

# Explore New Orleans

This document is a list of fun, cultural, and educational opportunities in our exciting city. We hope you will take advantage of your time to experience what is unique about New Orleans and the South. Please check with each facility for more information as you are making plans.

## Must See/Do

### **Ride the streetcar**

<http://www.norta.com/>

The St. Charles line, Canal Street line and the Riverfront line are all running.

### **Eat a snowball**

Snowball stands are everywhere, and you'll be glad to experience one in the heat of a New Orleans summer. The best are Plum Street in uptown and Hansen's on Tchopitoulas.

### **Visit the French Quarter**

The Quarter has shops ranging from elegant art galleries to the Jimmy Buffett Margaritaville store, the French Market and, of course Jackson Square and Café du Monde or Café Beignet for beignets and café au lait.

### **See the city**

Tour both devastated and vibrant areas of New Orleans. The areas near the river were not badly damaged, and much of the city has recovered at least superficially, but the lower 9<sup>th</sup> ward still has homes untouched since Hurricane Katrina. Take special note of the "Make it Right Homes" by Brad Pitt. Everything from the materials to the design is "green". The vitality of the parts of the city that are up and running give us hope for the future, but we can't forget about the areas that still need our help.

## Parks and Museums

### **Mardi Gras Museum**

<http://www.mardigrasworld.com/>

(800) 362-8213 OR (504) 361-7821

An inside look at Mardi Gras in any season and a ferry ride away from the French Quarter. A word of caution: NEVER wear Mardi Gras beads out of season. It is an obvious sign of being a tourist and therefore makes you an easy target for purse-snatching/pick pocketing etc.

### **Ogden Museum of Southern Art**

<http://www.ogdenmuseum.org/>

(504) 539-9600

Art on display and special events celebrate the culture of the South and New Orleans. Affiliated with the Smithsonian and the University of New Orleans.

### **The Audubon Nature Institute**

<http://www.auduboninstitute.org/>

Maintains parks, museums, and research institutes. The following are currently open to visitors:

Audubon Zoo, (504) 581-4629 OR 1-800-774-7394

Aquarium of the Americas, (504) 581-4629 OR 1-800-774-7394

Entergy IMAX Theatre, (504) 581-IMAX (504-581-4629)

*Hurricane on the Bayou* is an IMAX film which explores the impact of disappearing wetlands on the future of New Orleans. It began shooting before hurricane Katrina hit, so it was able to capture before and after images. The film also touches on Louisiana culture.

### **The National World War II Museum** (aka the D-Day Museum)

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/>

(504) 527-6012

The country's official World War II museum. A world-class museum and a great experience.

## **Tours**

### **Swamp tours**

Slidell

<http://www.honeyislandswamp.com>

West Bank

<http://www.jeanlafitteswamptour.com>

<http://www.louisianaswamp.com>

<http://www.westwegoswampadventures.com/>

### **Cemetery tours**

<http://www.saveourcemetaries.org/>

See our distinctive above-ground cemeteries.

Be especially CAREFUL here. Criminals have found out this is a good place to target tourists. Always go as part of an organized tour and stay with the group.

### **Self-guided French Quarter tour**

<http://www.neworleanscvb.com/docs/walktour.pdf>

From the New Orleans Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

### **Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve**

<http://www.nps.gov/jela/>

Park headquarters (504) 589-3882 ext. 100

The French Quarter Visitor Center offers free walking tours of the Quarter (limited space—first come, first serve). For outdoor activities in a Louisiana wetland, visit the Barataria Preserve in Marrero. For talks and tours at the site of the War of 1812's Battle of New Orleans, visit Chalmette Battlefield in St. Bernard Parish. Each location's visitor center has educational exhibits. Check the web site for more information and an online schedule of tours and other events.

### **Other**

There are tours by boat, horse-and-carriage, bus, and foot. Destinations and themes include the general city, specific neighborhoods, voodoo, ghosts, haunted houses, vampires, history, plantations, food, and ecology. We can't even try to list them all here but the New Orleans Conventions and visitor's bureau has more information on their website [www.neworleanscvb.com](http://www.neworleanscvb.com).

## **Local culture**

### **Jazz Preservation Hall**

<http://www.preservationhall.com/>

1-888-946-JAZZ

Devoted to preserving the traditional musical style of New Orleans Jazz.

### **WWOZ FM**

<http://www.wwoz.org/>

New Orleans' jazz and heritage station. Listen online, read cultural news, and find out where to hear live, local music.

Other topics that may be of interest include southern literature, plantations (some still have intact slave quarters), festivals, coastal restoration, and local industry. The New Orleans CVB has more information on these topics at [www.neworleanscvb.com](http://www.neworleanscvb.com)

## **New Orleans Web Sites**

**<http://neworleansonline.com/>**

Learn about New Orleans history and culture ("Things to see and do") and the unique characteristics of our different neighborhoods ("Travel tools"). This website has information on local events all year round. But don't rely on their maps!

**<http://www.neworleanscvb.com/>**

New Orleans Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Great information for visitors. Calendar of events lists special exhibits and more.

**<http://www.nola.com/>**

New Orleans newspaper, *The Times-Picayune*.

Within the site:

- <http://www.nola.com/visitor/>  
Lots of great, up-to-date information for visitors.
- <http://www.nola.com/katrina/>  
Information and personal stories about hurricane Katrina.
- <http://www.nola.com/katrina/graphics/flashflood.swf>  
Flash animation that shows how the city flooded during and after Katrina.
- <http://www.nola.com/speced/lastchance/multimedia/flashlandloss1.swf>  
Narrated flash animation that shows how southeast Louisiana formed over 7000 years and how the land has disappeared since the 1930's.

**<http://www.wdsu.com/>**

New Orleans Channel 6 TV news.

**<http://www.wwltv.com/>**

New Orleans Channel 4 TV news.

**<http://www.nolevee.com/>**

News satire site.