

New Orleans Trip Report

Introduction

We just got back from a 5-day visit to New Orleans, La (NOLA). We had never visited there before and just loved it (except the awful Bourbon Street). We stayed at the Omni Royal Orleans and our room was on the 4th floor, facing Royal Street. The incredible Tonya & Dorise played Fri, Sat and Sun from mid afternoon to midnight or later like a continuous first-rate concert. She is the violinist that was the inspiration for Annie (played by Lucia Micarelli) in the TV show "Treme".

NOLA is a city of music and arts and street musicians and mimes and so, so much more. We saw the WWII museum, an old-time music concert at "Preservation Hall", took the Natchez ferry down the Mississippi but mostly wandered the streets with the sometimes wonderful shops and enjoyed the delicious food! We walked 35 miles in 4.5 days, or 7 miles a day, crossing 10 miles one day. Our pictures are at:

<http://bit.ly/21X9wCK>

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Royal Street is one block south of Bourbon and is just a wonderful street lined with shops, little museums, restaurants and many wonderful street musicians and other street performers. Some of them are amazingly talented playing tunes from old blues, honky-tonk piano (yes, with a real piano!), NOLA jazz (trombones and all) and an absolutely marvelous violinist named Tonya & Dorise (look 'em up).

Magazine Street from Jackson Avenue east is lined with beautiful old homes and huge trees forming cathedral ceilings. There are many interesting shops along the way. A delightful walk.

French Market Place has some wonderful art-shops and some tourist junk shops. Is worth going to. The Central Grocery is there to buy a Muffuletta where the line moves quickly, so don't worry if it extends out the door. It is worth the short wait.

Decatur Street runs along the waterfront and has many interesting shops.

Jackson Square: Lovely park but with little shade. When we were there, there was a wonderful art-fair all around it with mostly 2D works. Along the northern edge in front of St. Louis Cathedral, are street musicians, psychics, palm-readers and poem writers. Is an interesting area.

Chartres Street has many very interesting shops from Canal street to Jackson Square.

Each street from Royal to the waterfront is lovely with interesting portions from Canal to about St Philip.

Bourbon Street is a VERY noisy, drunk and unsettling street. Not at all the type of music one might expect in New Orleans, but rather top-volume arrhythmic noise with swarms of drunks staggering around with their drinks in their hands (NOLA version of "Open at night and asleep in the streets during the day. Avoid it.

WWII Museum: This is a fabulous museum that gives the history of the horrible event and the fighting of that war. There is a "4D" movie narrated by Tom Hanks that is so worth seeing. The seats vibrate when the bombs go off. It will take several hours to see this amazing place.

Restaurants we loved in New Orleans:

Peche for fish: Whole Pompano that was spectacular and a catfish dish that was delicious. Sides also were very good.

Ruby Slipper: Brunch was wonderful and very homey. They make eggs benedict in a dozen ways and their “breakfast sandwich” was delicious. The place is very interesting.

Mr. B's: Is one of the Brenner family NOLA restaurants and was elegant and excellent. We had Osso Bucco and Redfish.

August: for lunch on Fridays only. Usually a dinner only place. Very elegant and each item we had (Flounder, Pompano) was perfect.

Central market for Muffuletta: It is the ONLY place to get a Muffuletta, and this New Orleans original was invented at this market. It is MUST for all visitors.

Dookey Chase's: This is a historic local eatery started in 1941 way in the Treme (take a taxi). Leah Chase is 93 and still works the kitchen. Eat the fried chicken, it is amazing.

Three Restaurants recommended to us, but we ran out of time!

Brigtsen's Restaurant

723 Dante Street, New Orleans, LA 70118

On the other side of Tulane on the river.

La Petite Grocery

4238 Magazine Street. New Orleans, LA — 70115

Three miles west of downtown on the nice part of Magazine street. A pleasant walk.

Shaya

4213 Magazine St, New Orleans, LA 70115

One block from La Petite Grocery.