



New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
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www.NewOrleansOnline.com - The City of New Orleans' Official Tourism Web Site

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NEW ORLEANS WELCOMES FAMILIES WITH ATTRACTIONS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND FUN

New Orleans, LA – While New Orleans is known for Bourbon Street and rowdy parties, there is another side that lures thousands of families year-round. The city has gained a reputation of frolic, fun, and innocent play for kids of all ages. The Crescent City has plenty of attractions to offer young people that bring joy, education, and entertainment to all ages of this tourist destination.

Catch a ride on the historic St. Charles Avenue streetcar to catch a glimpse of some of the most beautiful homes in the city and hop off at Audubon Park for a quick picnic. Then grab a shuttle to Audubon Zoo, one of the nation's top-ranked zoos and a Gulf South favorite family gathering spot. See rare white tigers from Asia, visit a real Louisiana swamp, and play in an African tree house on Monkey Hill. Audubon Zoo also features an aviary of native birds and a petting zoo.

Still feeling the need to commune with nature? Then ride the John James Audubon riverboat down to the Aquarium of the Americas. The world-class aquarium, considered one of the eight best in the United States, is home to over 7,500 species of fish. Walk through Amazon rainforests, a Caribbean reef, and get a closer look at the Gulf of Mexico. Hands-on exhibits allow children to handle sea creatures for themselves and even pet a baby shark – without getting wet!

Located right next door to the Aquarium is the amazing Entergy IMAX® Theatre. Hold onto your seat while traveling through space, climbing mountains, slam-dunking with Michael Jordan, or having equally amazing adventures. The giant IMAX® screen, at 54 by 74 feet, will make even big kids feel small.

Another great option for kids is a stroll around the historic French Quarter. Kids can have a caricature created or their faces painted in Jackson Square, spoil their dinner with some sugar-coated beignets (the French version of a doughnut) at Café du Monde, or shop for the perfect souvenir in the historic French Market. Catch a magic show or a juggling act from an outdoor performer or get a balloon animal from a passing clown.

For a touch of Mardi Gras year-round, take the kids to the Louisiana State Museum's exhibit at the Presbytere on Jackson Square. This fabulous display explores the history and traditions behind Mardi Gras with touches of carnival excitement that will make you feel like celebrating. And if you want the party to continue, then ride the free ferry from the foot of Canal Street to historic Algiers Point. A bus from Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World will be waiting to take you to the place where "Mardi Gras is made." Visitors to the studio can see floats being crafted, authentic costumes, and enjoy some tri-colored King Cake.

To mix some fun and learning visit the Louisiana Children's Museum in the Warehouse Arts District. This is one museum where you will never hear the words "don't touch!" Almost every exhibit is a hands-on experience from the First Adventures area for toddlers to a math and physics lab for older children. There are also opportunities to shop in a kid-sized grocery store, captain a tugboat and much more. The Louisiana Children's Museums makes learning fun!

If the city life gets a little too hectic, then retreat to the great outdoors by visiting 1,500-acre City Park. Enjoy the magnificent oaks or play in one of *Child Magazine's* 10 best U.S. playgrounds, Storyland. The fairy tale themed playground features 26 larger than life exhibits from traditional children's stories. For a little excitement, take the kids to Carousel Gardens to ride a magical carousel from 1906 or miniature versions of amusement park rides.

And if all this activity has left you with an appetite, then you are in luck. New Orleans is a city known for great food where many of our restaurants offer kid-friendly menus as well. The Gumbo Shop at 630 St. Peter Street features fun courtyard dining with an authentic French Quarter atmosphere and offers delicious New Orleans seafood and Creole cuisine from its menu. The Hard Rock Café on North Peters Street, also in the Quarter, treats families to casual dining and classic American fare. The rare memorabilia of local New Orleans and international music stars is central to the restaurant's décor.

How many cities can offer a ride on an old-fashioned steamboat? Make your way to the back of Jackson Square and ride the Steamboat Natchez down the Mississippi River. Once you disembark, take a ride on the riverfront streetcar to Riverwalk, a shopping centre that caters to visitors who are looking to shop for toys and more. Take the riverfront streetcar back and head into the French Quarter for ice cream, buggy rides, or a tour of St. Louis Cathedral.

New Orleans is not your typical vacation spot – it's better! So for families who want out-of-the-ordinary experiences that are entertaining, educating, and fun, New Orleans is the perfect destination. Start planning your trip today by visiting www.NewOrleansOnline.com, the official visitor's website of the City of New Orleans, and be sure to order the FREE *Official New Orleans Tourism Guide* with over \$2,400 in savings, or call toll free 1-800-203-2144.

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year. Annually, NOTMC's marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, and Internet advertising and public relations. Websites: www.NewOrleansOnline.com; www.NewOrleansMuseums.com; and www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com.

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