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[www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com) - The City of New Orleans' Official Tourism Web Site

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## SOUL FEST

### *A Festive Weekend of African-American Culture*

New Orleans, LA – Celebrating African-American food, music, crafts, arts, and culture, the annual Soul Fest brings a touch of soul to the Audubon Zoo every March. Taking place under a shady canopy of moss-draped oak trees, the family-oriented festival offers a chance to enjoy a relaxing weekend and to discover some of the zoo's animals when they're most active.

Music is one of the primary attractions and Soul Fest has featured many great performers over the years such as Rebirth Brass Band, Hot 8 Brass Band, Irvin Mayfield, Yolanda Adams, George Porter, Jr. & the Running Parners, and Shades of Praise.

When it comes time to eat, there are dozens of delectable Creole cuisine and authentic soul food dishes prepared by native Louisianians. Regular food items include smothered pork chops with greens, turkey legs, sweet potato pies, Jamaican chicken with vegetables, fried catfish, barbecue ribs, and shrimp po-boys.

As with any event at the Zoo, there is plenty for children and Soul Fest features a Children's Global Playground where they can learn more about different cultures through world music. Using clues found in music samples, kids can use their listening and discovery skills to learn more about history, language, customs, clothing, and the arts.

Going beyond the usual festival activities, Soul Festival highlights the achievements and heritage of African-Americans and also promotes healthy living with a health fair offering free screenings for diabetes, blood pressure, cholesterol, and body mass index. Other special events involve fun, creative activities and opportunities for learning more about African-American culture and history.

The Audubon Zoo is located at 6500 Magazine St. in New Orleans. Admission to the Soul Fest is included in regular admission, which is \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors age 65 and older and \$7 for children ages 2-12. For more information on the Soul Fest, call (504) 581-4629 or visit the Audubon Zoo's website at [www.audubonistitute.org](http://www.audubonistitute.org).

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. Web sites: [www.NewOrleansOnline.com](http://www.NewOrleansOnline.com); [www.NewOrleansMuseums.com](http://www.NewOrleansMuseums.com); [www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com](http://www.HearNewOrleansMusic.com).

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