

THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN NEW ORLEANS

Consistently recognized as one of the top five convention and visitor bureaus in the United States, The New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau is the driving force behind New Orleans' most important industry, tourism. The most celebrated and historic core of the city - including the French Quarter, Central Business District, Warehouse and Arts District, Magazine Street and Garden District - are thriving. Last year, New Orleans welcomed 7.1 million visitors, nearly double the amount of visitors in 2006. For more information, visit www.neworleanscvb.com.

FIRST WE MUST EAT...

Emeril Lagasse, Paul Prudhomme, Susan Spicer, Donald Link and 2006 James Beard winner John Besh have returned to their kitchens. Chefs are celebrities in New Orleans and their dishes are considered works of art. More restaurants are open in New Orleans than ever before. This includes most of the city's culinary treasures, including such renowned restaurants as Galatoire's, Emeril's, Arnaud's, Commander's Palace, Bayona, Herbsaint, G.W. Fin's, Bacco, Peristyle, Palace Cafe, Lilette, Brigsten's, K-Paul's, Cuvee, NOLA, Bourbon House, Broussard's and Antoine's. In addition, many of the city's favorite neighborhood hotspots such as Mother's, Casamento's, Ralph's on the Park, Clancy's, Jacques-Imo's, Upperline, Acme Oyster House, Gumbo Shop, Cafe du Monde, Muriel's, Tujague's, Tommy's and Pascal's Manale are also welcoming diners. You're sure to find famed classic French, Italian and Spanish restaurants that remain unceasingly faithful to their roots. And of course, you'll be tempted at every turn by New Orleans' signature Cajun and Creole dishes. Wherever you choose to eat in New Orleans, prepare your palate to fall in love; there's never been a better time to dine in New Orleans, and your table awaits!

There are 913 restaurants open in the metropolitan New Orleans area, including restaurants in the French Quarter, Downtown, Warehouse Arts District, Garden District and Uptown.

THEN WE PLAY... AUDUBON PARK

www.auduboninstitute.org 6600 St. Charles Avenue, NOLA 70118 On the site of the plantation of Etienne de Bore, the father of the granulated sugar industry in Louisiana, Audubon Park is the stretch of land between St. Charles Avenue and Magazine Street, which continues across Magazine Street to the Mississippi River. The park, designed by John Charles Olmstead, nephew of Frederick Law Olmstead (who laid out New York City's Central Park) Audubon Park contains the Audubon Zoo, as well as a 1.7-mile track, golf course and tennis courts. It is named for famed painter and ornithologist John James Audubon, who spent many years working in New Orleans. AUDUBON ZOO www.auduboninstitute.org 6500 Magazine Street, NOLA 70178, 504.581.4629 Admission: \$12.50/7.50 (Adults/Children 2-12); Zoo and Aquarium Combination \$25.50/14.50 (Adults/Children 2-12) The Zoo, houses over 1300 animals in natural environments. Visit the Bayou without ever leaving the city in the Zoo's Louisiana Swamp exhibit and much more.

New Orleans was also honored on NBC's The Today Show as the 2nd Most Beautiful Place in America. The Today Show's "America the Beautiful" series 9/6/07, featured New Orleans and the Gulf Coast as number two on its list of ten.

BLAIN KERN'S MARDI GRAS WORLD www.mardigrasworld.com 223 Newton Street, NOLA 70114, 800.362.8213 Admission: \$17.50/10.50/13.50 (Adults/Children 4-11/Seniors 65+), includes tour, King Cake and coffee. Blain Kern's complex across the Mississippi River in Algiers Point builds more than three-quarters of the floats used every Carnival season and offers tours of its collections and studios. In addition to seeing the works in every stage of development from sketches to

building, you can also try on some heavily adorned and jeweled costumes. Bring your camera!

THE FRENCH QUARTER www.frenchquarter.com

The original site of New Orleans was established by French Canadian naval officer, Jean-Baptiste Bienville, in the early 1700s. In 1762, Spain assumed control of the area and many buildings in the Quarter show signs of Spanish architecture in the cast iron of the balconies, brick and stucco walls and tiles on the roofs. This area is bordered by Canal Street to the West, Esplanade Avenue to the East, Decatur Street on the Mississippi River to the South and Rampart Street to the North. Highlights in the area include Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, the historic French Market and the Old U.S. Mint. SAINT LOUIS CATHEDRAL www.stlouiscathedral.org 615 Pere Antoine Alley, NOLA 70116, 504.525.9585 Admission: Free The St. Louis Cathedral is the oldest continuously active cathedral in the United States. It is the third church to stand in this location; a hurricane destroyed the first wooden structure in 1722 and the Great New Orleans Fire destroyed the second, along with a number of other buildings in the area in 1788. It was rebuilt in 1794 and enlarged and updated from 1845-1851. Docent-led tours in the afternoon offer details about the building (it nearly collapsed due to water table sinkage), the windows and murals.

THE GARDEN DISTRICT www.magazinstreet.com

The square area, whose boundaries are formed by Jackson Avenue to the East, Louisiana Avenue to the West, St. Charles Avenue to the North and Magazine Street to the South, was established around 1825 when the Livaudais Plantation was divided into smaller plots. A wave of urbanization based on wealth amassed in the cotton, sugar, insurance and shipping industries in the 1840s brought the development that you can still see today. Shunning local Creole influence, many of these homes are show signs of Spanish, French, Italianate and Greek Revival architecture. Magazine Street at the southern end of the Garden District is known for its wide range of shops and boutiques.

NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM www.nationalww2museum.org

945 Magazine Street, NOLA 70130, 504.527.6012 Admission: \$14/8/6/Free (Adults/Seniors 65+ and students with ID/Children 12 and under, Active or Retired Military and Spouse with ID/Military in Uniform) Opened on the anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 2000, the National World War II Museum is the creation of best-selling author and scholar, Stephen Ambrose. It tells the story of all 19 US amphibious operations worldwide on June 6, 1944. Comprehensive and moving exhibits include oral history stations, many of which emphasize personal stories from civilians and soldiers. There is also a copy of President Eisenhower's contingency speech, in which he planned to apologize for the failure of D-Day.

OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART www.ogdenmuseum.org

925 Camp Street, New Orleans, LA 70130, 504.539.9600 Admission: \$10/8/5 (Adults/Students with current ID/Children 5-17) Housing the largest and most comprehensive collection of Southern art, the Ogden Museum is a must-see. The permanent collection includes Southern works from Washington, D.C. and 15 Southern states dating as far back as the 18th century. Six private collections are also on display at the museum, including that of Roger H. Ogden, whose pieces were the foundation of the museum itself.