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SOUTHERN CHARM & COASTAL VIBES

# *Greetings from* NEW ORLEANS

48 hours, solo, at your own pace

POCKET EDITION · 2027

48-HOUR GUIDE · SAFETY GUIDE · PLANNING CALENDAR

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# Welcome to New Orleans

New Orleans is the most individual city in America, and it welcomes individuals. It runs on brass bands, small restaurants, corner bars, and a rhythm all its own. You do not need to plan much; the city has a way of finding you.

Traveling solo here works because the city is a public one. Music spills onto the street, and bar stools and counter seats are everywhere. A single traveler can wander into a jazz club, a po-boy shop, or a second line and be welcomed in.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Read through once before you go. Day One covers the French Quarter, Jackson Square, and Frenchmen Street at night. Day Two covers the Garden District, the streetcar, and the Marigny. Section 03 is the new-for-2027 guide to the Sazerac and the city's cocktails. The summer heat and humidity are strong, so plan for mornings and evenings.

## ESSENTIAL QUICK FACTS

**CURRENCY**
US dollar (cards accepted nearly everywhere)

**TRANSIT**
RTA streetcar and bus · about $1.25 a ride

**TIME ZONE**
Central (UTC–6; UTC–5 in summer)

**EMERGENCY**
911 · non-emergency 311

**TIPPING**
18–20% in restaurants

**OPEN CONTAINERS**
Allowed in a plastic cup in the French Quarter

01 DAY ONE

# French Quarter · Jackson Square · Frenchmen Street

The first day centers on the French Quarter, with beignets, riverfront views, and a night of live music.

## MORNING · 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

8:00 AM

### Café du Monde

Beignets and café au lait since 1862, open nearly all hours. Go early to beat the line, and wear dark colors to hide the powdered sugar.

*The cash-only tradition may have changed; check before you go.*

9:30 AM

### Jackson Square & St. Louis Cathedral

The heart of the Quarter, with street artists, musicians, and the historic cathedral on the square.

*Walk the Moon Walk on the river after.*

12:00 PM

### Lunch — a po-boy

A crusty-bread sandwich with fried shrimp, oysters, or roast beef. Many shops have counter seating.

*Order it "dressed" for lettuce, tomato, pickles, and mayo.*

## AFTERNOON · 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

2:00 PM

### The National WWII Museum

A major museum of the war, with immersive exhibits and personal stories. Plan at least two hours.

*Buy tickets in advance for a smoother entry.*

4:30 PM

### Riverfront Streetcar

Ride the red streetcar along the river for a slow look at the city.

*Check current fares and routes before you ride.*

## EVENING · 7:00 PM

7:00 PM

### Frenchmen Street

A few blocks of live music clubs in the Marigny, with many shows that have small or no covers. Walk the street and pick a doorway.

*Tip the band when the tip jar passes.*

*Stay for one more song. In New Orleans, the best nights come from lingering.*

02 DAY TWO

# Garden District · Magazine Street · Marigny

The second day moves uptown, with live oaks and old mansions, then back for another night of music.

## MORNING · 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

9:00 AM

### St. Charles Streetcar

One of the oldest continuously operating streetcar lines in the world. Ride it uptown beneath the oaks.

*Hold on tight; the ride is bumpy.*

10:30 AM

### Garden District Walk

Stroll the old mansions, iron fences, and gardens. Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 is nearby; check current visiting rules.

*Go in the morning before the heat.*

12:30 PM

### Lunch on Magazine Street

A six-mile street of shops and restaurants. Try a muffuletta or a plate of red beans.

*Many places serve lunch at the counter.*

## AFTERNOON · 2:30 PM – 6:00 PM

2:30 PM

### New Orleans Museum of Art

The museum sits in City Park, beside the Besthoff Sculpture Garden and a stand of old oaks.

*The sculpture garden is free; check current hours.*

4:30 PM

### Bywater & Marigny

Walk the colorful cottages and murals, with cafés and bars along the way.

*Take the Rampart streetcar or a rideshare.*

## EVENING · 7:30 PM

7:30 PM

### Dinner and a Cocktail

Finish with a Sazerac at a classic cocktail bar and a plate of New Orleans cooking.

*Sit at the bar; it is the easiest solo seat.*

03 COCKTAILS

# The Sazerac and the Cocktail Capital

### DID YOU KNOW?

*Did you know that New Orleans claims to be the birthplace of the cocktail?*

The Sazerac, made with rye whiskey, sugar, Peychaud's bitters, and an absinthe rinse, was named the city's official cocktail and later the state's. It began as a cognac drink and shifted to rye around 1870. Whether it is the first American cocktail is disputed, but its New Orleans pedigree is clear.

### HOW IT WORKS

The glass is rinsed with absinthe or Herbsaint, then filled with rye, sugar, and bitters, and finished with a lemon twist. It is served without ice.

### HOW TO DO IT RIGHT

Order it at a bar in the Quarter or the Central Business District. Ask the bartender about the house version. Try a Ramos Gin Fizz or a Vieux Carré next.

### BEST TIME TO GO

Evenings, when the bars fill and the heat eases. Drink water between rounds.

04 WHERE TO EAT

# New Orleans's table — po-boys, beignets and gumbo

New Orleans eats better than most cities, and most of it is easy to enjoy alone. Counters, bars, and shared tables are everywhere.

## BREAKFAST & LUNCH

### Café du Monde
FRENCH QUARTER · $

Beignets and café au lait since 1862.

### Po-boy shops
VARIOUS · $

Fried shrimp or roast beef on crusty bread.

### Central Grocery
FRENCH QUARTER · $

Home of the muffuletta, a round Italian sandwich.

### Magazine Street cafés
UPTOWN · $$

Counters and cafés along a long street.

## DINNER & LATE

### Classic Creole restaurants
FRENCH QUARTER · $$$

Gumbo, étouffée, and turtle soup.

### Bywater restaurants
BYWATER · $$

Casual spots with a local feel.

### Frenchmen Street bars
MARIGNY · $$

Small plates and drinks with live music.

### Late-night counters
VARIOUS · $

Open late for hungry musicians and visitors.

05 GETTING AROUND

# Getting around New Orleans

The French Quarter is walkable. Streetcars and buses cover the rest. Rideshare helps at night.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Streetcar** | about $1.25 | The St. Charles line is the classic ride. Check current fares. |
| **Louis Armstrong Airport** | MSY | Rideshare or shuttle to downtown takes about 25 minutes. |
| **Bus** | about $1.25 | RTA buses cover areas the streetcar does not. |
| **Rideshare** | varies | Useful at night and in the heat. |
| **Walking** | free | The Quarter is flat and compact. |

Walk the Quarter, ride the streetcar uptown, and use rideshare late at night.

06 BACKUP PLANS

# When it rains in New Orleans

Summer thunderstorms pass quickly, and the city has plenty of indoor shelter.

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT
**National WWII Museum**
Hours of exhibits and a movie.

FRENCH QUARTER
**Cabildo & Presbytère**
State museums on Jackson Square.

CITY PARK
**New Orleans Museum of Art**
A fine art museum in the park.

FRENCH QUARTER
**Preservation Hall**
A small jazz hall with short shows.

FRENCH QUARTER
**Historic New Orleans Collection**
History and art in the Quarter.

MARIGNY
**Live music clubs**
Dry and loud in the best way.

07 NEIGHBORHOODS

# Know your neighborhoods

THE QUARTER
### French Quarter
Balconies, jazz, and the oldest part of the city.

LIVE MUSIC
### Marigny
Frenchmen Street and colorful cottages.

MANSIONS
### Garden District
Live oaks and grand homes.

SHOPS & CAFÉS
### Magazine Street
A long street of boutiques and restaurants.

LOCAL ART
### Bywater
Murals, small cafés, and riverfront views.

CITY PARK
### Mid-City
A giant park with a museum and oaks.

08 GOOD TO KNOW

# What nobody tells you

- Heat and humidity are strong from May to September. Plan for mornings and evenings.
- Open containers are allowed in a plastic cup in the French Quarter. Do not bring glass.
- Bourbon Street is crowded and loud. Frenchmen Street has better music.
- Tip the band when the tip jar passes. Carry some small bills.
- Use rideshare after dark outside the Quarter.
- Tip 18–20% in restaurants. Sales tax is added at the register.

## WHEN TO GO

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Feb–Apr** | Best overall | Mild weather, Mardi Gras, and festival season. |
| **May–Sep** | Hot season | Heat and humidity, with afternoon storms; lower prices. |
| **Oct–Nov** | Second best | Cooler, drier, and full of events. |
| **Dec–Jan** | Off-season | Mild and festive. |

09 SOLO TRAVELER SAFETY

# Is New Orleans safe?

Safe in the main tourist areas with big-city awareness. Stay in busy, well-lit areas at night. Petty theft and street crime are risks, especially away from the Quarter and the Marigny after dark.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY AT A GLANCE

| | |
|---|---|
| **French Quarter (daytime)** | ●●●●○ |
| **Garden District** | ●●●●○ |
| **Marigny & Frenchmen Street** | ●●●●○ |
| **Magazine Street** | ●●●●○ |
| **French Quarter at night** | ●●●○○ |
| **Areas outside the tourist core at night** | ●●○○○ |

## COMMON SCAMS

Street hustlers may bet they can guess where you got your shoes. Decline politely and keep walking. Be careful with drinks and with strangers offering to carry bags.

## HEALTH & MEDICAL

For emergencies call 911. Heat is a real concern: drink water and rest in shade. Avoid drinking too much in the sun.

## SOLO TRAVELERS

Share your plans with someone back home, keep your phone charged, and use a rideshare after midnight. Stay on busy streets.

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Police, fire & ambulance** | 911 |
| **Non-emergency (city)** | 311 |
| **NOPD non-emergency** | 504-821-2222 |
| **Poison control** | 1-800-222-1222 |

10 PLANNING CALENDAR

# New Orleans, month by month

A year-round look at the events that shape the city. Exact dates shift annually.

**JAN–FEB** CARNIVAL SEASON

- Parades roll through the city and crowds grow toward Mardi Gras.

**FEB–MAR** MARDI GRAS

- The biggest party in the city, with parades, costumes, and king cake.

**APR–MAY** JAZZ FEST

- Two weekends of music, food, and crowds at the Fair Grounds.

**JUN–AUG** SUMMER

- Hot and humid; lower prices and fewer crowds.

**OCT** HALLOWEEN

- Costumes, ghost tours, and festivals.

**DEC** HOLIDAYS

- Bonfires, lights, and Réveillon dinners.

# MSY

*Every Stop, Mapped*

Scan the code to open the free interactive New Orleans map — every stop in this guide, filterable by day, food, and transport.

goingsolo.life/maps/new-orleans

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