

**THE BIG EASY . . . CRESCENT CITY . . . NOLA  
DISCOVERING NEW ORLEANS  
JANUARY 23 – 29, 2019**

Escorted by Ms. Christine Friedt

**Vacation Highlights:**

7 Days / 6 Nights in the French Quarter of New Orleans, LA

Daily breakfasts, 3 dinners

Walking tour, New Orleans School of Cooking class & dinner, city bus tour, plantation tours, swamp tour, museums and Mississippi River Boat cruise.

Tour escort throughout the duration of the trip



**Prices and Important Dates**

Trip Price: \$1999 person double occupancy Deposit: \$350 per person

Credit card payments will incur additional fees

Final Payment Due: October 15, 2018-----Single room supplement: \$530

Price includes: Hotel Provincial in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Land package, roundtrip airfare from Grand Rapids, transfers & services of a trip escort. Baggage fees are traveler responsibility.

Optional Travel Insurance: Contact **weTravel** for pricing.

**The weTravel Experience**

**weTravel** escorts our travelers on every trip, making certain that things run as smoothly as possible. Christine Friedt & Debi Termaat, the weTravel escorts, advocate for individuals as well as the group to ensure that any problems which crop up are handled quickly, allowing you to enjoy the best possible experience. Our trips provide the best of all worlds, the ability to travel to domestic & foreign destinations in the most convenient, cost-efficient and stress-free way possible. Your experienced escort handles every detail, answers questions and connects fellow travelers interested in optional excursions and free time exploration. You will have peace of mind knowing your escort is available prior to and throughout the trip.

Reservations: For personalized service call Debi or Christine at 616-389-0589

Email at [info@wetravel.club](mailto:info@wetravel.club) [www.wetravel.club](http://www.wetravel.club)

Mailing address: 4267 4 Mile Rd. NE, Grand Rapids MI 49525

**When you travel with us, you travel with friends.**



New Orleans, Louisiana probably has more nicknames than any other American city. One web site lists more than twenty nicknames! The most famous is **The Big Easy**. It describes the gentle, slow and easy-going way of life in New Orleans. We are heading there to escape a week of Michigan winter and enjoy this gentle, easy-going and unique gem of a city!

When you visit New Orleans you look for four things: Culture, Music, Culinary and History. We intend to cover all four in our tour!

In a city distinguished internationally for the charm and hospitality of its French Quarter, there exists a secluded, intimate hotel that offers its guests yet another dimension to the *Vieux Carre* experience. The **Hotel Provincial**, although conveniently located near all the desirable historic and tourist attractions of downtown New Orleans, also offers its visitors the serenity and unique style reserved for the private, residential section of the French Quarter. Listed on the **National Register of Historic Places**, and locally owned since 1961, this hotel is valued as an architectural gem, and features modern amenities housed within a compound of meticulously restored historic structures. The beautifully appointed lobby area, lush tropical courtyards and carefully restored outbuildings offer the perfect place for enjoying a relaxing vacation.

Although we seek some warmer weather and a relaxing vacation we will also keep busy with exploring this beautiful city . . . plus head out to visit Baton Rouge too!

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## **ITINERARY**

Inside visits and special features are shown in UPPERCASE in the tour description.

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23 ~ Arrive in New Orleans, LA**

Flight arrival in early evening and check into your hotel. The rest of evening is yours to explore.

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 24**

We start off our day with a WALKING TOUR of the French Quarter. It is our home for the remainder of the trip so we need to learn its history and get familiar with all the special places. It is the oldest area of the city but is more properly known as the Vieux Carre. The French Quarter is bounded by Rampart Street, Esplanade Avenue, Canal Street, and the Mississippi River. The most well-known area is the entertainment section, with its famous restaurants, bars, and hotels. Music wafts from the Bourbon Street clubs, jazz institutions such as Preservation Hall, or the newcomer House of Blues, or just on any street corner on any given day. The many antique shops on Royal Street contain treasures. A stroll down Decatur Street culminates at the bustling Old French Market, where the Indians traded long before Bienville arrived.

After lunch, we take a guided bus CITY TOUR to every must-see neighborhood and landmark: City Park, the Garden District, Treme . . . just to name a few! (B)

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 25**

It is hard to travel to this region without enjoying a "SWAMP TOUR"! This bayou tour glides us on a flat-bottomed boat where our expert guides will give us an authentic tour of one of America's most unique ecosystems. We

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will have a chance to see alligators, wild boar, snakes, owls, egrets and more.

After a few hours on your own in the late afternoon, we then head to the NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING. We will cook an authentic Louisiana meal from start to finish with guidance from one of the New Orleans School of Cooking chefs! We will enjoy approximately 2 hours of cook time followed by the four-course meal we just prepared. This fine dining experience will be well remembered as we take home recipe cards and lots of fond memories! (B, D)

### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 26**

We are Baton Rouge bound! Louisiana's OLD STATE CAPITOL, a Gothic architectural treasure, stands high on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. This 165-year-old statehouse has withstood war, fire, scandal bitter debate, abandonment and an occasional fistfight. Today, the building stands as a testament to bold, inspired leadership and active citizenship. Our visit continues as we explore LSU's RURAL LIFE MUSEUM and WINDRUSH GARDENS. The Rural Life Museum is outdoors and has a wonderful collection of buildings exemplifying the house types of Louisiana including – a country church, Caroline cabin, shotgun house, Acadian house, and dogtrot house – whose construction traits illustrate the various cultures of Louisiana settlers. WINDRUSH GARDENS is the life's work of the youngest of the family who donated these lands to LSU. You will have time to stroll through the gardens and view some of the favorite landscape plants such as Majestic live oaks and ancient crape myrtles. The winding paths are ideal for strolling! (B)

### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 27**

You can't visit New Orleans without visiting the iconic MARDI GRAS WORLD! This working studio opened to the public in 1984 to provide us with a behind-the-scenes look at this spectacular annual event. It draws hundreds

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of thousands of visitors from all over the world. No visit would be complete without it. The NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM is a remarkable must-see attraction in New Orleans that illuminates the American experience during World War II. Ranked the #1 attraction in New Orleans on Trip Advisor and recipient three years in a row of the Travelers' Choice Award, the Museum brings history to life with moving personal stories and powerful interactive displays. This evening we board the NATCHEZ FOR A DINNER JAZZ CRUISE. This Mississippi River cruise offers unique views of the stunning evening skyline. Our buffet dinner is followed by live jazz by world-renowned "Dukes of Dixieland". (B,D)

### **MONDAY, JANUARY 28**

*Our visits today include two plantations.* Feel the gentle breeze of Southern hospitality on a tour that takes you back to the glory of the Old South! We'll experience a bygone era in one of the South's most beautiful settings – OAK ALLEY PLANTATION, built in 1839. Marvel at the unbelievable quarter-mile long alley of 28 magnificent Oak trees, each over 250 years old, and view the Majestic Cypress Trees in Louisiana's swamps bordering the Mississippi River.

Your guided tour will reveal the fascinating stories of the home and its history. Perhaps the most photographed plantation ever, Oak Alley has been the setting for such motion pictures as Interview with a Vampire and Primary Colors to name a few.

The WHITNEY PLANTATION gives us a much different perspective. It takes a personal look into the lives of owners and slaves in Antebellum Louisiana.

In 2014, the Whitney Plantation opened its doors to the public for the first time in its 262 year history as the only plantation museum in Louisiana with a focus on slavery.

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Through museum exhibits, memorial artwork, restored buildings and hundreds of first-person slave narratives, visitors to Whitney will gain a unique perspective on the enslaved people who lived and worked here. (B)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 29**

Departure day. (B)

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Hotel Provincial  
1024 Rue Chartres New Orleans, LA 70116

<https://www.hotelprovincial.com/>

*Dates, Itineraries, Prices, Escort subject to change.*

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