

NEW ORLEANS RIVERBOAT OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE

November 7 – 10, 2018

(As of 4/4/18)



Revel in the sights, smells and sounds of one of America's most famed musical cities, New Orleans! Step back in time for an intoxicating getaway to the jazz capital of the world - a soulful city that abounds with rich history, mouth-watering Cajun and Creole cuisine, and a purely soothing, incomparable soundtrack.

Day 1: November 7, 2018: WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS!

- Arrive in New Orleans and transfer on own to the beautiful Intercontinental Hotel to check in.
- Mid-day meet and greet.
- This evening, we enjoy a delicious **welcome dinner** at a local restaurant.

Overnight in New Orleans

(D)

Day 2: November 8, 2018: THE FAMOUS FRENCH QUARTER

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- To experience New Orleans properly, it's best to begin your time exploring the famed **French Quarter**. As the site of the original New Orleans colony established by the French in 1718, the French Quarter has held on to its heritage, complete with French street names. On our walking tour this morning, we will discover the narrow cobblestone streets lined with many attractions such as **Pirates Alley**, the **Cabildo** and the **French Marketplace**. The neighborhood's architecture is laden with balconies designed with baroque ironwork and leafy courtyards filled with bubbling fountains. Undoubtedly, the French Quarter's main draw is **Bourbon Street** – New Orleans' infamous boulevard of vibe. The merchants here are stewards of a rich tradition of individuality and creativity and you'll find this street overflowing with street performers, local fare, live music and later, a boisterous nightlife.
- A testament to the coffee that the French brought with them as they began to settle along the Mississippi River in the 1700s, **Café Du Monde** is a renowned open-air coffee shop known for its **café au lait and beignets**. The tradition lives on at this iconic institution and we'll enjoy an included tasty treat.

- Later today, we'll also discover how to cook and eat like a local with a top chef and culinary entertainer who brings the best of Louisiana cuisine to life before our very eyes (and mouths). Our host is more than a chef; she's a storyteller, food nerd and culinary historian who will provide authentic, unscripted and spontaneous local adventure in food and culture! After the show, it's time to dig in! We will be served the meal we helped prepare – yum!
- Following dinner, discover why New Orleans is known as the “Birthplace of Jazz” when you take in a toe-tapping **jazz revue**.

Overnight in New Orleans, LA

(B, D)

Day 3: November 9, 2018: ST. CHARLES AVE & THE GARDEN DISTRICT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **New Orleans, Beyond the French Quarter:** There's so much more to New Orleans and today we head out on a journey to explore the nearby neighborhoods, architecture, history and landscape. **St. Charles Ave.** and the historic **Garden District** are described as “The Jewel of America's Grand Avenues”, boasting the most superb collection of historic mansions in the south. **Lafayette Cemetery #1** is the oldest city-owned cemetery and is home to one of the most elaborate above-ground crypts found in New Orleans' cemeteries. If you love the show *The Originals*, then you might recognize this cemetery as the home of the witches. We'll visit a slice of **Jewish New Orleans**, a small but resilient community that has stood the test of time, and of Mother Nature, since the first Jewish immigrant arrived in 1724.
- This afternoon we visit Louisiana's backcountry on a **Swamp tour** in the bayou. On our 2-hour flat-bottom boat safari, we'll sail through one of America's most unique ecosystems exploring the natural habitat of unusual wildlife and diverse fauna among the narrow slews of the swamp.
- Tonight, you'll have the option to “follow the leader” to dinner followed by one last hurrah in the “Big Easy”.



Overnight in New Orleans, LA

(B)

Day 4: November 10, 2018: ALL ABOARD!

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- After breakfast, we will transfer to the boat and begin our exciting journey along the Mississippi River.

(B)

The Memories Last Forever!

**Itinerary subject to change*