



Alexa Pulitzer
NEW ORLEANS

A WEEK IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is a city full of enough inherent tourist draws to keep any visitor enamored for a long stay, but when I travel, I personally like to have a bit of an inside scoop on what locals like to do. As a native of my beloved city, please allow me to introduce you to some of my favorite things to eat and do in New Orleans.

MONDAY night is known to locals as *Service Industry Night*. This is a perfect night to head uptown to Gautreau's (1728 Soniat Street / (504) 899-7397) for dinner, and if a food coma does not strike you down early, head down to Frenchmen Street and check out an array of live music at Snug Harbor, D.B.A, La Maison, The Spotted Cat or hang outside and move your dancing feet to the music of New Orleans street musicians.

TUESDAY: Eat lunch at R'evolution (777 Bienville St / (504) 553-2277) a John Folse, fine dining establishment in the Quarter. Take a stroll down Royal Street in the French Quarter after lunch to do antiquing and visit The New Orleans Historic Collection and A Gallery for Fine Photography. Shake your tail feather uptown to the Riverbend/ Carrollton area and enjoy Jacques'Imos Cajun/Creole cuisine (8324 Oak Street / (504) 861-0886) before heading next door to The Maple Leaf (8316 Oak Street / (504) 866-9359) to hear the world famous, Rebirth Brass Band. A must do. You never know who you'll run into at this local haunt.

WEDNESDAY: Stay in the quarter for drinks & dinner...Enjoy Aperitifs at Cane & Table (1113 Decatur St / (504) 581-1112) before walking to dinner at Marti's (Corner of Dumaine & N. Rampart Street / (504) 522-5478). You may then take a quick trip in a cab into the Tremé and listen to the Tremé Brass Band at the Candlelight Lounge.

Or!

You can dip into the heart of the Quarter and hit The Hermes Bar in the annex of Antoine's Restaurant (713 St Louis Street / (504) 581-4422). Here you can listen to live music and order from the oldest menu in town. Some of my favorites are Oysters Rockefeller, Oysters a la Foche, Shrimp Remoulade and Crabmeat Ravigote. Afterward, check out my dear friend, Ben Jaffe blow his tuba with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band when they perform at the famous-Preservation Hall (726 St Peter Street / (504) 522-2841). A Classic Institution. While Preservation Hall doesn't serve alcohol, they allow you to bring your cocktails in. **This is also a perfect outing for a Saturday night calendar.*

THURSDAY: This is the night to head down into the Bywater neighborhood of the city to hear modern day Louis Armstrong, Kermit Ruffins blow his horn at Vaughn's Lounge (4229 Dauphine St / (504) 947-5562). Afterwards, round the bend and comfortably dine outdoors at Bacchanal Wine Bar (600 Poland Avenue / (504) 948-9111) or enjoy craft cocktails and eclectic plates at Maurepas, (3200 Burgundy Street / (504) 267-0072) just a hop, skip and a jump up the way from other ByWater restaurants.



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FRIDAY: Eat Lunch Uptown at Clancy's (6100 Annunciation Street / (504) 895-1111) or Patois (6078 Laurel Street / (504) 895-9441).

FRIDAY EVE: Gents wear your sport coat and ladies look your best. Begin with a cocktail and Jeremy Davenport's crooning on the third floor of at the Ritz Carlton before dining at quintessential Galatoire's restaurant (209 Bourbon Street / (504) 525-2021) just a block away. My favorites things to eat at Galatoire's are : Oysters en Brochette, Shrimp Rémoulade, Oysters Rockefeller, Crabmeat Maison, Stuffed Eggplant, Crabmeat Sardou, Trout Almandine and Café Brûlot, to end. Ladies, watch your hair when they set the table on fire! Walk another stone skip away after being eloquently served to Irvin Mayfield's Jazz Playhouse, at the Royal Sonesta or make your way to Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro (626 Frenchman Street / (504) 949-0696) and listen to New Orleans godfather of jazz, pianist Ellis Marsalis at Snug Harbor.

SATURDAY:

Spend the day on Magazine Street exploring the many antique stores and boutiques. Lunch at Lilette (3637 Magazine Street / (504) 895-1636); La Petite Grocery (4238 Magazine Street / (504) 891-3377) or if oyster season, Casamento's (4330 Magazine Street / (504) 895-9761). Enjoy an afternoon espresso and gelato at Sucre (3025 Magazine Street / (504) 520-8311). You could also do this any day of the week.

SATURDAY EVE:

Enjoy, for once, a non-New Orleans meal at Domenica (123 Baronne Street in the Roosevelt Hotel / (504) 648-6020) where Israeli born, chef Alon Shaya will inspire you to hop the next plane to Italy with his divine Italian cuisine.

Alternative: Fine dine with Chef John Besh at August (301 Tchoupitoulas Street / (504) 299-9777). Hands down, this is the most fresh, refined food in the city. Wash down your meal with an aperitif at the Windsor Court Polo Lounge listening to NOLA's most charismatic drummer, Shannon Powell and my favorite pianist, David Torkanowsky.

** The Windsor Court is across the street from August restaurant and a ten minute walk from Domenica.*

SUNDAY:

Enjoy Brunch in the Garden District at the eternal Commander's Palace (1403 Washington Ave. / (504) 899-8221.) Afterwards, walk across the street and stroll through the second oldest cemetery in the city (bring your camera.) Continue an afternoon outdoors walking through the picturesque Garden District where some of New Orleans most fantastic homes are situated. Finish your day with a visit to New Orleans Museum of Art's Sculpture Garden (in City Park.) Should you crave an afternoon snack, indulge with New Orleans own beignets and Cafe au Lait at Morning Call (56 Dreyfous Dr. / (504) 300-1157), which is behind the sculpture garden. The WW2 Museum is also a must.

"If New Orleans is not fully in the mainstream of culture, neither is it fully in the mainstream of time. Lacking a well-defined present, it lives somewhere between its past and its future, somewhere between Preservation Hall and the Superdome. New Orleans listens eagerly to the seductive promises of the future but keeps at least one foot firmly planted in its history."

– Tom Robbins from Jitterbug Perfume



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No one lives in New Orleans passively. People make an active choice to be here and they can tell you exactly why and when they made the decision. Though it has always been rich in culture, the revitalization from the Katrina devastation and debacle has meant a tremendous influx of new inhabitants, businesses, renovations, buildings and schools. It's a fascinating time to be here and watch the city reach new potential while keeping itself firmly grounded in its culinary and historic roots.

The key to really understanding New Orleans is getting out of the French Quarter and experiencing what the rest of us simply call "day to day life in other neighborhoods such as Uptown, Mid City, The West Bank, Esplanade, The Marigny, The Bywater, and Old Metairie. Although we primarily spend time at our local restaurants, shops and parks, we also eat beignets and crawfish, go to Snug Harbor on Friday nights and take our kids on riverboat cruises to the zoo. So here is your list. An infallible list. A list that will keep you happy and keep you coming back for more. And when you need a new list – one with names of realtors and contractors – email me and I'll send you that too.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!

SLEEP.

Hotel Montelone

The Monteleone is a rarity: A locally owned four-star hotel built in 1886 and renovated frequently.

The Roosevelt

Recently renovated and fully restored. Luxurious and affordable...and original home of The Sazerac.

The French Quarter W

A hip haven in the heart of the French Quarter.

The Windsor Court

The Opulent Grand Dame of New Orleans.

The Soniat House

Lovely and small French Quarter hotel filled with antiques serving homemade biscuits in bed every morning.

EAT.

August

High end farm-to-table Creole cuisine by local favorite, Chef John Besh, in a gorgeous setting. The best food in New Orleans and has a GREAT \$20 lunch menu! If the only table available is at the bar, ask for it. It's the best seat in the house and my spot. Now dress up, it's worth it!



Mopho

Remember when I just told you Restaurant August had the best food in New Orleans? Well, brothers Mike and Jeff Gulotta, the former executive chef and general manager of Restaurant August, opened a super cool, super hip restaurant in Mid-City where the staff wears hipster-chic mechanics shirts. It's Southeast Asia meets New Orleans. Big outdoor patio, whole pig roast on Saturdays, alcoholic boba tea. It's an industry hang-out and a cool place to grab lunch, dinner or a drink.

Restaurant R'evolution

If you're going to have a blow out, this isn't a bad choice of place to do so. Chef John Folsie's first NOLA eatery and the dining room is over the top. Wear a jacket. Sit in the kitchen. You'll see what I mean.

Peche

Outstanding seafood restaurant by Chef Donald Link of Cochon and Herbsaint. Great "loft-like" atmosphere and a great bloody mary.

Domenica

Co-owned by Chef John Besh and Israeli-born Chef Alon Shaya, Domenica is located in The Roosevelt Hotel and is the only Italian restaurant in town (except The Italian Barrel below). Their fresh pizzas, roasted cauliflower, squid ink pasta with fresh crab, octopus carpaccio are all a must. Open seven days a week with a fabulous happy hour.

The Italian Barrel

A tiny hole in the wall in a grungy French Quarter location, but with outstanding food. The ingredients are flown in daily from Italy and are exceedingly fresh.

Feelings

Terrible name, great restaurant located in a dilapidated old New Orleans building bordering the Marigny and The Bywater neighborhoods.

St James cheese

You can't eat Creole food every day. Go here for a gourmet ploughman's platter.

Maurepas Foods

Neighborhood restaurant in the Bywater. Make sure to try their great desserts too.

Bon Ton Café

The Crawfish Bisque. Say no more. Order no more. Really.

Commander's Palace

The Grand Dame of New Orleans Cuisine. Great for big groups or romantic dinners. Oh, and go for Sunday Brunch and start drinking Brandy Milk Punches at 11am. NOW you understand New Orleans.

Doris Metropolitan

Hands down one of my favorite eateries in the French Quarter amongst the newcomers to town. It's dubbed an Israeli steak house but it has a metropolitan feel. Uber chic, mod and DELICIOUS! Try the stuffed beets and "Falls off the Bone" entrée. Reservations are required for a table, but if not possible, the bar is a great alternative.

Borgne

Great local seafood in a modern setting, and the flat screen televisions at the bar are super convenient when the Saints are playing. WHO DAT!?!?



Johnny Sanchez

Aaron Sanchez and Chef John Besh teamed up to create a California-inspired Mexican restaurant. It's sooooo good! Make sure you have the tostadas and at least a bunch of margaritas. Great location for CBD-visitors, Saints games, Pelicans games, concerts or just Wednesdays.

Bouligny Tavern

New Orleans is awesome because it's cool to visit from NYC and go out to dinner and see music in flip flops and cargo shorts, but sometimes... SOMETIMES...you want to dress up and have really nice drinks in a hip atmosphere. Amen Bouligny! Super mid-century design inside a 100+ year old New Orleans residence. Chef John Harris, the owner, really does wear that 70s 'stache. Oh, and this goes under food because they do outstanding small plates.

Cochon

Real Cajun / creole / southern food by James Beard and award-winning chef, Donald Link (mentioned above in Pêche). This is the only place in the city you should order gumbo. Please.

Square Root

Opt for the 9 to 15-course tasting menu for, I don't know, \$150 or something like that or go upstairs for cocktails and charcuterie. Either way this might just be the best experience you have in New Orleans.

Capdeville

My personal favorite for those nights when you don't know where to go. Great Guinness on tap, excellent burgers, duck confit, and salads. A super cool atmosphere with 80s records on the wall and dark wood floors. Great cocktails, always busy. Great for mixed groups of people – boys, girls, olds, youngs, foodies and cheapies. Everyone loves it! Wear jeans, heels and t-shirt.

Sylvain

It's hard to get locals to eat dinner in the French Quarter unless they already live there, but Sylvain is good enough to do just that. Prime location and great food in a building built in 1796. Lots of visitors but the locals love it too.

The Franklin

Very good new eatery in the Bywater! They used the same decorator team as Bouligny Tavern but took it to a new level.

BUDGET.

Satsuma

Breakfast, lunch and occasionally a pop-up dinner restaurant. Great juices, healthy sandwiches, and coffee at two separate locations in The Bywater and Uptown neighborhoods.

Magasin

Modern Vietnamese noodle and banh mi shop.

Lily's

Another Vietnamese restaurant – better food than Magasin but not much atmosphere. Lily, the owner, is great though and she also runs the spa next door. "Noodles and Nails!" she cheerfully proclaims!



Dat Dog

Yes, come to New Orleans and eat hot dogs. The Frenchman Street location is great for late night food, or try the Freret Street or Magazine Street locations for an earlier bite.

The Butcher

AWESOME sandwich shop run by the Cochon people. The cookies? HOLY SMOKES.

Johnny's Poboys

Super busy, a little smelly, but the best poboys in the French Quarter. There is a saying in New Orleans – the best food is at the places where you wouldn't want to use the bathroom. That applies here. Ick.

Elizabeth's

The graffiti on the outside of the building includes important information, like opening hours. Get there early on Sundays. Try the brown sugared bacon.

Dong Phuong Bakery

I doubt you will ever get out to New Orleans East, but if you do you'll witness a thriving Vietnamese community. Don Phuong Bakery provides some of the best French bread in the city and they also run an outstanding restaurant as well. You have to REALLY love an adventure to head out there but yummmmm if you do.

Juan's Flying Burritto

Super casual "Mexican" food with a long list of margaritas and a very tattooed staff. Kid friendly!

Booty's Street Food

On a busy corner of the Bywater (or is it the Marigny? Who knows these days) neighborhood there lives a hip little joint with 8 menu items – each from a different part of the world. Sounds a bit nutty, right? Well it works. Menu changes all the time but expect friendly, if slightly rushed, service, great drinks and a New-York-Hipster vibe. The food is really great. If available try the Fish N Chips if you need a bit of The Queen in your life. The daily Asian influenced salad is great too.

Pizza Delicious

Everything you need to know is in the name. Bywater.

Stein's

The motto of Stein's is "If you want a po-boy, go somewhere else!" So... there's that. New Orleans's best (only?) proper Jewish & Italian deli where you can get an awesome Reuben, BLT or turkey on rye. Loads of beers by the bottle and fancy schmancy soft drinks.

District Donuts. Sliders. Brew.

Of all the cutesy food trends to hit the masses, the resurrection of the doughnut as a hand crafted luxury item is TOTALLY the best. District Donuts is next door to Stein's in the Lower Garden District and serves around 20 super creative doughnuts each day. But don't worry, it's not ALL sugar. They serve sliders too... cheeseburger, hamburger, tofu, fried chicken and three specials every day. Oh, and the "Brew" part is about coffee, not beer.

Cafe Reconcile

Round out your visit with Red Beans and Rice, fried catfish and Jambalaya. Brought to you by an ingenious group of men and women who use the restaurant as a teaching grounds for at risk (seriously at risk) youth. Do your conscience, your wallet and your tummy good!



DRINK.

Merchant

Not just the best coffee in town (thanks to them serving Illy), but also great menu ... a perfect place for wine and beer after a hard day of work. Or sightseeing.

Cure

A gorgeous and totally New Orleans-feeling specialty cocktail bar with small plates of food. Great way to start or end your evening.

WINO

Over 80 wines by the glass and a host of wine classes.

Bar Tonique

Classic cocktails, new cocktails, drink specials, great staff, exposed brick, hand written chalk signs — this would be totally a manufactured hipster thing if only it wasn't New Orleans and totally legit.

Bacchanal

Bohemian wine shop (with food & live music) in the Bywater on the corner of Chartres & Poland.

Maple Leaf

Great music for night owls.

Chickie Wah Wah

Outstanding live music venue.

The Sazarac Bar

Located in the Roosevelt Hotel, The Sazarac Bar has been lovingly restored and pays homage to the granddaddy of New Orleans cocktails: The Sazarac. For what it's worth, I think the actual best Sazarac in the city is made by a bartender named Dave (or Broke Knee Dave as we know him) who is currently working at Peche, but this is a good start. It's also a really sophisticated lounge and a nice place to kick back after a long day of walking around the city.

Finn McCool's Irish Pub

The Irish Pub sports bar where all the expats are at y'all.

King Pin

Dive bar with darts, shuffleboard and the best Taco Truck in the city during Friday Happy Hour (Taco Loceaux)

**note: I hear they might be renovating. Nooooooooooooo!

HEAR.

Turn your dial to WWOZ 90.7 as SOON as you arrive in New Orleans. Don't let anyone catch you rockin' Miley Cyrus. And go see these people / groups somewhere live while you are in town:

Preservation Hall Jazz Band (traditional jazz)

Kermit Ruffins (Jazz Trumpeter)

John Cleary (R&B piano)

Rebirth Brass Band (Brass Band)



Tyrone Foster & The Arc Singers (Gospel)
Allen Toussaint (NOLA pianist and writer – legend!)
Dr. John (TOTALLY New Orleans)
John Boutte (singer/jazz/gospel)
Shannon Powell (Jazz drummer)
Galactic (Funk)
Tab Benoit (Blues)
Honey Island Swamp Band (Roots Rock)
Nathan Williams and the Zydeco Cha-Chas (Zydeco)
The New Orleans Bingo! Show (Mixed Bag / Performance Art)
Trombone Shorty (one man rock star!)
Meschiya Lake (Great female performer)
Helen Gillet (Great female cellist)
Trixie Minx (Burlesque)
Bustout Burlesque

SHOP.

United Apparel Liquidators

Hit or miss but can be a place for fabulous finds like \$300 jeans for \$40 (did that!). It's stuffed and in a small store but customers swear by it!

Mimi's

An excellent high end ladies clothing shop and shoe shop in the back called CeCe's.

The Historic New Orleans Collection

A museum gift shop stuffed with the most unique New Orleans books, gifts and memorabilia.

Lucullus

Where else but New Orleans could you find an entire store dedicated to antiquities related to the art of food? No bargains here but some great souvenirs. For yourself.

Canal Place

For one-stop-shopping. All the usual chains for emergency shoes and clothes. Saks, JCrew, Anthropologie, plus a few local shops too like Mignon Faget, Salon Paris Parker etc... Great place to come if it's too hot, too cold or too rainy. Excellent movie theatre which serves food and wine too!

Perch

Fun and funky home furnishings on Magazine Street. From rustic and primitive to gilded with some Kartell thrown in for good measure. The lovely Caroline Robert, a friend, is the proprietor.

Dirty Coast.

New Orleanians love their self-referential t-shirts. Look just like one with a trip to Dirty Coast. Just make sure you understand what you are wearing. I license three of my designs to Dirty Coast.



George Bass

Gentlemen, if you aren't wearing a t-shirt and flip flops you should be dressed to the nines! A visit to George Bass can help you achieve that. English shoes, seersucker suits, bespoke tailoring.

Pippen Lane

Adorable and location appropriate clothes for girls and boys. Dresses, shoes, suits, toys.

Hazelnut

Home furnishings from Brian Batt (Mad Men).

Mignon Faget

Local jeweler with gorgeous items (and Alexa Pulitzer designed papers).

Maple Street Book Shop

Fight the stupids!

PLAY.

Check out The Mississippi River from The Moonwalk

Take the ferry to Old Algiers

Go to NOMA and make time to see the sculpture garden (which is free and worth the effort!)

Take a walk through the French Quarter but, if you are over 21, stay on Royal Street instead of Bourbon Street.

Kermit Ruffins wherever you can find him.

Play the ponies at The Fair Grounds

Horse and Buggy ride through the French Quarter or the Garden District. Grab your camera first!

Stroll along Julia Street aka Gallery Row and check out some great contemporary art

Spend the day at City Park

Spend the morning at Audubon Park.

Play Golf at some of the public golf courses around the city

Stay up super late and catch some music on Frenchman

Catch a movie at Canal Place (with food and booze)

Crescent City Farmers Market

Okay, don't laugh, want to know what locals do on pretty days when they can blow off work? They get a frozen daiquiri from here and hang out at The Fly. You're in the circle of trust now. Don't blow it.

KIDS.

The Audubon Zoo

The Audubon Zoo is open 7-days a week and includes an award winning Louisiana Swamp Exhibit so you can get some cultural education about the area while having a great time with the kids. There is also a Splash fountain.



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Aquarium (fishies!)

Insectarium (buggies!)

Take the Streetcar. Anywhere.

City Park (Ride the Carousel or train in Storyland, Visit NOMA and its amazing Sculpture Garden, Rent a paddle boat, Indulge in Beignets with Café au Lait at the 24 hour Morning Call behind The Sculpture Garden ...)

Snowballs:

Pandora's in Mid-City

Hansen's Uptown

Plum Street

Commanders Palace

Surprisingly fun with kids on Sundays. Music. Balloons. Brandy Milk Punch for the grownups.

Café du Monde Beignets! 24/7. Don't be a sucker and wait in line. Go steal a seat inside.

The Children's Museum

Superior Seafood St. Charles Avenue (Great kids menu with fabulous NOLA food on the streetcar line.)

Sucre

A few years ago, our friends went to Paris and returned bearing a box of gorgeous macarons from Lauduree. We, as a welcome home gift, bought them a box of macaroons from Sucre. We proceeded to have a side-by-side comparison and determined that Sucre's macarons were unbelievably good, very close to Lauduree and definitely worth our absurd rate of consumption. They also have great gelato and some of the best hot chocolate and cappuccino in town. Make this part of your Magazine Street stroll.

SWEAT.

New Orleans Athletic Club

Wild Lotus Yoga

Swan River Yoga

Romney Pilates

Cool modern building, great pilates and other sweaty stuff. Check out Romney Ride if you need a Soul Cycle-type fix.

BE LAZY.

Belladonna

Uptown, locals place. Carry on a little further up Magazine when you are done for great coffee and gelato at Sucre.

The Geurlain Spa at the Roosevelt New Orleans

Beautiful hotel, lovely spa. Begin your post vacation detox here. Then go have a drink at the bar. C'mon! You aren't home YET.



The Spa at the Ritz Carlton

Fifi Mahoneys

Get your makeup done ... and maybe don a wig for the night. Fifi's does it all! Marcie, the owner, is a friend, and her hubby, Ryan, own's the fabulous club, One Eyed Jack's.

Hove Parfumeur, Ltd

Custom blended fragrances since 1931.

READ.

Gambit Weekly

The only source you need for what is going on in NOLA. Music, politics and food. What else is there?

The New Orleans Advocate

Daily newspaper

Louisiana Cookin'

Not super slick but a good compilation of recipes by local chefs and local cooks

OTHER RESOURCES.

Wall Street Journal from September 2010

Travel & Leisure from November 2010

36 Hours in New Orleans from February 2012

NYTimes from October 2013

NOLA Official Visitors Website