

**Laffittes in Exile.** 901 Bourbon. Friendly bartenders. Sometimes leathery. Quiet balcony for talking. Take note of the kidney shaped fireplace.

**Good Friends.** 740 Dauphine. Older crowd. "Do they have ferns? Can't recollect."

**Rawhide.** 740 Burgundy. Dark, foreboding, floor is wet. One of my favorite places!

**Jewell's.** 1207 Decatur. Plaid shirts and photos of Elizabeth Taylor plastered on the wall behind the bar.

**Mississippi River Bottom.** 522 St. Philip. Nice patio in back. People tend to play pool.

**The Mint.** 504 Esplanade. Good daytime place. Cabaret on Thur, Fri & Sat nights.

**Coffee Houses:**

**Kaldis.** 941 Decatur. A good blend of bohemian & angst. "Does anyone here know anything about nipple piercing?" Pick a spot at the window and watch nervous tourists pace in front of the leather erotica store across the street.

**Royal Blend.** 623 Royal. One of the nicest courtyards in the Quarter.

**Cafe du Monde.** French Market. Even locals go here from time to time.

**Shopping:**

Lower end of Decatur has great used clothing and antique/junk shops.

Royal Street runs the spectrum from high-priced galleries to chintzy tourist dives.

The French Market is always a fun place to browse. Buy a couple of pralines at Loretta's (the world is always enhanced when going into sugar shock).

**Second Skin Leather.** 521 St. Philip. My favorite clothing-and-other-things store. Macy's just doesn't compare.

**GARDEN DISTRICT**

I won't overwhelm you with addresses and facts. Get off the streetcar around First Street and absorb the gardens and the architecture. Anne Rice lives at 1234 First (she's selling the big tangerine house down from the Columns Hotel, and is turning St. Elizabeth's Convent on Napoleon into a second home). If you want to splurge, try Commander's Palace at 1403 Washington Avenue. It's expensive for dinner, but very reasonable for lunch. Lafayette Cemetery #1 is across the street.

Towards the river bordering the Garden District is Magazine Street, a wonderful mix of chic antique shops and a working-class neighborhood. **MAGAZINE STREET: Restaurants:** Semolina. Good yuppie food. Always crowded. **Coffee:** P.J.'s 5432 Magazine. Grab a table out front or enjoy the cool courtyard out back. **Bars:** Columns Hotel. 3811 St. Charles. Peeling plaster and a beautiful front porch.

**UPTOWN**

Take in the money and the oaks. Stroll Tulane's campus which has very good examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Refresh with an iced coffee at P.J.'s at the University Center. Go further up where St. Charles turns into Carrollton Avenue. There you will find the Riverbend area. **Restaurants:** La Madeleine. 601 South Carrollton. Basically the same as the one on Jackson Square, but with a view of an Exxon station. Camella Grill. 626 South Carrollton. Good omelettes. Great chocolate freezes. The cooks and waiters perform a greasy Martha Graham.

**BAYOU ST. JOHN**

You'll need a car to get here. City Park with the newly expanded art museum are here.

**Restaurants:**

**Cafe Degas.** 3127 Esplanade. Romantic place with outside seating. Kind of like eating in your carport, but nicer and much more expensive.

**Louisiana Pizza Kitchen.** 2808 Esplanade. The sister to the Quarter place, but with more congenial wait people.

From Bayou St. John up Esplanade Avenue is the Faubourg Marigny, a gay ghetto just a jump from the Quarter. Escape here from the throngs of tourists.

**Restaurants:**

**Slam.** Esplanade. Thai food. Across from the Old U.S. Mint. Beautiful waiters in gauze.

**Praline Connection.** 542 Frenchmen. Really good soul food. Waiters wear cute hats.

**Cafe Istanbul.** 534 Frenchmen. Turkish food upstairs. Reggae/rave downstairs.

**Bars:**

**Phoenix.** 941 Elysian Fields. Bordering the Faubourg Marigny. Don't go 'til after 10. Upstairs is the Mens Room for raunchy leather goings on.

**Charlenes.** 940 Elysian Fields. Across from the Phoenix. The only lesbian bar in the Quarter area.

**Checkpoint Charles'.** 501 Esplanade. Another New Orleans laundromat with a liquor license and live music. *Not gay*, but a good mix of people. You can wash your socks while enjoying your beer and sandwich.

**Shopping:**

The Faubourg Marigny has great bric-a-brac shops. Especially noteworthy is the FM Bookstore at 600 Frenchmen, New Orleans best Gay, Lesbian and feminist bookstore.