

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 and 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 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 £31 a night. The prices shown 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 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 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 £400 per person to secure your place.



Southern Sounds is a division of Golf Escapes Ltd, St Andrews House, Cinder Hill, Horsted Keynes, West Sussex RH17 7BA.
t: 07986 001735 e: info@southern-sounds.co.uk
w: www.southern-sounds.co.uk

New Orleans | Departs 13th April 2020



FRENCH QUARTER



FESTIVAL TOUR



Southern Sounds
let the good times roll

What's Planned

Monday 13th 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 14th April

Familiarisation Walk (Included)

For the 'first timers' this guided walk, led by our own team, will accustom you to the sites of the French Quarter.

Algiers (Optional)

After 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 stroll along the 'Jazz Walk of Fame' or perhaps enjoy a true Southern lunch at The Dry Dock Café.

Pool Party (Included)

Time to make new friends and enjoy a drink around the pool whilst some 'local special guests' entertain us.

Wednesday 15th April

The New Orleans Jazz History Tour (Included)

John McCusker an 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 and combines

a jazz lover's appreciation of the art and a journalist's devotion to the facts.

Preservation Hall (Optional)

This year we are offering an optional visit to Preservation Hall. Details on who will be playing and ticket prices will be available nearer the time.

Thursday 16th 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 (numbers can be limited, 'first timers' will have priority). 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 17th and Saturday 18th April

French Quarter Festival continues

There are many special events on offer over the festival weekend, for example 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.



Sunday 19th April

Jazz Brunch (Optional)

It is a New Orleans tradition; too late for breakfast and too early for lunch so combine the two and you have a 'brunch', whilst listening to local musicians.

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 20th 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.

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 21st April

Barataria Preserve (Optional)

Early morning visit to the Barataria Preserve, which offers a taste of Louisiana's wild wetlands. The preserve's 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 an 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 22nd April

Natchez Mississippi Cruise (Optional)

This afternoon enjoy a cruise down Ol' Man River listening to Steamboat Stompers on board 'The Natchez', the only authentic steamboat in New Orleans. Early evening the group transfers to New Orleans airport in time for the overnight flight home.

Thursday 23rd April

Arrive back in the UK.

What's Included

Take a look at what's included in 2020

- Return economy class direct flights from Heathrow
- Current airport taxes / surcharges
- Return New Orleans airport transfers (Heathrow group flights only)
- 9 nights' accommodation at The Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter
- Welcome Reception (group flights only)
- 9 breakfasts
- Familiarisation walk
- Pool party
- New Orleans Jazz History Tour
- Second Line in FQF parade
- Louisiana Music Factory
- Farewell event at the Dew Drop & Social Hall
- Escorted by Jill Lander and Pete & Heather Lay

Not Included:

Transfers to/from UK airports. Supplements for non-group flights (if applicable). Airport transfers for non-group flights. Optional events (e.g. Swamp Tour). Meals other than those stated, beverages, laundry or any expenditure of a personal nature.

Our Prices

£ per person	French Quarter Tour
2 Sharing a room	£2,975
3 Sharing a room	£2,775
Single Occupancy of (only) three smaller rooms - first come first served basis	£3,495
Single Occupancy of a standard double room	£3,775

