

FABULOUS BIKINIS OF SUMMER

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ART . MUSIC .

SWIM 07

THE SWIMSUIT ISSUE

TOP 10
SPRING BREAK
DESTINATIONS

SURFING PRETTY
STEPHANIE GILMORE

TAHITIAN DELIGHT
3 SURFERS,
1 BEAUTIFUL
DESTINATION

STRONG BEAUTY
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Lake Tahoe



SQUAW VALLEY, LAKE TAHOE

The Draw: The sun is shining, T-shirt and bikini-clad riders start to hit the slopes, and the party vibe is always turned up high. Squaw is also home of the 1960 Olympic Games and recent Olympic medal winners Julia Mancuso and Daron Rahlves, whom you can catch hitting the slopes.

Where to Stay: The Village at Squaw Valley offers studios to three-bedroom condos all with pullout couches, full kitchens, and balconies that provide great views of KT-22. They're perfect for groups, plus you can save money cooking some of your own meals. (Studios start at \$229 in March and \$199 in April; thevillageatsquaw.com)

Where's the Party: The Auld Dubliner is an Irish bar that was built in Ireland, dismantled, and re-assembled in Squaw. It was voted Best Bar by the local paper last year and it's known to be pretty rowdy at night. (1850 Village South Rd., Suite 41; 530-584-6041; aulddubliner.com) Also, The Squaw Valley Spring Jam takes place April 13-15 this year and features on-mountain competitions, live music, and wacky events. (Details: 530-583-6985 or squaw.com)

Fabulous Outdoor Fun: Tackle Squaw's legendary downhill slopes, ride the cable car to High Camp, and hang out in the huge 20-person hot tub!

PUNTA DOMINICAL, COSTA RICA

The Draw: The perfect place to explore natural treasures, from amazing surf to tropical rainforests and breathtaking waterfalls. Punta Dominical hugs the shoreline of the southwestern Pacific Coast and borders the Osa Peninsula. More than six parks and reserves, including Manuel Antonio and Corcovado, are within an hour's drive.

Where to Stay: Rent one of the four cabins from La Parcela. Each sits on a high cliff looking south to the Osa Peninsula and is constructed from Costa Rican hardwoods. You'll love the swing on your private balcony—perfect for relaxing with a cold, local beer at the end of the day. (laparcela.net)

Where's the Party: Embrace "la pura vida" and head to Roca Verde, the local hot spot when the sun goes down, especially on nights when they have live music. (506-787-0036; rocoverde.net)

Fabulous Outdoor Fun: Take a surf lesson at Sirena Surf School for women. (Located at Poco a Poco across from the Sundancer; 506-879-3799; sirenasurf.com; 2-hour private lesson \$40, 2-hour beginner group lesson \$25 pp., lessons include surfboard rental)

CANCÚN, MEXICO

The Draw: Arguably the Spring Break destination. It's an all-out free-for-all of hedonistic indulgence, mechanical bulls, and dancing on bars. Spring Breakers flock here to relive the scenes they've watched on *Girls Gone Wild*. The anthem here is: "Party, party, party."

Where to Stay: Take advantage of the multitude of all-inclusives Cancún has to offer. Not only is the Grand Oasis conveniently situated on a pristine strip of beach, it also has the longest pool in Cancún proper and offers complimentary kayaks, paddleboats, and surfboards at its marina. With 15 bars and 13 restaurants, you might not want to leave the hotel! (Blvd. Kukulcán Km. 16.5, Zona Hotelera; 011-52-998-881-7000; oasishotels.com)

Where's the Party: No Spring Break trip to Cancún would be complete without a night spent partying at the legendary Señor Frogs. Wear one of the silly, foam frog hats and dare your friends to go down the waterslide, which lets out into the lagoon. (Blvd. Kukulcán Km. 9.5, Frente a la playa Chac Mool, Zona Hotelera; 011-52-998-883-1092; senorfrogs.com)

Fabulous Outdoor Fun: See the ancient Mayan ruins outside of Cancún. Tulum is about 1.5 hours from Cancún and is popular not only for the ruins, but also for its market. For less of a crowd, try the equally impressive Chichén Itzá, the most historically important of the Mayan Ruins, or Cobá, one of the newest discoveries in the Yucatan. The best way to book a tour is through your hotel.

Cayman sandbar



THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Draw: Breathtaking coral formations, exotic marine life, pristine water, and relaxing, tropical vibe.

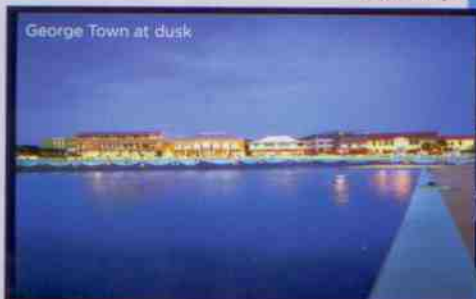
Where to Stay: Morritt's Tortuga Club & Grand Resort is located on eight acres of the island's East End, is home to some of the island's best diving, and is also the site of Cayman Windsurfing. Guests can rent sailboats, catamarans, or snorkeling equipment. Tortuga Divers is located on the premises and offers resort courses. (Studios from \$155; 800-447-0309; morritt.com)

Where's the Party: Rackham's Pub & Restaurant on Grand Cayman draws a young crowd and is popular with locals. It sits on an open-air pier and is named after "Calico Jack" Rackham, an 18th century pirate who

terrorized the shipping lanes offshore. (N. Church St., George Town; 345-945-3860)

Fabulous Outdoor Fun: The Caymans are among the world's top dive destinations, so exploring the marine life, whether you scuba dive or snorkel, is a must. Snorkelers should make the trip to Stingray Sandbar where you'll stand in three feet of water as stingrays glide around your legs. If you dive, book a trip to Stingray City in the North Sound and submerge 12 feet to see dozens of stingrays come within inches of you. Eden Rocks and Devil's Grotto are said to be the second and third best shore dives in the world. For lessons, equipment rental, or to book trips, try Eden Rock Diving Center. (124 South Church St., George Town, 345-949-7243; edenrockdive.com)

George Town at dusk



Cayman rays

