



French Quarter Festival Tour Jill's Last Hurrah! New Orleans - April 2023

WHAT'S PLANNED (Provisional)

Tuesday 11th April

Depart the UK. 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.

Wednesday 12th 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)

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

New Orleans Jazz Party (Included)

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



Thursday 13th 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 14th and Saturday 15th 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.

Sunday 16th 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 17th April

Swamp Tour & Abita Springs visit (Optional)

Today 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. Following the Swamp Tour we will take a trip out to Abita Springs, with free time to explore and enjoy the local beverage!



“Thank You Party” (Included)

Over the years, Southern Sounds have made some very special friends locally. This evening, they will be invited to join us at the hotel. Further details will be available nearer the time!

Tuesday 18th 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.

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.

Wednesday 19th 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 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.



Thursday 20th April

Day free. Early evening the group transfers to New Orleans airport in time for the overnight flight home.

Friday 21st April

Arrive back in the UK.

Our Prices

French Quarter Tour £ per person	Without flights	With BA economy class direct flights
2 Sharing a room	£2,295	£3,070
Single Occupancy of (only) five smaller traditional rooms - first come first served basis	£2,895	£3,670
Single Occupancy of a standard double room	£3,120	£3,895

WHAT’S INCLUDED

Take a look at what’s included in 2023

*Return British Airways direct flights

Return New Orleans airport transfers (BA group flights only)

9 nights’ accommodation at The Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter

Welcome Reception (BA group flights only)

9 breakfasts

Familiarisation walk

New Orleans Jazz Party

Second Line in FQF parade

Thank You Party

New Orleans Jazz History Tour

Louisiana Music Factory

Farewell event at the Dew Drop & Social Hall

Escorted by Jill Lander and Pete & Heather Lay

***We have a limited number of economy class British Airways direct flights, first come first served.**

Not Included:

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

YOUR STAY & FLIGHTS

Flights

The group will fly on British Airways direct flight that departs from Heathrow. The group seats are limited and are on a first come first served basis. If you wish to fly in Premium Economy or Business Class, please contact us for a quote. You are more than welcome to arrange your own flights.

Accommodation - In the heart of the French Quarter

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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

All you need to know and more

Passports & Visas

A full valid British 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) \$21 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.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/usa/entry-requirements> regarding the current entry rules in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Booking

Please email your booking form to Jill@southern-sounds.co.uk to secure your place.

A deposit of £400 per person will be due excluding flights and £500 per person including flights.

Payments may be made by on-line banking to:-

The Sport & Travel Group Ltd, Sort Code: 20-07-82 Account No: 90171034.

Please quote reference 21008 and your surname when submitting payment.

All client monies are 100% protected (by ABTA if booking your own flights, or by ATOL if booking your flights with us).