

NEW ORLEANS: Music in the Big Easy

(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: New Orleans grooves along to its own distinct soundtrack. Jazz, Americas only original art form was born in NOLA shaped by parlor pianists, brass players, creole musicians and African drummers of **Congo Square**. With any luck you will see brass bands marching along the streets in jazz funerals, parades or wedding celebrations. But New Orleans music scene isn’t limited to just jazz. You will hear Rhythm and Blues, Gospel, Dixieland, Ragtime, Cajun and Zydeco. Don’t miss **Jackson Square** and St Louis Cathedral and the surrounding area for the sounds of music everywhere. Could be a street performer of a free concert. 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 famous food delights. Learn about some of the best restaurants in the city and sample iconic foods - gumbo, po’boys, jambalaya, pralines, and muffaletta. Tonight experience **New Orleans Jazz at Preservation Hall**.



Day 3: This morning it is your turn to share your music with the folks enjoying the lively Big Easy. Spend an hour **performing in your own musical style**. This afternoon visit one of the premiere music schools or a local jazz club for a workshop/clinic. Tonight after dinner attend a performance of the **Louisiana Philharmonic** (dependent upon performance schedule), or an evening spring outdoor concert or one of the Museums offering after hours live entertainment.



Day 4: Visit **Mardi Gras World** a New Orleans tradition. Later board the Canal Street or the St Charles Streetcar just for the fun of the ride. Streetcars have been an integral part of the public transportation since the early 19th century. Spend the rest of the afternoon in the French Quarter. Be sure to make a stop at the **Louisiana Music Factory** and spend some leisurely time 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 5: Today meet your guide for a **Musical walking tour** of the city. Learn the famous local haunts of famous musicians, visit the park honoring the great Louis Armstrong. Located in the Treme neighborhood, this is the birthplace of many of New Orleans famous jazz musicians. See commemorative statues and Congo Square formerly Place des Negres a historic place for slaves who gathered there on Sundays to sing, beat drums, sell goods and celebrate during the 1800’s. This afternoon will be your second public performance.



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
- 3 dinners
- Guided walking tours
 - o Culinary Tour with tastings
 - o Music Tour
 - o Evening Haunted New Orleans tour
- Entrances/visits:
 - o Mardi Gras World
 - o One way ride on Streetcar
 - o Swamp Tour
 - o Plantation Home and Grounds
 - o Preservation Hall for Performance
 - o Workshop/clinic (depending on availability)
 - o Evening River Jazz Cruise
 - o Performance of New Orleans Philharmonic or entrance to museum for evening entertainment
- 2 Public Performances

