

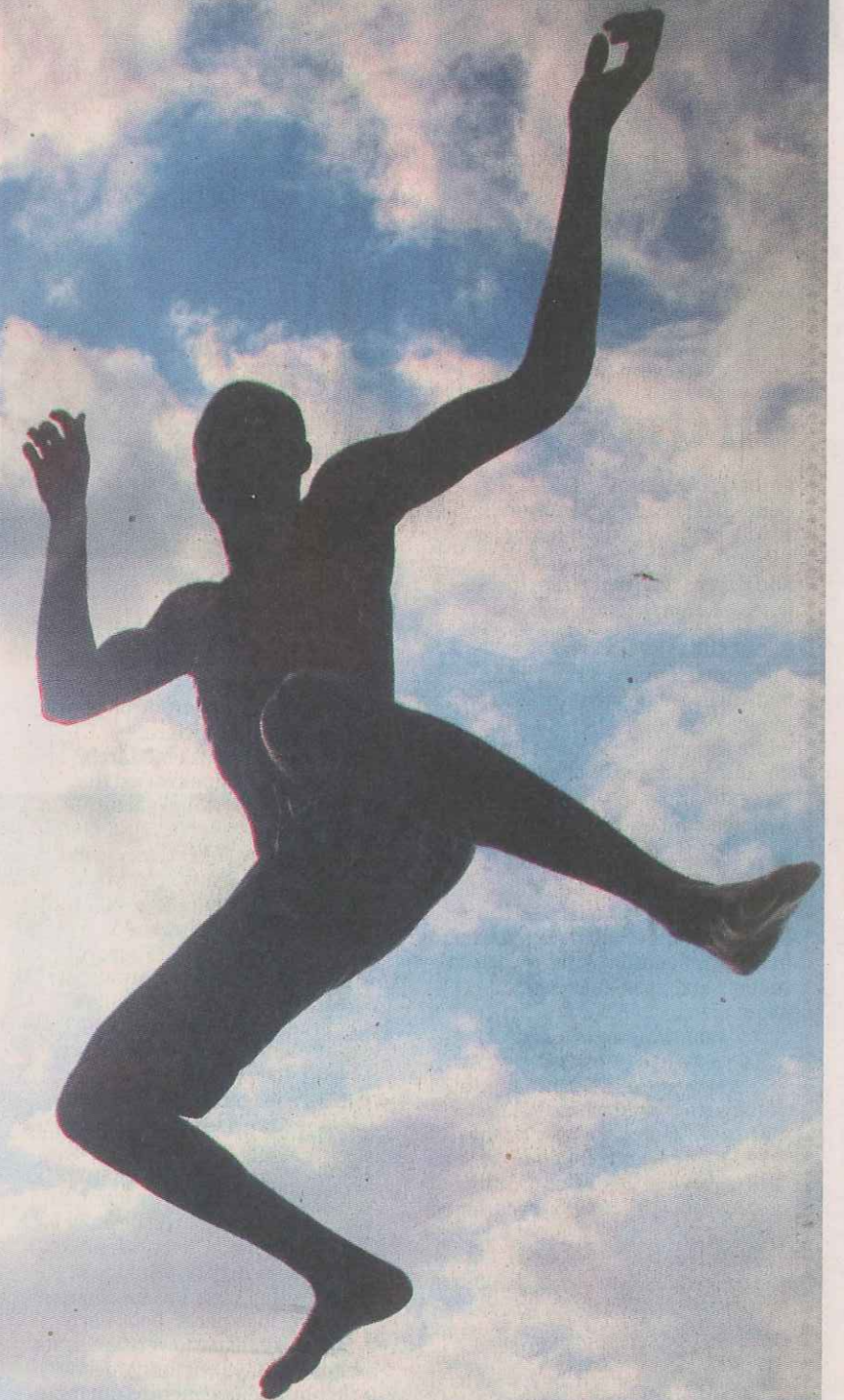
Travel

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011

The New York Times

14 Easy Weekend Getaways

*From New York to Portland, Ore. (and cities in between),
quick trips that can have you poolside —
or cliff-diving — in half a day.*



Walk, offers flat-screen televisions, popcorn in the lobby and a rooftop pool with rates from \$119 a night with the Remember the Alamo package. Near the Riverwalk and the Alamo, the Best Western Sunset Suites (bestwesternsunsetsuites.com) has rates from about \$118 a night. Looking for luxury? The sprawling JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa (jwsanantonio.com), about 30 minutes from downtown, with six acres of heated pools, fountains and waterfalls, has rooms from \$269 a night.

San Diego

EASY GETAWAY FROM Phoenix; Las Vegas; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Seattle; Portland, Ore.; Dallas; Denver; Salt Lake City; Tucson; Sacramento.

WHAT YOU GET Salty ocean breezes, lush public parks, downtown waterfront, family fun.

WHY NOW With business from conventions still off, California's second-largest city is looking to fill its varied hotels, restaurants and spas with leisure travelers, and many are offering hefty incentives, according to Adam Weissenberg, who heads Deloitte's United States Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure division. With miles of beaches, plenty of golf and family-oriented attractions, including the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld and Legoland, "it's a great location and you can find good deals now," he said. Stroll along the Embarcadero, a 1.7-mile stretch of downtown waterfront. Explore the city's historic Gaslamp Quarter — 16 and a half blocks of restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, shops and art galleries. Or head to Balboa Park (balboapark.org), the 1,200-acre public park that is home to the Old Globe Theater, the zoo and 15 major museums.

WHERE TO STAY The Pearl Hotel (thepearl.com), in the seaside Point Loma section, is offering a two-night stay for as low as \$249 total when travelers book the Two Night Delight, which includes a \$100 gift certificate for its restaurant. The beachfront Catamaran Resort Hotel (catamaranresort.com) is offering a second night free this spring with rates from \$149 a night. For families, the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina (starwoodhotels.com) has a Break With the Family deal from \$199 a night, including a balcony room, four zoo passes, bicycle rentals and an in-room movie each night.

Santa Fe, N.M.

EASY GETAWAY FROM Los Angeles; Dallas; Denver; Houston; Kansas City, Mo.; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City; Seattle; St. Louis; Las Vegas;

Phoenix; San Diego; Tucson.

WHAT YOU GET Romantic fireside nooks, art galleries, beautiful landscapes, rejuvenating spas, steamy hot springs.

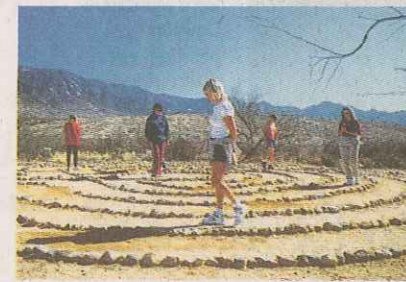
WHY NOW March is off-season in this high desert city about an hour north of Albuquerque's airport, which means lower hotel rates and no crowds at the city's many Native American museums, restaurants, spas and some 250 galleries. With average high temperatures of 55 degrees and lows of 28, March is still a great time for spring skiing in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains just 16 miles from the heart of the city, sipping hot chocolate by a kiva fireplace or getting in touch with your inner artist through a class in painting, pottery or photography. As the thermometer rises in April, the streets become more lively, the farmers' market moves outdoors, there are concerts, plays and dance performances and Friday-night gallery openings pick up. Take in the city's adobe-style architecture on a historical walking tour, visit an American Indian pueblo north of Santa Fe or soak in one of the surrounding area's mineral hot springs.

WHERE TO STAY Inn on the Alameda (innonthealameda.com), located between the Santa Fe Plaza and Canyon Road art galleries, has 71 rooms from \$170 a night and offers a three-night Taste the City Different package starting at \$792 for two guests, which includes cooking classes, demonstrations and a culinary walking tour for specific dates through April 30. The Southwestern-style Rosewood Inn of the Anasazi (innoftheanasazi.com) offers 58 rooms from \$237 a night or \$299 a night with the third night free if you book the Experience More deal. La Posada de Santa Fe (laposada.rockresorts.com), with a spa and its own art gallery, has rooms from \$185 a night. Book the Savor Santa Fe package and get a \$40 breakfast voucher and a \$50 credit for a massage or facial.

Snowbird, Utah

EASY GETAWAY FROM Las Vegas; Denver; Los Angeles; San Francisco; Portland, Ore.; Salt Lake City; Seattle.

WHAT YOU GET Fresh powder, live music,



ALICE KEENEY/ASSOCIATED PRESS (KIAWAH); LUKE WHITE/AURORA PHOTOS (TUCSON); SCOTT MARKEWITZ/CORBIS (SNOWBIRD)

FROM LEFT Another kind of club, on Kiawah Island; circling in Tucson; at Snowbird, in Utah.

no crowds.

WHY NOW An annual snowfall average of 500 inches ensures a long season, keeping the entire mountain open well into spring. March is typically tied with February for the snowiest month, but April still gets plenty, and rates drop significantly. In April, for example, Snowbird is offering a Spring Stay and Ski package from \$99 a person a night with a three-night stay. A scenic 45-minute drive from Salt Lake City International Airport makes same-day skiing and flying a reality from many major cities, and live music every weekend from end of March through April keeps skiers grooving.

WHERE TO STAY The Cliff Lodge (snowbird.com), with rates from \$129 in April, has a newly renovated spa with a rooftop pool and hot tub and is Snowbird's only ski-in, ski-out property. The Lodge at Snowbird has efficiencies from \$119. A North Studio in the Inn at Snowbird offers rooms with kitchens and fireplaces as low as \$99 a night in April.

Stowe, Vt.

EASY GETAWAY FROM Boston; Albany; New York; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Cleveland; Detroit.

WHAT YOU GET Winter sports, farm-to-table dining, New England charm.

WHY GO NOW Softer snow and warmer temperatures at this time of year make skiing, snowshoeing, dog-sledding, sleigh riding and other winter sports more fun. Stowe's Spruce Peak and Mount Mansfield (Vermont's highest peak at 4,395 feet) remain open through April 17. And with a 200-year-old village full of shops, restaurants and cozy pubs, there is still plenty to do after the slopes close. Spring is sugaring season in Vermont, when trees are tapped and sap is collected for making syrup. There is also a new performing arts center and nearby Vermont landmarks like Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream plant, providing options for everyone in the family. The nearest major airport is in Burlington, Vt., about an hour west of Stowe.

WHERE TO STAY Stowe Mountain Lodge (stowemountainlodge.com), adjacent to

the gondola connecting Spruce Peak to Mount Mansfield, has rates from \$199 and is offering 20 percent off for two-night stays and 30 percent off for three nights through April 30. The Trapp Family Lodge (trappfamily.com), run by descendants of the Trapp family of "Sound of Music" fame, has a Making Tracks Snowshoe package with rates from \$399 a person for two-night stays through March 27 that includes three-course dinners, and guided snowshoe treks. On Main Street, the Green Mountain Inn (greenmountaininn.com) offers rooms for as low as \$99 in April.

Tucson, Ariz.

EASY GETAWAY FROM Albuquerque; San Diego; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; Seattle; Chicago; Dallas; Houston; Salt Lake City; Denver.

WHAT YOU GET Sunny days, starry desert nights, P.G.A. golf courses, pampering spas.

WHY NOW The Sonoran Desert usually begins to bloom in late April, a bonus when hiking in Sabino Canyon, mountain biking on the Arizona Trail or saddling up at a dude ranch. It is high season, but there are ways to skirt even the steepest rates. Not willing to shell out \$3,000 for three nights at Canyon Ranch? Pay \$300 for a Spa Day that includes one \$130 treatment, lunch and all classes. Or check out the Tubac Golf Resort and Spa, which is offering an Indulge Yourself deal from \$260 a night that includes accommodations, a \$120 spa credit and a \$10 spa gift card.

WHERE TO STAY The 398-room Loews Ventana Canyon (loewshotels.com), with two P.G.A. golf courses and a 7,000-square-foot spa is offering 20 percent off starting rates of \$249 a night if you stay three nights and book the Loews Long Weekend deal. The Westin La Paloma (westinlapalomaresort.com), set on 250 acres with a Jack Nicklaus Signature golf course and five pools, has rates from \$249 in April. The Embassy Suites Tucson Paloma Village (embassysuites.com) offers a family fun package with an in-room movie and four tickets to Sabino Canyon from \$170 to \$270. ■

Find Your Escape

Start with your city — then pick your trip.

Atlanta: Providenciales, Turks and Caicos; Destin, Fla.; Negril, Jamaica; San Antonio, Tex.; Kiawah Island, S.C.

Baltimore: Negril; Kiawah Island

Boston: Stowe, Vt.; Montreal, Quebec

Chicago: Breckenridge, Colo.; Stowe; San Antonio; Montreal, Quebec; Kiawah Island; Tucson, Ariz.

Dallas: Santa Fe, N.M.; Destin; Palm Springs, Calif.; San Diego; Breckenridge; Tucson

Denver: Santa Fe; Palm Springs; Breckenridge; Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; San Antonio; San Diego; Tucson; Snowbird, Utah

Detroit: Stowe; Kiawah Island

Houston: Santa Fe; Destin; Breckenridge; Puerto Vallarta; Tucson

Kansas City, Mo.: Santa Fe; Breckenridge

Las Vegas: Santa Fe; Palm Springs; San Diego; Snowbird; Tucson

Los Angeles: Santa Fe; Palm Springs; Puerto Vallarta; San Antonio; Snowbird; Tucson

Miami: Providenciales; Destin; Negril; Kiawah Island

New York: Providenciales; Negril; Montreal; Kiawah Island; Stowe.

Phoenix: Santa Fe; Palm Springs; San Diego; Puerto Vallarta; San Antonio

Portland, Ore.: Santa Fe; Palm Springs; San Diego; Snowbird

San Francisco: Palm Springs; San Diego; Tucson; Snowbird

Salt Lake City: Palm Springs; Tucson.; Santa Fe; San Antonio; San Diego

Seattle: Santa Fe; Palm Springs; San Diego.; Tucson; Snowbird

Washington D.C.: Stowe; Montreal; Kiawah Island