

## Authentic New Orleans

Seven Day Tour ~ March 17-23, 2026

Highlights: Nonstop, Roundtrip Airfare Newark to New Orleans • Four Fabulous Nights at the Rathbone Mansion, French Quarter • Two Glamorous Nights in the Garden District • Houmas House Plantation • Cypress Swamp Airboat Adventure • Frenchmen Street Live Jazz • St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 • New Orleans City Park's Sydney & Walda Bestoff Sculpture Park • Tremé Walking Tour on Lovely Esplanade Ave. • The Singing Oak • Hidden Couturie Forest • Barataria Preserve in Jean Lafitte National Historical Park • Bucktown Marsh Boardwalk • An Amazing Local Lunch at Heard Dat Kitchen • Live Jazz Show at a Great Local Spot • A Soulful Lunch at the Chill Pagoda Café • Garden District Wandering Tour • St. Charles Streetcar Day Pass • Audubon Park's Tree of Life • French Quarter & Garden District Exploration On Your Own • All Breakfasts • Four Lunches • Two Dinners • Fully Escorted

Welcome to the real, authentic New Orleans! Our adventure here will capture the heart and soul of this fabulous city while avoiding all the tourist traps and standard bucket list spots. You may feel out of your comfort zone at times and may even encounter a ghost or two but that's all part of becoming part of the real New Orleans. We'll dive into the nitty gritty while experiencing all the charm and character of historic spaces. Feel the soul of native jazz and blues and be taken away by delectable cuisine along with the natural beauty of the bayou and amazing artist creations. There won't be any museums, upscale restaurants with famous names, boat rides on the muddy Mississippi or expensive luxury accommodations. We'll immerse ourselves in the N'awlins culture through wandering the various districts, never knowing what amazing thing we might find next!

**Day 1.** After arriving in New Orleans, we'll make our way downtown to check into our home for the next four fabulous nights at the Rathbone Mansion. This evening we'll wander out together towards Frenchmen Street, a smaller version of Bourbon Street with a calmer, cozier and less touristy kind of vibe. Different varieties of jazz and live music drifts from the open doors and windows of bars, restaurants, and clubs as you make your way towards the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood, right on the edge of the French Quarter. We'll stop at a local specialty for an included dinner, then find your music of choice in your favorite place to relax the night away.

**Day 2.** Today we descend into the beautifully primitive bayou. Don't be scared, it's not what you think! Picture Spanish moss hanging on gnarled cypress trees gently swaying in the breeze above pure tannin-colored waters in the midst of the calm stillness of pure nature. Take a stroll through the Barataria Preserve, part of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and experience all the serenity of the bayou. After working up a good appetite, we'll enjoy another delicious lunch at a great local spot. Now hop onboard as a thrilling airboat ride whisks us through this pristine wilderness, as we catch sight of turtles resting on logs, cute, hungry racoons, native bird species and the occasional alligator swimming serenely by. We're hoping to conjure up a special treat at an authentic shrine to New Orleans music. Let's see what schedules align!



**The Home of Jazz**



**Charming Garden District**

**Day 3.** Spend the morning at your leisure until we take in the scenery along Lake Pontchartrain from the Bucktown Marsh Boardwalk. Stroll among the curves around a “living shoreline” of flowing marsh grasses while keeping an eye out for local wildlife. A long time, homey spot serving up delectable po boys is next for our included lunch. Tucked away at the edge of residential neighborhoods lies Longue Vue House & Gardens, a lush display of Southern elegance and history. Step inside this architectural masterpiece of trailblazing female designer Ellen Biddle Shipman for a guided tour of the incredible interior, then outside among the splendid gardens that feel like a world away from the city. If you fancy a cup of tea, enjoy one in the café overlooking the grand Oak Lawn. Once back in the French Quarter, you’ll have the night to roam as you please.

**Day 4.** We spend the day wandering the poetic, soulful and authentic district of Treme, a place whose back streets birthed a music that conquered the world and served as a cultural rendezvous between the worlds of white and black. We’ll begin our stroll up the hidden treasure Esplanade Avenue, one of the most scenic and historic streets in New Orleans that runs straight through the heart of the city. You’ll be amazed by the number of 19<sup>th</sup> century mansions still lining the streets as we make our way to the soulful, chill Pagoda Café for an included bite for lunch. We’ll continue our walk along Esplanade Ave to New Orleans City Park which houses the most spectacular hidden artistic gem imaginable. Hidden throughout the gardens of pines, magnolias, and live oaks bordering two lagoons, are beautiful sculptures that fit perfectly with their surroundings. It’s something that words can’t describe and can only be experienced. Walk with us a bit further into the park to another secret treasure of hidden woodlands in Couturie Forest. Wander through the quiet spaces surrounded by South Louisiana flora and fauna far from the hustle and bustle of the city. The rest of the evening is yours to enjoy as you please.

**Day 5.** As we leave the soulful French Quarter behind and make our way to the dazzling Garden District, we must stop for a wander inside the intriguing historic atmosphere of St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, New Orleans oldest that encapsulates the soul of the city in all its quirks and splendor. A guided tour will lead us through remnants of different periods of history from the mysterious life and death of Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau to the eccentric Nicholas Cage pyramid tomb. Hope you’re hungry because an amazing lunch is next at a most authentic N’awlins spot, Heard Dat Kitchen, a place where each dish is prepared with the heart and soul of the humble chef and owner. It’s time for exploration in the Garden District! There’s so much to fill your senses in this charming neighborhood filled with stunning, grandiose mansions, leafy oak shaded streets, and colorful Creole cottages. We’ll take a wandering tour through all its loveliness, stopping to peek in the eerily beautiful Lafayette Cemetery No. 1. It’s time to check into our B&B, a shabby chic beauty filled with authentic character within walking distance to many wonderful places in the Garden District. Feel free to roam on your own or just hang on the porch for some relaxation. Wander the charming streets to find a fantastic dinner on your own.

**Day 6.** Today we wake up in the serene atmosphere of the alluring Garden District. Enjoy the morning on your own, then meet us for a ride on the charmingly historic St. Charles Streetcar that will rumble us through a tunnel of Live Oaks to laid back Carrollton. An optional itinerary will stop at Audubon Park to see the spectacular Tree of Life, then onto the college vibe of Maple Street near Tulane, to vibrant Oak Street, a hub for art, music and food which is the perfect place to grab some lunch or wait to eat until we get to the lively Freret Street, an up and coming area that’s perfect for exploring and dining. Spend as much time using the streetcar as you like but don’t miss our included dinner tonight at a great local spot.

**Day 7.** We sadly say goodbye to the captivating Creole and Cajun culture of New Orleans and make our way back to home sweet home filled with its lingering heart and soul. © 2025 The Educated Wanderer

Air transportation is provided by United Airlines. A surcharge will apply if United Airlines increases the price of its airfare. One piece of luggage per person (baggage fee by United is not included) and one small carry-on are permitted. **A valid, government-issued picture ID is required to board the plane.**

Tuesday, March 17: Flight # departs Newark at PM and arrives in New Orleans at PM

Monday, March 23: Flight # departs New Orleans at PM and arrives in Newark at PM

**Price per person is \$Twin & \$ Single.** Due to the last minute nature of this tour, no reservations are accepted without a 50% payment per person. Make checks payable to "Educated Wanderer" and mail to our address above. Final payment is due January 15, 2026. There are no refunds if cancellation occurs after January 15, 2026. The Educated Wanderer is not responsible for any delays, cancellations, injuries or circumstances beyond its control and reserves the right to change the itinerary. All trip components are subject to change in accordance with Government, State and Local guidelines and/or mandates. Travel protection/cancellation coverage is available and highly recommended, but not included. This tour will run rain or shine.  
\*Due to the changes in airline booking policies, airfare will need to be booked before the cancellation date, Once flights are booked, we cannot refund that portion of the tour unless you'd like to pay an additional cost for refundable tickets.

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Please Reserve \_\_\_\_\_seat(s). The enclosed check is for: \$\_\_\_\_\_ #3380

Legal Name:\_\_\_\_\_Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_Zip Code:\_\_\_\_\_

Rooming with: \_\_\_\_\_Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Add email for registration confirmation/final payment notice:**\_\_\_\_\_