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Say Yes to NOLA

the sweetspot.ca guide to new orleans

canada (Feb.25.12)

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No other city in North America parties like New Orleans, but don't forget to put time aside from the Mardi Gras festivities to check out what this fabulous city has to offer.

Where to Sleep:

The **Renaissance Marriot Arts Hotel**, a renovated 1910 warehouse in the **Warehouse Arts District** offers spacious rooms with stunning furnishings (from US \$159). Located only a short walk from the French Quarter, it's easy to get around on foot. We love the extensive art collections — including works by renowned American artist **Dale Chihuly** — not to mention the amazing rooftop pool with breathtaking views of the city at night.

Looking for something more pocket-friendly? Conveniently located **Lafayette Hotel** offers reasonable room rates (from \$109) on the St. Charles Avenue streetcar line.

Where to Eat:

With New Orleans you're in for a sensory explosion. Locals know how to take pleasure in all things food, wine and music. We started our morning off with **chicory coffee** and **sugar-coated beignets** at **Café du Monde**. The establishment opened on Decatur Street in 1867, and locals and tourists alike frequent the legendary mainstay.

In the French Quarter, lunch at **Napolean House** is a must. Scrumptious **muffaletta sandwiches** (\$7.50) and a famous **Pimm's Cup cocktail** are sure to fill you up after a morning of sightseeing. Or head to the Garden District for **Commander's Palace's** 25 cent Martini's (lunch only) and unparalleled people watching.

Top the day off with scrumptious **banana cream pie** (\$8) at **Emeril's**, Emeril Lagasse's restaurant in the Warehouse District. It's a great spot for a late night supper or dessert.



What to Do:

New Orleans is renowned for its fantastic Mardi Gras parties and parades, but this city bustles with history and magic year-round.

No trip to New Orleans would be complete without visiting the **St Louis Cemetery** (actually three separate cemeteries) located near the Mississippi River. Be sure to check out the **Glapon family crypt** in St. Louis #1, where **Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau** is purportedly buried.

For a fun shopping trip, visit the **Kitchen Witch Cookbook** store in the heart of the French Quarter, a small and eclectic store jam-packed with amazing cookbooks. The extensive section on Cajun, Creole and Southern cooking makes it easy to bring your favourite NOLA flavours home.

For a change of pace take a ferry ride over to **Algiers Point** and see the architecture of old Creole cottages. Best? It's a free ride on the Mississippi River.

Sweet Tip:

Remember that no matter where you stay in the city, during Mardi Gras room rates go up.

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