

# NEW ORLEANS

**Known as the Crescent City thanks to its layout around the Mississippi River, New Orleans is a city like no other in the world.**

**F**ounded in 1718 by the French explorer Bienville, New Orleans has evolved into one of the most unique cities in the world. A mix of European, African, Caribbean and American influences, the Big Easy has its own special atmosphere. Everything from the music to the architecture to the food is a delight to the senses.

When most people think of New Orleans, the first thing that comes to mind is the world famous French Quarter, known to the natives as the Vieux Carre (the old square). An amalgamation of stunning French and Spanish architecture, the Quarter is a natural gathering place for residents and visitors alike. And with a wide variety of restaurants, shops and entertainment, anyone who doesn't enjoy a trip to the Vieux Carre simply isn't trying.



*New Orleans' streetcars are the nation's only mobile National Historic Landmark.*

Just to the west of the French Quarter is the historic Garden District. The location of a beautiful array of mansion homes, the Garden District is also the site of Tulane University.

Of course, no discussion about New Orleans would be complete without mentioning Mardi Gras. Perhaps the world's largest free party, Mardi Gras is a celebration stretching for weeks from the French Quarter to the Garden District to Uptown - all over New Orleans. The young and the young-at-heart enjoy the beautiful floats and costumes, the beads, doubloons and trinkets that make up the revelry that culminates with "Fat Tuesday."

And if you're not done celebrating when Mardi Gras comes to a close, simply wait a few weeks and begin the party anew with the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival - known in short as JazzFest. A two-week collection of the world's finest musicians, JazzFest highlights the city's musical roots, showcasing jazz, blues and Zydeco in addition to classical and popular music.

Speaking of music, the Big Easy is widely recognized as the birthplace of jazz, though the city's influence can be felt in the blues, soul, funk and even good ole-fashioned rock and roll. A wide variety of national and international musical acts regularly pass through New Orleans, though the city's local musicians often steal the show.

New Orleans is also famous for its food, as many of the nation's finest chefs call the Crescent City home. Creole dishes such as gumbo, jambalaya and crawfish etouffe complement po-boys, red beans & rice and other traditional New Orleans fare.

Ranked as the second-best travel destination in the U.S. by Conde Nast *Traveler's* magazine, New Orleans is second-to-none in the hearts of its residents. Streetcars that run along St. Charles Avenue are the nation's only mobile National Historic Landmark, while City Park is the country's largest municipal park. Nowhere else can you eat beignets at Cafe du Monde, board a bus marked "Cemetery" and not worry about your destination.



Another interesting aspect of New Orleans is the sports scene that features a pair of major league franchises (the NFL's Saints and the NBA's Hornets) as well as a plethora of collegiate activities. The city plays host to more major sporting events than perhaps any other city in the world. The NFL has played nine Super Bowls in New Orleans (including three on the Tulane campus), with the most recent coming in 2002. The Superdome is the site of the 2003 Men's Final Four, the fourth in the city's history, as well as a women's Final Four.

From the French Quarter to the Superdome, Jazzland to the National D-Day Museum, Mardi Gras to Jazzfest, there's always something going on in the Crescent City.

## ***New Orleanians***

***New Orleans has become home to many famous people. Here is a small sample of the city's favorite sons and daughters, those who were born in the Big Easy, live here, or lived here:***

- Louis Armstrong, legendary jazz musician
- Will Clark, former Major League Baseball star
- Harry Connick, Jr., Grammy-winning musician and actor
- Ellen DeGeneres, actress and comedienne
- Fats Domino, rock'n'roll pioneer
- Marshall Faulk, NFL running back
- Pete Fountain, famed clarinetist
- John Goodman, actor
- Al Hirt, famous musician
- Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer
- Lenny Kravitz, musician
- Chef Emeril Lagasse, world famous chef & TV personality
- John Larroquette, Emmy-winning television star
- Peyton Manning, NFL quarterback
- Wynton Marsalis, jazz and classical trumpeter
- Jelly Roll Morton, jazz pioneer
- Mel Ott, Major League Baseball Hall of Famer
- Master P, rapper and entertainment mogul
- Aaron Neville, Grammy-award winning singer
- Chef Paul Prudhomme, world-class chef
- Trent Reznor, lead singer "Nine Inch Nails"
- Anne Rice, famed author of the Vampire Chronicles
- Richard Simmons, exercise and diet guru
- Tennessee Williams, author and playwright