

THE SEXIEST PLACES IN THE WORLD



They started that bonfire using body heat.

Three U.S. Cities That Are Sizzling Right Now

Looking for a romantic getaway or a raucous girls-only weekend? These domestic hot spots will satisfy...no passports required.

By Kathleen Beckett

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New Orleans

■ The intoxicating combination of mystery and debauchery in this Southern city is hard to beat. The French Quarter, with its courtyards and cobblestone streets bustling with live music, seduces romantics and partyers alike. From imbibing on Bourbon Street to strolling down St. Charles Avenue, The Big Easy is the ultimate spot for a long weekend.



BEST BEDS

Luxe digs: **Maison Orleans**, 904 Iberville St., 504-670-2900. Sumptuous, small quarters with private butlers  
Hip hotel: **International House**, 221 Camp St., 800-633-5770. A voodoo priestess casts love spells at this trendy new hotel.  
Stylish steal: **The Columns**, 3811 St. Charles



YUMMY EATS

An elaborate antebellum mansion with a wide veranda  
Fine food: **August**, 301 Tchoupitoulas St., 504-299-9777. Enjoy decadent specialties under crystal chandeliers.  
Good grub: **Cobalt**, 333 St. Charles Ave., 504-565-5595. Delight in live jazz and cozy armchairs at this new eatery.  
Cheap chow: **Felix**, 739 Iberville St., 504-522-4440. Belly up to the bar and slide raw oysters down your throat.



BEGUILING BARS

**The Funky Butt**, 714 N. Rampart St., 504-558-0872. Live jazz fills dark spaces stuffed with velvet couches.



**Red Room**, 2040 St. Charles Ave., 504-528-9759. Party in a red-hot room that was originally in the Eiffel Tower.  
**Ampersand**, 1100 Tulane Ave., 504-587-3737. Sink into a gold-flecked banquettes at this nightclub located in a former bank.



MUST-GO SPOTS

**Bourbon Street**. Let your inhibitions go on Bourbon Street, where there's a bar on every block.  
**TwiroPa Mills**, 1544 Tchoupitoulas St., 504-587-3777. A whopping 67,000 square feet of fun awaits you in a warehouse on the banks of the Mississippi.