

NEW ORLEANS: Art & Architecture

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for the “Big Easy”. Discover the **French Quarter**, the cultural epicenter and oldest neighborhood. The French Market features retail shops, performance venues, scenic walkways, public art, restaurants and cafes. Relax at Café Du Monde. The open air historic **New Orleans** café serves only the famous chicory coffee and beignets, a puffy donut heavily doused with powdered confectioners’ sugar.

Day 2: Today visit **Jackson Square** and St Louis Cathedral, one of the oldest churches in the country. See two **Louisiana State Museums**, the Presbytere and the Cabildo. This afternoon is your **Culinary Walking Tour**. Learn about the cuisine of the region. Interspersed with interesting facts about the city and its colorful history, learn the difference between Cajun and Creole cuisine and the history behind all the food delights that New Orleans is famous for. Learn about some of the best restaurants in the city and sample iconic foods - gumbo, po’boys, jambalaya, pralines, and mufaletta. Tonight experience **New Orleans Jazz at Preservation Hall**.



Day 3: The fine old homes of the American Garden District are reminiscent of the days of sugar and cotton plantations. The extravagant homes stand out as one of the country’s loveliest residential areas. Meet your guide for your walking tour of the district. Spot examples of Italianate, Greek Revival and Victorian architecture. Enjoy a po’boy sandwich en route to the New Orleans Artworks at New Orleans Glasswork and Printmaking Studio. Enjoy a fascinating tour of the facility followed by a hands on class in glassmaking or printmaking. After your class, walk or bus to the Ogden Museum of Southern Art. The Museum celebrates Southern culture through its art collections. The museum hosts Ogden After Hours, a family friendly evenings including live performances and interviews with Southern artists, food and drink. Enjoy the art displays and then stay for the entertainment which begins at 6pm.

Day 4: Visit **Mardi Gras World** a New Orleans tradition. Later board the Canal Street Streetcar for City Park. Streetcars have been an integral part of the public transportation since the early 19th century. Disembark at The Besthoff Sculpture Garden. It is set in a stunning environment of meandering footpaths. The **New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA)** is the oldest Fine Arts Institutions in the city of New Orleans. Enjoy the works of art this afternoon at NOMA and stay on until the evening. From 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. the museum offers activities and entertainment.



Day 5: The French Quarter is home to Queen Anne Revival mansions, ornate churches and synagogues, charming courtyards and townhouses. Esplanade Avenue, is the Creole Rival to the American St Charles Avenue. Here are the grand homes of the city’s French settlers. These residences offer a glimpse into the lives and lifestyles of some of the city’s most affluent and influential citizens. This afternoon after your **architectural walking tour of the Quarter** you will visit two of these homes. Voodoo, vampires, ghosts...all long associated with NOLA! As you discover the architecture of the city, you will wind your way to one the most famous cemeteries St Louis Cemetery No1. One of the most famous persons interred in St Louis No 1 is the Voodoo Queen Marie Leveau. Spend lunch at the Music Legends Park an open air courtyard that celebrates the cities’ musical heritage with plaques, art and status of some of the notable jazz artists. Tonight meet your guide for **two fun filled hours of ghost and vampire stories**.

Day 6: No trip to Louisiana is complete without exploring the **swamps** and the land of **Antebellum Plantations**. Amid the moss laden cypress trees, marshy reeds and waterways lurks alligators, turtles, wild pigs, raccoons, fish, birdlife and snakes. See a real **Cajun swamp community** accessible only by water and where folks live their lives off the swamps. Then it is off to the world of times gone by in **Plantation Country**. Few authentic plantations have survived but the ones that remain are reminiscent of Southern Belles and gentlemen plantation owners. Most are still fully functioning sugar cane plantations. But most plantations survived on the lives and labors of enslaved people who were kidnapped from the ancestral homes.



Learn what life was like on these less than fortunate people. Tonight board one of the last authentic **steamboats** on the Mississippi River. Enjoy a **2 hour jazz river cruise**.

Day 7: Today unfortunately you must head home but depending on your flight times you may have the morning to do some last minute shopping for souvenirs such as tasty pralines, hot sauces and spice rubs.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to New Orleans
- Coach transfers
 - o Return airport
 - o Full day to swamp tour and plantations
- 6 nights hotel accommodation with private facilities
- 6 Breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 3 dinners
- Guided walking tours
 - o Culinary Tour with tastings
 - o Garden District
 - o French Quarter including St Louis Cemetery No 1
 - o Evening Haunted New Orleans tour
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Mardi Gras World
 - o One way ride on Streetcar
 - o 2 Historical Homes in French Quarter
 - o Swamp Tour
 - o Plantation Home and Grounds
 - o Preservation Hall for performance
 - o Facility tour and workshop New Orleans Glassworks and Printmaking
 - o Evening River Jazz Cruise
 - o Entrance to Ogden Museum of Southern Art with evening musical performance

