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Things To Do in New Orleans

Whether this is your first time to New Orleans or you're a seasoned visitor, the city's infectious spirit is sure to invigorate, captivate and motivate you to jump in and see and do as much as you can. With so many options, narrowing the playing field can be a challenge. Think of it this way: divide how much time you have by what your priorities are – history, art, music, culture, and on and on – and then add in a little time for the spontaneous joy that is New Orleans' calling card. Subtract a few hours for sleep, multiply your dining pleasure by at least three times a day, and you have the perfect equation for an amazing New Orleans experience.

Jackson Square is one of many places to soak in the culture of New Orleans. As you explore the picture-perfect square in the heart of the French Quarter, you may find yourself enjoying an impromptu concert, eyeballing colorful paintings by the local artist community or snapping photos of the surrounding historic buildings, including the towering triple steeples of St. Louis Cathedral.

There are countless ways to enjoy the blues, jazz, zydeco, R&B and other genres that have earned New Orleans a reputation as a music mecca. Take in a free fall or spring concert in Lafayette Square, visit one of the clubs on Frenchmen Street or hear the street musicians on Royal Street. Pralines — sugar-rich, pecan-laden confections — are one of our signature snacks. Stop by a sweet shop, like Loretta's Authentic Pralines to watch them being made, and then indulge in a sample.

Whether or not you visit during our parade-filled Carnival season, you can always enjoy a part of the spectacle by visiting the Mardi Gras Museum at Arnaud's Restaurant. Its collection consists of elaborate king and queen costumes, Mardi Gras masks and vintage photos. Take a break from the ordinary and head towards the kinds of destinations you can only find in New Orleans.