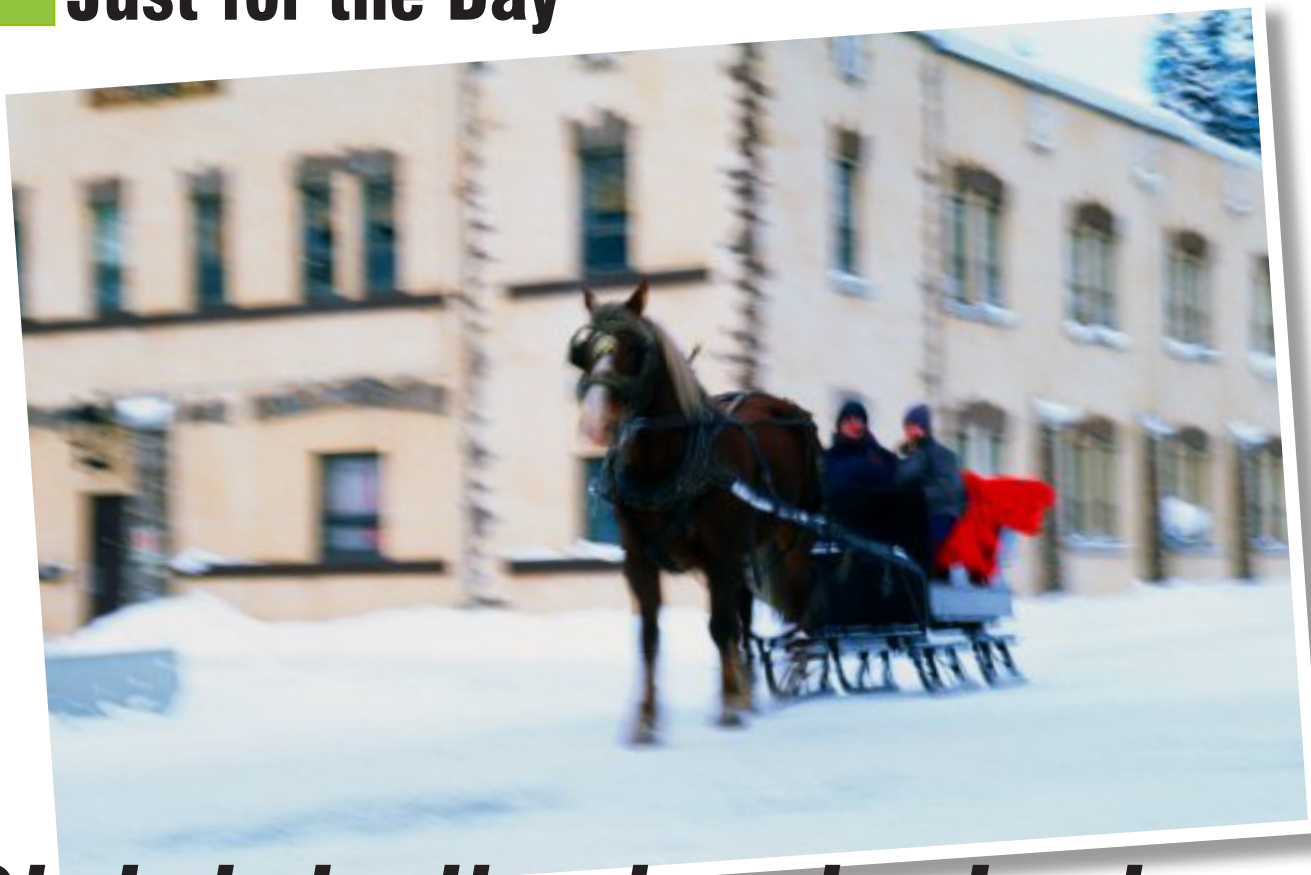
Need directions?



We've got those.



Just for the Day



Sleigh bells ring in Jackson

Jackson, Wyoming: the name carries an image of remote splendor, but couple Jackson with a few friends and a free day and it becomes a getaway, vacation, and adventure.

Jackson, Wyoming, is about one and a half hours from Rexburg, so your trip should start at about 11:00 a.m. On your drive up, you can play games like twenty questions or the license plate game. The license plate game will probably work well because people come to Jackson to vacation from all over the country, especially during the winter.

Once you get to Jackson, you and your friends can have lunch at Bubba's BBQ restaurant. At Bubba's, you can have lunch for about \$7 each, and you can choose from pulled pork, ribs, brisket, chicken sandwiches, burgers, or a salad bar. Be sure to ask for some "baby sauce," Bubba's special sweet barbeque sauce that is homemade and one of a kind.

You can walk off lunch around downtown Jackson and visit the local stores and Visitor's Center. While you are at the Visitor's Center, you can purchase tickets for the National Elk Refuge Sleigh Rides, a popular attraction during the winter months. The National Elk Refuge was

founded to support the local elk population during the winter when food is scarce.

The Wyoming scenery is amazing, and the sleigh rides go right through large groups of elk and other wildlife, so you can see the animals up close and in their natural environment—not behind fences. You may see eagles, coyotes, foxes, badgers, swans, and ducks. Tickets are \$16 per person, and you don't have to make reservations, unless you have a group of more than 20.

After your sleigh ride, you will probably be ready for dinner; the Mangy Moose offers a wonderful atmosphere to bask in while you warm up. The old-time Western antiques which dot the restaurant make you feel like you are back in the good ol' days. The Mangy Moose offers steak, prime rib, fresh fish, chicken, and pasta.

Once your food has settled, you are ready for the most exciting part of your trip, so head to the Snow King Center to watch the Jackson Moose play semi-professional hockey. You can purchase tickets at the door for \$8. Games start at 7 p.m., with plenty of entertainment before and during the game. You can also join the locals in the "moose chant" as you cheer the Moose to a victory. Don't forget your camera to document the sleigh ride, meal, and game with your friends because this will be a trip you will not want to forget.

Chelsea Haight



**Barbeque is more than a
meal, it's a way of life!**



City of Rocks, so let's roll

As you're planning your next Idaho day trip, consider traveling just over three hours to South-Central Idaho, where you'll find the world-famous City of Rocks. The drive to the City, as it is known, is nothing more than verdant pastures with Black Angus cows surrounded by miles of brush. Then seemingly from nowhere giant monoliths, dating back to the pre-Cambrian era, cover the face of the earth.

Part of the City's rock formations are 25 million years old. Those rocks are made of fine, shining granite. Other formations at the City of Rocks are 100 times older than that. The oldest rocks are made of coarse, crystal granite with dark stripes covering them. These rock formations are the destination of hundreds of visitors each year seeking to both climb and observe the rock.

But this sight hasn't gained its fame recently. In fact, it was known as the Humboldt turn-off for people traveling west on the Oregon Trail. The Twin Sisters, two monoliths that stand next to each other and look alike, although they are 100 times different in age, stood as a landmark for travelers. If they turned north at the Twin Sisters, they would continue on the Oregon Trail. If they turned south at the Twin Sisters, they would find their way onto the California Trail. Signatures of westward travelers still mark the rocks, an interesting reminder of our American heritage.

Today, the City of Rocks has over 500 climbs with a wide variety of experience levels. Trails take casual hikers and bicyclists through aspen trees and small creeks, and Geocachers find plenty of secret spots for their treasure hunting.

With all its history and beauty, it's no wonder why so many people find themselves traveling back to the City of Rocks time and time again. It makes a perfect place for a day trip. Like the frequent City of Rocks visitors say, "Even a bad day at the 'City' is better than a good day anywhere else."

Emily Poteet



Discover the falls: A trip to remember

BYU-Idaho students don't have to go far to see some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. One such place is Mesa Falls. Many people, especially BYU-Idaho students, are unaware of the beauty that lays just a little north of Rexburg.

The Mesa Falls are a pair of the most beautiful, undisturbed waterfalls in the west. Water plummeting 114 feet into a raging white water river makes Mesa Falls a singular, spectacular experience. Only an hour's drive from Rexburg, Mesa Falls makes a perfect day trip for friends, family, or even a romantic date with that special someone.

Heading north on highway 20 travelers will turn right on the Mesa Falls Scenic Loop in Ashton, also known as 28 mile road. The loop takes you through farmland, open meadows, the stunning Targhee National Forest, and straight to Mesa Falls.

The first attraction you will see is the Lower Falls Grandview Overlook and Campground. Travelers stop here to see a gorgeous view of the lower falls from atop a hill looking over the falls. Here you will find places to rest, historical information about the falls, and an excellent view. This is

a great place to stop and eat if you brought lunch. If you're lucky you might get to see kayakers going over the falls, so don't forget to bring your binoculars for a closer look. About 1/4 of a mile down the road there is a turnoff to the left that

“Water plummeting 114 feet into a raging white river, makes Mesa Falls a singular, spectacular experience.”

leads to the upper Mesa Falls; this is the main attraction. Here you will find Big Falls Inn, which contains a gift shop and museum where you will see exhibits on the history, geology, ecosystem, and plants and animals of the area.

A walking path will take you close enough to the falls to feel the mist — a perfect place for picture taking. There is a \$3 parking fee, but you'll find the experience well worth it. From here you can follow a trail to get a closer look at the lower Mesa Falls. The trail is only a mile and easy enough for even the most inexperienced hikers.

After viewing the falls and the magnificent wildlife surrounding the area, make sure you take a stop in Ashton for a bite to eat. The Frostop Drive-In has great old-fashioned hamburgers, onion rings, and root beer, all brought to your car. From the falls to the food, this is a day trip you'll be sure to take again and again.

Daniel E. Borup



Shakesperian buffalo burgers: A new twist on Yellowstone

Early in the morning (around 4 a.m. early), my roommate, Lindsey, and I were surprised to hear a light tapping on our window. Squinting one eye open, I cracked the blinds. Two of our friends, TeJay and Ross, with hot chocolate and donuts in tow, wanted us to go to Yellowstone National Park with them. Showering seemed fruitless, contemplating the upcoming eggish geyser smell. Within fifteen minutes we were fully awake, bundled, and loaded in the car.

The drive to Yellowstone from Rexburg, Idaho flew by in the company of great friends. It also helped that that we brought the books and stories required for my upcoming English classes, using the stories for an interpretative group reading. Ross also spent time explaining why a normal person only needs three hours of sleep. Ironically, it's easy to imagine what we were all doing during this riveting discussing (Zzzzz...). Autumn proved to be a perfect time to make the trip, with bearable temperatures and little snow.

We soon ended our sonnets, stories, and sleeping at the entrance of Yellowstone, where \$25 later the park became our playground. Encircling Yellowstone are paved roads allowing visitors to easily access the most scenic adventures. Luckily for us, these friends had carefully planned the day. They packed a picnic lunch which not only saved money, but also created a near camping experience.

During our visit, we began moose and buffalo spotting contests. It was during this contest that I realized a very

ignorant concept that had long been apart of my life. In elementary school, I somehow contracted the erroneous fact that all buffalo were extinct. Reflecting, I can't quite pinpoint the moment which ingrained this into my thinking, but I can narrow it to the history lessons about the white man killing the Native American's buffalo for sport. Needless to say, the herds of buffalo that exist at Yellowstone Park quickly dispelled the ignorance of my youth. I found myself very eager to find all the buffalo possible, which crowned me the winner of this game. The prize: an ice cream cone. Undoubtedly the credit for my victory can only be attributed to one source: thank goodness for the buffalo.

Our exciting drive took us to mountain streams, geysers galore, and indescribable scenery. Live music attended our refreshing drive, as TeJay played the guitar (or what this recently returned Honduras missionary described as "marina ding" us). My gratitude for the bison continued to escalate after we dined at a local restaurant with specialties of venison, and you guessed it, buffalo burgers. I came home with a new list of experiences to add to my life. Despite the monotony of going to class and work day after day, I had found what buffalo taste like. I had found that buffalo still live. I had found the extraordinary clockwork within the earth as Old Faithful heralds the sky day after day. I wonder if it gets tired of that monotony. I hope not, because it's pretty exciting to see.

Ashley Skifton

Table top buffets the Teton way

Hiking the Teton Mountain Range offers some of the most magnificent scenery to be found in North America. The Tetons offer an escape, distraction, and a way to witness first hand nature in its natural splendor.

Depending on your time and physical limitations there are several different hikes that you can go on of varying degrees of difficulty and distance. The “Monument” hike is about 6 miles round trip. At the top of this trail is a monument honoring girls that were killed in a lightning storm when they went hiking there (you’ll have to go read the monument to find out more). Also a little farther up the mountain you can go into the beautiful wind caves.

When planning for this hike, remember that it is a vigorous physical activity and that the weather doesn’t cooperate some times. Make sure that you pack plenty of water, a rain poncho, sun screen, bug repellent; if you are planning to hike into the wind caves, pack a warm jacket or sweater and a flashlight. If it is a hot day, there is a waterfall just below the wind caves that you can stick your head into to cool off.

The “Table Rock” hike is about 13 miles round trip. Plan this as an all day activity. Make sure you pack all of the essentials. You might want to pack some snacks and a lunch as well. Do not go on this hike if you feel you are really out of shape; it will test your physical stamina. Be sure to bring your camera because once you get on table rock you are right next to the Tetons—photo ops! As you hike up the mountain, watch your footing; some rocks may be loose and will slide. Always remember that you are in the wild and wildlife and natural hazards are all around you. There may be bears or moose; give them their space. There will also be amazing natural wonders that are there to be admired; show respect to these features so that future hikers may have the experience of seeing them as well.

These hikes are two of the more popular hikes in the area. There are all sorts of other trails that you can explore, just make sure you have someone with you that knows where they are going. Also make sure that an outside party knows where you are so you will not be stuck lost.

Sharolynn Peterson



“*The Tetons offer an escape, distraction, and a way to witness first hand nature in its natural splendor.*”

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Viva Las Vegas





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Take a gamble: Save cash in Vegas

I recently participated in a conversation with two conservative friends of mine who were planning a trip to California. I suggested that they should stop on the way and experience Las Vegas. “Oh no,” they responded, “We’d be passing through at 11 o’clock at night. I don’t think we could find anything open that late.” I was, to put it mildly, astounded. So let me make one thing clear: It’s never too late to stop in Vegas, because there is no such thing as time in Vegas.

Just try to find a clock in a casino. I promise it won’t be there. That’s part of the beauty of the brightest city in the world. No matter what time you get there, you’re always right on time for a show, a meal, or even a wedding. The only problem is, when you’re in a city with so much to do, you’re going to need some help sorting it all out.



First, we'll worry about the easiest part; finding Las Vegas. Assuming you've ever read a map before, you'll know your route before you're out of the driveway. If you don't know how to read a map, you could probably still get there if you just keep heading west. There's a ninety percent chance that you'll hit it anyway, because the biggest freeway in the west goes right through it. To put it simply, all you have to do is find Interstate 15, follow it south, and eventually you'll see the bright lights of Vegas.

Now it's time to decide what to do while you're there. This is the part where you really need to add your personal touch. Do you want to blow all your money on a helicopter to the Grand Canyon, or leak it out little by little on several small attractions throughout the city? Are you more of a look-but-don't-touch person, or do you need to be in the thickest action? Whatever your preference, there's a Web site which will become your best friend while you're planning. *VisitLasVegas.com* is the official Las Vegas tourism Web site.

Since the city is basically one big tourist attraction, you can be sure that a lot of work went into making this Web site as helpful as possible. First, it has a 3D map available, which is startlingly accurate and will be perfect for navigating from attraction to attraction. Also, if you enter a couple of calendar dates into the website, *VLV* will give you every single event that's happening between them, from David Copperfield to senior citizen softball, not to mention any promotional deals that the casinos might be offering. It also offers dining information, weather reports,

and fun facts about the city that you can use to annoy your passengers. However, make sure you search around for the best deals on hotels. Staying at the Bellagio is quite an experience, but if you want to go cheap, you can find deals for as low as \$20 dollars a night in the seedier sections of town.

One dilemma you're sure to face as a squeaky-clean BYU-I student is how to stay righteous while you're in Vegas. Trust me, it isn't a place where everyone shares your values. Although the city does have a thriving LDS population, the Strip is still the embodiment of sin. Here are some ways to protect yourself: First, don't ever take anything anyone tries to hand to you. There are a lot of greasy men handing out semi-pornographic advertisements for strip clubs. On the same train of thought, keep your eyes up. The ground is littered with similar advertisements, which basically makes the sidewalk look like a giant page from *Maxim*.

Also, you might be tempted to sit down at a poker table, or play the slots for a bit. Regardless of what poker tournaments you might have seen on ESPN, remember this one fact: No matter what experience you have playing poker with your roommates or watching TV, you have no idea how to really play, and you will lose all your money. My father only recently stopped playing poker, and he loved taking money from people who thought they knew what they were doing. As far as slot machines go, your money would be better spent in a payphone calling India. Winning a couple of coins in a slot machine is a meager victory anyway. If you want to pull a slot just to say you did it, ask around for the penny or nickel slot machines. That's the smartest place to play.

One last word of advice before you pull out of the driveway. Don't go to Vegas if you need a break. It isn't the place to sit back and chill out. If you're going on a trip to relax, go to Hawaii on a cruise or something. Vegas is naturally fast-paced. Keep moving; to the next attraction, to the next fire show, to throw rice at the next wedding, but keep moving. Like I said, don't go to Vegas to relax, because if you're not hopping in Vegas, you never really went.

Byron Heath



Road Trip Playlist

TOP FIVE ARTISTS TO LISTEN TO IN VEGAS

1. Elvis Presley
2. Frank Sinatra
3. Billy Joel
4. Bing Crosby
5. Tony Bennet

A thrifty vacationer's guide to beautiful Salt Lake City

If students feel that Rexburg holds no entertainment for them, a wide variety of activities are available just a short drive down south. Of course, after driving three and a half hours and braving four and five lane highways, the lights of downtown Salt Lake City are a welcome sight. One of the largest cities in the west, Salt Lake City holds a variety of events for any student.

For the thrifty vacationer, almost everything on Temple Square is free. There are also free historical events to see like the Church History Building or Family History Center next to Temple Square. While most of downtown close to Temple Square is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, there are places like a Catholic cathedral or Memory Lane just a short distance away.

But if you have someone special in your life and need someplace a little more romantic than Porter Park to pop the question, take a romantic ride in a horse drawn carriage by Temple Square, normally around \$50-90.

Although Rexburg has a growing music scene, the place to go for big names is Salt Lake City. "I went to a Michael Buble concert in July at the E Center in Salt Lake," said Takara Priestley, a senior at BYU-Idaho. "It was so fun. He was so entertaining and he gave me a

hug afterwards."

Besides concerts like Michael Buble or The Fray, Salt Lake also houses an Off Broadway theatre, with tickets from \$8-16, and Ballet West, where tickets range from \$17-65. In January, Tosca by Giacomo Puccini will be performed by the Utah Opera, with student tickets at only \$8.

Of course, there are always the big games as well. For those less interested in the arts, Utah Jazz tickets can be purchased at prices ranging from \$10-130.

And if you want to expand your wardrobe without looking like your roommates, explore the shopping, an activity which can be done for those of any income. Shopping malls are all over downtown Salt Lake, from the Gateway Mall to ZCMI to Retro Rose, with accessories from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Outlet malls are also available around the Salt Lake area.

"I love shopping in Salt Lake City. There is such a variety of stores and things to buy. If I need anything unique, something not everyone else is wearing, I go to Salt Lake," said Kylie Jameson, a sophomore at BYU-Idaho.

One of the biggest reasons people travel to Salt Lake is the allure of winter sports in the area. This might be something worth splurging on as a student. Salt Lake has several nearby ski lodges and packages with overnight accommodations and lift tickets for around \$90.

Park City, official venue of the 2002 Winter Olympics, holds the Park City Mountain Resort. They offer activities from skiing to snowmobiling to bobsled rides. Tickets for most of days and activities are around \$100.

One of the best ways to go skiing if you don't have this type of dough is to buy discounted tickets. These tickets usually range from \$23-105, but are sometimes less depending on availability. Check www.canyonsports.com for discounted tickets around Salt Lake City.

Whatever your tastes, Salt Lake City has the event for you.

Amber Meyers

Road Trip Playlist

TOP FIVE SONGS FOR YOUR TRIP TO SLC

1. "Salt Lake City" by *The Beach Boys*
2. "I Lost My Sugar in Salt Lake City" by Louis Armstrong
3. "I've Been Everywhere" by Johnny Cash
4. "Beautiful Zion" by *Mormon Tabernacle Choir*
5. "Salt Lake City 1973" by Shawn Mullins





The excitement of reaching the destination: this is usually what gets people out the door and on a road trip. An essential part of an enjoyable trip is planning. Planning for any emergency ensures that you are prepared, whether a problem comes up or not, and can give you peace of mind.

Some things to keep in mind when planning a road trip in the winter months are weather, car maintenance, and supplies.

Weather

Be aware of the weather forecasts in your departure and destination areas. And when driving in snow or rain, it is crucial to slow down. “The standard ‘driving instructor rule of thumb’ is to slow down by a third in the rain, and by at least half in the snow.” This may seem annoying but arriving late is better than arriving injured or not at all.

Car Maintenance

Be sure to service your car regularly so that you can catch potential problems before they create serious delays and weak havoc on your wallet. Some important aspects to check are oil, coolant level, windshield wiper fluid, gas, and tire air pressure.

Checking oil is a simple process and can be done in a matter of minutes. It is a lubricant that keeps engine parts from rubbing together and wearing out. Another important fluid is coolant – it cycles through the engine and keeps

it from overheating, thus allowing you to continue driving. Make sure to top off your windshield wiper fluid – this is essential any time of year, for it provides a way to remove the bug remains on your windshield thus improving visibility. It is also important during the winter months in clearing off weather-related debris. Gas is a basic necessity, but it is important to make sure you have sufficient amounts. Be aware of the distance and don’t try to stretch one tank for too long. Who wants to be stranded on the side of the road because they thought they could make it “just one more mile”? Tire air pressure has an impact on your safety and also on gas mileage. Gas is expensive so it is smart to do all you can to minimize cost. It is simple to check the air pressure and costs just \$0.25 for a few minutes worth of air to re-inflate your tires (see your nearby gas station).

Supplies

Some important items to have with you on a road trip during the cold winter months are water, food, a blanket, and a first aid kit. These items will become essential if you are stranded and unable to get help for some time. Another important supply for a road trip is a detailed road map, with indications of great sites to visit.

Keep these things in mind when planning your next road trip. Remember, planning is better than paying later. And have a fun time ‘hitting the road’!

Amberlee Green

Taking home your significant other

The high plains of Idaho whisked by in a blur of pale browns and whites. The picturesque scenery added a peculiar sense of adventure to my Christmas break. I had agreed to let my boyfriend take me to a remote corner of California; he said that was where he grew up, but I had my doubts.

The trip home actually roused more suspicion than anything. My boyfriend was giving my roommate a ride home as well. She lived in Oregon, but she claimed to be in the same stake as my boyfriend. There was something fishy about the way they both chuckled about their hometowns. I was on my toes, but excited nevertheless.

We stopped for the night at my sister's house; she lived just outside Boise at the time. The following day, Mikan (my roommate) and Ryan (my boyfriend), seemed jovial and anxious to get home because they said we would get home in just six hours. We got on the freeway, and were soon singing Christmas carols at the top of our lungs. After two hours, Mikan and Ryan began to discuss the exit they were supposed to take. Just then, Mikan's cell phone rang; it was her father. After asking her where she was, he informed her that she had missed the turn off an hour and half ago. In disbelief, I simply remained quiet. This was not a good way to start a vacation.

Ryan stopped at a local gas station and picked up a map—a map, what a great concept. After rerouting our trip, he informed us that we had just added at least three hours to our estimated time of arrival. He said we would have to take a mountain highway to get back on course. He was racing along at eighty five miles an hour on the Oregon freeway (the speed limit was sixty five). After only ten minutes at that speed and just before our mountain route exit, we saw the flashing lights of the Oregon State Police in our rearview mirror. “Great,” I thought, “another delay, maybe I should reconsider this adventure.” Somehow Ryan managed to talk his way out of a ticket with a sob story about our frustrating morning, but that didn't help my mood.

The mountain route was all iced over, and we dropped from eighty five miles an hour to just over thirty. Maybe Ryan was taking the state trooper's advice a little too seriously. After what seemed like an eternity, (it was actually about four hours), we made it back to the right road. Mikan and Ryan were both thrilled to waltz through



a familiar café where we stopped for a stretch, but I was not impressed. We spent the rest of the four hour trip in silence. Ryan would often try to make small talk about the local geography or plant life, but I was far too anxious to get out of the car to pay too much attention.

After meeting Mikan's parents and unloading all of her stuff (oh yeah, she had filled the small Honda Accord to its capacity with all of her luggage), it was becoming pitch black. Now I knew what it meant to be in the middle of nowhere. We drove on for another hour, passing a single town which Ryan said was where he grew up. Another fifteen minutes and we were looking down into a valley with a single faint light about a mile away. Apparently we had made it, but the trip left a sour taste in my memory.

I guess I can't be too hard on Ryan. After all, he proposed to me on that trip, and I did say yes. I suppose this trip “home” was a little more than I bargained for, but it taught me some valuable lessons about traveling: know where you're going, obey the speed laws, instincts are usually wrong, some state troopers can be sweet-talked, and delays are unavoidable.

Rachel Hagge





Experience Europe

– minus the expensive hotels

Are you willing to sleep in the stairwell of a ferry that is crossing the Mediterranean? What about a park bench just outside of the Parthenon, or a beach on an island just outside of Athens, Greece? Are you willing to eat ethnic foods bought from street vendors in countries where they haven't had organizations like the FDA since the fall of communism? If you are, then you can travel Europe for two and a half months on only \$3500.

You'll have to make a few sacrifices. You won't be able to take any tours, eat in any fancy restaurants, or sleep in any Hiltons, but if you are a cheap student like me who wants to really see Europe, then this is how you can do it.

Let's get the hard facts out of the way first. You've got to buy a Eurorail pass and a plane ticket. A Eurorail pass guarantees you passage on most trains traveling through the European Union (EU). This is essential if you want to visit more than one country.

The cost of a plane ticket is about 500 dollars, and the Eurorail pass is almost two grand, amounting to 2500 dollars. The Eurorail pass may seem like a lot of money, but it's worth it. I spent almost half of my nights sleeping in night trains, thus saving hundreds of dollars. Additionally, the Eurorail pass comes with all sorts of freebies. It gives you a free ferry ride from Italy to Greece (as long as you don't pay for a cabin on the overnight trip), free boat tours of lakes in Switzerland, discounts on bike rentals in Spain, and discounts on hostels in almost every country.

Once you have transportation taken care of, the rest of the trip can be as cheap as you make it. I only ate at grocery stores and street vendors places. I probably spent an average of six or seven euros on food a day, sometimes more, but mostly a lot less. I splurged on crêpes and gelato, but otherwise survived off of cheap day-old bakery bread and cheese.

Clean-ish hostels can be purchased for 10 euro a night in many countries. In expensive cities like Munich, Germany and Bern, Switzerland, you can't find a hostel for less than 15-20 euro a night.

Of course, if you don't want to pay money for a place, then sleep in a train station or take a night train to somewhere else, and then take a train back in the morning. It is kind of a hassle but it reduces your costs and increases the amount of time you are able to spend traveling.

When you begin to smell because you haven't had a place to shower for a while, you might have to break down and get a hostel for the night, or take a train to a beach, swim in the ocean and rinse off in the showers. By the time you're done your hair is a little ratty, but you are otherwise clean.

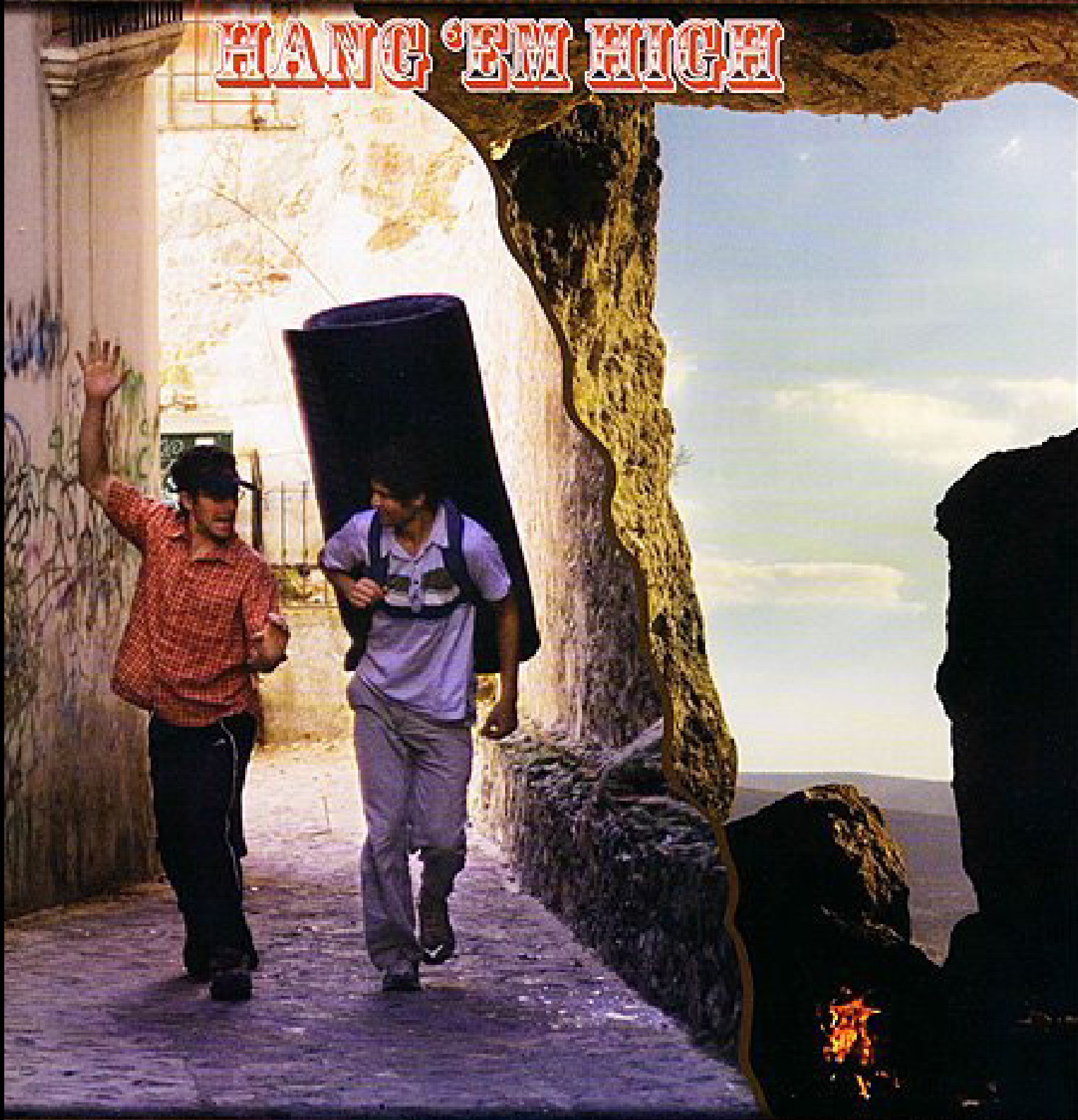
I traveled with two friends who were willing to be as cheap as I was. We visited dozens of free museums and world history sites; slept in an old monastery and an old castle (neither cost more than 5-euro-a-night); slept shoulder to shoulder with homeless people; ate crêpes in Paris, gelato in Venice, sausage with sauerkraut in Austria, and potato sandwiches in Southern Spain; and all of this so we could gain a cultural experience from 11 countries in two and a half months as cheap students for under \$3500.

Robert Brown

Acropolis
Mexico

I'm pumped out of my mind and on the border of hyperventilation. In a last ditch effort, I dyno for a distant jug and my feet cut loose and pinwheel wildly. Half expecting to fall, I stab my feet back onto the rock and in a state of disbelief, realize that I've made it to the rest. I do my best to compose myself, and "get it back," before the finishing boulder problem. "You've got it man," says Carlos, who developed this and many of the routes that surround Mexico City. I lower from

HANG 'EM HIGH



the climb impressed by the rock quality, and the crazy movements that the route required. Renan, Daniel, Lisa and I are psyched, and agree that the climbing in Taxco and Actopan is the future of Mexican sportclimbing, and best of all, the routes are really, really fun. For me, good times with good friends are more precious than the climbs themselves, but when you combine the three, it's magic.

THE
NORTH
FACE



Cedar Wright

NEVER STOP EXPLORING™

Visit Europe with one suitcase

BRITISH LITERARY TOUR



You may have seen the posters and flyers on campus every year, trying to persuade you to have the best time of your life on the British Literary Tour. Well, if you've decided to go, here are some tips to help make it a truly great experience.

According to the trip rules, you can only take one carry-on suitcase with you. There are reasons for this restriction. 1) Your luggage won't get lost en route, and 2) you're going to be hauling your luggage up and down many stairs. It's all in your best interest, but you're probably wondering how to you pack everything for a month in a carry-on. Well, let me help.

Buy the travel sizes of everything: shampoo, toothpaste, body wash. It will free up room you'll need for the other essentials. When you run out, buy a bigger bottle with friends and split it.

Because you have limited space for clothes, eventually you'll get sick of the outfits you've packed. Instead of packing several outfits, take clothes that can be matched with everything in your suitcase. Brittany Bly, a British Literary Tour veteran, suggests leaving extra clothes behind. "You can always buy new clothes if you get sick of yours."

Weather is a huge factor in clothing decisions. Pack shirts that can be layered depending on weather. Conditions can be unpredictable, and you may need to add or take off a layer at short notice. Without a doubt, take

a sturdy rain jacket. With all that famous British rain, it's likely you'll wear it every day.

A good pair of comfortable shoes is an absolute must. If new shoes don't fit into your travel budget, you can buy some Dr. Scholl's Cushy Soles to slide into your current pair.

Another essential item is a digital camera. You'll be taking hundreds of pictures, and the last thing you'll want is to carry around a bunch of film. Just don't forget to pack some spare batteries, or a battery charger.

When it comes to packing, the most important rule is to only pack the essentials and share with everyone around you. Plan ahead with a friend and it can save you from a lot of hassle.

While all the material things you take are important, nothing can be as important as your attitude. With a good attitude, the trip can be the best experience of your life and a life-changing experience. Brittany Bly, speaking of her time on the Tour, says "I learned about myself and who I am. It sounds cheesy, but it really is true. I also feel like I am a lot more cultured and a lot more willing to try new things. I am willing to get out of my comfort zone a little bit and meet new people. It has impacted my life in such a positive way."

Don't let the worries of packing keep you from experiencing the time of your life to the fullest degree.

Leanna Howard



you have walking shoes, because there will be a lot of walking. Hairdryers are a waste of space and time. Don't bring large items that take up a lot of space, such as heavy coats or books. Absolutely do not bring anything you don't want to get lost or stolen. You will be moving every few days, and things tend to get left behind in the rush. A good rule to pack by is not to bring it if there is any doubt.

You will stay in a variety of places, from hostels to convents and standard hotels. The accommodations vary with every city, but most places serve dinner and breakfast.

A previous member of the tour says, "The convents tended to be a bit nicer and cleaner. They also served better food, especially in Italy." Keep in mind that the exchange rate is different depending on the country you are in. Check the exchange rates for each country you'll visit before you leave.

Most importantly, make the most of the experience. You'll see a lot of things in a short amount of time. Make sure you bring a digital camera with extra batteries and memory cards. Write in a journal or notebook so you can remember the smaller details later.

Make sure to study up on the different cultures and languages. Ivy Hendrickson, a Tour participant in 2005, says, "I was very intimidated at the beginning of the tour to converse with any locals. As the tour went on, I loved talking with people, and the language barrier was less of an issue. I think as long as I attempted to speak a little bit of the language in question, it was received well and wasn't so bad."

If you have ever wanted to travel to Europe, this is the time to go. You can go with a group of classmates and teachers who know where they are going and what they're doing. Take a chance. You won't regret it.

Amanda Isbell



HUMANITIES TOUR

Living with the locals

You have probably seen fliers and posters around campus advertising the variety of tours throughout the world that BYU-Idaho puts together each year. The Humanities Tour is no exception to the mass of fliers. Of course, these minor bits of information don't give advice on what to bring, where you'll stay, or where the money you pay goes. Here is the exclusive.

The \$3475 that it costs to go on this tour pays for your flight, entrance fees into museums, food, transportation, hotels, and tickets to a play or concert. A majority of the food throughout the trip is paid for, but it is advisable to be prepared to buy more.

Offering a variety of art and religion classes, the tour opens up the possibility for many people to come, not just those majoring or minoring in Humanities. Two weeks before the tour, you have class time on campus to prepare for sites you will visit. The more you know about the cultures you will experience, the more at ease you will be while you are there.

Students are allowed to take one carry-on suitcase and a purse or bag. That's right, folks. Four weeks of your life in a carry-on. Not to worry; it can be done, it has been done. Pack light. Bring a couple pairs of jeans, a few tops, a sweatshirt, and a light jacket. You will be carrying your own bags around, so don't go crazy. Make sure

What's your worst travel experience?



Fourteen hours in a '92 Saturn? Not quite.

I was driving a classic '92 Saturn — not exactly the definition of reliability. But somehow my parents gave me permission to drive back to school.

As I pulled up to pick up my roommate Ann-Marie in my already packed car, I saw her mom start to cry. I hoped it was because she was going to miss her daughter but it was actually because she was worried the car would not last the 14-hour trip. I assured her that she had nothing to worry about and somehow she believed me.

One hour into our drive we hit traffic right outside Baker, California, famously known for the world's largest thermometer. I had noticed along the way that the car was struggling to get up the hills but assumed it was just because of the

weight and chose not to tell my passenger.

As we were sitting in the traffic, thick-gray smoke started to billow out from under the hood. On first instinct I screamed "it's going to blow!" threw the car door open and started to run down the highway. Ann-Marie was laughing and yelled "you forgot to put it in park!" she then put the hazards on. Since they are yellow she thought she was seeing flames and also thought the car was on fire.

Two different men had to come and douse our car with bottled water and let us know we had a broken radiator. Then the California Highway Patrol officer pushed our car to the side of the road and left us alone for seven hours on the side of Highway 15 waiting for the tow-truck, which finally drove us a total of four miles to Baker. There we stayed in the shadiest hotel ever, that even included a vibrator for the bed.

The next day my dad drove the three hours to bring me another car and we drove to Idaho without any more problems.

Mary Jo Lutz

Studying in Europe and pining for home

Ironically, my worst travel experience was one of those once-in-a-lifetime trips. In the summer of 2006, I participated in BYU-Idaho's British Literary Tour. About five days after signing up and paying for the trip, I met the man that I was going to marry. By the time we departed in May, I was unofficially engaged, meaning I had the temple date set but no ring.

The tour could have been great. We traveled to some wonderful places including Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and England. I got to see



countries that I have always wanted to but because of homesickness for my fiancé, it was hard to enjoy my surroundings. My tour friend (who was also engaged) and I would spend much of our days in Internet cafés around Europe chatting with our guys. That is one thing I can really recommend about Dublin: they have

“My friend (who was also engaged) and I would spend much of our days in Internet cafes around Europe chatting with our guys.”

great Internet cafes. There seems to be one on every corner, they're open all night, and they're very cheap.

Most nights I would lie in bed planning my wedding and longing to be home. There were at least a couple of times I checked the Internet to see how much a flight home from our current location in Europe would cost me. I was that desperate. But in the end, I stuck it out. Now I have bragging rights, which is fun. For

example, on the season premiere episode of the popular CBS show “The Amazing Race,” they traveled to the Aran Islands in Ireland and went on the same ferry that our tour had been on. I got to tell all of my family how “I’ve been there!” Someday I’d like to go back and re-experience the beauty of that land with my husband, but for now I can only look back on that trip with not so fond memories.

Samantha Goodrich

Family disasters in the middle of Lake Powell

I have a big family spread out all over the country, so we don’t get together too often. But one summer we planned a trip where we would all meet at Lake Powell. We rented a boat and a wave runner and planned to enjoy our short visit there.

After about an hour, however, the wave runner stopped working in the middle of the lake! The rest of the family in the boat came and tried to tow the wave runner to the dock. After just a few minutes of inexperienced boat-towing tactics,

the wave runner flipped over, ruining my brother’s phone, which was inside. Another brother who was holding the keys to the rental truck then accidentally slipped and dropped them in the water! We spent the rest of the day trying to get these problems figured out and by the end we had hardly had time to enjoy the boat.

We tried to salvage the day by going to a pool to have some fun. But on the way there we got a fat speeding ticket, only to find out upon arrival that it was closed. We all went back to the hotel hot, dejected and bored. After wallowing in self-pity about our family’s bad luck, we decided to get together and play games. We ended up having a blast together and that time remains a favorite family memory. Who needs expensive boats and entertainment when you have a fun family and a good sense of humor anyway?

Allison Vedomske

Stranded in the airport, learning to call it home

On August 13th, 2003, at 4:11 EST, I landed in the JFK International Airport after living and working in Geneva, Switzerland. For the first time in two years, I placed my feet on American soil and felt at little more at ease. I was going home. My mind thought of my family and my house waiting in Snohomish, Washington. Just a trip through customs and a four-hour flight, and my mom would be waiting to pick me up at Sea-Tac International Airport. Little did I know that I would I wouldn’t be home for another 2 days.

As I stood in the customs line, I, along with everyone else watched the news playing from TVs overhead. “The Red Sox lost to the Yank . . .” the power flickered for a moment, and shut off. It came back on seconds later, and a sound of relief came over the crowd. The power flicked again for several seconds and shut off again. This time the power stayed off—for three days. The city of New York, paralyzed from the failing of the



Niagara Falls power grid, became my holding cell.

On the second day, a business man who I'd met on my flight back from Paris approached me and asked if I'd share a cab with him to Newark Airport in New Jersey only a couple hours away to try and find a flight home. He'd heard they had power. Tired of sitting on the airport linoleum eating airport peanuts with water, I agreed happily.

“When they found me, I was asleep on one of the chairs outside the Delta Airlines departures booths.”

The Taxi driver was an African man who spoke Creole, a sort of French dialect. He complained all the way to Newark; he didn't know I could understand French. It gave me a happy smirk and raised my spirits during the long drive across the state.

I arrived in Sea-Tac airport early Saturday morning on the 16th. I slumped down in a chair, my suit completely ruined, and all I wanted was to give my mother and father, and brother a hug.

When they found me, I was asleep

on one of the chairs outside the Delta Airlines departure booths. I was a mess to look at, they said, and my eyes looked like they had seen a lot. They had. I gave them the hugs I'd been saving for years and we went home.

Brian Collins

The terrible, horrible, no good family vacation

Well, it was bleak from the outset. We were taking a vacation to Denver because my dad was having various job interviews, and no one was very excited at the idea of moving. Even my parents' bribing of fun events along the way did nothing to cheer me up. Besides that, my older sister wasn't coming, so I was stuck with "the younger kids" and feeling very sorry for myself indeed as our peachy-gold Ford Windstar began its journey from Lincoln, Nebraska.

Terrible turned to horrible in the middle of the Colorado desert. Clunk, clunk, clunk! An engine rod broke, and there

went our vacation.

We clunked our minivan to a Sinclair service station in the middle of nowhere, and began the long, hot wait. Not even that three foot high, green and friendly brontosaurus could keep us four kids happy for long. Dad was on the phone for hours, but could find no mechanic in the closest towns who had the parts, time, or heart to fix our poor Windstar.

Horrible became no good as it got dark and we got hungry. Finally, Dad gave up and called a tow-truck and the six of us crammed into its cab for a very long and squished ride.

The driver dropped us off at a dingy motel in a small town and we slept there and spent another miserable day of waiting and doing nothing.

In the end, a kind friend from Lincoln came and towed us home, thankfully ending our would-be vacation. Moral: Fords make for very bad family trips.

Karina Stratton

Overheating on the road to Rexburg from California

After living in Texas in the summer of 2005, I had to drive the 22 hours home to California to gather my remaining stuff and move up to Idaho for school. Two days after coming home, my mom and I got in the car and began the 14-hour drive to Rexburg, Idaho.

Three hours into the trip, the temperature gauge on the car began to go up. We soon realized that the radiator was probably broken, but





We often couldn't find a cemetery, so we stopped at strangers' homes and ask. Imagine some strange woman coming up to you while mowing the lawn, asking you where a cemetery was. Both Jared and I were equally embarrassed. When we finally found these cemeteries, we would just walk around for 10 minutes looking at headstones. "Wow, that's a cool looking headstone." "I hope mine looks like that 50 years after I die." After each thrilling moment, we would leave again to go on another hunt.

Eight hours of my life gone, having only found 4 cemeteries, we returned to Jared's house while Mom talked about our adventure and Jared and I went back into our slump of perfect nothingness.

Amanda Isbell

we couldn't turn back. We needed to make it to Salt Lake City that day so that I could get to school on time. So there we were, driving through the Mojave Desert (in August, mind you), going slower than the speed limit and blasting the heater to keep the engine

“On one of our pit stops we had to buy eye drops because the heat blowing in our faces had evaporated any moisture there might have been in our eyes.”

temperature down, with the windows down for slighter cooler (95°) air. We stuck to our seats, and on one of our pit stops we had to buy eye drops because the heat blowing in our faces had evaporated any moisture there might have been in our eyes.

My mom was cross with frustration, and to lighten the mood I kept reminding her that once this was all over (if we survived) it would make for a great story. Seeing as we did survive, we finally made it to Salt Lake in the middle of the night,

with our trip taking much longer than expected. The next day we had our car fixed, and the remaining four hours of the trip up to Rexburg was a breeze, in more ways than one.

Stacey Cashmore

Family scavenger hunt — cemetery style

I have fantastic memories of family vacations; going camping and road trips to California and Colorado. This last summer, however, I spent eight hours of my life driving all around Connecticut looking for cemeteries.

Don't get me wrong, my sister will go to cemeteries for genealogy. This was not one of those times. I was visiting my brother in Connecticut, and we were both doing what we wanted to be doing — absolutely nothing. Mom didn't like that idea, so early Monday morning she requested that we go around and look at "old haunted cemeteries." I think the "haunted" part was supposed to reel us in, but how many horror films feature haunted graveyards at noon? She pulled out the book about cemeteries and we all got in the car, because not going was not an option.



Next month in
Hitchhike ...

**Tell us about
your favorite
all-day date
memory.**

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