



NEW ORLEANS PRE-MARDI GRAS TRIP – DETAILED ITINERARY



Day 1, Monday, February 5, 2024

After landing at New Orleans International Airport, transfer to the hotel, the Hampton Inn Downtown in the French Quarter area where you will store your luggage until check-in time. (Airport transfer not included). After lunch on your own at the nearby Food Court, we will explore the French Quarter. Marvel at the historic buildings with their cast iron balconies, colorfully decorated for the upcoming Mardi Gras celebration. There is so much to see and do in this area such as eating beignets, listening to great jazz music, and being entertained by talented street performers. Return to our hotel for check-in, where you will stay for four nights. Next, we depart for a tour of The Sazerac House where you will discover the legacy and lore of New Orleans' favorite drinks. Explore thoughtful exhibits in a beautiful setting with opportunities to talk with experts, enjoy complimentary samples and experience the customs, traditions and spirits of this lively city. Then join us for a welcome dinner at a favorite local restaurant where you will have a chance to get to know your fellow passengers.

Meals: Dinner

Day 2: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

After a full hot and cold breakfast, enjoy an informative and fascinating professionally guided tour of New Orleans where you will learn about the past and present of what makes this unique city a real treasure. After an included lunch at a popular local restaurant, we visit the official World War II Museum of the United States, one of the top-rated attractions in New Orleans. The museum sits on a six-acre campus with five soaring pavilions that feature immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences and an expansive collection of artifacts, taking visitors inside the story of the war that changed the world. You'll conclude your visit by watching a jaw-dropping 4-D experience on their 120 feet wide screen beginning with a pre-show narrated by Tom Hanks. The evening is free to explore this vibrant city on your own with its world-renowned Bourbon Street, the 13-block stretch which embodies the essence of New Orleans with its neon lights, jazz bars and party atmosphere.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

After a full hot and cold breakfast, you will have the opportunity to stroll through the French Market. Since 1791, the French Market has remained an enduring symbol of pride and progress for the people of New Orleans, filled with traditional eateries and authentic souvenirs. In over 200 years of existence, the Market has been built, destroyed, and rebuilt many times over, but what remains unchanged is the Market's central spirit of commerce, community, and culture that is irresistible to visitors around the world. Then embark on a relaxing sail on the Mississippi River. Glide down the river on a historic riverboat while listening to an informative commentary. Then visit the New Orleans Jazz Museum which celebrates the history of jazz in all its forms through dynamic interactive exhibits and engaging musical performances. Conclude the evening with the opportunity to view 2 festive Mardi Gras parades in Uptown New Orleans – the Krewe of Dreids and the Krewe of Nyx.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4: Thursday, February 8, 2024

After a full hot and cold breakfast, depart for Mardi Gras Museum of Costumes & Culture. The show and exhibits walk you through the history of Mardi Gras. You'll have a chance to dress up in their traditional Mardi Gras costumes from their costume closet and take plenty of photos. Then, proceed to the New Orleans School of Cooking. Watch, learn & eat! Sit back and enjoy watching their skilled, entertaining chefs prepare a classic Cajun / Creole meal for you while learning about the vibrant history of New Orleans cuisine. Then enjoy an authentic New Orleans meal. Take home a recipe card so you can try out the dishes at home. In the evening, get ready for more excitement as you have the opportunity to view 3 more festive Mardi Gras parades in Uptown New Orleans – the Knights of Babylon, the Knights

or Chaos and the Krewe of Muses, all 3 parade routes passing through just a few blocks from our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Late Lunch/Early Dinner

DAY 5: Friday, February 9, 2024

After a full hot and cold breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for the airport for your return flight home, taking with you all the fun memories of the *Birthplace of Jazz!* (Airport transfer not included).

Meals: Breakfast

NOTE: The order of the itinerary may be changed due to weather, traffic or conditions beyond our control. Parade schedule subject to change without notice.