

Historic New Orleans An Insider's Look

March 7-12, 2024



Heritage Tours
by American Ancestors



DICAMILLO
TRAVEL

ITINERARY

Thursday, March 7 — Laissez les Bon Temps Rouler!

Arrive independently in New Orleans and check in at the luxurious Hotel Monteleone, a member of the Historic Hotels of the America located in the French Quarter. This afternoon we'll set out on foot in New Orleans' oldest neighborhood, the French Quarter, with our guide, a professor of history at Tulane University. We will visit Jackson Square, where iron fences, benches, and Parisian-style landscaping remain intact from its 1851 "renovation," and learn about the history of some of the quarter's most significant 18th and 19th century buildings, including the Cabildo, the Presbytère, and St. Louis Cathedral. This evening we'll toast our travels at a party hosted by the owners of a lovely early 19th century private home in the Garden District.



Jackson Square, French Quarter (Britt Reints)

Friday, March 8 — The Garden District, Irish Channel and Warehouse District

Today we'll follow the Mardi Gras parade route as we stroll along St. Charles Avenue in the Garden District, where we will see the grandiose mansions and leafy gardens of this historic neighborhood. Among other notable homes, we'll stop to view the famed Cornstalk Fence House, so-called for its ornate cornstalk and morning glory fence, which underwent an extensive renovation in 2018. We will also visit one of the grand houses as guests of the owner, where we'll learn about the restoration and upkeep of these architectural gems. Next, we'll look through the gates of the Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, a National Historic Landmark that was opened in 1833. Although closed to visitors because of ongoing repairs, some of the elaborate tombs are visible from the street. Following lunch at one of New Orleans' most celebrated restaurants, we'll drive through the Irish Channel to see the remarkable shotgun houses on our way to the Warehouse District, a former industrial area that is today a vibrant arts and cultural destination. We'll end our day with a special, immersive, behind-the-scenes tour of the National World War II Museum. Afterward, we'll return to the French Quarter for an early evening jazz performance at Preservation Hall, followed by dinner on your own.



French Quarter Balcony
(New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau)

Saturday, March 9 — Historic Homes and New Orleans Architecture

We begin our day at Longue Vue House and Gardens, an opulent 1939 Classical Revival mansion with original furnishings, including a remarkable collection of English and American antiques and furniture. Ellen Biddle Shipman designed the eight acres of manicured formal gardens. Next, we'll visit the Pitot House, an 18th century Creole country home in Bayou St. John that showcases



Garden District (David Ohmer)



Preservation Hall Jazz Band (Infrogmatron)

American and Louisiana antiques from the early 19th century. In 1964 the house was saved from destruction and restored to its original splendor by the Louisiana Landmarks Society. Following a lunch of local specialties, we'll drive through City Park on our way to the Faubourg Tremé neighborhood, the birthplace of jazz and home to the largest pre-Civil war community of free people of color. Next, we'll tour the Lower Ninth Ward, where we will see some of the unique contemporary architecture that has arisen out of the Hurricane Katrina recovery, including houses by the Global Green Project and the delightful "steamboat houses." Dinner and the evening are at leisure. A list of restaurants will be provided.

Sunday, March 10 —Behind the Big House on the Mississippi

Today we'll drive westward along the Mississippi River to Whitney Plantation, the first antebellum plantation in America to dedicate itself to the history and legacy of slavery. Opened to the public as a museum in 2014, Whitney Plantation was restored over a 15-year-period by New Orleans trial lawyer John Cummings to document plantation life from the enslaved workers' experience. We will then continue to nearby Oak Alley Plantation, with its famed scenic allée, grand historic mansion, and preserved slave quarters and outbuildings. Following a traditional Cajun buffet lunch at the plantation, we'll tour the mansion and grounds and have free time to wander through the estate at leisure. Late this afternoon we'll return to New Orleans for a garden reception in a private home hosted by the owners.



Oak Alley Plantation (Dirk Spijkers)

Monday, March 11 —Historic New Orleans Collection

We begin our day as the guests of the Historic New Orleans Collection, the city's most important historic society. Here we will have a special tour led by curators and archivists that will focus on rare artifacts of the collection. Next up is a tour of the Beauregard-Keyes House. This historic early 19th century French Quarter house had a wide variety of occupants, from a French Creole family to Italian immigrants to American author Frances Parkinson Keyes. This afternoon is at leisure. You can choose to visit some of the city's attractions not featured in the itinerary, such as the Edgar Degas House, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the New Orleans Museum of Art, Chalmette Battlefield, or a New Orleans River cruise. We'll bid au revoir to "the Big Easy" at a festive farewell dinner in one of the French Quarter's top restaurants.



Mardi Gras Decorations

Tuesday, March 12 —Farewell New Orleans

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before departing for the airport on independent flights home.

ABOUT OUR TOUR LEADER



Curt DiCamillo

Curt is the Curator of Special Collections at American Ancestors. Before he came to American Ancestors he worked for the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the National Trust for Scotland. Curt is a noted historian and a recognized authority on the British country house, about which he has written, lectured, and taught in the U.S. and abroad. Since 1999 he has maintained an award-winning database on the web, TheDiCamillo.com, which seeks to document every English, Scottish, Welsh, and Irish country house ever built, standing or demolished. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, is a Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society, and a member of the Council of the American Museum in Britain.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Monteleone

Known as the “Grand Dame of the French Quarter,” this iconic hotel has been owned and operated by five generations of the Monteleone family. From the lobby’s glittering chandeliers and polished marble floors to the rooftop fitness center, complete with a heated pool with views of New Orleans’ skyline, to our beautifully furnished guest rooms, the Monteleone is one of the gems of New Orleans. One of only three American hotels designated as an official literary landmark by the Friends of the Library Association, the Monteleone has long been a favorite haunt of distinguished literary giants, from Ernest Hemingway and Tennessee Williams to William Faulkner, Anne Rice, Stephen Ambrose, and John Grisham.



American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society is America’s founding genealogical organization, the most respected name in family history, and one of the leading non-profit organizations in the field. We create enriching opportunities for members and the public to research their own family history, attend educational programs and tours, exhibitions, and other inspirational experiences that communicate the power and importance of family history.

To learn more, visit [AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.americanancestors.org): <https://www.americanancestors.org>

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Tour Cost:

Land Package: \$5,495

Single Supplement: \$995

Tour price is per person, based on double occupancy, with a minimum of 12 paying participants.

Deposit & Final Payment: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve a spot on the tour. Deposits are payable by check or credit card (MasterCard, Visa, or American Express). Final balance will be invoiced and is due on November 28, 2023. Final balance payments are payable by check only to International Seminar Design, Inc. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

Activity Level: Moderate; good walking ability is advised. Some museum and historic home visits require use of staircases, and there will be some walking on uneven ground.

Flights: Airfare is not included in the tour price. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their round-trip air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed.

Terms & Conditions: American Ancestors and International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) strongly encourage that all tour participants be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Upon receipt of registration, ISDI will send registrant a Participant Tour Agreement detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to ISDI before participant's registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. Should a participant cancel at any time after registering for the tour, American Ancestors and ISDI must strictly abide by the cancellation policy outlined herein. Travel insurance information will be sent upon tour registration.

Tour Price Inclusions: 5 nights' accommodation at the Hotel Monteleone; breakfast daily at the hotel, 3 lunches, 2 dinners, 2 receptions; wine or beer at included lunches and dinners; land transportation by private motor coach; entrance fees to sites and visits listed in the itinerary; leadership of Curt DiCamillo for duration of the tour; services of an American Ancestors tour manager; expert local guides for the majority of touring; gratuities for guides, drivers, and restaurant staff at included meals; handling of 2 pieces of luggage per person upon arrival and departure from the hotel; bottled water on coach; service charges and taxes.

Tour Price Exclusions: Airline tickets, airline taxes and surcharges, and baggage fees; airport portorage; airport transfers upon arrival and departure; passport or visa fees; meals other than those specified in the itinerary; gratuities for hotel housekeeping; personal items such as telephone calls, room service, valet service, à-la-carte orders, specialty wines and liquors, laundry charges, travel extensions, or tour deviations; entry or departure fees levied by local governments; travel insurance; any other items not specifically included in the itinerary.

Cancellations & Refunds: Cancellation by participant must be made in writing to American Ancestors and is effective only upon acknowledged receipt by American Ancestors. There is a non-refundable registration and planning fee of \$500 per person regardless of cancellation date. Written cancellation received by American Ancestors on or before November 28, 2023: full refund minus \$500 per person registration and planning fee. Written cancellation received by American Ancestors between November 29, 2023 and January 22, 2024: full refund minus \$2,750 per person cancellation fee (includes registration and planning fee). Written cancellations received by American Ancestors on or after January 23, 2024: no refund. Tour registration is non-transferable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not allowed. After the tour has commenced, no refunds will be issued for any reason including, but not limited to, unused portions of tour. If the tour is cancelled by American Ancestors or ISDI due to low enrollment, active registrants will receive a full refund of all tour payments.

For more information:

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