

Hotels & Hostels

Want more sleeping recommendations than we could ever pack into this little ol' book? Craving more detail – including extended reviews and photographs? Want to read reviews by other travelers and be able to post your own? Just make your way over to lonelyplanet.com/hotels and check out our thorough list of independent reviews, then reserve your room simply and securely.

SLEEPING

top picks

- Audubon Cottages (p202)
- Hotel Royal (p204)
- Soniat House (p201)
- Loft 523 (p209)
- Columns Hotel (p213)
- Sweet Olive Bed & Breakfast (p207)
- The Chimes (p213)
- Garden District B&B (p212)

SLEEPING

Where you stay in New Orleans depends largely on why you've come. Planning to play the whole time in the French Quarter? Shell out the few extra bucks to stay there. Especially if you're a first-timer, you can't beat having all the food and fun at your doorstep – and you can save the cost of taxi rides or a rental car. Small hotels and inns (with immensely varied room sizes) are the hallmark of this historic district. Choose a room with a streetside balcony and you can watch the revelry in your pajamas; courtyard views are a bit quieter. But the Quarter is not all booze and Bourbon St; there are calmer residential corners to the northwest and northeast.

Looking for a more local experience? Northeast of Esplanade Ave, the Quarter morphs into Faubourg Marigny, an arty, transitional neighborhood with kicked-back, quirky B&Bs and a great nightlife of its own. Farther afield, public transport puts the Garden District's (and the Lower Garden District's) B&Bs and moderate lodgings in easy reach. The leafy lanes here ooze a gentrified quiet, near the city's best shopping on Magazine St. Continue west along the St Charles Ave streetcar line to Uptown and Riverbend, where mansions host glorious inn-like guesthouses close to Tulane University.

Need to seal a deal? Mammoth business hotels and conference centers rise up forming canyons in the CBD and Warehouse District. Prices here drop to surprising lows at the weekend and when convention business is slow. The options around Canal St border the Quarter, but don't expect intimate accommodations or character-filled cottages here.


Those arriving for Jazz Fest should book at one of the few mansions-turned-B&B on Esplanade Ridge in Mid-City. You'll need a cab to get to the Quarter, but you can hoof it to the soulful sounds.

ACCOMMODATION STYLES

New Orleans hotels come in all the standard shapes and sizes. Most commonly you'll find either large purpose-built properties or more cozy lodgings in older buildings. Figuring out which is which by an establishment's name alone is impossible (an 'inn' here might have five rooms or 500), so read reviews carefully. There are surprisingly few boutique properties with design-driven rooms, and no condo-hotels at all in this tourist town. In fact, the ho-hum traditional floral bedspread and quasi-Colonial furnishings are all too common, even at top-end properties. On the upside, a huge number of rooms in town have been rehabbed post-Katrina, so at least the sometimes-bland decor is brand-spankin' new. (Note that old hotels often have exterior access rooms and no elevators.)

For charm, you can't beat the Crescent City's hundreds of B&Bs – housed in everything from colorful Creole cottages to stately town houses and megamansions. Three obvious selling points are intimate surroundings, interesting architecture and, in many cases, a peaceful courtyard in which to escape the maddening crowds. The complimentary morning meal at area B&Bs (and at the many

hotels that serve it) is almost always a continental breakfast of homebaked breads and yogurts. (Hot food requires a special license.) If the options listed in this chapter are full, consider seeking help from [Bed & Breakfast Inc](#) (☎ 488-4640, 800-729-4640; [www.historiclodging.com](#)) or [Louisiana B&B Association](#) (☎ 346-1857, 800-395-4970; [www.louisianabandb.com](#)). Some places do not allow children – this is noted in our reviews.

All accommodations listed here have at least some nonsmoking rooms. If you want a nonsmoking-only property (most B&Bs and some hotels), look for the  icon. Air-con is standard in all New Orleans lodgings; you'd melt in the summer without it.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT TIMES

Officially you can usually check into your room by 3pm or 4pm, but if the room's available before that, properties are good about letting you in. B&Bs often need to know when guests will be arriving in order to ensure staff are on hand to check them in. Check-out times range from 10am to noon. If business is slow, you may be able to negotiate a later time, especially if you belong to a hotel's loyalty program.