



Travel in the US

International Student Services – Texas A&M University

While you are in the United States, take advantage of opportunities to travel both in Texas and other states. There are many ways to travel on your own or in a group:

□ **BY AIR**

Air travel can be arranged by contacting a travel agent (listed in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book) who will make your flight arrangements free of charge. The local airport has commuter air service to major airports in Texas. Their website is:

<http://www.tamu.edu/easterwoodairport/>

□ **BY BUS**

By bus, you can travel long and short distances relatively inexpensively. Check the Yellow Pages under “Bus Lines” for information.

□ **BY RENTAL CAR**

If you wish to rent a car, you must have a US driver’s license and usually one credit card. Be aware that most rental agencies require the person renting the car to be at least 25 years of age. Because rates vary between rental companies, call several and compare rates. Look under “Automobile Renting and Leasing” in the Yellow Pages of the telephone book for help.

□ **BY SHARING A RIDE**

Sharing expenses with another driver is a fairly common practice on college campuses. You will notice signs posted around campus in which a student advertises for someone to share a ride to a specific location. The Texas A&M Travel Committee maintains a travel board in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) that also lists people who want to share rides.

ISS encourages international students traveling outside Texas but inside the United States to carry their original passport, I-94 card and I-20 or DS-2019. This precaution will clearly identify you as a student and provide immediate identification of your nationality. Because there is always a danger of losing original documents, it may also be a good idea to make a copy of your original passport and maintain that copy in a safe location.

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR TRAVEL PURPOSES:

□ The Study Abroad Program Office at Texas A&M University suggests the following two websites: <http://www.myisic.com/MyISIC/> and <http://www.statravel.com/>

□ **Staying at the YMCA:**

- The YMCA offers accommodations for travelers in 58 cities in the United States and Canada. In addition, there are 21 youth hostels. The rooms vary widely in comfort and facilities, and travelers should carefully study the details given on each residence or hostel in its free booklet, "The Y's Way to Visit North America and Worldwide," which also lists the organization's lodgings in 24 countries abroad.

- For each place, the booklet gives the address, telephone number and number of rooms, and mentions such facilities as cafeteria and pool if they are available. Some have separate accommodations for men and women, some have mixed accommodations and a few are men only. Six are group and family vacation and conference centers in mountain locations.
- Typical rates are around \$18 or \$20 a person a night. The booklet is available from the Y's Way International (356 West 34th Street, New York, N.Y. 10001; 212-760-5856), which provides a variety of travel services.
- For more information, visit the YMCA's website at <http://www.ymca.int/>.

Vacation trips are available through a variety of host family organizations across the US. Registration information is available in the ISS Office about two months before major vacations (Christmas, Thanksgiving, Spring Break, Summer), and you should look into these programs early due to registration deadlines. Also, local church groups, international clubs, and campus organizations sponsor trips that are announced by poster fliers. Check the ISS bulletin boards monthly for information about such activities.