

# YOUR STAY & FLIGHTS

*In the heart of the French Quarter*

## Flights

The main group will fly on British Airways from Heathrow. However flights from many regional airports can be arranged, subject to availability. These may incur a supplement. Please call us to discuss your requirements. The London Heathrow group flights will be met with a group transfer.

## Accommodation

You will be staying at The Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter in the heart of the French Quarter, on the corner of Bourbon and Toulouse. All the rooms have en suite facilities and also offer a coffee maker, TV, hair dryer, iron, ironing board and safe. Breakfast with a range of hot and cold dishes is included daily. The hotel also has an intimate bar and secluded courtyard with a swimming pool, where the Pool Party is held. As always, we have requested quiet rooms away from Bourbon Street and will be operating a 'run of the house' room allocation system. If you wish to have a Bourbon Street balcony room, please ask. These incur a supplement but, be advised, these rooms can be noisy.

*\* We have negotiated three slightly smaller double rooms for sole occupancy only, these are at a lower rate than would usually be charged for the sole occupancy of a standard double room, saving £40 a night. The prices below reflect this saving. A supplement applies for sole occupancy of a standard double room.*



# GENERAL INFORMATION

*All you need to know and more*

## Passports & Visas

A full 10 year valid EU Passport is required, and must be valid until after your return date. It is now mandatory to have an e-passport when entering the USA under the Visa Waiver Program.

It is now compulsory that citizens or nationals from all Visa Waiver Program countries (which includes the UK) obtain an approved travel authorisation called the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (known as an 'ESTA') in order to be eligible to travel to the U.S.

The ESTA allows you only to board the aircraft – entry into the U.S is still subject to clearance at U.S. Customs & Border control at your first arrival airport.

ESTA is a web-based system. In order to apply go to [www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/esta](http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/esta) then follow the instructions and answer all the mandatory questions to submit an application. There will be a charge of (currently) \$14 for this service.

Please ensure you only use this website as there are other sites around making higher charges. Before you begin your application please have to hand your valid passport and a credit card. When you have completed your application and received your authorisation approval, please make a note of your reference number and the expiry date.

Generally an ESTA is valid for 2 years from application or until your passport expires, whichever is the former.

**Please Note:** A passport indicating that the bearer is a British Subject, British Dependent Territories Citizen, British Overseas Citizen, British National (Overseas) Citizen, or British Protected Person does not qualify for travel without a visa. A passport which states that the holder has Right of Abode or indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom also, does not qualify for visa free travel.

## Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is strongly recommended. It is your sole responsibility for arranging sufficient levels of comprehensive travel and medical insurance which should cover, inter alia, cancellation and curtailment, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses and damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money & personal goods. The insurance should cover all members of your party.

## Booking

Please return the enclosed booking form with the deposit of £350 per person to secure your place.



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# FRENCH QUARTER



Festival Tour  
New Orleans  
April 2018





# WHAT'S INCLUDED

Take a look at what's included in 2018

- Return economy class flights from Heathrow (other departure airports available)
- Return New Orleans airport transfers (Heathrow group flights only)
- 9 or 12 nights' accommodation at The Four Points By Sheraton French Quarter
- Welcome Reception (group flights only)
- 9 or 12 breakfasts
- Familiarisation Walk
- Welcome Event
- The New Orleans Jazz History Tour
- Pool party
- Second Line in FQF parade
- Louisiana Music Factory
- Farewell event at the Dew Drop & Social Hall
- Escorted by Southern Sounds' own team (9 night tour only)



**Not Included:**  
Transfers to/from UK airports  
Supplements for non-group flights (if applicable).  
Airport transfers for non-group flights. Optional events (e.g. Mardi Gras World).  
Meals other than those stated, beverages, laundry or any expenditure of a personal nature.

# OUR PRICES

£ per person	French Quarter Tour	New Orleans Extension supplement
2 Sharing a Room	£2,395	£300
3 Sharing a Room	£2,120	£300
Single Occupancy	£2,820	£475
Airport Tax & Charges	£375	£375

(additional to tour cost)

# WHAT'S PLANNED

Provisional



**Monday 9th April**  
Depart the UK on a scheduled direct flight to New Orleans. On arrival you will be transferred to our ideally situated hotel, The Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter on Bourbon Street. Welcome reception on arrival.

**Tuesday 10th April**  
For the 'first timers' this guided walk, led by our own team, will acquaint you to the sights of the French Quarter.  
**Algiers (Optional)**  
Following the walk we will take a ferry trip over Ol' Man River to Algiers, giving a different aspect of New Orleans. From here you will have chance to have stroll along the 'Jazz Walk of Fame' or perhaps enjoy a true Southern lunch at The Dry Dock Café.  
**Welcome Event (Included)**  
A trip to New Orleans is not complete until you have experienced Preservation Hall. At this unique venue we enjoy an exclusive concert with outstanding musicians. A truly special event.

**Wednesday 11th April**  
**The New Orleans Jazz History Tour (Included)**  
John McCusker a photojournalist, author and jazz authority has become a dear friend to the tour over the years. On his intimate guided tour we travel through the neighbourhoods

that gave birth to jazz more than a century ago, combining a jazz lover's appreciation of the art and a journalist's devotion to the facts.  
**Mardi Gras World (Optional)**  
A chance to see first-hand what it takes to bring Mardi Gras to life year after year. Walk through the operating workshop that creates floats for Mardi Gras and for other parades around the world.  
**Pool Party (Included)**  
Time to make new friends and enjoy a drink around the pool whilst the musicians on the tour, along with some 'special local guests' entertain us.

**Thursday 12th April**  
**French Quarter Festival & Parade (Included)**  
It is a special honour to be invited to take part in opening parade of the French Quarter Festival. Second line behind The Society Brass Band - our own local band for the parade. The festival is the largest free music event in Louisiana with over 140 bands and artists playing on numerous stages throughout the Vieux Carre.

**Friday 13th April**  
**French Quarter Festival continues**  
There are many special events on offer over the festival weekend (e.g. dance lessons at the

French Market Traditional Jazz Stage, talks at the 'Old Mint' located in the Louisiana State Museum and films shown at Le Petit Theatre du Vieux Carre).

**Saturday 14th April**  
**French Quarter Festival continues**  
Don't miss the 'battle of the bands' from 5:30 p.m. at 400 Block of Royal!

**Sunday 15th April**  
**French Quarter Festival last day**  
There is still time to enjoy the various bands/artists performing on the stages, festival venues or even the odd street corner. The festival finishes early evening.

**Monday 16th April**  
**Whitney Plantation Tour (Optional)**  
Time to get out of town and to enjoy a trip to Whitney Plantation. With museum exhibits, memorial artwork and restored buildings and hundreds of first-person slave narratives, you'll gain a unique perspective on the lives of Louisiana's enslaved people.  
**Louisiana Music Factory (Included)**  
Barry Smith, owner of this famous jazz emporium throws opens his store laying on a jazz band, and free drinks, whilst browsing for those rare recordings.

**Tuesday 17th April**  
**Barataria Preserve (Optional)**  
Early morning visit to the Barataria Preserve, which offers a taste of Louisiana's wild wetlands. The preserve's 23,000 acres include bayous, swamps, marshes, forests, and is home to over 200 bird species.  
**Dew Drop Farewell Party (Included)**  
The Dew Drop Dance & Music Hall in Mandeville is a historic dance hall dating back to the 1920's where the likes of Buddy Pettit, Bunk Johnson and George Lewis played. Here a very special band will entertain you with the local ladies of the church supplying home cooked fare during the break.

**Wednesday 18th April**  
**Swamp Tour (Optional)**  
This morning we will take a trip out of town and explore the countryside. Pearl River Eco Tours are dedicated to preserving the Honey

Island Swamp and the animals which inhabit this beautiful eco system. Early evening the 'standard' group transfers from the hotel to the airport for their overnight flight home.

**Thursday 19th April**  
**Arrive back in the UK.**

**New Orleans Extension**  
**Thursday 19th and Friday 20th April**  
**A chance to further explore the sights and sounds of New Orleans and the surrounding areas, or to simply relax. These days are unaccompanied.**

**Saturday 21st April**  
Free day. Early evening the 'extension' group transfers to New Orleans airport in time for the overnight flight home.

**Sunday 22nd April**  
**Arrive back in the UK.**

# FOR NON JAZZERS

**We are aware that not everyone likes jazz enough to immerse themselves in the New Orleans way, so we thought we'd give you some ideas of other things to do whilst your significant other half does. There are already some non-jazz excursions in the programme (e.g. Whitney Plantation Tour) but here are a few more for you. The hotel concierge will be able to assist with any of these excursions.**

**Audubon Aquarium of the Americas:**  
In the top 5 of U.S. aquarium it featuring sharks, jellyfish, rays, rare white gator, penguins, otters and a changing exhibits gallery.

**Audubon Zoo:**  
Audubon Zoo is a New Orleans landmark, set in 58 acres and a living museum filled with some of the rarest and most beautiful creatures of nature.

**Natchez Cruise:**  
Enjoy a peaceful cruise down Ol' Man River on board 'The Natchez', the only authentic steamboat in New Orleans.

**National World War II Museum**  
The National WWII Museum's exhibits cover the epic and global scale of the war that changed the world, in a voice that is intimate and personal. Exhibits not only highlight the

role of world leaders, but also the everyday men and women who found the strength and courage to accomplish the extraordinary.

**New Orleans City Park**  
A chance to ride on the Canal Street Car to City Park at Beauregard Circle, where you can enjoy a 1,500-acre urban Eden filled with centuries-old oak trees, an elegant botanical

garden, a charming storybook village, lakes and a host of other activities.

**New Orleans School of Cooking**  
A light-hearted cooking class taught by well-known local chefs; skilled in the arts and traditions of Cajun and Creole cuisine. Visitors will be treated to a wide range of local classics such as Jambalaya, Gumbo, Corn Crab Bisque and Pralines.

# TOUR OPTIONS

More on tour

We hope our tour options will suit most holiday entitlements and budgets. They all depart from London Heathrow (or your chosen departure airport) on Monday 9th April 2018.

Should neither the departure date nor either of the return dates (19th and 22nd) suit, or should you wish to visit another part of the U.S., call us and we'll adapt your arrangements to suit.

**French Quarter Festival**  
9 nights giving a balance of jazz and 'out of town' events.

**New Orleans Extension**  
12 nights, giving you extra time to explore the local area or simply relax.