



## Sea You Soon!

*By Kaitlyn Dortch*

Spring Break is quickly approaching for most Mississippi schools, and with breaks, come vacation planning. Coming from the accounting world, I rarely traveled during tax season. Instead, I would spend March and April booking my flights and accommodations—tasks families are hopefully doing now—and start my traveling for the year in May.

Like many, traveling regularly become a big priority for me, which meant getting comfortable with vacation planning. My first trip to Spain in 2021 was luckily planned by the study abroad coordinator at Mississippi College. She created a fantastic itinerary, including weekday activities in Salamanca, weekend excursions to Avila, Segovia and Madrid, and a bonus week of travel to Barcelona, Burgos, and San Sebastián. My time there was beyond exceptional. After researching various attractions, pricing multiple flights, and sifting through a ton of reviews, I returned a few years later to visit Malaga and Grenada. Eventually, navigating booking sites came with ease, so I started working my way through my travel wish list. I've since traveled to several places including Mexico with my cousin, Puerto Rico with my boyfriend, Jacob, and the Bahamas with my sisters.



Though I enjoy relaxing on a beach as much as the next person, I'd rather not break the bank every year trying to make my vacation plans a reality. Early on in my travels, I decided to save a portion of my monthly income for future trips and hold the funds in a high-yield savings account (or other similar short-term investment account earning a higher yield than the national average). By taking advantage of HYSAs, credit card rewards, and loyalty programs, I've been able to take multiple trips a year without sacrificing financial stability for myself.

After learning more about investments and retirement at New Perspectives these last few weeks, I'm confident that solid financial planning can help anyone achieve his or her goals without jeopardizing other future financial plans, like saving for retirement. I'm so ecstatic to now be a part of an amazing team that can help you create and maintain a financial plan that's best for you. I look forward to meeting you and helping your financial ambitions come to fruition!

I was time traveling yesterday. But I got hungry, so I went back four seconds. - Unknown