

Iconic Mardi Gras New Orleans - NUMG

6 days: New Orleans to New Orleans

What's Included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Discover Moment: New Orleans
- Your Foodie Moment: Café du Monde Visit, New Orleans
- New Orleans orientation walk
- Bacchus Parade Grand Stand ticket
- G Adventures purple costume party along Bourbon Street
- Coffee and beignets at Café du Monde
- Mardi Gras festivities
- Experience Mardi Gras with other G Adventures travellers
- Chief Experience Officers and G Adventures staff available to offer assistance and support

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing May 16th, 2016 and onwards

Itinerary

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1 New Orleans

Arrive at any time.

Welcome to the Big Easy! Spend some time checking out the early Mardi Gras festivities before joining the group for a welcome meeting and optional dinner.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2 New Orleans

Enjoy an orientation walk of New Orleans before free time to enjoy the festivities. Join the locals in the evening and celebrate the Bacchus Parade, taking in elaborately decorated floats, intricate costumes, and an amazing local vibe.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time

New Orleans Afternoon

Wander along Bourbon Street, or check out other neighbourhoods and attractions in NOLA.

Bacchus Parade

New Orleans 17:15

The original superkrewe (parade), Bacchus is a party you don't want to miss. Founded in 1968 to celebrate Bacchus, the Roman God of Wine, this massive parade includes over 1000 people and more than 30 floats. Keep your eyes peeled for celebrities (Will Ferrell and William Shatner have been King of this Parade before), and famous floats like the Bacchasaurus, a giant dinosaur and the Bacchawhoppa, a massive whale.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3 New Orleans

Get out and explore New Orleans on the second biggest day of festivities during Mardi Gras. Check out a parade or opt to spend the day wandering Bourbon Street. Enjoy the revelry and music wafting through the packed Mardi Gras streets.

Your Discover Moment

New Orleans Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in New Orleans, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like a swamp and bayou tour, historical tours, and a creole cooking class. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 New Orleans

Get ready for a jam-packed day of Fat Tuesday celebrations. Opt to check out the Zulu or Rex Parades before an exciting G Adventures Purple Party in the afternoon.

Mardi Gras in French translates to 'Fat Tuesday' and traditionally represented the last day of eating rich, fatty, indulgent food before fasting during Lent. Today, Fat Tuesday is also the culmination of Mardi Gras celebrations and events. Enjoy the pulse of the city and join locals and visitors celebrating throughout the streets! As the clock strikes midnight, prepare for the city to shut down with the official start of Lent.

Free Time

New Orleans

It's Fat Tuesday! Get out there and celebrate.

Mardi Gras Purple Party

New Orleans

Get ready to experience the good ol' down south music, celebrations, and excitement of Fat Tuesday. Put on a purple costume and hit Bourbon Street with other G Adventures travellers – this is how to celebrate Mardi Gras in style.

Optional Activities - Day 4

Zulu Parade

New Orleans

Experience the history of New Orleans and Mardi Gras at this parade that got its origins back in 1909. The Zulu Parade represents a collection of African tribes that got together as a group to provide rights and insurance to members of their society. One of the most culturally significant parades, join the celebrations of their culture and history. Make sure to get up early if you want to catch this one, as the Zulu Parade rolls out at 8am.

Rex Parade

New Orleans

Arguably the most famous Mardi Gras Parade, the Rex Krewe dates back to 1872 and uses the official Mardi Gras colours of purple, green and gold as its theme. This group started running their annual parade after the end of the American Civil War to try and entice tourists to visit the city. Known for elaborately decorated floats with performers in full costumes and masks, this parade is not to be missed if you want to experience a piece of Mardi Gras history.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 5 New Orleans

Enjoy a free day for optional activities in and around New Orleans. Opt to take a cooking class, go on a ghost tour, or get lost in the city. Later, grab a coffee and try a beignet at the famous Café du Monde.

Your Foodie Moment: Café du Monde Visit

Grab a coffee and try a delicious beignet at Café du Monde – a New Orleans institution. The original stand was established in 1862 and is just as popular today.

Your Discover Moment

New Orleans Full Day

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Optional Activities - Day 5

Historical Tours

New Orleans 1h-4h

25-30USD per person

Learn more about this fascinating city by discovering its past. New Orleans has all kinds of tour options for all kinds of tastes. Opt for a voodoo tour, ghost tour, cemetery tour or vampire tour — you name it, there's probably a tour for it. All the tours bring a different historical side of New Orleans to life, with a little bit of creepy thrown in.

Creole Cooking Class

New Orleans 2h-3h

25USD per person

Learn to cook authentic Creole food and savour the fruits of your labour.

Ghost Tour

New Orleans

25USD per person

After the sun goes down, embark on a tour of mysterious and (possibly!) haunted spots around New Orleans. From century-old cemeteries to historical voodoo sites, see if you'll experience any paranormal activity.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6 New Orleans

Depart at any time.

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your Discover Moment: New Orleans

Your Foodie Moment: Café du Monde Visit, New Orleans. New Orleans orientation walk. Bacchus Parade Grand Stand ticket. G Adventures purple costume party along Bourbon Street. Coffee and beignets at Café du Monde. Mardi Gras festivities. Experience Mardi Gras with other G Adventures travellers. Chief Experience Officers and G Adventures staff available to offer assistance and support.

Highlights

Celebrate at the Bacchus Parade and take in the local vibe, wander Bourbon Street, enjoy a G Adventures Purple Party on Fat Tuesday, savour a snack at the famous Café du Monde

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

1. LEGAL DRINKING AGE

Please note that the legal drinking age in the United States is 21 and in Canada, 19 (with Alberta and Quebec at 18). Many bars and clubs will ask for ID at the door, therefore listening to live music in certain bars or spending a night out in Las Vegas or New Orleans is not possible when you are under the legal age, even if you don't plan on consuming alcohol. Drinking laws in both countries are strictly enforced and our CEOs are unable to help those under age obtain alcohol of any kind.

While this should not stop those under legal drinking age from booking a tour, it is important to note that if a traveller is under-age there are certain optional nighttime activities that they may not legally be able to participate in. When trying to book the right trip, we recommend that travellers under legal drinking age take this into consideration when booking a tour that visits several big cities.

Group Leader Description

This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our group leaders, otherwise known as a Chief Experience Officer (CEO). As the group coordinator and manager, the aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. While not being guides in the traditional sense, you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. They will also offer suggestions for things to do and to see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends.

Group Size Notes

The G staff to traveller ratio of a small group, but it's a G party! The more the merrier.

Meals Included

5 breakfasts

Meals

Eating is a big part of travelling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip aiming to where the locals eat.

For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Transport

Streetcar, walking.

About our Transportation

Please note that with this special trip we will not be using the usual transportation. Instead you will be walking through the French Quarter during Mardi Gras.

Solo Travellers

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Centrally located hotel (5 nts).

My Own Room

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

Joining Hotel

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

Joining Instructions

The Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport is located 15 miles (24km) from the Joining Hotel. When arriving at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport you have two transportation possibilities: public taxi or a door-to-door shuttle service. All transportation is located on the lower level outside the baggage claim area.

Taxi

It takes approximately 30 min depending on traffic yet enough time to get a taste of New Orleans. It will cost you about \$36 and a couple of dollars ("bucks") more for tip to reach your hotel.

New Orleans Airport Shuttle

Once you have retrieved your luggage make your way over to the Airport Shuttle ticket counter located across the baggage area 3, 6 and 12. The ticket will cost you \$24 one way and a couple of dollars ("bucks") more for tip to reach your hotel. Proceed outside to wait for your shuttle. They run approximately every 30 min.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the G Adventures Local Representative. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures Local Representative (Las Vegas)

From outside the USA: 1-412-423-8143

From within the USA: 412-423-8143

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local representative, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What to Take

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage.

Packing List

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)

- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

Purple Costume Party:

- Purple costume (For purple costume party)

Smart Dress:

- Smart outfit (For evenings out)

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

Visas and Entry Requirements

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

The United States currency is the US Dollar (USD).

Credit cards are accepted almost everywhere in the US and can be used to purchase small and large items. When purchasing products or services with a foreign credit card in the USA, you may be charged additional fees by your credit card company for foreign purchases.

Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances but you must remember to bring your PIN number (be aware that many ATM machines only accept 4-digit PINs). Both Cirrus and Plus system cards are the most widely accepted debit cards. Both Visa and Master Cards are the most widely accepted credit cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work check with your bank before you travel. A visit to an ATM can be arranged on Day 1 and other days of the trip.

Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of US Dollars as cash (preferably smaller bills, 5's, 10's and 20's), traveller's cheques and credit cards is best. Currency exchange is best obtained prior to travel or at the airport, currency exchange is very difficult to find in the USA and most banks do not accommodate.

Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Tipping

It is customary in North America to tip service providers such as waiters, bartenders and taxi drivers, at approximately 18-20%, depending on the service. Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip any local guides used. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from \$2-8 USD per activity depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Chief Experience Officer did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline \$5-10 USD per person, per day can be used as a guide. If your CEO(s) exceeded your expectations, feel free to tip more.

Optional Activities

New Orleans
- Zulu Parade
- Rex Parade
- Creole Cooking Class (25USD per person)
- Historical Tours (25-30USD per person)
- Ghost Tour (25USD per person)

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra Foundation - the non-profit partner of G Adventures

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Minimum Age

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.