**Bountiful Thanksgiving Journeys**

For people who love to travel Thanksgiving can be a feast, with celebrations from Boston to Seattle and places in between.

New York City is home to Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, a tradition since 1924. The procession, with its giant character balloons, floats, cheerleaders, clowns and marching bands, kicks off at 77th Street and Central Park West, then makes its way 2½ miles to the Macy’s on 34th Street, at Herald Square. But there’s so much more than the parade to see in New York at Thanksgiving. Manhattan’s festive holiday markets will be open for the season, department store windows should be all decked out and the high-kicking Rockettes will be in residence at the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.

To see where the observation of giving thanks all began, head to Plymouth Mass., about an hour south of Boston. The site of the first Thanksgiving is home to Plymouth Rock, where the Pilgrims landed, and Plimoth Plantation, a living-history museum that tells the story of the Pilgrims and their Native American neighbors, the Wampanoag tribe. Visitors can step aboard the Mayflower II, a reproduction of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to the New World in 1620. Plimoth Plantation also hosts popular Thanksgiving dinners on Turkey Day and the day after. Be sure to leave time for the sound and light show, and some holiday shopping, at Boston’s Faneuil Hall Marketplace.

In Chicago, the McDonald’s Thanksgiving Day parade takes center stage, with balloons, floats and marching bands traveling along a 1-mile route. The parade has been a tradition since 1934, when it was created to lift the spirits of Chicagoans suffering through the Great Depression. Also on Thanksgiving, the Turkey Day Run takes place in Lincoln Park, along Lake Michigan, with 5K and 8K races and a turkey tailgate zone with activities for the whole family. The city’s Christkindlmarket, inspired by Germany’s open-air Christmas markets, will be in full swing by Thanksgiving, with vendors selling European food and gift items.

Houston’s H-E-B Thanksgiving Day Parade is a 66-year holiday tradition, serving up a full menu of floats, balloons and marching bands that make their way along the downtown route. Travelers who want to take part in a different kind of procession can lace up their running shoes to join the TXU Energy Houston Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning. There are 5K and 10K races and a Kids Run for children 12 and under. Zoo Lights is another popular holiday tradition, when the Houston Zoo is transformed nightly with animal-themed light displays.

Seattle is full of activities during Thanksgiving weekend. On Thanksgiving morning there’s a 5K Turkey Trot that finishes at Golden Gardens Park, offering spectacular views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Friday morning, it’s time for the Macy’s Holiday Parade and on Saturday afternoon, Seattle’s Pike Place Market kicks off its celebration. The annual Festival of Trees, featuring beautifully decorated Christmas trees, each with its own theme, takes place at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel.

For help planning a Thanksgiving getaway, contact us.