



NEW ORLEANS



Also known as NOLA and the Big Easy, New Orleans is an iconic Southern U.S. city and the largest metropolis in Louisiana. Known for its round-the-clock nightlife, vibrant live-music scene and famous Mardi Gras festivities, New Orleans also has a rich and unique culture and history. It is the birthplace of jazz and home of many musical legends such as Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet. Add to this a gourmet cuisine and the charm of old Creole neighborhoods, and it is hard not to be seduced. As they say in Louisiana: "Laissez le bon temps rouler" ("let the good times roll")!

THE SMOKING TIME JAZZ CLUB BAND IN THE STREETS OF NEW ORLEANS

WHAT TO DO

FRENCH QUARTER (VIEUX CARRE) ★★★

The **French Quarter** is the historic heart of the city and the neighbourhood the most heavily frequented by tourists. You simply must explore this must-see historic district, famous for its ornate architecture, colourful buildings and wrought-iron balconies. Experience the colour and excitement of iconic **Bourbon Street**. Walk down **Royal Street**, one of the most beautiful streets in the French Quarter with its antique shops and art galleries, until you reach green **Jackson Square**. Venture inside the jazz clubs on **Frenchmen Street**. In front of soaring **St. Louis Cathedral**, street musicians entertain from morning to night. It won't take you long to discover the festive atmosphere for which the city is famous.

WWW.FRENCHQUARTER.COM



HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDE IN THE OLD FRENCH SQUARE

RIDE A STREETCAR!

Streetcars are a charming and convenient way to experience the many areas of New Orleans. Four different lines travel across the city. The famous **St. Charles Streetcar Line (Green Line)** leads to the Garden District, passing dozens of beautiful antebellum mansions. The **red Canal Street Line** starts at the west end of the French Quarter and ends at City Park Avenue. The **Riverfront Line** follows the Mississippi River and leads to the quaint shops of the French Market. And finally, the **Loyola/UPT Line** makes a loop between Loyola Avenue and Union Passenger Terminal. Streetcar fare is \$1.25.

www.neworleans.com/plan/transportation/streetcars

BEAUREGARD-KEYES HOUSE ET GARDEN MUSEUM ★

Beauregard-Keyes House is a historic residence located in the **French Quarter**. Built in **1826**, it is currently a museum focusing on some of the past residents of the house, most notably Confederate **General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard** and American author **Frances Parkinson Keyes**. Keyes purchased the property in the 1940s and restored it to its present state, spending winters there until her death in 1970. The house features portraits and souvenirs of Beauregard as well as the writing studio and collections of Keyes. The gardens are also worth a visit. 45-minute guided tours start on the hour.

WWW.BKHOUSE.ORG

GALLIER HOUSE ★

This Creole-American house, built in **1860**, is the former residence of **James Gallier Jr, a prominent New Orleans architect**. You will marvel at the Victorian furnishings and decor that reflect the opulence of the 19th-century upper class. Its owners clearly enjoyed a

comfortable lifestyle with the latest in household technology. Portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Gallier overlook the Rococo Revival double parlor while authentic toys and games can be seen in the children's bedroom. Reservations required.

HGGHH.ORG



BEAUREGARD-KEYES HOUSE



GALLIER HOUSE

PONTALBA BUILDING ★

The Pontalba buildings on **Jackson Square** in the **French Quarter** are often referred to as the **oldest apartment buildings in the U.S.** They combine the fascinating history and unique architecture of New Orleans. Built in 1850, the four-story red brick buildings contain apartments, **stores** and **restaurants**. **1850 House**, a museum in the Lower Pontalba building, displays furnishings and decorative objects and offers a glimpse of upper-middle-class life in the mid-19th century. WWW.UPPERPONTALBA.ORG

FRENCH MARKET ★

Occupying the same site since **1791**, the **historic French Market**

is a symbol of pride for the people of New Orleans. What started out as a Native American trading post on the banks of the Mississippi is now a cultural and commercial treasure. Today, the **oldest public market in the United States** also plays an important role in the local economy. Several **stores and restaurants** now occupy the renovated buildings, while there is still a large **open-air** market, as in the 19th century. WWW.FRENCHMARKET.ORG

JACKSON SQUARE ★★

Set in the heart of the **French Quarter**, **Jackson Square**, formerly known as Place d'Armes, is one of New Orleans' most recognizable landmarks.

This **historic park**, a National Historic Landmark since 1960, was named for **Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)**, 7th president of the United States and a general in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. An **equestrian statue** in his honour stands in the middle of the park. The heart of the city in the colonial era, the square is now surrounded by restaurants and stores and is very popular with street artists and vendors. WWW.NOLA.GOV/PARKS-AND-PARKWAYS/PARKS-SQUARES/JACKSON-SQUARE/

THE PRESBYTÈRE ★★

The Presbytère in **Jackson Square** was built in 1791 on the former site of the residence of the Capuchin monks. The

building was initially **used for commercial purposes** until 1834, when it became a **courthouse**. Today it houses a **museum** featuring two permanent exhibits: one on the **history of the colourful Mardi Gras celebration** and the other on **Hurricane Katrina**, with tales of rescue, rebuilding and renewal. WWW.LOUISIANASTATEMUSEUM.ORG/MUSEUM/PRESBYTERE

HURRICANE KATRINA

Hurricane Katrina, one of the most powerful hurricanes in American history, struck the Louisiana coast on **August 29, 2005**. When Katrina hit New Orleans' badly engineered levee system, it caused a terrible disaster, flooding 80% of the city. About **1,836 people lost their lives** during Katrina or in the floods that followed. The material damage has been estimated at more than **108 billion dollars**.



ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL, FROM JACKSON SQUARE

ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL ★

Next to the Presbytère stands the **St. Louis Cathedral**, also known as «Basilique Saint-Louis-Roi-de-France», which dominates **Jackson Square** with its **three towering steeples**. Inaugurated in 1851, it is the 3rd Roman Catholic church to stand on the site since 1718, and the second-oldest cathedral in continuous use in the United States. The exterior is truly impressive, but be sure to go inside to discover all its beauty. WWW.STLOUISCATHEDRAL.ORG

THE CABILDO ★★

The Cabildo in the **French Quarter's Jackson Square** stands next to St. Louis Cathedral and near the Presbytère. It was rebuilt under the Spanish colonial administration in the late 18th century after the Great New Orleans Fire. The Cabildo was the **site of the Louisiana Purchase transfer ceremonies in 1803**, which finalized the acquisition of the territory of Louisiana by the United States. Several important events have taken place here, from historic court cases to visits by international ambassadors. The building, which belongs to the **Louisiana State Museum**, now displays exhibits about the history of Louisiana. WWW.LOUISIANASTATEMUSEUM.ORG/MUSEUM/CABILDO

STEAMBOAT CRUISE ★

A steamboat cruise is certainly one of the **most typical experiences** you can enjoy in New Orleans. In addition to travelling back to the days when it was common to take a leisurely excursion on the peaceful waters of the **Mississippi River**, you will see the **most beautiful sights and views** of New Orleans from the decks of the steamboat. You can complete your experience with a **Cajun buffet lunch** to the sound of live jazz music. It is also possible to visit the boat's machine room. There are several cruise options to choose from.

Reservations are necessary.
WWW.STEAMBOATNATCHEZ.COM

ROYAL STREET ★★

This elegant street in the **French Quarter** is the ultimate **shopping destination**. It is inhabited by **family-owned antique shops** and **art galleries** on the ground floor of early 19th century houses, as well as plenty of good **restaurants**. Just a block away from the festivities of Bourbon Street, Royal Street is the perfect place to unwind or take a relaxing stroll. The section from **Canal Street to Esplanade Avenue** is the most frequented by tourists.



THE CABILDO

© WikiMedia, KimonBerlin



ROYAL STREET

© Wikicommons, MusiekAnimal



BOURBON STREET

NEW ORLEANS HISTORIC VODOO MUSEUM

This is a truly unique and interesting small museum. Wander through the **two dim rooms** filled with **offering-covered altars, relics, masks and other artifacts** related to the **world of voodoo**. The history of **voodoo** is closely entwined with that of New Orleans and Louisiana. **The arrival of black slaves** led to the emergence of new religious practices, some of which are still practiced today, complete with mysteries, folklore, ritual and voodoo dolls. The museum is run by a voodoo priest who sometimes offers readings. You may be lucky enough to meet his python!
WWW.VODOOMUSEUM.COM

BOURBON STREET

A visit to New Orleans wouldn't be complete without an evening visit to Bourbon Street. This **raucous street** is alive with **music and revelry** all year round, and especially around **Mardi Gras** in February. It's a **street of excess!** Largely quiet during the day, the street comes alive at night. Soak in the colours, lights, music, bars, strip clubs, street musicians, restaurants and souvenir shops. Stop for a drink, try on carnival masks, let your hair down and have fun!

PRESERVATION HALL

Preservation Hall was created in 1961 to protect, preserve and perpetuate the spirit of **traditional New Orleans jazz**. Located in the heart of the

French Quarter, the venue presents intimate, acoustic jazz concerts every night. Don't judge the quality of the musicians by the appearance of the building! The venue is tiny, but you're sure to have a memorable evening. There are usually 100 places available each night, only 40 of which are seated. **VIP seats** can be booked ahead of time: the price is higher, but you'll be guaranteed good seats and avoid the lineup. Visit the website, bookings required.

WWW.PRESERVATIONHALL.COM

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION ★★

This **museum, research centre** and **publisher** is dedicated to the preservation of the history

and culture of the region. Among other things, it provides free exhibitions at its **Royal Street** and **Chartres Street campuses**. The Royal Street campus houses the **Williams Gallery** temporary exhibits, the permanent installation, the **Louisiana History Galleries**, and the **Williams Residence museum**. The exhibits present the multicultural history of the region, the development of Louisiana, its different architectural styles, and more. 45-minute guided tours are available.

WWW.HNOC.ORG

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT ★

The **Warehouse District** is the center of artistic activity in New Orleans. The warehouses built near the banks of the Mississippi River in the early 19th century have been transformed into **studios, apartments and museums**. In addition to museum visits, be sure to take a stroll along **Julia Street**, which is home to a large number of contemporary art galleries. This urban neighborhood will delight art lovers.

CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL HALL MUSEUM ★

Confederate Memorial Hall Museum opened its doors in New Orleans in **1891** and has **been commemorating the military history and heritage of the South** for more than 120 years. It houses a magnificent collection of **paintings, photographs, uniforms** and other **American Civil War memorabilia**, such as personal items that belonged to Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis.
WWW.CONFEDERATEMUSEUM.COM

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM ★★

This military museum tells the story of **the American experience in World War II**. The museum's mission is to explain why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today, so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. You will learn about **military history** and about the **different operations** carried out by the Americans. There is also a large **exhibit of vintage aircraft**, tanks and personnel carriers.
WWW.NATIONALWW2MUSEUM.ORG

BLAINE KERN'S MARDI GRAS WORLD

If you don't visit New Orleans in February during the **world-famous Mardi Gras Carnival**, make a stop at Blaine Kern's museum. There you'll get a glimpse of the fever that fills the city streets during the festivities and learn about the creation of the lavish **parade floats** Blaine Kern has been **building since 1947**. There are guided tours regularly. Call and ask if there is a free shuttle from your hotel.
WWW.MARDIGRASWORLD.COM



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GARDEN DISTRICT ★★★

Take a stroll through the **Garden District**, an area less frequented by tourists, where you will discover beautiful **Victorian houses and their magnificent gardens**. These beautiful homes belonged to sugar and cotton plantation owners before the American Civil War.

MAGAZINE STREET ★★

Magazine Street is a busy thoroughfare that stretches for some 10 km. You will find many unique stores to buy locally crafted items as well as clothing

boutiques, specialty shops, art galleries, restaurants and cafés. It's a nice street to wander and do some shopping.

WWW.MAGAZINESTREET.COM

ST. CHARLES AVENUE ★★

St. Charles Avenue is a magnificent street lined with **old oak trees** and **grand antebellum mansions**. It is here, **between Canal Street and Carrolton Avenue**, that the famous **green streetcar** of the same name passes. Don't hesitate to hop aboard to explore this charming avenue.

AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE ★★


Audubon Nature Institute is a non-profit organization that operates several museums and parks dedicated to nature. The institute's mission includes exhibiting the diversity of wildlife, preserving native Louisiana habitats, educating the public about the natural world, conducting research, and entertaining its visitors. It operates a **zoo**, an **aquarium**, an **insectarium**, a theater, a centre for research of endangered species, a species survival centre, a nature centre and three parks.
www.audubonnatureinstitute.org

Audubon Zoo ★★ 

Discover life in the Louisiana bayou as well as **animals from around the globe**. With the many **activities** geared towards children, the kids are sure to love it! In addition to the animals, you can cool off at **Cool Zoo**, the zoo's splash park, take a **carousel ride** or climb aboard the **Swamp Train** for a scenic tour.

Audubon Park ★★

This former sugar cane plantation is now a **popular recreational area** that stretches from St. Charles Avenue to the Mississippi River. It features several **playgrounds**, **picnic shelters**, a 2-km jogging path, a lagoon, a **golf course**, **riding stables**, **tennis courts**, a **swimming pool** and majestic old oak trees.

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas ★★ 

Located at the end of Canal Street, next to the **French Quarter**, this aquarium transports visitors to an **underwater world**. It is home to more than 3,600 animals from more than 250 species. You will be amazed by the **400,000-gallon Gulf of Mexico exhibit**. Watch for sea turtles throughout the aquarium, many of which are preparing to be released into the wild. An **IMAX theater** with a curved screen shows interesting films.



GARDEN DISTRICT



TRAMWAY SUR ST-CHARLES AVENUE



AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE

NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK ★

This **1,300-acre** outdoor oasis has been enchanting New Orleans locals and visitors alike since 1854. Stroll through the world's largest stand of mature live oaks, which includes a grand oak that dates back **nearly 800 years!** It's the perfect place to go for a bike ride, do some jogging or enjoy a walk. The park houses the **New Orleans Museum of Art**, the **New Orleans Botanical Garden**, the **Besthoff Sculpture Garden**, several **tennis courts** and a **golf**

course. Kids love the **miniature train**, the **Storyland** playground and **Carousel Gardens Amusement Park** with its one-of-a-kind antique wooden carousel.

WWW.NEORLEANS-CITY-PARK.COM

NEW ORLEANS BOTANICAL GARDEN ★

The **City Park Rose Garden** opened its doors to the public in 1936. In the early 1980s, it was renamed the **New Orleans Botanical Garden**. **Twelve hectares** of gardens and art await you. The site showcases

the Art Deco work of three artists: architect **Richard Koch**, landscape architect **William Wiedorn** and sculptor **Enrique Alférez**. It contains more than **2,000 varieties of plants from across the globe**.

WWW.NEORLEANS-CITY-PARK.COM/BOTANICAL-GARDEN

NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART (NOMA) ★★

NOMA opened its doors in 1911. This museum is the oldest institution of fine art in New Orleans and houses an impressive **collection of**

about 40,000 pieces. While it is reputed for its **French and American art**, the collection also features **photography, glass and African and Japanese art**. The museum's treasures include a set of works by French Impressionist painter **Edgar Degas**, who visited New Orleans in the early 1870s, as well as paintings and sculptures by **Picasso, Braque, Dufy and Miro**. You can explore the collection online before your visit.

WWW.NOMA.ORG



NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK

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NEW ORLEANS BOTANICAL GARDEN

© Wiki Commons, Tony Webster



NEW ORLEANS MUSEUM OF ART

© iStock Photo, iStock



PUBLIC GARDEN

© iStock Photo, iStock

CAJUN CUISINE

Cajun cuisine is everywhere in New Orleans. Some traditional dishes are part of the experience here. Here are some dishes to try during your stay:

- **Gumbo:** an okra stew, often made with shrimp and seasoned with Cajun spices.
- **Jambalaya:** a quintessential spicy one-pot meat and rice dish
- **Louisiane crawfish:** the stars of the place.
- **Po' Boy:** traditional sandwich of meat served on New Orleans French bread, with an interesting back story. History has it that the po'boy was invented by the Martin brothers, Benny and Clovis, during a strike against the streetcar company in 1929 to feed the «poor boys» on the picket line.

CAJUN AND CREOLE

The first settlement in what is now New Orleans was **established in the 17th century** by **French explorers** seeking to develop a **trading post** and make their fortune with the help of the **French-Canadian coureurs des bois** and **trappers** who were already exploring the area and trading with the **Native Americans**. In the **18th century**, with the **arrival of the casket girls (filles à la cassette)**, young Frenchwomen brought to the colony to marry, the settlement quickly gained a reputation as a liberated and festive town. This period also marked the arrival of the **Acadians deported from the Canadian maritime provinces** by Britain during the **Grand Dérangement**. The Acadians became known as **Cajuns** (or Cadiens). During the **19th century**, thousands of **French Creole refugees** fled **Saint-Domingue (Haiti)** for New Orleans, doubling its population. Many began growing cotton. As they integrated into their new society, the Creoles added a touch of colour to the local culture.

THE BIRTH OF JAZZ

Jazz grew out of the unique cultural environment found in New Orleans in the late **19th and early 20th centuries**, and was mostly played by **Creole musicians**. This led to the appearance of **«spasm bands»**, made up of black musicians playing on homemade instruments, and **brass bands**. Jazz musicians quickly earned a good reputation and were invited to play in theaters and clubs. It would be unthinkable to leave New Orleans without spending an evening in one of the city's many **jazz clubs**. And you have plenty to choose from:

- **Preservation Hall** enjoys the best international reputation. preservationhall.com
- **Fritzel's** has a more European atmosphere with contemporary jazz. fritzelsjazz.com
- **The Spotted Cat** offers a festive experience. www.spottedcatmusicclub.com
- **Apple Barrel** welcomes excellent musicians every evening.
- **DBA** attracts local jazz lovers. www.dbaneworleans.com
- **The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival** is an annual celebration of the music and culture of New Orleans and Louisiana. www.nojazzfest.com



JAMBALYA, HUMM !

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DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS AT DAWN

© WikiCommons, djpaquin67



HEART OF THE JAZZ, FRENCHMEN STREET AT NIGHT

© WikiCommons, SnippyHollow



© Wikicommons, Nowheremans6

THE PRESBYTÈRE AND ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL

WHERE TO EAT

CAFÉ DU MONDE (\$)

The original Café du Monde opened in 1862. This iconic New Orleans coffee stand is the place to go for its popular beignets with a café au lait or a chocolate milk. A must! Beignets are square French-style doughnuts with a generous coating of powdered sugar. Today there are several Cafe Du Monde Coffee Stands in the New Orleans area. WWW.CAFEDUMONDE.COM

COCHON BUTCHER (\$\$)

Established in 2009 in the New Orleans Warehouse District, Butcher is a sandwich counter and wine bar next to Cochon restaurant that serves small plates and daily specials. It specializes in house-made meats, terrines and sausages, and also offers an array of house-made pickles, jellies, jams, mustards, and sauces. WWW.COCHONBUTCHER.COM

COCHON (\$\$\$)

This Cajun restaurant is housed in a renovated industrial building in the Warehouse District, next to Cochon Butcher. It is a trendy spot where you will find many young locals. The menu is essentially meat-based with turtle, alligator, pork and fish dishes prepared with traditional Cajan techniques and flavours. A real delight! WWW.COCHONRESTAURANT.COM

COMPÈRE LAPIN (\$\$\$)

Compère Lapin is in the Old No. 77 Hotel & Chandlery, a few blocks from the French Quarter. Chef Nina Compton brings the Caribbean flavours of her native St. Lucia to traditional New Orleans cuisine. Skillfully blended cocktails are also a highlight of this friendly restaurant. WWW.COMPERELAPIN.COM

THE COURT OF TWO SISTERS (\$\$\$)

This popular French Quarter restaurant offers a typical New Orleans dining experience. You will love its shady courtyard, its Cajun menu and its jazzy atmosphere. The restaurant is named for Emma and Bertha Camors, Creole sisters who ran a notions shop here in the late 1800s. Dare to try the turtle soup or the shrimp gumbo for a truly Cajun experience! WWW.COURTOFTWOSISTERS.COM

GW FINS (\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$)

This restaurant is one of the finest in New Orleans. Chef/owner Tenney Flynn has become known as one of the country's foremost seafood authorities. He crafts the perfect presentation to showcase the flavours and textures of each variety of fish. You will enjoy an unparalleled dining

experience culinary experience in a contemporary space that is at once relaxed and exhilarating. The wine list is also excellent. Reservations recommended. WWW.GWFINS.COM

COMMANDER'S PALACE (\$\$\$\$)

Located in the Garden District, the Commander's Palace has been a New Orleans landmark since 1893. Known for the award-winning quality of its food and its convivial atmosphere, this is the go-to destination for Haute Creole cuisine. The winner of several awards, Commander's Palace has evolved into a culinary legend. Dress code required. WWW.COMMANDERSPALACE.COM