

The College Game

GO, SCALP, WIN! > We're not saying you should build a trip around football. But if your travels bring you anywhere near these glorious venues on a fall weekend, you're a fool not to go.

ARMY, WEST POINT, NY
Why: Stirring tradition in a gorgeous setting overlooking the Hudson River.
Don't miss: Cadet parade 3 hours before kickoff; cadets parachuting into stadium with game ball.
Tickets: Easy; no sellouts.

COLORADO, BOULDER
Why: Clean air, brilliant sunshine, fun town at the foot of the Rockies.
Postgame: Biking, hiking, and climbing right outside campus.
Tickets: Sometimes they sell out, but scalping is legal. Go to Colorado Avenue.

FLORIDA, GAINESVILLE
Why: The Swamp is southern football at its craziest.
Tailgating: Starts Thursday and goes until Sunday at the commuter lot.
Tickets: All sellouts. Find scalpers on University Avenue north of the stadium.



She gets our Irish up.

NOTRE DAME, SOUTH BEND, IN
Why: Jeez, you have to ask?
Postgame: Linger in the afterglow, when players meet friends and family in the north end zone.
Tickets: All sellouts. Scalp along Angela Street or go

early to the stadium's buy-back window.
TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE
Why: Towering Neyland Stadium holds 104,079, and it rocks.
Pregame: Check out the floating "tailgaters" (the Vol navy) on the Tennessee River.

Tickets: Legal scalping on Cumberland Avenue.

TEXAS, AUSTIN
Why: Everyone should experience Texas football.
Pregame: A meal at Waterloo Park, because everyone should experience Texas barbecue.
Tickets: Stadium area is policed; try the corner of MLK and San Jacinto.

UCLA, PASADENA, CA
Why: To see the legendary Rose Bowl and the legendary cheerleaders.
Relax: Stretch out, catch rays, and chill. There's lots of room.
Tickets: Always available.

WASHINGTON, SEATTLE
Why: Husky Stadium on Lake Washington may be the most beautiful setting in the NCAA.
Postgame: Have a beer at the Ram or Grady's.
Tickets: Scalping is legal 30 miles outside of Seattle. Try Bellevue.

WISCONSIN, MADISON
Why: Big Ten football in the land of beer.
Stick around: The "fifth quarter" musical celebration after the game is worth it.
Tickets: All sellouts; score some at Monroe and Regent.

PETER GREENBERG

The Travel Detective



HAVE A NICE TRIP!

Log On and Take Off

There are so many travel Web sites. Which one is the best? WAYNE R., PLANO, TX Hate to disappoint you, but there's no single best site. For advance bookings, try Expedia or Travelocity.

For last-minute travel, I like www.site59.com. A friend recently got roundtrip airfare from New York to Los Angeles and lodging at a four-star hotel for two nights for \$356.

Priceline.com is a good way to find low rental-car rates. For European rentals, easycar.com offers deals.

Extra Miles

Can I combine all my reward points for one big trip?

COLIN O., DUBLIN, OH The key is figuring out which carriers have partnership agreements with your reward plan. For example, Continental has partner travel with Delta, Northwest, KLM, and Qantas, among others. So points with any of those airlines can be used on a partner. However, I don't advise combining hotel and air miles, because hotel points have less value on airlines, and vice versa. The only exception is if a hotel program has seats that are unavailable through the airlines—in that case, it makes sense.



That's his flight to Rio leaving.

Fast Talking

LEARN A LANGUAGE > Compact discs are a wonderful way to learn a language. So calm, so patient. No muttered ridicule, like that we endured from Señorita Ongaro, our merciless Spanish 101 instructor. Repetitive CDs or tapes "attune the ear to the rhythm of the language," says John Rassias, Ph.D., a professor at Dartmouth College and founder of the Rassias Foundation, devoted to training language teachers. Some of the best:

PIMSLEUR METHOD The Q&A format is a natural way to learn. Courses range from *Quick & Simple* (eight lessons, \$20) to 30-lesson programs (from \$300) in about 35 languages, including Ojibwa.
BOTTOM LINE: Top-notch and portable, but expensive.
 pimsleur.com

ROSETTA STONE Computer-based CDs with images for simple, childlike learning. Twenty-plus languages with programs ranging from *Traveler* (33 lessons, \$70) to *Personal Edition* (92 lessons, \$195).
BOTTOM LINE: Good value, but you need your computer.
 rosetta.com

LANGUAGE DYNAMICS A budget alternative offering only Spanish, French, Italian, and German. Focuses on real-world conversation. The most popular series is *Behind the Wheel* (\$70).
BOTTOM LINE: Great value, but limited choice of languages.
 languagedynamics.com



FACTS OF LIFE

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Percentage of men who have more sex while on vacation

—Roper's Public Pulse newsletter