

French Quarter

Neighborhood Top Five

1 Walking up and down the Mississippi River along the **Riverfront** (p56), stopping to watch crowds disembarking from ferries and listening to music and street performers along the way, before wandering into Jackson Square for, well, even more street performers.


2 Having a boozy breakfast (and possibly lunch) on Friday at **Galatoire's** (p65).

3 Catching a few drinks and the burlesque revue at **One Eyed Jacks** (p68).

4 Rubbing shoulders with local cops and journalists at **Molly's at the Market** (p66).

5 Exploring the **Cabildo** (p50) and grounding yourself in the history of Louisiana.



For more detail of the area, see Map p238 

Explore the French Quarter

The French Quarter is pretty walkable, but if you're staying on Canal St and want to head out somewhere near Esplanade, don't discount the fact that you'll be covering around a dozen blocks (potentially more) on foot. Don't forget; it gets *hot* in New Orleans.

We would recommend exploring on your first day with the morning Friends of the Cabildo walking tour. It's an excellent introduction to both the architecture and history of the area. After the tour, take a walk along the river and consider catching a concert sponsored by the National Park Service at the US Mint. Finish the evening with dinner at either Bayona or Green Goddess, and drinks at French 75 or Tonique.

On your next day, walk up and down Royal St and consider taking a tour of the Historic New Orleans Collection. If you feel inclined, rent a bicycle from Bike Nola; you can cover lots more ground that way. Go shopping for local music at Peaches, and get yourself to Preservation Hall early enough in the evening to see the show there. As night well and truly falls, have dinner at Sylvain, and drinks at Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop.

Local Life

- ➔ **History** History drips through the brick walls of the French Quarter. There's a great concentration of museums, historical homes and tours that take in this city's colorful (and often criminal) past.
- ➔ **Music** Sure, there are good concert venues here, but you're just as likely to have a stirring auditory experience on the street, or in a national park space.
- ➔ **Shopping** From the kitschiest crap ever sold on God's green earth to tasteful art galleries to antique shops concealing some truly rare treasures, the Quarter is a shopper's dream.

Getting There & Away

- ➔ **Streetcar** The Canal and Riverfront streetcars both skirt the edges of the French Quarter.
- ➔ **Ferry** The 91 bus runs up Rampart St and Esplanade Ave, which are both boundary roads of the French Quarter.
- ➔ **Car** Parking is a hassle in the Quarter; if you're going to drive here, either be prepared to park in a garage or bring lots of quarters for meters.

Lonely Planet's Top Tip

We know: your friends told you to go to Bourbon St. We're telling you not to. Or, if you must, do so after visiting other neighborhoods. The tackiness of Bourbon is a lot more obvious after you've experienced the magic of the rest of New Orleans.

There have been frequent muggings in the part of the Quarter near Louis Armstrong Park. If you are out between Rampart St and Dauphine St past 11pm, walk with a friend.

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Green Goddess (p62)
- ➔ Bayona (p62)
- ➔ Sylvain (p58)
- ➔ K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen (p63)
- ➔ Port of Call (p59)

For reviews, see p58 ➔

Best Historical Sites

- ➔ Cabildo (p50)
- ➔ Presbytère (p51)
- ➔ Ursuline Convent (p53)
- ➔ Friends of the Cabildo (p54)
- ➔ Beaugard-Keyes House (p55)

For reviews, see p53 ➔

Best Nightlife

- ➔ Tonique (p66)
- ➔ Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop (p66)
- ➔ Molly's at the Market (p66)
- ➔ Erin Rose (p66)
- ➔ French 75 (p66)

For reviews, see p65 ➔