



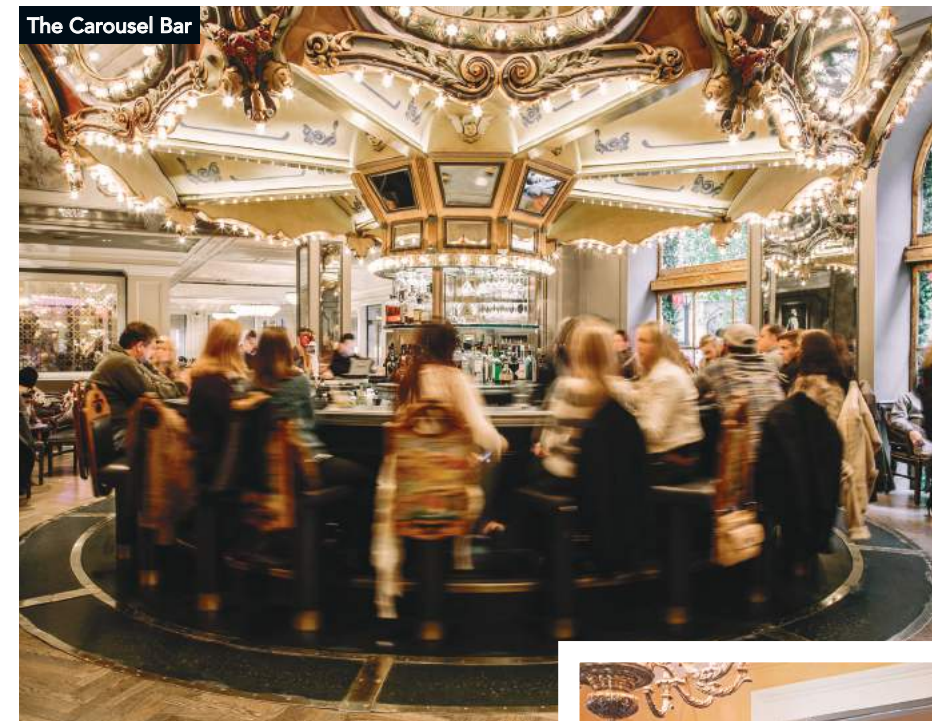
# A *Big & Easy*<sup>3</sup> HOLIDAY

New Orleans celebrates Thanksgiving in the best possible way: with amazing food, and lots of it.

New Orleans is not the most obvious choice for a Thanksgiving getaway: You'll be hard-pressed to find any reenactments of the first meal or authentic colonial-era spreads here. But New Orleanians know how to eat and they know how to celebrate, and come Thanksgiving, the Big Easy becomes one of America's best destinations for the holiday weekend. Take a look....



Soniat House



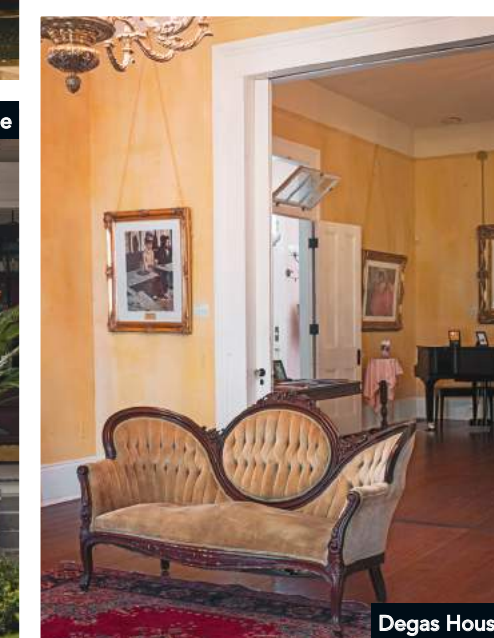
The Carousel Bar



Hotel Monteleone



Degas House



Degas House



Soniat House

## Where to Stay

Take cues from some of the city's famous visitors on where to stay: These hotels are all favorites.

**LATE-NIGHT HOT SPOT** Ever since the early 1900s, **Hotel Monteleone** (214 Royal St.) in the French Quarter has drawn literary greats, including Hemingway and Capote. If you splurge, you can spend a night in a suite inspired by one of them. The hotel's renowned **Carousel Bar** is a vintage merry-go-round that spins slowly while you sip your drink—ideally a Sazerac. From \$159; [hotelmonteleone.com](http://hotelmonteleone.com)

**LUXE ESCAPE** A stay at **Soniat House** (1133 Chartres St.) is quiet and luxurious. The cluster of once-private townhouses has all the New Orleans-style architecture you'd expect: a stone carriageway, two lush courtyards and wrought-iron balconies overlooking the French Quarter. From \$245; [soniathouse.com](http://soniathouse.com)

**PICTURESQUE B&B** Edgar Degas spent a year painting in New Orleans, and you can stay in his former home. If you book a room at **Degas House** (2306 Esplanade Ave.), sign up for the breakfast tour, which starts with a Creole meal (bananas Foster French toast, cheese grits) followed by a walk around the premises led by one of the artist's great-grandnieces. From \$199; [degashouse.com](http://degashouse.com)

OPPOSITE PAGE: JULIEN CARPVELL; THIS PAGE: THE CAROUSEL BAR: WILLIAM WIDMER/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX. HOTEL MONTELEONE: PETER FRANK EDWARDS/REDUX; DEGAS HOUSE (2): MORGAN & OWENS.

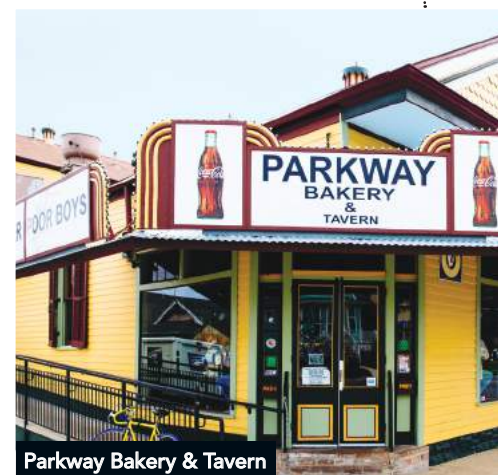




Lüke



Parkway Bakery & Tavern



Parkway Bakery & Tavern

## Where to Eat

You could eat Thanksgiving dinner all day long in New Orleans. Chefs whip up special menus for breakfast, lunch and dinner: There's alligator sausage, po'boy sandwiches and lots of turducken, which is a New Orleans specialty.

**EARLY BIRD** The farm-to-table spot **Tivoli & Lee** (2 Lee Circle) is known for twists on Southern classics. The Turkey Day brunch includes a take on eggs Benedict, topped with turkey and a cranberry hollandaise. \$45; [tivoliantlee.com](http://tivoliantlee.com)

**OLD AND NEW** If you're traveling with a Thanksgiving purist, reserve a spot at the famous 135-year-old **Commander's Palace** (1403 Washington Ave.). They serve a traditional dinner (about \$39) as well as dishes like New Orleans-inspired shrimp and mirliton dressing (\$10). [commanderspalace.com](http://commanderspalace.com)

**BAYOU BITES** You can settle in for a casual Southern-themed Thanksgiving dinner at **Red Fish Grill** (115 Bourbon St.); the menu includes turducken gumbo and alligator sausage stuffing. Look for the waiter dressed as a turkey. \$59; [redfishgrill.com](http://redfishgrill.com)

**HOLIDAY PO'BOYS** The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, **Parkway Bakery & Tavern** (538 Hagan Ave.) offers a po'boy with turkey, gravy and stuffing. From \$9.50; [parkwaypoorboys.com](http://parkwaypoorboys.com). And on Friday, chefs at **Lüke** (333 Saint Charles Ave.) use their turducken leftovers to make po'boys topped with cranberry compote. Hurry—they usually make only a few dozen. \$16; [lukeneworleans.com](http://lukeneworleans.com)



Tivoli & Lee



Commander's Palace



Red Fish Grill

PO'BOY: GLEN ABBOTT; PARKWAY BAKERY & TAVERN: HUNTER HOLDER/IMAGEBRIEF; RED FISH GRILL: MORGAN & OWENS; COMMANDER'S PALACE: CHARLES CECIL/IMAGEBRIEF.



Fair Grounds Race Course



Magazine Street

## What to Do

Turning on the TV is the closest many Americans get to a Thanksgiving parade, but in New Orleans you can spend the entire day hopping from one live event to the next.

**TURKEY DAY HORSE RACE** On Thanksgiving Day, a crowd of 7,000 shows up at the **Fair Grounds Race Course & Slots** (1751 Gentilly Blvd.) with bird-themed hats to bet on the horses in the Thanksgiving Handicap (this year's race will be the 90th!). Be careful not to spoil your dinner at the concession stand: You'll find all sorts of Gulf Coast fare like gumbo and po'boys.

**SPIRITED PARADE** The weekend-long **Bayou Classic** festivities kick off on Thursday with an afternoon parade, including a 25-foot cornucopia float and marching bands from rivals Southern University and Grambling State. It's like a family-friendly Mardi Gras, starting at the Superdome (1500 Sugar Bowl Dr.) and traveling to the French Market. On Saturday, the teams face off at the stadium. From \$16 for game tickets; [mybayouclassic.com](http://mybayouclassic.com)

**LIVE MUSIC** After dinner, head out for a show at **The Howlin' Wolf** (907 South Peters St.). The venue's Thanksgiving Throwdown spotlights New Orleans' Grammy-winning jazz-funk Rebirth Brass Band. 10 p.m., \$15; [thehowlinwolf.com](http://thehowlinwolf.com)

**BLACK FRIDAY SHOPPING** Shell out \$3 for a one-day Jazzy bus pass and you can hop on and off as many times as you want along **Magazine Street**, home to almost six miles of boutiques, galleries and cafés.



Rebirth Brass Band at The Howlin' Wolf



Bayou Classic

FAIR GROUNDS RACE COURSE: TIMES-PICAYUNE/LANDOV; MAGAZINE STREET: CORBIS; REBIRTH BRASS BAND: IAN FRANK

