

Southwest Getaway Travel Newsletter

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A New Orleans Thanksgiving

There is no better city to celebrate Thanksgiving in than New Orleans. Since every day is a celebration of food and family in this city, New Orleans takes Thanksgiving to a whole new level of feasting and festivities.

Café du Monde, the Original French Market Coffee Stand, is a perfect place to sit on a Thanksgiving afternoon, or morning or night, eat a beignet and drink hot chocolate or coffee, listen to music, relax, enjoy life, be thankful. Jean Lafitte's Pirate Bar, after the beignets, has a warm fire and live piano music. It is dark and quiet and intimate with candlelight and cocktails, and one just feels that life is very good there, simple, easy, interesting time is spent in that bar, time that makes you feel good about being

Dear Harry,

It's a very important Thanksgiving holiday this year. We all need to be thankful for what we have and the family around in this difficult economic time.

• Thanksgiving in Charlottesville, VA

Lee Park and Jackson Park, in addition to the historic Downtown Mall and nearby locations, provide the backdrop for the annual Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival. Experience what the Charlottesville/Albemarle community was like during the American Revolution between 1779 and 1781 with numerous activities, demonstrations and historical re-enactments.

Lee Park contains all of the land bounded by Jefferson Street, First Street N.E., Market Street and Second Street N.E. (location). The land was donated to the City by Paul Goodloe McIntire in memory of his parents in 1917 to be used as a public park. Dominating the park at its highest point stands an imposing equestrian monument to Robert E. Lee. The statue was conceived by Henry M. Shady, completed by Leo Lentelli, and presented by Mr. McIntire to the City in 1924. The 1.04 acres of raised land provides a pleasant lunchtime oasis in the downtown area, with many benches, a number of checker/chess tables, and colorful flowers and shrubbery.

A large equestrian monument of Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, by Charles Keck, is the focal point of the park. The monument was presented by Mr. McIntire as a gift to the city in 1921 and is ranked as one of the three best equestrian statues in the world. The park also contains well-maintained flower beds and a number of benches. (For details on the history and gardens, click here.) Jackson Park, as well as Lee Park, are part of the Virginia Civil War Trails. Both parks also host the annual Governor Jefferson's Thanksgiving Festival with Revolutionary era re-enactments and displays.

[For Accommodations in Charlottesville](#)

• Thanksgiving in St. Augustine, FL

On September 8, 1565, St. Augustine, Florida, commonly referred to as the "Ancient City," was founded by the Spanish and is the oldest port in the U.S. Similar to Plymouth, another settlement town, St. Augustine has flourished mostly due to its tourism. In the past, St. Augustine was a popular winter resort. However, now it is better known for its Spanish Colonial-style architectural heritage, Cypress Gardens (Florida's first theme park),

alive- thankfulness.

A few of the city's finest restaurants stay open for Thanksgiving dinners, so why not kick back with family or friends and enjoy each other's company while someone else does all the cooking? Most hotels offer turkey dinners as well, so you'll be sure to find a great meal somewhere in the city. Make sure you check ahead to see which restaurants are open and what the hours will be. Some of them have separate seatings. Make reservations. Check with your hotel guide, concierge or cab driver for recommendations and call a few. You will find a meal that will make you say, "Happy Thanksgiving, New Orleans." Guaranteed. The best home away from home on this holiday is New Orleans. No city cares more about good eating, after all.

[For Accommodations in New Orleans, LA](#)

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and the Old Spanish Trail. Other tourist attractions include the Gonzalez-Alvarez House known as the "Oldest House", Zorayda Castle, Cathedral of St. Augustine, and a handful of museums.

Savor a restorative drink in St. Augustine's Fountain of Youth National Archaeological Park, site of the conquistadors arrival in what is now the United States. Signs of the country's origins appear throughout the city, from 17th-century fortress Castillo de San Marcos to the watchtower of Fort Matanzas National Monument. Take a break from history at a local beach or indulge in some retail therapy among the many arts and crafts stores. Old-fashioned carriages, trains and trolleys offer narrative tours

[For Accommodations in St Augustine, FL](#)

• **Your Vacation Expert: Beachwalker Rentals, SC**

www.Beachwalker.com is an excellent resource if you are looking for rentals in Kiawah or Seabrook SC. Welcome to Kiawah & Seabrook Islands- historic Charleston, South Carolina's celebrated Lowcountry resort islands. [Beachwalker Rentals](#) is an independent resort rental company specializing in Kiawah and Seabrook Island vacation rentals. Stay in exquisite Kiawah & Seabrook Island villas, cottages or homes with either oceanfront, ocean side, pool, river, lagoon or golf views only. After more than two decades of arranging unforgettable vacations, we've built a solid reputation for value and warm, friendly service. Many families return year after year making their vacation plans with us. Call these travel experts now and start planning your next vacation to SC.

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