

Travelers should make summer trip plans now

By Suzanne Hoechstetter

REVIEWER

Summer is almost here, time to abandon those books and calculators, at least for a few weeks.

Dare to go a little farther than Northgate. Think beaches and cocoa butter. Or mountains. Or amusement parks. That's the right idea. Now make the dream a reality by planning. Planning is the key to a smooth-sailing trip that won't empty your wallet.

It's a little late in the season to get affordable plane fares if you're going overseas, but students under 25 years old can get special international rates if they book a flight 72 hours before leaving, Aggieland Travel travel consultant Tracy Abeel said.

"Of course, it makes it difficult to schedule any tours if you book only 72 hours before your flight leaves," Abeel said.

When traveling to another country, Abeel suggests, buy a travel guide for that country to learn about restaurants, hotels, currency and attractions. Books about almost every country in the world can be found in the travel section of most bookstores.

Abeel also emphasized the importance of using traveler's checks, whether going to Paris, Kentucky or Paris, France.

"Always, always take traveler's checks, because they are insured if lost or stolen," she said. "It's also a good idea to exchange a small amount of currency before leaving the United States so you have a little bit of cash when you get to the for-

eign country."

Sometimes travel problems are unavoidable. If you miss a connecting flight because your plane was late, the airline must compensate you in some way, Abeel said. They either must book you on the next flight or pay for a hotel if they don't have any more flights that day.

"Never take the responsibility out of the airline's hands by trying to purchase a connecting ticket at a competitor's counter. They have to compensate you," she said.

Another problem is lost luggage. If your luggage is lost, let the airline know right away. Abeel said travel agents cannot be responsible for problems that the airline is supposed to take care of, but she encourages customers to let their travel consultants know if they were dissatisfied with their travel arrangements.

College students often travel on a tight budget, so costs are an important factor to consider when trying to decide where to go this summer.

Europe and the Bahamas are not the popular vacation spots they were a few years ago because of the devaluation of the U.S. dollar. Mexico and Disney World are popular because they are affordable and people feel like they're getting away from it all, Abeel said. Mexico is one of the best deals this year because \$200 will buy a round trip flight and three nights in a hotel, she said.

Travel agencies can save consumers money, hassle and phone calls because travel consultants do all the work. Travelers do not pay travel agents for their services. The agencies are paid the same commission rate by all airlines, hotels and rental car companies.

"That way we don't favor one

Around Town

Live Music

Brazos Landing

Brazos Landing is at Northgate. Everyone is admitted. Beer, wine and mixed drinks are served. For more information, call 846-3497.

Thursday — Poetry night. No cover.

Friday — Shake Russell. Rock. \$5 cover.

Saturday — Trout Fishing In America. Rock. \$4 cover.

Sunday — Junior Medlow and the Bad Boys. Rhythm and blues. \$5 cover.

Tuesday — Acoustic open stage. No cover.

Cow Hop Annex

Next to the restaurant at Northgate. Those 18 and older admitted. Alcohol served to legal drinkers. Call 696-5522 for more information.

Thursday — The Hippies. Rock 'n' roll. Cover.

Friday — The Texas Twisters. Classic rock 'n' roll. Cover.

Saturday — The Texas Twisters. Classic rock 'n' roll. Cover.

Wednesday — Singalong with Sneaky Pete. Solo acoustic. \$1 cover.

Emiliano's

In Bryan at 502 W. 25th St. Beer, wine and set-ups served. Call 775-9539 for more information.

Friday — Elsa Garcia and Company. Spanish. \$5 cover.

Saturday — Augustine Ramirez. Spanish. \$8 cover.

Frank's Bar and Grill

In College Station at 503 E. University Drive. All ages are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor are served to legal drinkers. Call 846-5388 for more information.

Saturday — Karan Chavis. Jazz. \$2 cover.

Kay's Cabaret

At Post Oak Mall. Those 18 and over are admitted. Beer, wine and liquor served to legal drinkers. For more information, call 696-9191.

Thursday — Don Overby. Originals and classic oldies. No cover.

Friday — Gallery 13. Rock. \$2 cover.

Saturday — The Scroocs. Classic rock and Grateful Dead. \$2 cover.

Movies

All movies and showtimes are provided by the theaters and are subject to change.

Cinema Three

Located at 315 College Ave. in the Skaggs Shopping Center. Call 693-2796 for more information.

She's Out of Control. Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:10 p.m.

K-9. Rated PG-13. Opens Friday.

Criminal Law. Rated R. Opens Friday.

Red Scorpion. Rated R. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Ends Friday.

Speed Zone. Rated PG. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.

Post Oak Three

Located in the Post Oak Mall. Call 693-2796 for more information.

Chances Are. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:20 p.m.

Dream Team. Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.

Say Anything. Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Schulman Six

In Bryan at 2002 E. 29th Street. Call 775-2643 for more information.

Twins. Rated PG. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.

The 'Burb. Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:25 p.m.

Leviathan. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:35 p.m.

Dead Calm. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:55 p.m.

Mississippi Burning. Rated R. 7 p.m. and 9:35 p.m.

Working Girl. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Plaza Three

In College Station at 226 Southwest Parkway. Call 693-2457 for more information.

Rain Man. Rated R. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9:40 p.m.

Major League. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:10 p.m. and 9:50 p.m.

Disorganized Crime. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.

Manor East Three

In Bryan in the Manor East Mall. Call 823-8300 for more information.

Pet Sematary. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Dangerous Liaisons. Rated R. Showtimes are 7:20 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.

The Rescuers. Rated G. Showtimes are 7:05 p.m. and 9 p.m.

See You in the Morning. Rated PG-13. Showtimes are 7:20 and 9:45.

company over another," Abeel said. "It saves travelers money because agents can get better deals."

The deals a travel can get, however, have changed since airline deregulation.

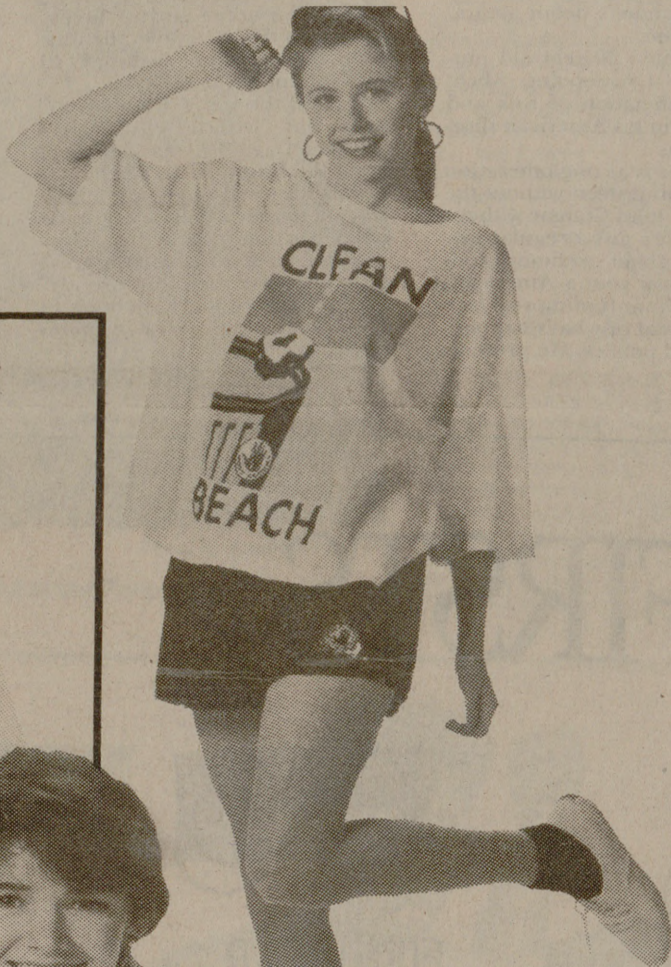
"The market has changed a lot since deregulation," she said. "Everything can change overnight. One day a flight will be \$200 and the next day it will be \$400. Travelers don't always get the best fares if they try to schedule their own flights."

However, travel agents can save their clients money only on flights booked in advance. Abeel suggests making plane reservations at least

one month in advance.

Less expensive plane fares have restrictions that are sometimes difficult to accommodate. Domestic flights are cheapest when booked at least one month in advance and travel is during midweek (noon Monday through noon Thursday) and you stay at your destination for at least one Saturday night. Cheaper flights are no longer available by flying the "red-eye" (the late night and early morning flights).

For the most enjoyable summer trip, make plans now. It will give you more time to relax and enjoy those palm trees later.



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