Spring break book recommendations for every destination

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With spring break finally right around the corner, you're probably finalizing your packing list or figuring out what you plan to do with an entire week off. Even if you're not much of a reader, a perfect way to entertain yourself with no classes is to pick up a book. So, whether you're staying in Storrs or going to Puerto Rico, I've compiled a list of books I'd recommend based on where you're going for break.

If you're going to the beach (or any body of water), you should read "Same Time Next Summer" by Annabel Monaghan.

When I think of beach reads, I think of romance books — they're easy reads that you can probably devour in one sitting, and this fits the bill perfectly. It's a second chance romance about a woman named Sam who goes home to Long Island to look at a possible wedding venue and ends up reuniting with the boy who broke her heart when she was 17. Oh, and she's engaged to a different man.

It has a dual timeline, so you get to see these characters fall in love twice: once as messy teens and then again as adults. All around it's a fun summer romance that would be perfect for reading near any body of water, but most definitely the beach.

If you're going home, you should read 'Project Hail Mary' by Andy Weir.

Being home from break is obviously very nice because you're away from campus and you're probably happy to be eating home-cooked meals, but it can also get boring. That's why this book is so perfect because it's a bit on the long side (almost 500 pages), so having a week of no distractions is the best setting to start reading. Additionally, the movie adaptation is releasing on March 20, so if you finish the book, you'll be set to go watch it.

The book follows Ryalnd Grace, who is sent into space to save humanity. The thing is, he doesn't remember anything. Even if you're not a big fan of science fiction, this book is very accessible, and a pro-tip: check out the audiobook because it is very well done.

If you're staying at UConn, you should read the Shady Hollow series by Juneau Black.

No matter the reason, if you're staying on campus over break, I'm recommending this six-book series, which is perfect for escaping Storrs in a different way. Six books might sound daunting, but they are at most 250 pages each, so you can definitely fly through these.

The series is set in Shady Hollow, a small town where woodland creatures live in harmony until bodies start dropping and Vera Vixen (a fox, in case you were wondering) has to solve the case. Tell me you don't want to read cozy mysteries where all the characters are critters. These books are what I imagine living in the world of "Fantastic Mr. Fox" to be like.

If you're going somewhere abroad, you should read "Evenings and Weekends" by Oisín McKenna.

It doesn't matter what country you might be traveling to; although this book takes place in London, this literary fiction debut takes you into the lives of three friends over the course of one hot weekend in June. If you're a Salley Rooney fan, you'll love this, but even if you're just interested in looking at other young adults living messy lives, this'll be the book for you. It's a story about friendship and secrets, and it really resonated with me as a girl in her early 20s who has no idea what she's doing.

If you're going on a road trip (or have a long car ride/train ride), you should read "The Road to Tender Hearts" by Annie Hartnett.

I'm a car sleeper and an Amtrak dissociater, but if you're looking for something a bit more productive for a longer trip, this book is perfect. It's about a man who wins the lottery and decides to drive from Massachusetts to Arizona to try and win back the love of his life. He's accompanied by his adult daughter and his estranged grandchildren on his journey. This book is funny,chaotic and heartbreaking at the same time. It's another that also has a great audiobook.

I will personally be getting into "The Haunting of Hill House" by Shirley Jackson, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" by Ken Kesey, and "Our Missing Hearts" by Celeste Ng because that English minor grind never stops. Even if you don't read any of these books, still pick one up over break! We're in a literary crisis, after all!



The book "Same Time Next Summer" by Annabel Monaghan propped in the sand. The book follows a character searching for a wedding venue on Long Island, reuniting with a past lover. PHOTO COURTESY OF @BADONPAPERPODCAST ON INSTAGRAM

POKÉMON WINDS AND POKÉMON WAVES: Predictions for the 10th generation!

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We have finally reached the 30th anniversary of the Pokémon franchise — and you know what that means: Nostalgia central! Thousands of fans who have grown up playing, watching and reading media from the franchise are regaining interest once again with the recent announcement of games such as Pokémon Pokopia and the mainstream dual styles games - Pokémon Winds and Pokémon Waves.

The 10th generation mainline games were announced last month during a Pokémon Presents presentation on Pokémon Day, which is a celebratory day that commemorates the release of Pokémon Red and Blue. There is still much left unknown about this new generation for Pokémon, so we'll be tackling predictions and hopes from the fandom!

Will Pombon's final evolution stand on its hind legs?

There's one thing that is really having fans speculate and talk, and that's if the new starter Pokémon, Pombon, will evolve to stand on its hind legs or not. The majority are hoping for it to maintain its four-legged form, as Pokémon has a history of having their four-legged starters turn into two-legged ones.

Fan art predictions surrounding all three of the starters have been circulating throughout social media platforms, mostly depicting Pombon on its four legs. We can only hope that Pombon breaks the curse of the standing starter Pokémon that has notoriously affected Fennekin's final evolution, Delphox.

Will Winds and Waves be affected by "Dexit?"

Before the release of Pokémon Sword and Shield (the eighth generation of Pokémon), each game had the capability of holding every Pokémon in the national Pokédex. Each game had a full list of Pokémon that could be found within it, while the national Pokédex was a full list of every Pokémon ever made.

Sword and Shield were the games to alter this dynamic drastically. It was announced that the game would not include the hundreds of Pokémon that you could normally transfer into any game. Outraged fans deemed this event "Dexit."

The question is, will Winds and Waves follow through with Dexit? My prediction is yes. As much as I hate to say it, Dexit is here to stay. With the amount of Pokémon created throughout the past 30 years, I doubt the creators would want to recreate sprites for forgotten and barely used Pokémon.

What will the next legendary Pokémon typing be?

New legendary Pokémon, a very rare and powerful type of Pokémon, have yet to make their debut for the new games. Legendary Pokémon are usually used on the games box art and are mascots. Naturally fans have started up various conspiracies and ideas for what they will look like and especially what type they'll be.

A Pokémon's type is what defines its elemental nature, abilities, strengths and weaknesses. There are currently 18 types, including fire, water and grass. The legendary for Pokémon Winds is speculated to be a Flying-type Pokémon, while it is presumed that Waves will star a Water type. We can only wait to see what type of combinations these legendries will possess, but I hope to see a Flying-Fighting type in Winds along with a Water-Ghost type in Waves.

What Pokémon will be featured on the box art?

A prediction that has been gaining traction is the possibility of Mr. Windychu and Mrs. Wavychu, two costume/cosplay Pikachus, being box art Pokémon. Even though these two aren't the usual legendries, this wouldn't be the first time we see a non-legendary mascot. The Let's Go Pikachu and Let's Go Eevee games included Pikachu and Eevee as box art mascots, as well as the original Red, Blue, Green and Yellow games featuring Charizard, Blastoise, Venusaur and Pikachu. There could very well be a possibility for Pikachu and Eevee to star on the box art because of the amount of promotion they've gotten.



A snapshot from the first trailer for Pokémon Winds and Waves. Fans are speculating what the new legendary characters will look like.

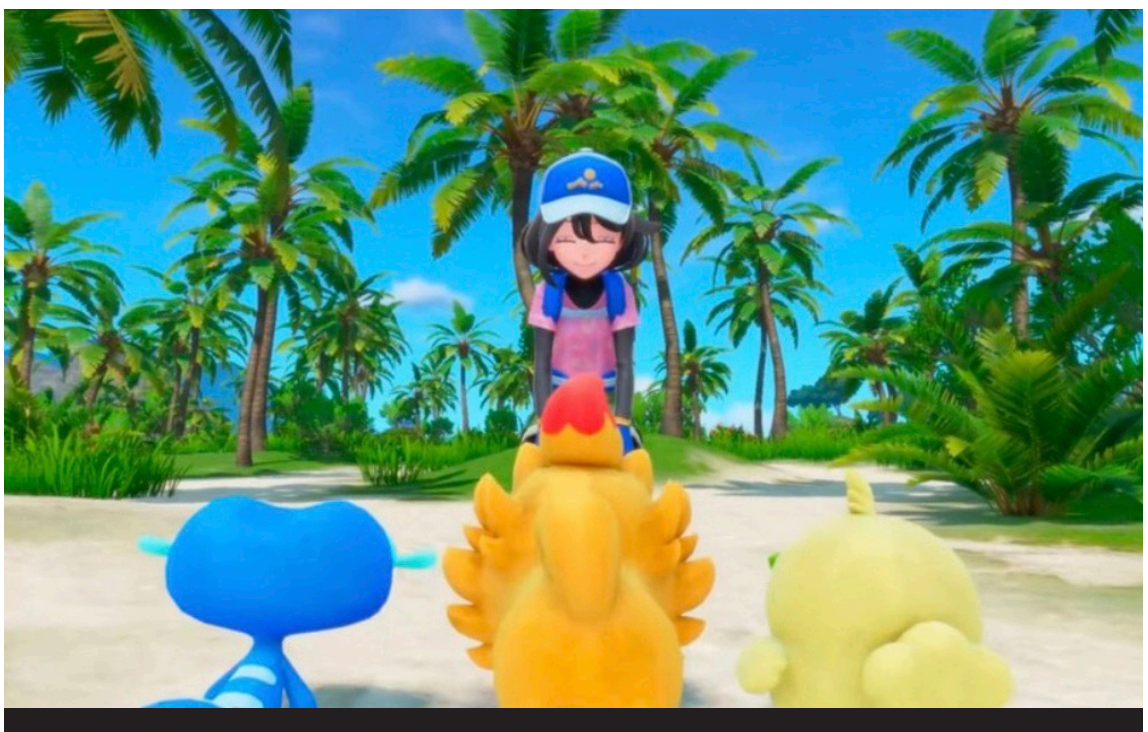
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A new Eeveelution?

The franchise has not seen a new Eevee evolution since the release of Pokémon XY's Sylveon in 2013. Currently, there are eight official Eeveelutions (Vaporeon, Jolteon, Flareon, Espeon, Umbreon, Leafeon, Glaceon and Sylveon) covering Water, Electric, Fire, Psychic, Dark, Grass, Ice and Fairy types. Eevee has yet to evolve into 10 Pokémon types, including Normal, Fighting, Poison, Ground, Rock, Bug, Ghost, Steel, and Dragon.

Winds would be a great opportunity to introduce a Flying-type Eevee evolution but would present an advertising issue. If a Flying-type Eeveelution was introduced, many consumers could be more drawn to purchasing the Winds version instead of Waves. To avoid this issue, the creators could release a Bug-type evolution, as the game is set in a tropical climate. For now, we can only speculate about the possibility of a new Eeveelution joining the Eevee squad.

That's all for predictions regarding the next and tenth generation of mainline Pokémon games! Until its projected release next year, the fandom can only hope for a new generation filled with good plotlines, new Pokémon and an overall exhilarating and fun adventure! For more information on the future games, visit the Pokémon Winds and Waves website, at https://windswaves.pokemon.com/en-us/.



A snapshot from the first trailer for Pokemon Winds and Waves. With the game's impending release, fans are making predictions for what they might see.

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