

NEW ORLEANS

ENCOUNTER

ADAM KARLIN

New Orleans Encounter

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Colour-Coding & Maps

Colour-coding is used for symbols on maps and in the text that they relate to (eg all eating venues on the maps and in the text are given a green knife and fork symbol). Each neighborhood also gets its own colour, and this is used down the edge of the page and throughout that neighborhood section.

Shaded yellow areas on the maps denote 'areas of interest' – for their historical significance, their attractive architecture or their great bars and restaurants. We encourage you to head to these areas and just start exploring!

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ADAMK ARLIN

On Adam's first trip to New Orleans, as a college freshman, he was *that* guy: the Bourbon St boozier who never leaves the French Quarter. To make up for this grievous error, for this book he threw himself into the Crescent City and its cast of chefs, bartenders, waiters, social workers, community organizers, lawyers, beer brewers, journalists, musicians, artists and every other funky thread of the New Orleans tapestry. New Orleans has struck Adam, an itinerant wanderer, as a city that could be home. And that's the highest compliment he could give any place he's written on for Lonely Planet.



ADAM'S T HANKS

Thanks: Randy for the tour, Diana and John for the pad, David for being my first friend, Wil for showing off his city, Allison for help with the intro, Zach and Ted for their perspective, Andy for giving me a place to crash, Sean F for discovering the city with me, Shane for fresh eyes, Noah for offering to sweep out my car and being a generally stand-up guy, Lisa and Sean M for their help, mom and dad for the usual, Jennye for being a patient and excellent editor and New Orleans for being what it is.

Cover photograph Man playing a trumpet in the French Quarter, Bob Krist/Corbis. **Internal photographs** p56, p69, p79, p105 by Adam Karlin; p25 Andy Levin/Alamy; p26 James Davis Photography/Alamy; p58 Jeffrey Anding; p60 Travel Division Images/Alamy; p106 Webstream/Alamy; p132 Jim West/Alamy; p137 Wallace Weeks/Alamy. All other photographs by Lonely Planet Images, and by Jerry Alexander p15, p93, p119, p120; Olivier Cirendini p126; Richard Cummins p4, p6 (bottom), p8, p13, p18, p20, p21, p30 (top left & bottom), p33, p34, p39, p63, p104, p112, p125, p128, p136, p139; Jon Davison p42, p134; John Elk III p29, p48, p122; Lee Foster p6 (top), p140; Rick Gerharter p138; Lou Jones p123; Ray Laskowitz p11, p16, p19, p22, p23, p30 (top right), p45, p46, p66, p78, p80, p87, p95, p116, p124, p127, p130; Margie Politzer p101, p110; Neil Setchfield p141.

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RTA

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914

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THIS IS NEW ORLEANS

There are two views on this town post-Hurricane Katrina. One: New Orleans is back. Two: New Orleans is still suffering. And there's the truth, which lies somewhere between these opinions.

Sweet zydeco music like a bug's buzz on Bayou St John and bacon cooked in brown sugar in the Bywater; a second line dancing up Esplanade after church on Sunday; the wind bending the trees in the Garden District while folks kick back with a beer and a boil (of crawfish). Welcome home, New Orleans.

Milneburg houses tagged with rescue-worker code listing the number of dead within; suburban split-levels in Lakeview whose owners never returned; stretches of the Lower Ninth Ward that aren't devastated so much as turned into wilderness, reclaimed by nature. Where is home, New Orleans?

Being made. New Orleans is neither back nor gone: she's changed, simultaneously one of the oldest cities in the country and the newest, a child of America who acknowledges both the troubles of her history and the fact those growing pains give her the nation's most distinctive sense of place. And she's passionately embracing the future, with every green building project and community organization and arts center and sustainable business that crops up. These places serve both the home that was and the home that will be: the new New Orleans, not so much reborn, as reincarnated.

The character of the city and the home she's rebuilding is partly in the hands of travelers, backbone of the local economy. But don't push her too hard. New Orleans doesn't do things like the rest of America. She cares less about deadlines and more about taking time for a neighbor, planting strong trees that withstand salt water and giving *lagniappe*, Creole for 'a little extra.'

So hold tight, ya' heard? She *is* coming back. And in New Orleans the wait is always worth it.

Top The city skyline looms on a ferry ride (p155) across the water **Bottom** Dining out on good food and balcony views in the historic French Quarter (p46)