

NUMEROUS WAYS to get around new orleans

You'll love the French Quarter with all of its Old World shops and buildings. You won't find anything like it anywhere else in the world. Be sure to stop at the always hospitable **Visitor Information Center** of the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau at **529 St. Ann Street**, located in the famous Pontalba Building! Because the city of New Orleans is tucked into a crescent-shaped bend of the mighty Mississippi River (hence the nickname "The Crescent City"), directions are often referred to as Lakeside (north), Riverside (south), Downtown (east), and Uptown (west). Watch for the many one-way streets!

Walking in the oldest part of New Orleans is much more fun than driving. It is also more practical; you can do it at your own pace. Allow a few hours for the tour, or longer if you wish to stop at those sites that are open to the public. In case you wish to take an abbreviated tour, items 15-17 and 18-26 are recommended as especially representative of the French Quarter. This map offers only a glimpse of the historic French Quarter landmarks. We recommend taking a professional history tour.

Visit www.neworleanscvb.com/tours, or call **800.672.6124** for a complete list of companies and their tour offerings.



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NEW ORLEANS
 CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

CONTACT US

2020 St. Charles Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70130
 504.566.5011 | 800.672.6124
www.neworleanscvb.com

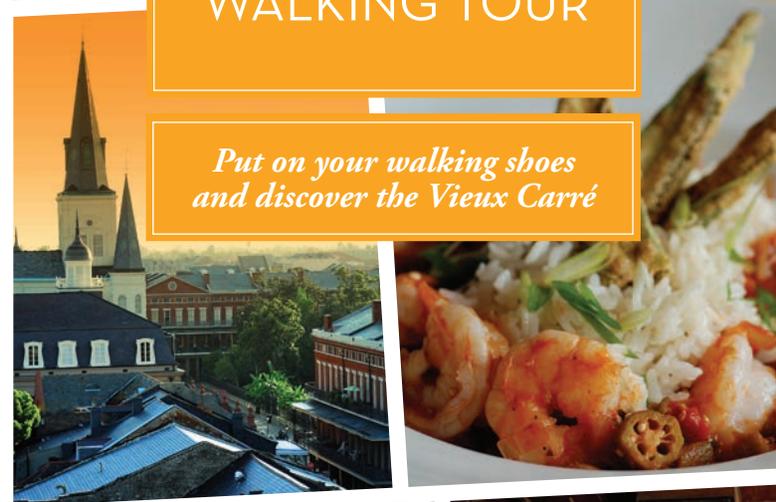
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NEW ORLEANS

FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

*Put on your walking shoes
and discover the Vieux Carré*



TAKE OUR TIPS

for a self-guided walking tour

FRENCH QUARTER

the cultural hub of new orleans



If you are like most visitors to New Orleans, you are ready to hit the cobblestoned streets running. This walking tour will take approximately two or three hours without stops - but what's the hurry? Along the way, duck into a club and take in some jazz. Stop and smell the pralines! Ever wonder how much history it takes to burn off a po-boy? You are about to find out. Here are a few tips:

WEAR THE RIGHT ATTIRE

- Wear comfortable shoes and watch your step. Our city is almost three centuries old, and our streets can be uneven.

GET THE BEST VIEW

- Because of the close confines, the best view of these historic landmarks is often from across the street.

DON'T MISS A THING!

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old Orleans Ballroom remains. Go back to Royal Street and turn left on the far side of the Cathedral Garden from Pirates Alley...

19. *Royal to Chartres Street, between the Cathedral & Presbytere. Pere Antoine's Alley. When Pere Antoine's Alley was cut in 1831, this passage was given the official name, Ruelle d'Orleans Nord, or Orleans Walkway North, a twin to Ruelle d'Orleans Sud (see No. 16). Follow this passage to its further end (Chartres Street). As you emerge, turn left. The large gray building with the iron fence in its arches is...

20. *The Presbytere. In 1791, Don Andres Almonester y Roxas began construction of what he, a Spaniard, called the Casa Curial. In French, it is Presbytere, or residence for the clergy serving the parish church. The U.S. took over the Territory in 1803, and completed the building in 1813. It never served as either Casa Curial or Presbytere. In 1853, the city purchased the Presbytere from the wardens of the Cathedral, and is now part of the Louisiana State Museum. As you face the front of the Presbytere, to your left is the...

21. *St. Louis Cathedral. This is the oldest cathedral in the United States and the third church on this site. The present church dates from 1849-51. It was constructed to the specifications of the architect J.N.B. de Pouilly. The first two had been parish churches only; when the third was dedicated, on Christmas Eve of 1794, it was a cathedral. In 1964, Pope Paul VI designated this a minor basilica. Next door, again to the left is...

22. *The Cabildo. During Spanish rule, this structure housed the governing council, or Cabildo, of the colony. The structure was

erected in 1779, but burned in 1788. Don Andres Almonester y Roxas then contributed the funds for construction of a replacement. Built between 1795-99, the ornate wrought-iron balcony railing, called the finest work from the Spanish period in New Orleans, is attributed to Marcelino Hernandez. From this building France then Spain, then France again then the United States then the Confederate States and finally, the United States again, have governed. In a second floor room, known as the Sala Capitular, France ceded the territory of the Louisiana Purchase to the U.S.



in 1803. Today a part of the Louisiana State Museum, the Cabildo displays such important items as the "founding stone" of the colony (1699) and the death mask of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Presbytere, Cathedral and Cabildo face the green oasis called...

23. *Jackson Square. Established in 1721 as a drill field, Jackson was known for more than a century as the Place d'Armes (under the French flag) or the Plaza de' Armas (when Spain owned the colony). The statue of General Jackson on his rearing horse, the work of sculptor Clark Mills, was put in place in 1856 and is the world's first equestrian statue with more than one hoof unsupported. Bordering Jackson Square on two sides you will see the...

24. Pontalba Buildings. Micaela Almonester de Pontalba, the daughter of the colony's richest man in the Spanish period, Don Andres Almonester y Roxas, built the great twin buildings which bear her name, as luxury apartments and fine ground floor offices and shops. Work began in 1840 on the 16 row houses and was completed in 1849. The almost identical row on the opposite side of Jackson Square was finished in 1851. In the middle of the Pontalba Building on St. Ann Street is...

25. *525 St. Ann Street. 1850 House. Here a three-story section of one of the two Pontalba Buildings has been beautifully restored to present a typical New Orleans dwelling of 1850. It is furnished with authentic New Orleans appointments of the mid-nineteenth century. As you leave the 1850 House, go to your left on St. Ann. At the first corner (Decatur Street), that long, low structure across the street is part of...

26. The French Market. Its buildings have been a vibrant part of the New Orleans scene for more than 220 years. The French Market is anchored at its down river end by the popular farmers' market

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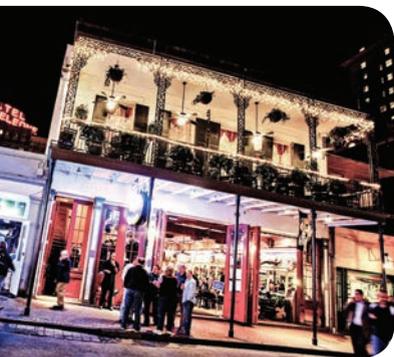
what to see in the quarter

area of long open sheds filled with fresh fruits and vegetables. Long-time shopkeepers, many new shops, fine restaurants, bistros, coffee stands, craft stalls, and a galaxy of shopping pleasures are offered for the entire family. Continue down Decatur Street to Ursuline Street. Turn left. Go one block to Chartres Street. To your right will be...

27. *400 Block of Esplanade. The Old United States Mint. Fort San Carlos stood here in the 1700s. The United States completed construction of the Mint in 1839. Now a Louisiana State Museum, the Mint houses both a Jazz and Mardi Gras exhibition. Walk back past the French Market on Decatur Street and take a right on Ursuline Street. Go one block to Chartres Street. To your left is ...

28. *1114 Chartres Street. Old Ursuline Convent. This is one of the oldest structures in the Mississippi Valley (for the other, see No. 37). The Sisters of St. Ursula, who came to New Orleans from France in 1727, moved into this structure in 1749. This was the first nunnery in Louisiana, and they conducted the first Catholic School, the first Indian school, the first Negro school and the first orphanage. The Convent housed the Louisiana State Legislature from 1831 to 1834. Across Chartres Street is...

29. *1113 Chartres Street. Le Carpentier House. ("Beauregard House.") On a part of the three city squares which he bought from the Ursuline nuns, a highly regarded New Orleans auctioneer named Joseph Le Carpentier built this handsome residence in 1827. With him lived his daughter and her husband, attorney Alonzo Morphy. During the bleak winter of 1866-67, following the end of the Civil War, Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard, the "Great Creole," rented a room in this house while seeking a job. In recent years, the house and the garden was the residence of the prolific and popular novelist Frances Parkinson Keyes, who adopted New Orleans as her own and who wrote many books about the region. On the same block is...



30. 1133 Chartres Street. Soniat House. Around 1829, wealthy aristocratic planter

Joseph Soniat du Fossat built this place as a town house. In the 1860s, the wrought iron with which Monsieur du Fossat had embellished his home was torn away, and replaced with the admirable cast-iron lacework it now wears. Proceed to Gov. Nicholls Street, and turn left to...

31. 618 & 620 Gov. Nicholls Street. Clay House. This was a residence built about 1828 by John Clay for his wife. Clay's brother

14. 640 Royal Street. Maison LeMonnier. Frequently described as the first skyscraper, this three-story structure was built in 1811, and the third-floor study is regarded as the most beautiful chamber, architecturally, in New Orleans. Wrought into the iron balcony railings can be seen the doctor's initials "YLM." Now turn off Royal Street onto St. Peter Street. A little more than half a block along is...

15. 615 St. Peter Street. Louisiana State Arsenal. During the years of Spanish dominance, this was the site of the prison, or calaboose. After the American takeover in 1803, the state of Louisiana constructed a state arsenal on this spot for the Louisiana Legion, a military organization made up of sons of the state's best families, Creole and American. Now, the building is a part of the Louisiana State Museum complex, but the insignia of the Louisiana Legion - crossed cannons above a pile of cannonballs - and its monogram "LL" can still be seen in the wrought-iron railing of the right-hand balcony fronting Pirates Alley (see No. 16). As you face the Spanish Arsenal, walk left for a couple of steps and turn right into a short alley, Cabildo Alley. Ahead of you is another longer passageway called...

16. *Pirates Alley. Alas for its romantic name, and for the legend that somewhere along this passage Major General Jackson conferred with the freebooters Jean and Pierre Lafitte about the forthcoming defense of New Orleans, the alley simply did not exist at that time! It was cut 16 years later in 1831 and given the official name, Ruelle d'Orleans Sud, meaning something like Orleans Walkway South (see also No.19). Now walk toward Royal Street and stop at...

17. Royal at Orleans Street, behind St. Louis Cathedral Garden. The marble monument at the center of this small, iron-fenced garden was erected by the Minister of the Navy under Napoleon III. Cross Royal Street to Orleans Street. Walk half a block. On your right is a hotel. Note the section above the main entrance at...



18. 717 Orleans Avenue. The Orleans Ballroom. John Davis opened his famed Orleans Ballroom in 1817. Here, for the next 20 years, Davis would operate his Orleans Theatre and establish French Opera in America. In 1881, the Sisters of the Holy Family, the order of black nuns devoted to teaching, acquired the property for a mother-house and school. Finally, in 1964, the sisters, pressed by a need to expand the facilities, sold the property to hotel interests. New additions replaced some of the structures built by the nuns, but the

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well-to-do commission merchant. Hermann sold the premises in 1844 to Felix Grima, a prominent attorney and notary. Retrace your steps to Royal Street. Turn left. In the middle of the block is...

8. 520 Royal Street. Maison Seignouret. Francois Seignouret, a French wine merchant, built this splendid house in 1816. He was a talented furniture maker. Across Royal is...

9. *533 Royal Street. Merieult House. In 1794, a fire swept through the center of the city. Only two principle structures escaped the flames. One of them was this dignified building, built in 1792 by Jean Francois Merieult. It now houses the Historic New Orleans Collection of maps, prints, drawings, documents and artifacts. Cross the street to...

10. 536 Royal Street. Casa de Comercio. An excellent example of forthright Spanish architecture in New Orleans. This building was built shortly after the December 1794 fire. Re-cross Royal Street to...

11. 537 Royal and 710 Toulouse Streets. Court of Two Lions. The feature which gives this building its name is visible on the Toulouse Street side; a wide wooden gate in a high wall, the pillars are surmounted by a pair of stone lions. Return to Royal Street. Walk one block to St. Peter Street. Turn left and go to...

12. 714 St. Peter Street. LeMonnier House. Built in 1829, this house acquired its most notable occupant in 1860, Antoine Alciatoire. Antoine operated a boarding house and prepared such succulent dishes that his fame spread and eventually led to his opening the restaurant which gave him an international reputation and which his direct descendants still own and operate. Only a few steps away is...

13. *718 St. Peter Street. Maison de Flechier. This historied structure is believed to have been commissioned by the prominent planter, Etienne Marie de Flechier, after the fire of 1794. The world-famous bar, Pat O'Briens, now occupies both the building and the lush courtyard behind it. Return to Royal Street. At the opposite corner is...

was the famous statesman, Henry Clay. The two-story building at the rear of the adjoining garden was added after 1871 and, in the 1890s, it was used by Frances Xavier Cabrini, the religious, now St. Frances Cabrini, as a schoolhouse. At the next corner (Royal Street and Gov. Nicholls Street), to your left is a tall building of considerable interest...

32. 1140 Royal Street at Gov. Nicholls. LaLaurie House. (The "Haunted House.") This is the city's most famous private residence, built before 1831 by Louis Barthelmy de Maccarthy (sometimes spelled de Macarty). One of his children, Delphine LaLaurie, acquired the house in 1831, and it quickly became the scene of brilliant social events. But there were persistent rumors about the LaLaurie servants. In 1833, a next door neighbor told the police she had seen Delphine LaLaurie mercilessly lashing a small Negro slave girl who then fell from the rooftop. In 1834, a fire broke out. Neighbors crashed through a locked door into a smoke choked-room and found seven wretched, starving servants chained leg and neck in the most painful positions. A newspaper suggested that Madame LaLaurie had set the fire. Citizens began to mass outside the house. Suddenly, a carriage burst out of the gate and raced away. The wrecked house was later restored, but the LaLauries never returned. After she died in Europe, Delphine's body was brought to the city in great secrecy and buried. Some say the house has been haunted by groans, screams and the savage hissing of whips. Perhaps you would like to linger outside this place tonight to hear for yourself. Cross Royal Street and enter Gov. Nicholls Street again. On your right is...

33. 721 Gov. Nicholls Street. Thierry House. Built in 1814 for Jean Baptiste Thierry, it is the earliest remaining example of Greek Revival architecture. Go back to Royal Street. Turn right. On your left is...

34. *1132 Royal Street. The Gallier House. James Gallier, Jr. was one of the most illustrious in a long line of notable architects. Built in 1857, it presents an excellent opportunity to see how the wealthy people of New Orleans lived just past the middle of the last century. As you come out of the Gallier House, turn left. Then turn right at Ursuline Street. Walk one block to Bourbon Street. Turn left for another block, reaching St. Philip Street. On the far corner of Bourbon Street and St. Philip Street is...



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35. *941 Bourbon Street. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Bar. When this historic place was built is unclear, but the oldest known record of ownership dates to 1772. Legend has it that this was a smithy operated by the dashing brothers Lafitte, the "hero" pirates of New Orleans. Now return down St. Philip Street to Royal Street and turn right. In the middle of the block stands...

36. 915 Royal Street. The Cornstalk Fence. The Victorian structure dates from circa 1850 and retains a cast-iron fence representing stalks and ears of corn intertwined with morning glory vines and blossoms. Across the street, and a few steps to your right, are...

37. 900 & 906 & 910 Royal Street. Miltenberger Houses. Mrs. Miltenberger built these houses in 1838. It was later occupied by her great granddaughter, Alice Heine, who was born in 1910. She married Duc de Richelieu, making her a duchess and then the Prince Louis of Monaco, making her a princess. Continue on Royal Street to Dumaine Street and turn left. About a third of the block from Royal Street, on the opposite side of Dumaine Street, is a raised house with a recessed gallery, reminiscent of what is known as West Indian architecture. This place is...

38. *632 Dumaine Street. The House of Jean Pascal. ("Madame John's Legacy.") Many researchers insist this is the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley. Defenders of the present building's antiquity think it was erected in 1726. The current owner, the Louisiana State Museum, renovated the structure and furnished it with appointments of the period. The name, Madame John's Legacy, by which it is identified, is the result of having been given that title in a fictional story, "Tite Poulette," by George Washington Cable.

This ends your walking tour. Now you're on your own. Enjoy yourself. And why not? You're in New Orleans!

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** Locations marked with an asterisk may be open to the public. Check for dates and hours.*



WALKING TOUR

what to see in the quarter

1. 301 Chartres Street. Site of Kolly Townhouse. The first Ursuline Convent and Charity Hospital built on this site shortly after the founding of New Orleans in 1718 was later leased for use as a provisional convent for the Ursuline nuns, and then used for the first Charity Hospital. Walk one block down Bienville Street to Royal Street. Turn right. At the end of the block is...

2. *334 Royal Street. Old Bank of Louisiana. This beautiful building was completed in 1826 to house the Bank of Louisiana. For years, this intersection was the city's financial hub, with a bank on three of the four corners. Currently the site of the French Quarter Police Station. Walk across Royal Street to...

3. 343 Royal Street. Old Bank of the United States. This structure, built in 1800, is the oldest of the many buildings that have housed banks. Its balcony railings are an exceptionally good example of hand forged (wrought) ironwork. Next, cross Conti Street to...

4. 403 Royal Street. Old Louisiana State Bank. The bank opened for business in 1821; designed by one of the architects of the U.S. Capital in Washington D.C., Benjamin H. Latrobe. The large white building across the street is the entire...

5. *400 block of Royal Street. Louisiana Supreme Court Building. Erected between 1908-09, this marble edifice was occupied by the Louisiana Wildlife Museum and the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Judicial District. Across from the main entrance of the court building is...

6. *417 Royal Street. Casa Faurie. Built soon after 1801 for the maternal grandfather of the French Impressionist painter Edgar Degas. When General Andrew Jackson revisited New Orleans in 1828, he attended lavish banquets here. The cross-street ahead of you is St. Louis Street. Turn left. Go a block and a half to...

7. *820 St. Louis Street. The Hermann-Grima House. This house was constructed in 1831 by William Brand for Samuel Hermann, Sr., a

