



New Orleans Quick Start Guide

note: we are not sure who put this together so unable to credit it but it is very helpful

Basics:

New Orleans is defined by the shape of the Mississippi River, hence the name “Crescent City”. People don’t use compass directions, but rather up river/down river; riverside/lakeside

It is fine to walk around with alcoholic beverages as long as they are in plastic cups, referred to as “go cups”. Every establishment serving drinks will provide them on request. You can also order drinks to go.

The St. Charles streetcar is the oldest continuously operating streetcar in the world. There are also streetcars on Canal St. and along the river between the US Mint and the Convention Center.

The median in the middle of a boulevard is referred to as “neutral ground”

Food to try: Po Boys (sub-like sandwiches), anything with crawfish, gumbo, red beans & rice (traditionally on Monday), fresh seafood, muffuletta sandwiches (Italian cold cuts & olive salad), jambalaya (creole rice w/vegetables & meat). Sorry vegetarians, not a lot of options.

WWOZ 90.7 FM is a community supported radio station featuring local music and programming. Each hour they have “Livewire” which tells you who is playing live in the city. You can stream the station live at <http://www.wwoz.org/>

Music: it’s everywhere! WWOZ is usually a great place to listen. Also, using “New Orleans” as a search term on Spotify and Pandora will pull up a bunch of cool playlists and stations.

Useful Websites:

<http://www.bestofneworleans.com/> news and entertainment Gambit Weekly

<https://www.offbeat.com/> music Published monthly

www.nola.com local news

<http://www.wheremat.com/> dining, music, entertainment

<http://nola.eater.com/> Eater New Orleans- up to date restaurant information

Neighborhoods/Highlights (downriver to upriver):

Bywater/Ninth Ward- downriver from the Marigny. Lots of new interesting places.

- Bacchanal- <http://www.bacchanalwine.com/#about-marquee> wine store, restaurant, bar. Beautiful outdoor courtyard. Nice place to hang in the afternoon.
- Café Henri- <http://henri.cafe/> Lots of positive buzz about this place.
- The Country Club <http://www.thecountryclubneworleans.com/> restaurant and bar with a saltwater pool
- House of Dance and Feathers <http://houseofdanceandfeathers.org/> in the lower Ninth Ward across the canal. Dedicated to Mardi Gras Indians, Bone Gangs, etc.

Faubourg Marigny- (also just called “Marigny”) Known for the 3 block stretch of Frenchman Street where locals as well as tourists go for music, food, and drink. Defined by Franklin (down river) Esplanade (up river) Rampart/St. Claude (lakeside) and the river.

- The Spotted Cat <http://www.spottedcatmusicclub.com/> cool little hole in the wall focusing on traditional jazz.
- Praline Connection <http://www.pralineconnection.com/> soul food, been around ~20 years
- Dat Dog <http://www.datdognola.com/> highly recommended. They even have vegetarian/vegan choices and tasty cocktails so I’m told.
- Adolfo’s 611 Frenchman St. no website, cash only. Creole Italian (there is lots of good Italian food in NOLA). Esther and I had a wonderful meal there in 2000 and we enjoyed it again in 2016. Get the ocean sauce on your seafood dish.
- Café Rose Nicaud <http://www.caferosenicaud.com/> Nice coffee and breakfast spot on Frenchman Street.
- Horn’s <http://www.hornsnola.com/> Neighborhood family restaurant bar. Nice people, good food and drinks. Primarily breakfast and lunch but they serve dinner on weekends.
- Snug Harbor <http://www.snugjazz.com/> as they say, New Orleans’ premier jazz club
- Louisiana Music Factory <http://www.louisianamusicfactory.com/> excellent record store. They also have live in store performances. Formerly located in the French Quarter
- St. Roch Market <http://www.strochmarket.com/> Pronounced St. “Rock”. Technically in the St. Roch neighborhood but adjacent to the Marigny. Upscale food court in a beautifully restored historic building. Enjoyed oysters and cocktails there.

French Quarter- the most visited part of town, but also where a lot of people live. Defined by Esplanade (down river) Canal St. (up river) Rampart St. (lakeside) and the river. Abundant restaurants, bars, shopping, and culture. Excellent street musicians everywhere. The world renowned Bourbon Street has ~6 blocks of 24 hour party out of bounds places that are worth seeing once. Royal Street is full of interesting shops. So many other places to go in The Quarter, though, and here are a few:

- Café du Monde- <http://www.cafedumonde.com/> classic chicory coffee, café au lait, and beignets directly across from Jackson Square. You have to do it at least once.

- New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park <https://www.nps.gov/jazz/index.htm> Yes, there's a National Park in the Quarter. The visitors' center is a few steps from Café du Monde and the rangers are very helpful.
- French Market <http://www.frenchmarket.org/> Can't miss it. 6 blocks of shopping, food, drinks, etc. J's Seafood Dock is a great oyster bar and the Organic Banana next to it serves real fruit daiquiris.
- Central Grocery <http://www.centralgrocerynola.com/> the original muffuletta. Taking a muffuletta and cold drink across the street to enjoy on a bench by the river is a unique (and delicious) New Orleans experience.
- Napoleon House <http://www.napoleonhouse.com/> Creole food in a 200 year old building. Famous for serving Pimm's Cup cocktails.
- Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop <http://www.lafittesblacksmithshop.com/> on the quieter end of Bourbon Street. Purportedly the oldest bar in the US.
- Coop's Place <http://www.coopsplace.net/> dive bar famous for jambalaya.
- Cane and Table <http://caneandtablenola.com/> next door to Coop's. Craft cocktails and Caribbean inspired cuisine. Great happy hour 3-6.
- Erin Rose <http://www.erinrosebar.com/> Irish dive bar frequented by service workers. Killer Po Boys in the back take the po boy sandwich to new places (good). They also have frozen Irish Coffee.
- Nine Roses <http://ninerosesrestaurant.com/french-quarter/> highly recommended Vietnamese food. Turns out the banh mi sandwich is closely related to the New Orleans po boy.
- Carousel Bar <http://hotelmonteleone.com/entertainment/carousel-bar/> in the Monteleone Hotel. Unique bar that revolves around the bartenders. Home of the Vieux Carre' cocktail.

Central Business District (CBD)- Canal St. (downriver) Julia St. (upriver) St. Charles (lakeside), river. Shops, restaurants, bars, and public art.

- Bon Ton Café <http://www.thebontoncafe.com/> old school Cajun focusing on seafood. Some of the best bread pudding ever. And they have a proprietary house cocktail, the Rum Ramsey.
- Domenica <http://www.domenicarestaurant.com/> wood fired Italian trattoria in the Roosevelt Hotel. House made salumi. Outstanding.
- Majoria's Commerce Restaurant <http://commercereast.com/> essentially a diner. Esther and I had a great breakfast but it looked like they had a good lunch menu with lots of Po Boys.

Warehouse/Arts District- Julia St. (downriver), US 90/Bridge (upriver), St. Charles (lakeside), river. Art galleries, museums, restaurants, bars.

- Ogden Museum of Southern Art <http://ogdenmuseum.org/> Nice collection and special exhibits.
- National WWII Museum <http://www.nationalww2museum.org/> #1 thing to do on Trip Advisor. Need ½ day, but worth a visit. The American Sector Restaurant is supposed to be decent as well.
- Emeril's- <http://emerilsrestaurants.com/emeryls-new-orleans> it's been a while since I've dined there but it was always great. Recent reviews indicate it still is.
- Cochon and Cochon Butcher <http://www.cochonrestaurant.com/> Donald Link's pork-centric modern Southern/Cajun food. Delicious. The muffuletta at Cochon Butcher is the new benchmark for the classic New Orleans sandwich (sorry Central Grocery)
- Peche <http://www.pecherestaurant.com/> Donald Link's seafood restaurant. Fantastic, everything great.

Lower Garden District/Garden District/Uptown- US 90/Bridge (downriver), Carrollton (upriver), St. Charles (lakeside), Tchoupitoulas St. (riverside) - beautiful homes, shopping/restaurants/ bars on Magazine St.

- Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World <http://www.mardigrasworld.com/> - just past the bridge. This is where Mardi Gras floats are stored and worked on. Fun place to go.
- St. Charles Streetcar- goes uptown past beautiful homes

- Pontchartrain Hotel <http://thepontchartrainhotel.com/> Beautifully renovated 1920's era hotel. The rooftop Hot Tin bar has a spectacular view of the city and the river. The drinks are good, too.
- Columns Hotel <http://www.thecolumns.com/> in the Garden District on the streetcar line. Beautiful old bar and nice veranda for enjoying a drink. Live music sometimes.
- Magazine Street <https://www.magazinestreet.com/> shops, restaurants, bars
- Commanders Palace <http://www.commanderspalace.com/> one of the classic fine dining joints
- Lafayette Cemetery #1 <https://sites.google.com/site/lcrpnola/> across the street from Commanders. New Orleans cemeteries are above ground and visually fascinating.
- Pascal's Manale <http://pascalsmanale.com/> on Napoleon just off St. Charles. Old school Creole Italian with a nice oyster bar. Famed for delicious, buttery barbeque shrimp. Bib required.
- Shaya <http://www.shayarestaurant.com/#about> one of the hottest new restaurants in town. Modern Israeli cuisine. The best meal we had on our last trip.
- Audubon Zoo <http://audubonnatureinstitute.org/zoo> one of the best
- Camelia Grill <https://www.yelp.com/biz/the-camellia-grill-new-orleans> diner on Carrollton near St. Charles. Waiters with bowties serve classic diner fare. Red beans and rice on Monday.

Obviously, this is only scratching the surface of all the wonderful things to experience in New Orleans. Laissez les bon temps rouler!

