



New Orleans, LA



New Orleans, Louisiana, was founded by a French explorer in 1718, and named for Philip II, Duke of Orléans. France lost the city to Spain in the Treaty of Paris of 1763 but regained control in 1800, only to sell it to the United States as part of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Three museums in New Orleans are dedicated to Mardi Gras artifacts and memorabilia: The Backstreet Cultural Museum, Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World, and the Presbytere, which along with the Cabildo, 1850 House, Old U.S. Mint, and Madame John's Legacy are part of the Louisiana State Museum. Art museums include the New Orleans Museum of Art, Ogdon Museum of Southern Art, Newcomb Art Gallery on Tulane University's campus, Ashé Cultural Arts Center, Collins C. Diboll Art Gallery on Loyola University's campus, and the Contemporary Arts Center. Other museums include the National World War II Museum, New Orleans African American Museum, Louisiana Children's Museum, Pharmacy Museum, Voodoo Museum, Southern Food and Beverage Museum, Louisiana's Civil War Museum, Musée Conti Wax Museum, and the American Italian Cultural Center. The Amistad Research Center contains a collection of manuscripts about African Americans, race relations, and civil rights. The history of New Orleans and the French Quarter are the focus of the Laura C. Hudson Visitor Center. New Orleans' 15 cemeteries, with their elaborate stone crypts and mausoleums, are other local attractions.

Preservation Resource Center is dedicated to preserving the character of New Orleans' neighborhoods. Historic houses depict various architectural styles, time periods, and social and economic status of their occupants and include the Beaugard-Keyes House; Edgar Degas House; James and James, Jr Gallier House; Hermann-Grima House; Le Musée de f.p.c (free people of color); Longue Vue House and Gardens; Musée Rochon; Pitot House; and The Royal Street Complex (Merieult House, Counting House, Maisonette, Williams Residence, Townhouse, Louis Adams House, and Creole Cottage).

Performing arts venues include the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts, which is home to Broadway Across America and the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra; Southern Repertory Theatre; the Contemporary Arts Center; the Jefferson Performing Arts Society; Rivertown Repertory Theatre; AllWays Lounge; Anthony Bean Community Theatre; Crescent City Youth Theater; Cripple Creek Theater Company; La Nuit Comedy Theater; The Stage Door Canteen; and The New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts. Opera is offered by New Orleans Opera Association, Bon Operati!, and Opera on Tap, and ballet by the New Orleans Ballet Association, New Orleans Ballet Theatre, and Delta Festival Ballet. Local colleges and universities also offer musical and theatrical performances.

The most famous of the city's festivals are Mardi Gras and the Jazz & Heritage Festival.

NEIGHBORHOODS

New Orleans' Warehouse District is located in the downtown and features loft-style residences.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed some neighborhoods of New Orleans but spared others, such as the French Quarter, Garden District, Bywater, and most of Uptown. The French Quarter is known for historic 100- to 200-year-old single-family and duplex homes on small lots; apartments are also available. Many of the original mid-19th century Greek Revival and Italianate homes remain in the Garden District, which has some of the largest homes in the city. The Uptown District features late 19th century homes along St. Charles Avenue and in developments like Rosa Park. Frame houses with large galleries are located on cross streets. Closer to the river, 19th century duplexes in the shotgun style are being refurbished. The nearby Carrollton neighborhood, which was originally built as a rural resort community, features large houses on tree-lined streets.

Mid-City was affected by Katrina but is recovering better than other neighborhoods. Mid-City features single-family houses and duplexes, some of which are raised with garages underneath the living areas.

PARKS AND RECREATION

New Orleans' City Park features the New Orleans Botanical Garden; Storyland, which is a children's fairy tale playground; the Hines' Carousel Gardens Amusement Park; and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden. Audubon Park offers a paved loop for joggers, cyclists, and rollerbladers; the Audubon Trail Golf Course; and Audubon Zoo. Audubon Aquarium of the Americas is located in downtown New Orleans. The Entergy IMAX® Theatre is adjacent to the aquarium, and the Audubon Insectarium is located a few blocks away. Champions Square provides a place for Saints fans to congregate near the Superdome. Louis Armstrong Park preserves the site of Congo Square, which was an historic meeting space of slaves and free blacks. New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park offers regular jazz performances, lectures, films, and visual displays.

Professional sports teams include the New Orleans Saints (football), the New Orleans Hornets (basketball), the New Orleans Zephyrs (baseball), the New Orleans VooDoo (arena football), and the New Orleans Jesters (soccer).

EDUCATION

Orleans Parish School Board operates 5 schools in the city and oversees 11 charter schools in New Orleans. The Louisiana Recovery School District, which was created to improve underperforming schools, operates 16 traditional schools and oversees 50 charter schools.

Higher education is available at the University of New Orleans, which is a public urban research university. Tulane University offers undergraduate, graduate, and professional degrees in the School of Medicine and the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Xavier University of Louisiana is a Catholic and historically black college. Dillard University is also a historically black university and provides a liberal arts education. Our Lady of Holy Cross and Loyola University New Orleans are Catholic universities that offer undergraduate and graduate programs. Delgado Community College is a comprehensive, multi-campus community college.

HEALTH CARE

New Orleans is served by 5 hospitals with more than 900 licensed beds. In addition, the city has a long term acute care facility. A new VA hospital is under construction to replace the hospital destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

CITY STATS

2010

City Population	343,829
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	1,167,764
Per Capita Personal Income, New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA, MSA	\$44,731