

# IAFP 2026 Travel Tips

New Orleans, Louisiana • Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
Quick guide to booking, PDGs, key dates, and transportation



Purple + Gold theme

Plan workshops early

Don't miss PDGs

MSY → Convention Center

## Book Early

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- When to book:** As soon as you know your travel dates.
- Workshops:** Workshops occur 1–2 days before meeting events and require advance registration.
- Hotel rooms:** Use the IAFP hotel reservation platform for the best room-block pricing. Rooms can sell out quickly.
- Workshop info:** [foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/programs-and-activities/program/](https://foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/programs-and-activities/program/)
- Hotel info:** [foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/hotel-and-travel/hotel-information/](https://foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/hotel-and-travel/hotel-information/)

## PDGs = Your Networking Superpower

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- What is a PDG?:** Professional Development Groups focus on a specific commodity or issue in food safety.
- Why go?:** PDGs share technical updates, build ideas for future symposia and webinars, host short talks by early-career scientists, and create networking opportunities.
- Can I attend?:** Yes—attendees can walk into any PDG meeting and join the conversation. Join the group in your IAFP member profile.
- Important note:** Much of the content for the next annual meeting is generated through PDGs. There are often concurrent PDGs, and it is fine to move between meetings.
- Students:** Attend the Student PDG meeting and student lunch if possible—they are excellent for networking. Student lunch tickets must be purchased in advance.
- Learn more:** [foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/programs-and-activities/committee-meetings/](https://foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/programs-and-activities/committee-meetings/)

## Meeting at a Glance

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- Thu-Sat, July 23-25:** Workshops. Some travelers may need to arrive as early as Wednesday, July 22.
- Sat evening, July 25:** Welcome Reception—casual networking for early arrivals.
- Sun, July 26:** PDG and committee meetings begin at 8:30 AM and run all day. The Opening Session includes the Ivan Parkin Keynote Lecture plus recognition of student travel award winners and IAFP Fellows. The Cheese and Wine Reception in the exhibit hall follows and is open to all attendees.
- Sun-Tue, July 26-28:** Exhibit Hall open with vendors and demonstrations; receptions include beverages and appetizers.
- Mon-Wed, July 27-29:** Symposia, roundtables, technical sessions, and posters run throughout these days.
- Formats:** Symposia = 30-minute talks; Roundtables = expert discussions; Technical sessions = 15-minute research talks; Posters = one-on-one technical discussions.
- Lunch:** Provided to all attendees on the exhibit floor Monday–Wednesday (July 27–29).
- Wed, July 29:** Siliker Lecture in the afternoon; Awards Banquet in the evening concludes the meeting.

## Travel in New Orleans

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- Airport:** MSY — Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.
- Venue:** Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.
- Taxi:** \$36 flat rate for 1–2 passengers to most downtown areas, or \$15 per person for 3 or more.
- Rideshare:** Uber/Lyft usually takes 25–30 minutes and costs about \$25–\$50, though prices can rise with demand.
- Shuttle:** Shared-ride shuttles are budget-friendly but slower; usually around \$30–\$50 per person.
- Public transit:** RTA Line 202 bus from MSY to the Convention Center/Canal St. takes about 50 minutes and costs \$2 each way.
- Rental car:** Possible, but expect parking charges at the hotel or convention center.

Tip: Save this as your quick-reference travel sheet for IAFP 2026 in New Orleans.

Program: [foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/programs-and-activities/program/](https://foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/programs-and-activities/program/) • Hotels: [foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/hotel-and-travel/hotel-information/](https://foodprotection.org/annualmeeting/hotel-and-travel/hotel-information/)