

# French Quarter

LOWER QUARTER | UPPER QUARTER

## Neighborhood Top Five

- 1 Walking up and down the Mississippi River along the **Riverfront** (p69), 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 Catching a concert and living local culture at the **Old US Mint** (p65).
- 3 Slow-sipping a marvelous cocktail at **Tonique** (p77).
- 4 Fitting oneself out for the perfect wig at **Fifi Mahony's** (p80).
- 5 Exploring the **Cabildo** (p62) and grounding yourself in the history of Louisiana.



For more detail of this area see Map p238 ➔

## Explore the French Quarter

Many visitors treat the French Quarter as a sort of adult Disney World, with Bourbon St serving as a neon (lights and drinks) heart of bad behavior. Past this activity, you'll find a compact 'hood where historical preservation, fine dining and great nightlife intersect like nowhere else in the USA.

We would recommend exploring on your first day with the morning walking tour run by Friends of the Cabildo. 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 Old US Mint. Finish the evening with dinner at either Bayona or Sobou, and drinks at French 75 or Tonique.

Next day, walk up and down Royal St and lounge alongside the river. If you feel inclined, rent a bicycle; you can cover lots more ground that way. Go shopping for local music at Peaches or peruse some galleries, and get yourself to Preservation Hall early enough in the evening to see the show. As night well and truly falls, have dinner at Sylvain, and drinks at Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop or Latitude 29.

## Local Life

➔ **History** History seeps through the brick walls of the French Quarter. Locals love the concentration of museums, historical homes and tours that take in this city's colorful (and often criminal) past.

➔ **Music** While residents tend to skirt the Quarter, many locals love to wander down Royal St (p64) and listen to the buskers doing their musical thing.

➔ **Food** Some of the best restaurants in the city are in the French Quarter, and many New Orleanians splurge on a romantic night out here.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Streetcar** The Canal and Riverfront streetcars both skirt the edges of the French Quarter.

➔ **Bus** 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. Go ahead, but perhaps hold off until you've visited some other neighborhoods. The tackiness of Bourbon is obvious after you've experienced the magic of the rest of New Orleans.

There have been frequent muggings in the Quarter near Esplanade Ave and Louis Armstrong Park. When you walk at night, do so with a friend, or take a bicycle rickshaw.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Bayona (p76)
- ➔ SoBou (p76)
- ➔ Coop's Place (p71)
- ➔ Eat New Orleans (p73)
- ➔ Port of Call (p71)

For reviews, see p71 ➔

## Best Historical Sights

- ➔ Cabildo (p62)
- ➔ Presbytère (p63)
- ➔ Ursuline Convent (p66)
- ➔ Historic New Orleans Collection (p65)

For reviews, see p62 ➔

## Best Nightlife

- ➔ Tonique (p77)
- ➔ Cosimo's (p78)
- ➔ Molly's at the Market (p77)
- ➔ Erin Rose (p78)
- ➔ Latitude 29 (p75)

For reviews, see p77 ➔