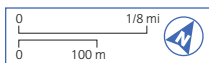


1

The Best **Full-Day Tours**



The Best in One Day



- i Information
- Riverwalk streetcar route/stops
- Vieux Carre loop route/stops

- 1 Moonwalk
- 2 Jackson Square
- 3 St. Louis Cathedral
- 4 The Cabildo
- 5 Central Grocery
- 6 200–900 blocks of Royal Street
- 7 Old Ursuline Convent
- 8 Beauregard-Keyes House
- 9 Historic New Orleans Collection

Previous page: A trumpet player blows his horn in front of St. Louis Cathedral.

If you only have 1 day in New Orleans, go to the heart of the city, the world-famous French Quarter. As you walk under wrought-iron balconies and steal glances through brick arches to private courtyards, you'll let go of everyday concerns and embrace a simpler time. Here, you can find anything you desire, from fine cuisine to elegant antiques. **START: Moonwalk, across from Jackson Square.**

1 kids Moonwalk. The sleepy riverside park, which winds along the Mississippi River, is a tribute to former Mayor Moon Landrieu, during whose administration it was built. ⌚ 20 min. *Across from Jackson Square along Mississippi River.* ☎ 504/587-0738. *Go before 8pm for safety's sake.*

2 ★ kids Jackson Square. In the days when it was known as the Place d'Armes, military parades and public executions were common. On November 30, 1803, citizens gathered here to learn that Louisiana was once again a French possession. But less than a month later, the crowd was told of the famous Louisiana Purchase, marking America's cheapest and largest land grab of all time. These days, you'll find artists displaying paintings and drawings, palm readers telling fortunes, and little kids tap-dancing for spare change. ⌚ 30 min.–1 hr. *Fronts the 700 block of Decatur St. and is bounded by Chartres, St. Ann, and St. Peter sts. www.jackson-square.com. Dawn–dusk.*



A sign in Jackson Square noting the former Spanish name of the square, Plaza de Armas.

3 ★★ St. Louis Cathedral. New Orleans is home to one of the South's largest Catholic populations and boasts the oldest continuously operating cathedral in the United States. This is the third building to have stood on this spot; a 1722 hurricane demolished the first and the great fire of 1788 burned the second. Supposedly, the church's bells were not rung as a warning of the fire because it was Good Friday. ⌚ 20 min. 615 Pere Antoine Alley.

A display case exhibiting relics of old New Orleans in the Cabildo.





Shop signs along Royal street.

504/525-9585. www.stlouis.cathedral.org. Mon–Sat 8am–4pm, closed Sun. Mass schedule online.

4 ★ The Cabildo. Originally built in 1795 as the Spanish seat of government, this is the site where the French government turned over the Louisiana Purchase to the United States in 1803. Despite the ravages of time and a fire in the 1980s, the Cabildo lives on, educating visitors on what it took to survive in 18th-century

Preparing the famous muffuletta sandwiches at Central Grocery.



Louisiana. 1 hr. 701 Chartres St.

800/568-6968 or 504/568-6968.

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/cabex.htm>.

Amission \$6 adults, \$5 students and seniors, free children 12 and under.

Tues–Sun 9am–5pm.

5 Central Grocery. Stop by this grocery for one of its famously filling muffuletta sandwiches. You can also buy many New Orleans spices and other deli items here as well. 923 Decatur St. 504/523-1620. \$.

6 200–900 blocks of Royal Street. If rowdy Bourbon Street is the black sheep of the French Quarter, then Royal Street is its prim and proper cousin boasting fine art galleries, antiques shops, women's clothing boutiques, and home accessory nooks. For a detailed map of shops along Royal Street, turn to p. 75. 90 min.

7 ★★ Old Ursuline Convent. Built between 1745 and 1752, the convent was once run by the Sisters of Ursula, who came to New Orleans from France in 1727 and were the first to open a girls-only school in the United States. From 1831 to 1834, the Louisiana state legislature was based here. Today,

it houses a Catholic archive with documents dating back to 1718.

🕒 1–1½ hr. 1100 Chartres St.

☎ 504/529-3040. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 students. Tues–Fri 10am–3pm, Sat–Sun 11am–3pm. Tours Tues–Fri 10am, 11am, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm; Sat–Sun 11:15am, 1pm, and 2pm.

8 ★ Beauregard-Keyes

House. Built in 1826, this stunning, raised Greek Revival home is named for its most famous tenants: Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, who resided here after the Civil War, and author Frances Parkinson Keyes (pronounced Cause), who wrote many of her novels here, including the most famous, *Dinner at Antoine's*. The landscaped courtyard opens to the former servants' quarters, where Keyes maintained her writing space. The beautifully restored formal garden is a breathtaking oasis. Note the twin staircases, Doric columns, and the "raised cottage" architecture.

🕒 1 hr. 1113 Chartres St. ☎ 504/523-7257. Admission \$5 adults, \$4 students and seniors, \$2 children



Historic New Orleans Collection.

6–12, free children 5 and under. Mon–Sat 10am–3pm.

9 ★ Historic New Orleans Collection.

A complex of late-18th-century and early-19th-century buildings tells the story of New Orleans' past and present through changing exhibits on art, food, architecture, music, and more.

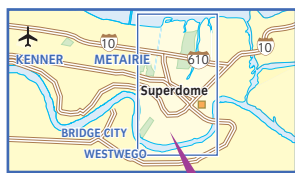
🕒 45 min. 533 Royal St. ☎ 504/523-4662. www.hnoc.org. Free admission for self-guided tours. Small fee for docent tours. Call ahead for price. Tues–Sat 10am–4:30pm.

Inside the Beauregard-Keyes House.



The Best in Two Days

- 1 City Park
- 2 New Orleans Museum of Art
- 3 New Orleans Botanical Garden
- 4 Bayou St. John
- 5 Pitot House
- 6 Bayou Coffee House & Wine Bar
- 7 Canal Streetcar
- 8 Cypress Grove & Greenwood cemeteries
- 9 Lake Lawn Cemetery
- 10 Mid City Rock 'n' Bowl



Area of detail



From the feel-good food to the thought-provoking art and architecture, Mid-City is where it's at, y'all. The Mid-City neighborhood was devastated by Hurricane Katrina flooding in 2005, but walking among homes, schools, and businesses in various stages of renewal, you'll get a feel for what New Orleans is all about—community spirit, tenacity, and pride. **START:** Canal Streetcar, City Park/Museum car.

1 ★★ City Park. Play golf or tennis, or go horseback riding, fishing, birding, or boating. Kids will clamor to go on the antique wooden carousel at the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park or climb through, over, and under the fairy-tale sculptures at Storyland. See p 88. ⌚ 1 hr. 1 Palm Dr.; bounded by City Park Ave. and Canal, Lee, and Wisner boulevards. ☎ 504/482-4888. www.neworleanscitypark.com. Open daily.

2 New Orleans Museum of Art. City Park's main oak-lined entrance also leads directly to NOMA, home to priceless paintings, ceramics, and sculptures, and one of the largest fine photography collections in the region. ⌚ 2–3 hr. 1 Collins Diboll Circle. ☎ 504/658-4100. www.noma.org. Admission \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and students with I.D., \$4 children 3–17, free children 2 and under. Tues–Sun 10am–4:30pm.

City Park.



New Orleans Botanical Garden.

3 kids New Orleans Botanical Garden. Originally created as part of the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s, this public garden is one of the few in existence from the Great Depression/Art Deco period. Explore 12 acres (4.8 hectares) of gardens, fountains, ponds, and sculptures, plus a horticultural library and a gift shop. Kids of all ages will especially enjoy the miniature train garden (only on weekends). ⌚ 1 hr. Pavilion of the Two Sisters on Victory Ave., behind the New Orleans Museum of Art. ☎ 504/483-9386. Admission \$6 adults, \$3 children 5–12, free for children 4 and under. Tues–Sat 10am–4:30pm.

As you leave City Park, cross Wisner Boulevard and go over the bridge. Turn right on Moss Street and you'll be on the west side of Bayou St. John.

4 ★ Bayou St. John. This historic waterway once connected Lake Pontchartrain to the Mississippi





Bayou St. John.

River, serving as an important channel for Native Americans and later, European explorers. Modern development swallowed up parts of the bayou, so it no longer connects the two. What remains serves as a popular recreational spot for fishing, canoeing, and bird-watching. See p 66. ⌚ 30 min.

5 ★ Pitot House. Enter the romantic grounds of this 18th-century Creole colonial house museum and you can easily imagine the lives of New Orleans' earliest settlers. The city's first American mayor, James Pitot, lived here from 1810 to 1819. Back then, it was considered to be a country home, which gives you an idea of how much development the bayou spawned over the past two centuries. ⌚ 1 hr. 1440

Family tombs at Cypress Grove Cemetery.

Moss St. ☎ 504/482-0312. Admission \$7 adults, \$5 students, senior, and children 7–18, free children 6 and under. Wed–Sat 10am–3pm.

6 Bayou Coffee House & Wine Bar. At the end of the bayou, you'll find a bright pink house and cozy outdoor seating where you can sip an iced coffee or something stronger (hey, you're not driving!). Breakfast is served all day, so go ahead and order those oh-so-good, oh-so-greasy bacon grits. Note: Closed on Thursdays. 326 N Jefferson Davis Pkwy. ☎ 504/484-7390. \$.

7 ★ kids Canal Streetcar. Unlike the historic St. Charles line, the Canal cars are bright red and feature air-conditioning and wheelchair access. They might lack character, but that cool air will feel good on a hot, humid afternoon. Be sure to grab the car that says "Cemeteries." ⌚ 30 min. ☎ 504/248-3900.

8 ★ Cypress Grove & Greenwood cemeteries. Firemen's Charitable & Benevolent Association founded Cypress Grove Cemetery in 1840 to honor its courageous volunteer firemen. At the entrance, you'll





A band plays at Mid City Rock 'n' Bowl, a beloved New Orleans institution.

find the massive 1840 vaults of Perseverance Fire Co. No. 13. The yellow fever epidemic of 1852 hit New Orleans particularly hard; Greenwood Cemetery was opened that same year to alleviate crowding at Cypress Grove. Both cemeteries contain some of the finest memorial architecture in the world, featuring marble, granite, and cast-iron tombs. 🕒 90 min. 5200 Canal Blvd.

☎ 504/482-8983. www.greenwoodnola.com. Free admission. Daily 8am–4pm.

9 ★★ Lake Lawn Cemetery.

If you enter the city via I-10, you'll have a perfect view of one of the wealthiest, albeit youngest, area cemeteries. On foot, walk among elaborate individual grave sites and enormous marble family tombs encircled by cast-iron fencing and watched over by weeping stone angels. See p 23, 6.

🕒 90 min. 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd.

☎ 504/486-6331. www.lakelawnmetairie.com.

Sometimes, cabs are available on Canal Boulevard beside Cypress Grove and Greenwood cemeteries. Rather than take a chance, call a cab company such as United Cabs (☎ 504/522-9771) to arrange for a pick-up time beforehand at Lake Lawn Cemetery or call them from your cellphone if you're not sure how long you'll want to explore the cities of the dead.

10 ★★★ Mid City Rock 'n' Bowl.

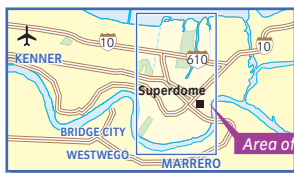
You're guaranteed to pass a good time bowling (and drinking) to live music among locals of all ages and the occasional celebrity like Mick Jagger and Tom Cruise.

🕒 90 min. 3000 S. Carrollton Ave.

☎ 504/861-1700. www.rockandbowl.com. Tues–Sat 5–11pm.

The Best in Three Days

- 1 St. Charles Streetcar
- 2 Garden District
- 3 Still Perkin'
- 4 Lafayette Cemetery No. 1
- 5 Magazine Street
- 6 Audubon Zoo
- 7 Audubon Park



On your third day in New Orleans, I insist you get out of the Quarter. Many visitors miss out on the fabulous food, historic homes, and southern hospitality found in other close-knit neighborhoods. The Garden District and Uptown both boast manicured mansions, sprawling live oak trees, colorful gardens year-round, eclectic restaurants, and boutique shopping along Magazine Street. After a day of exploring the city's greener side, you can return to the Quarter for more live music and revelry. **START: St. Charles Streetcar at Canal and Carondelet streets.**

1 ★★★ kids St. Charles Streetcar. From 1835 to 1893, the St. Charles Streetcar line was mule-driven. It went electric in the late 19th century. The present streetcars date from the 1920s and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. If you have more than three people in your party and the streetcar isn't full, you can pull the back of one wooden bench so two benches face one another for a cozy tête-à-tête. ⌚ 30 min.–2 hr. *Canal and Carondelet sts. or any stop along the route following St. Charles and Carrollton aves.*

2 ★★ Garden District. You can opt for a guided walking tour or DIY; either way, you'll be transfixed by the exclusive estates and lush gardens originally created by rich Americans who weren't welcome by

Creole society. See the full Garden District neighborhood walk, p 54.

⌚ 90 min. *Bounded by Magazine St. and St. Charles, Jackson, and Louisiana aves.*

3 Still Perkin'. Located among the Rink shops, this casual corner coffee spot is known for fresh bagels and unique spreads. 2727 Prytania St. ☎ 504/899-0335. \$.

4 ★ Lafayette Cemetery No. 1. Despite its location in the Garden District, please do not venture into Lafayette on your own; only go with a tour group. This small historic cemetery is best known as the fictional resting place for Anne Rice's beloved vampire Lestat and it was featured in the film *Interview with*

A ride on the St. Charles streetcar should be on every visitor's to-do list.



Streetcar Dollars & Sense

Before you hop on the streetcar, note: A one-way fare is \$1.25 (exact change required); a **VisiTour** pass provides unlimited rides on streetcars or buses at a cost of \$5 for 1 day or \$12 for 3 days. Ask at your hotel or a tourist office for the nearest VisiTour pass vendor, or contact the **New Orleans Regional Transit Authority** (☎ 504/248-3900; www.norta.com).

the Vampire. ⌚ 30 min. 1400 block of Washington Ave. ☎ 504/525-3377. www.saveourcemeteries.org. Suggested donation \$6 adults. Daylight hours only. Closed some holidays.

5 ★★ Magazine Street. Shopaholics could easily spend all day wandering along 6 miles (9.7km) of boutique stores, antiques shops, art galleries, and restaurants. ⌚ 2–3 hr. Bookended by Canal St. and Audubon Park.

6 kids Audubon Zoo. Though maybe not as flashy as younger zoos, the exhibits offer a glimpse at many subtropical species that flourish in

the city's heat and humidity. Kids will get a kick out of the underwater view of the silly sea lions. ⌚ 3 hr. 6500 Magazine St. See p. 86, **3**.

7 ★★★ kids Audubon Park. Watch wildlife from a bench along the lagoons or turn the kids loose on the playground. Other recreational activities including jogging, golf, tennis, and horseback riding. For more on Audubon Park, see p. 84. ⌚ 45 min. 6500 St. Charles Ave. (across from Tulane and Loyola universities, nestled btw. St. Charles Ave. & Magazine St.). ☎ 504/581-4629. Daily 6am–10pm. ●

The shops along Magazine Street.

