

Faubourg Marigny & Bywater

Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Wandering around **Frenchmen Street** (p87) starting at, say, 7pm, having dinner, listening to music, getting drunk, listening to more music, dancing a bit, seeing who's playing on the corner of Chartres, scarfing some late-night tacos, then hey! More music!
- 2 Spotting container ships from the banks of the **Crescent Park** (p87) as they meander up the Mississippi.
- 3 Catching dance, puppetry and all manner of stage-based art at the **Marigny Opera House** (p94).
- 4 Watching music, from punk to bluegrass to hip-hop, on rapidly changing **St Claude Avenue** (p95).
- 5 Devouring a family-style spicy Sichuan meal with friends at **Red's Chinese** (p88).



For more detail of this area see Map p242 ➔

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

By far the easiest way of exploring these two neighborhoods is by bicycle. On two wheels you're never more than 20 minutes from the edge of the French Quarter and the borders of the Bywater. Be warned that streets are pretty pot-holed; Chartres is reliable past Press St, but also heavily trafficked.

Best Places to Eat

- Bacchanal (p89)
- Elizabeth's (p92)
- Red's Chinese (p88)
- Joint (p89)
- Pizza Delicious (p88)

For reviews, see p88 ➡

Best Places to Drink

- BJ's (p92)
- John (p93)
- Mimi's in the Marigny (p92)
- R Bar (p93)
- Lost Love (p93)

For reviews, see p92 ➡

★ Best Places for Entertainment

- Spotted Cat (p94)
- Marigny Opera House (p94)
- d.b.a. (p94)
- Hi Ho Lounge (p94)
- AllWays Lounge (p95)

For reviews, see p94 ➡

Explore Faubourg Marigny & Bywater

On your first day, wander around the Marigny by walking up Decatur St and onto Frenchmen St. Then head east along Royal St, taking in the architecture and sampling some of the local cafes and restaurants on the way. Your nighttime activity consists of heading back to Frenchmen St to either party, listen to music or both.

On the second day, either bike or walk out to the Bywater. Again, you'll want to just walk (or bike) around this compact neighborhood, eating, drinking and shopping wherever the spirit moves you. In the evening, head out to catch some shows along St Claude Ave, or see if there's anything interesting showing at one of the local theater companies.

Faubourg Marigny is bounded by Rampart St to the west, the railroad tracks at Press St to the east and Esplanade Ave to the south. The Bywater extends from Press to Poland St. St Claude Ave is, for our purposes, the northern border of both neighborhoods, but as there are more and more places of interest opening north of St Claude, we include some of those spots as well. The southern boundary of the Bywater is easy to spot: it's the Mississippi River.

Local Life

➤ **Dining** Young chefs and pop-ups (p91) looking to become permanent are increasingly settling into historical homes and renovated properties in these two neighborhoods.

➤ **Theater** It takes plenty of forms here, from the brick-and-mortar playhouses such as the Marigny Opera House (p94) to the street theater of local artists putting on impromptu performances.

➤ **Bars** There are a lot of great neighborhood dives out this way, and each one has its own special character. Even if you're not big on drinking, rubbing shoulders with locals at spots like BJ's (p92) gets you under the skin of the city.

Getting There & Away

➤ **Bus** Bus 5, which you can catch on Canal and Decatur Sts, runs up Decatur and onto Poydras and Dauphine into the heart of Marigny and Bywater.

➤ **Car** Free street parking is quite plentiful in the Bywater, and only a little less common in Faubourg Marigny. There are no time restrictions, except on Esplanade Ave.