

STIG ALBECK

TRAVEL TO NEW ORLEANS



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New Orleans

New Orleans

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New Orleans

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Hello New Orleans

A visit to New Orleans

www.neworleanscvb.com

www.louisianatravel.com

New Orleans is brimming with atmosphere in its old city centre, The French Quarter. Here there is live jazz music in the streets, cast-iron balconies, horse-driven carriages, and old Southern charm that is each year spiced up with the Mardi Gras celebrations. Under the name Nouvelle Orléans, the city was the main city of the French territory of Louisiana, which has left traces in the French street names, the language, and the restaurant menus that have an entirely different composition than in the rest of the USA.

Along the French Quarter and the rest of central New Orleans runs the Mississippi River, where you can take a steamboat to the historical plantations in the upland and dream away to 19th Century rural and urban living as well as enjoy the mix of American and French-Creole culture.

Have a great trip!

Historical outline

The area around New Orleans had been populated by Native Americans for a long time before the Europeans arrived here in 1518. The original village was called Tchoutchouma and was located close to present-day New Orleans. The Europeans were led by the Spanish explorer Alonso Alvarez de Piñeda, and the group travelled up the Mississippi River, which they called Espiritu Santo, The Holy Spirit River. However, an actual colonisation would not be for many years.

In 1682 Robert Cavalier arrived at the areas by the mouth of the Mississippi and claimed the area for France. It was named Louisiana after the French Sun King, Louis XIV. The 1690's saw several clashes between the newly arrived French and the indigenous tribes.

In 1699 the first real town, Biloxi, was founded, and soon it became the capital of the territory instead of the bridgehead at Mobile. In the same year France made Louisiana a crown colony.

The following year saw a breakdown in the peace negotiations between France and the Native Americans, and this resulted in 8 years of hostilities. In 1708 the indigenous resistance was crushed with a certain stability as the result.

The French founded Nouvelle Orléans in 1718 as the primary city of the new colony. The place had been chosen because it was one of the few high grounds near the Mississippi before it exits into the Gulf of Mexico, and furthermore the location provided easy transport across the large Lake Pontchartrain. Shortly thereafter, in 1722, Nouvelle Orléans formally replaced Biloxi as the main city of Louisiana.

The French presence did not last many decades. The first French traders had arrived in the early

18th Century, and in 1762 Spain won the colony in connection with the French defeat in the Seven-Year War. When the Spanish took over New Orleans, a city centre had already been established; the present French Quarter.

In 1788 and again in 1795, the city was struck by devastating fires that ruined more than 1,000 buildings. The Spanish rebuilt the French Quarter, and many of the present characteristic buildings of the district were constructed at this time, including the St. Louis Cathedral and Cabildo.

After the peace agreement at San Ildefonso, New Orleans became French again in 1801. Napoleon envisaged a large new state with New Orleans as its centre. This French rule only lasted until 1803, when the USA purchase of Louisiana from France was effectuated. This purchase almost doubled the area of the USA, as French Louisiana stretched from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains and from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. The price was 15 million dollars for the 2,145,000 km² that would eventually become 13 American states.

Through the first half of the 19th Century, New Orleans developed as a centre for the increasing number of large plantations that were established North and West of the city. The plantations generated development and prosperity in the city and the region, and many fine buildings were constructed during this time. New Orleans was one of the wealthiest cities in the country during this period, when the predecessor of the present tram system was created, and today it is the oldest operating rail-based transportation system in the world.

New Orleans and Louisiana was part of the American Southern States and were thus part of the Confederate States of America in the American Civil War against the Union army from the North. In 1862 Union forces occupied the city and remained there until 1865.

From 1915 onwards the New Orleans jazz music began spreading, first to Chicago and later to the entire world, where the music has brought fame to the city and to Louisiana. Some of the world's best-known jazz musicians began in various clubs in the Storyville area, including Louis Armstrong and King Oliver.

1956 saw the opening of the bridge across Lake Ponchartrain, then the world's longest bridge, and helped to further develop New Orleans' status as the regional centre. Only two years later the Greater New Orleans Bridge across the Mississippi opened.

In the late 1950's, a move towards equality between the city's ethnic groups began, and the segregation in first buses, then schools and elsewhere was abandoned. In 1977 the city elected its first mayor of African, rather than European, descent.

A World Exhibition about the world's water supply was held here in 1984 and became a huge success with more than 7 million visitors. Other great events are the many Super Bowl Finals that have been played in the impressive Louisiana Superdome.

During the last few decades the historical French Quarter has been revitalised, and visitors from around the world enjoy the Quarter's atmosphere with jazz clubs and countless restaurants with especially delicacies from the French-Creole Cajun cuisine. The height of festivities is the traditional Mardi Gras festival.

In 2005 New Orleans was hit by a hurricane, which caused vast destruction throughout the city, which was also largely flooded. The city was evacuated, and a great project of reconstruction is undergoing in the city and along the coastal areas by the Gulf of Mexico.

Tour 1: New Orleans

1. French Quarter



Bourbon Street

The charming French Quarter is the greatest attraction in New Orleans. The entire district is steaming with a mood that is unique in both North American and the entire world. The French Quarter was known as the Vieux Carré during the French rule and is located between Canal Street, Esplanade Avenue, Decatur Street, and Rampart Street.

The French Quarter was the original French city of Nouvelle Orleans, but the majority of buildings were constructed during the Spanish rule as the French houses had burnt down in 1794. Even after the American purchase of Louisiana, the area continued to have a large population of French origin, and French was spoken commonly up to the early 20th Century. Even today the street signs are in French, like the famous Bourbon Street that is called Rue Bourbon.

The Quarter is characterised by the many buildings with balconies in several storeys and galleries in cast iron. Horse-driven carriages drive in the streets, and especially at night there is real New Orleans jazz in the many cafés.

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2. Jackson Square

Jackson Square

Jackson Square is the centre of the old part of New Orleans, the French Quarter. It was called Place d'Armes until 1851, when it was renamed in honour of the American president Andrew Jackson, whose statue stands in the middle of the square. It is a lovely little square with a small park, and it is also worth visiting in the evening, when it is beautifully lit up.

3. St. Louis Cathedral



Jackson Square

www.stlouiscathedral.org

The present St. Louis Cathedral was built in 1949 as the third church in this location, as the two predecessors were destroyed by a hurricane and a fire respectively. The cathedral is the oldest Roman-Catholic church in the USA and had the honour of being visited by the Pope in 1964.

4. The Cabildo

701 Chartres Street

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/cabex.htm>

The Cabildo is one of the most important historical buildings in New Orleans. This was where the American Louisiana purchase was signed in 1803. The building was originally the City Hall of New Orleans, and now it is the main building of the Louisiana State Museum.

The Cabildo was built from 1795-1799 to house the Spanish administration in the city, and in the 19th Century it also functioned as the courthouse. In 1988 the Cabildo was ravaged by a fire, but after five years of restoration the building appeared as new because of the use of the original building techniques. It now displays the history of New Orleans in an exciting way.

5. The Presbytere

751 Chartres Street

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us>

This building was originally known as the Casa Curial and was constructed as a parallel to the Cabildo on the opposite side of the St. Louis Cathedral of the time. These three buildings were all financed by Don Andres Almonester y Roxas.

The 1st floor was not finished until 1813, and the Mansard roof was added in 1847. Up to 1834 the Presbytere housed various commercial institutions, and afterwards it was turned into a courthouse. Since 1911 the Presbytere has been part of the Louisiana State Museum.

6. 1850 House

523 St. Ann Street

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/1850ex.htm>

Across from each other - on St. Ann and St. Peter Street respectively - are the Pontalba Buildings that were built in 1850 by Baroness Micaela Almonester de Pontalba. The baroness requested that the buildings be built in a Parisian style, and they were originally designed to contain both housing and shops.

In 1921 the Pontalba family sold one building to the Irishman William Ratcliff, who six years later transformed it into a museum under the Louisiana State Museum.

The museum displays the interior of a wealthy middleclass family in 1850 and has been decorated as a true copy of Baroness Pontalba's decorating style. The objects on display include furniture, arts and crafts, and other interesting artefacts.

7. Jackson Brewery

600 Decatur Street

www.jacksonbrewery.com

In 1891 the German Dietrich Einsiedel built the largest brewery in the Southern part of the USA, Jackson Brewery. The monumental building is no longer used for brewing beer but has been transformed into an exciting mall.

8. Steamboat Natchez

Toulouse Street Wharf

www.steamboatnatchez.com

One of the trademarks of New Orleans and of the Mississippi is the traditional steamboats that used to be a common means of transportation between the larger towns and plantations along the river.

New Orleans is home to the beautiful Steamboat Natchez, and besides admiring the look of it, you can also try sailing on it on one of the river cruises that are arranged for tourists. The present steamer is the 9th by the name of Natchez and was built in 1975.

9. The statue of Joan of Arc

Decatur Street

When the French president Charles de Gaulle came on a state visit to the USA in 1959, he presented the city of New Orleans with a statue of Joan of Arc on behalf of the French people. This golden statue is a copy of Emmanuel Fremiet's 1880 statue that stands at the Place des Pyramides in Paris

10. French Market

1008 North Peters Street

www.frenchmarket.org

The French Market is the oldest urban market in the USA and was established in 1791. The open market halls are lovely and today offer produces for tourists as well as for restaurants. This was originally the food market of New Orleans.

11. Old US Mint



400 Esplanade Avenue

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/mintex.htm>

The Old US Mint in New Orleans is the only place where coins have been struck for both the Confederate States of America and for the Union, which has become the present USA.

The building was erected in 1835 under President Andrew Jackson, who supported the construction to ensure financial development in the Western regions of the USA. The architect was William Strickland, and the style is neo-Greek.

The first coins were struck in 1838. In 1861 the building was taken over by the Confederate army who briefly minted confederate coinage before the mint reverted to Union coins up to 1909.

Throughout the 20th Century various public offices were housed here until 1981, when the present museum was opened. The museum houses various exhibitions, including one about New Orleans jazz.

12. Degas House

2306 Esplanade Avenue

www.degashouse.com

This house was the home and studio of the French impressionist Edgar Degas between 1872 and 73. He completed 22 pieces during his time here.

The Degas House was built in 1852 by the architect Benjamin Rodriguez, who used it as his private residence. The house is considered one of the finest in the area. In the 1920's, the building was split up and partly moved, and both facts are still showing.

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Tour 2: New Orleans

13. Old Ursuline Convent

1114 Chartres Street

www.ursulineneworleans.org

This previous convent from 1752 was built during the French rule and is the oldest preserved example of French colonial architecture in the USA. It is at the same time the oldest building in the Mississippi Delta.

The beautiful setting is now used for church archives, and guided tours are arranged to give visitors an impression of the beautiful craftsmanship and the previous function of the place as a convent, orphanage, and hospital

14. Madame LaLaurie Mansion

1140 Royal Street

Several locations in New Orleans are said to be haunted, though perhaps none more than Madame Lalaurie's house in Royal Street. The story begins in 1832, when Louis and Delphine Lalaurie move into the stately house.

Madame Lalaurie is a leading society lady and throws lavish parties where many staff and slaves serve the guests. The truth about Madame Lalaurie's many slaves emerges after a fire in 1834, when her rather gruesome torture chamber is discovered. Madame Lalaurie escapes the angry mob that wants to see her punished. She was never seen again, but after her escape, the house became haunted. For many years, people refused to live in the house, and several strange incidents were never investigated. Today the house has been turned into apartments.

15. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop

Bourbon Street/St. Phillip Street

Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop is counted as the oldest working bar in the USA. The building was erected in 1772 and is thought to be the oldest in New Orleans.

Legend has it that the bar once belonged to the pirate Jean Lafitte who roamed the Gulf of Mexico in the early part of the 19th Century.

16. Historic Voodoo Museum

724 Dumaine Street

www.voodooomuseum.com

The Historic Voodoo Museum describes the traditional use of the Voodoo religion in the region. You get an insight into the Voodoo techniques of yesteryear as well as their modern uses. The museum also displays stories about Voodoo as well as artefacts used in the religion.

17. Bourbon Street



Bourbon Street

Bourbon Street has been the main street of the French Quarter since the early days of the city, and it still is. During the French period, it was called Rue Bourbon.

Besides the beautiful houses, there are many shops, bars, restaurants, and entertainment establishments. You might also be lucky enough to hear some jazz in the street or in one of the clubs in the street.

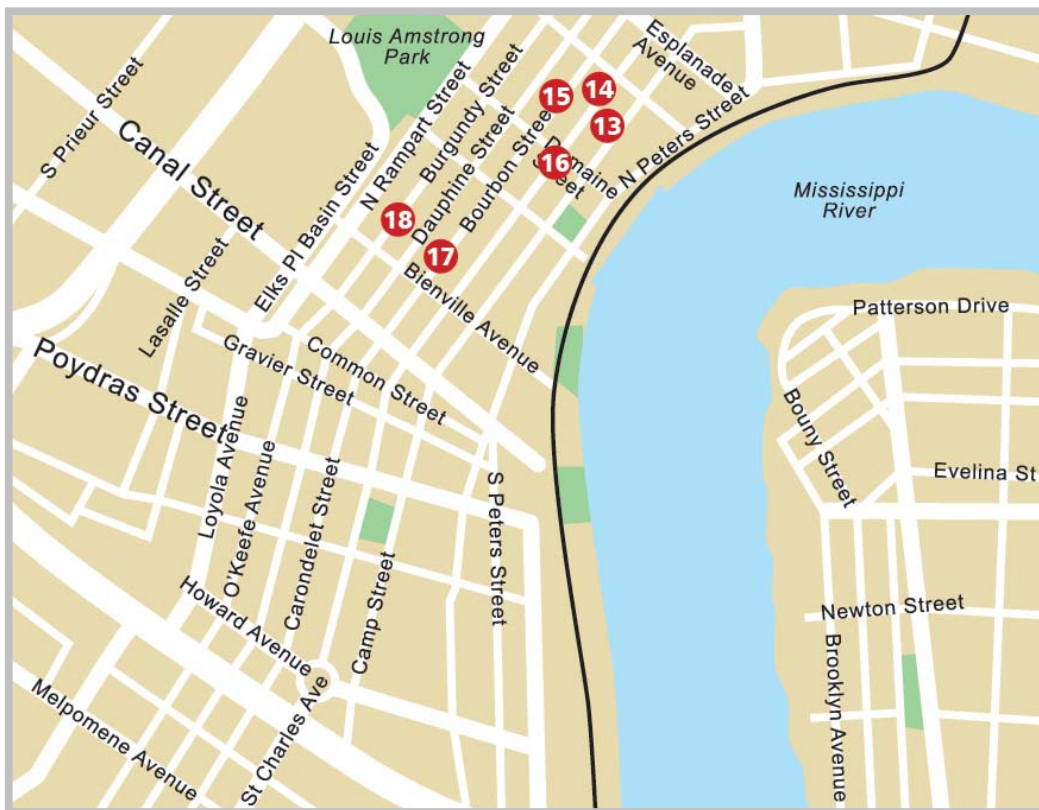
Through more than 150 figures, you see the founding of the city, the Battle of New Orleans, and the world of the Voodoo religion. Andrew Jackson and Louis Armstrong are among the displayed personalities.

18. Musée Conti Wax Museum

917 Conti Street

www.neworleanswaxmuseum.com

The Musée Conti Wax Museum was founded in 1963 as a historical museum that tells the history of New Orleans through more than 300 years by displaying wax figures.



Tour 3: New Orleans

19. Canal Street Ferry

Canal Street Terminal

www.dotd.state.la.us

You can cross the Mississippi on the small Canal Street Ferries, and during the crossing, you have a spectacular view of the modern skyline of New Orleans with the many skyscrapers. The crossing also offers a good view of the two parallel bridges that constitute the Greater New Orleans Bridge. The bridges were built in 1958 and 1984.

20. Modern Downtown

South-West of Canal Street, next to the French Quarter, the American New Orleans was constructed. This area now contains a series of modern skyscrapers, malls etc. The observation deck at the 31st floor of the World Trade Center (2 Canal Street) offers one of the best views in the city.

21. Piazza d'Italia

Piazza d'Italia

This square is a nice surprise between the modern skyscrapers in the central business district of New Orleans. The square was created in 1977-78 as a new version of the classic Italian square centred around a beautiful fountain

22. St. Charles Streetcar



Canal Street/St. Charles Street

www.norta.com

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The classic New Orleans St. Charles Streetcars are an experience in themselves and allows you to take a ride for example from the modern Downtown to the historical Garden District. The 20-kilometre Streetcar route was built as a means of transport from the French Quarter to the relaxed holiday setting of Carrollton.

The line has 34 olive-coloured streetcars that are up to 75 years old and utterly charming with their slow ride through the various neighbourhoods, passing sights such as the tall column with a statue of the Confederate General Robert E. Lee at its top. He is facing North so as to not turn his back on the enemy.

23. Ogden Museum of Southern Art

925 Camp Street

www.ogdenmuseum.org

New Orleans is in the southern part of America and is thus an excellent location for the world's greatest collection of art from the Southern States. This is displayed at the Ogden Museum, named after the businessman Roger H. Ogden who donated his collection to establish the museum.

24. Confederate Museum

929 Camp Street

www.confederatemuseum.com

This museum is the oldest in Louisiana and houses one of the largest collections of objects from the Confederate States during the American Civil War.

The museum was founded in 1891, and a large proportion of the many uniforms, flags, weapons, photos and other exhibits have been donated by the general public. The collection includes personal belongings from prominent Southerners such as General Robert E. Lee and Beauregard.

25. National World War II Museum

945 Magazine Street

www.ddaymuseum.org

National World War II Museum is a museum for the events up to and during World War II.

The museum displays a range of exciting themes from before and during the war, and a visit gives a good impression of the American effort, the heroic acts of the country, and the things that formed the American spirit during this period

26. Garden District

among others First Street

A walk through the Garden District is like a journey back to the old American South. Here the palaces of the Southern aristocracy are lined up side by side. The elegant and graceful mansions were mainly built during the years 1840-1900, and the neighbourhood is the best preserved of its kind in the USA.

The changing architectural styles and each family's individual tastes are easily seen in the buildings. The area is quite fertile, as the name indicates. Soil deposits covered the area after a ruptured dike towards the Mississippi in 1816, making the Garden District possible - first as the Livadais Plantation and since as a residential area.

27. Louisiana Superdome



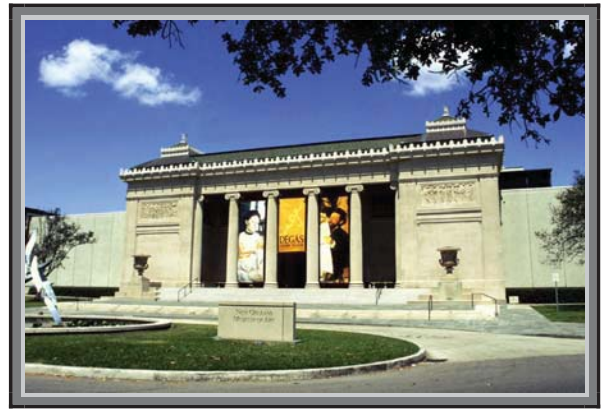
1500 Poydras Street

www.superdome.com

The vast indoor arena, Louisiana Superdome, was constructed in 1971-75 as one of the largest arenas in the world. The arena seats an audience of 72,000 and has a height of 82 metres and a diameter of 210 metres.

The Louisiana Superdome is the home field for the football team New Orleans Saints and has also hosted a series of Super Bowl finals, large concerts, and the congress of the Republican Party. After the hurricane in 2005, the Louisiana Superdome acted as temporary accommodation for up to 20,000 people.

28. New Orleans Museum of Art

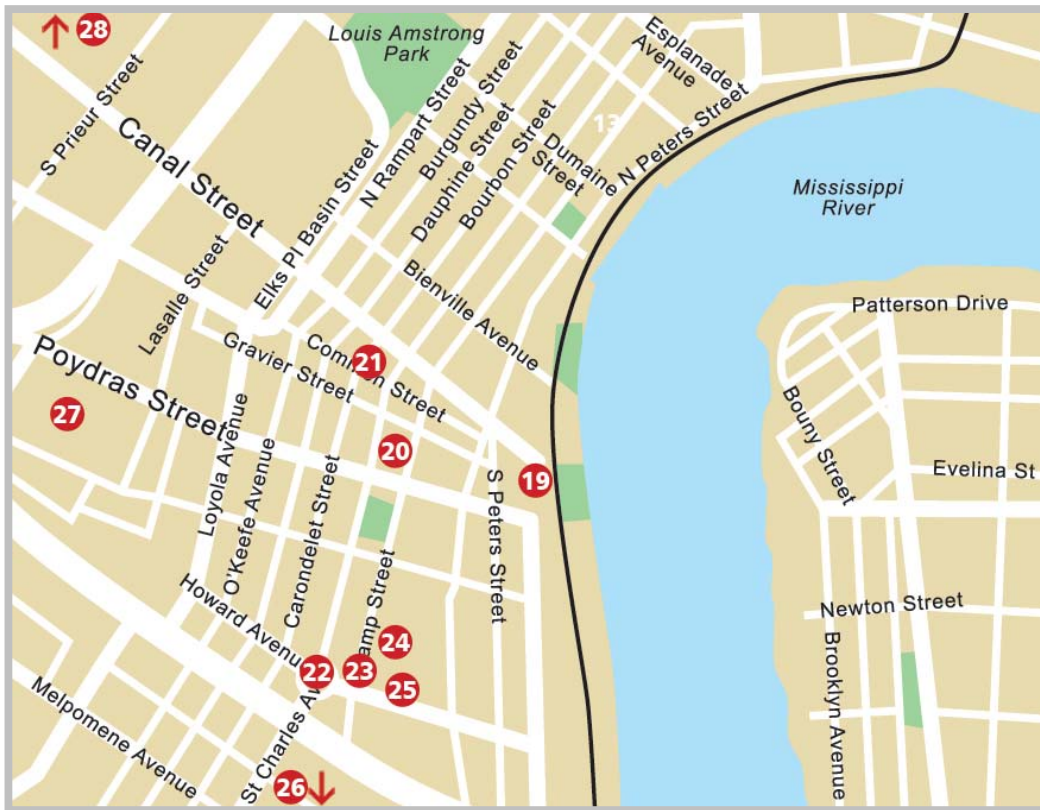


1 Collins Diboll Circle

www.noma.org

This beautiful art museum was built in 1910-11 in a mix of neo-classicism and Beaux Art. The building was donated by the sugar trader Isaac Delgado, who wanted to create a museum that would bring joy to rich and poor alike in the city. Delgado died shortly after the inauguration of the museum and donated a fine collection of art to the museum.

It is the leading art museum in the region, and it contains galleries with European art from the 16th-20th centuries as well as art from across the world, including 19th and 20th Century American art.



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Day Tours from New Orleans

29. Mississippi plantations

www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/index.htm

Along the banks of the Mississippi you find beautiful plantations, reminiscent of *Gone With the Wind*, long oak-lined drives, and the Southern states of the 18th Century, including the large cotton industry. A few will be mentioned here, though there are several more with interesting histories.

A drive along the historical River Road, twisting and turning with the Mississippi, will take you past the most famous and notable plantations in the area between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. You can also choose one of the river cruises that depart from the French Quarter, including some with steamboats as in the heyday of the plantations.

30. Destrehan Plantation

13034 Highway 44/River Road, Destrehan, 35 km W

www.destrehanplantation.org

Destrehan from 1787-90 is the oldest documented plantation in the area along the Mississippi. Robin deLogny built the original house, and his daughter and son-in-law built the symmetrical wings for their 14 children. In 1840 the exterior was changed to the present Greek-inspired style.

In the plantation you can see the many halls and rooms of the house as well as period costumes, craftwork, and writings that give an understanding of life on the large state in the 19th Century.

31. San Francisco Plantation

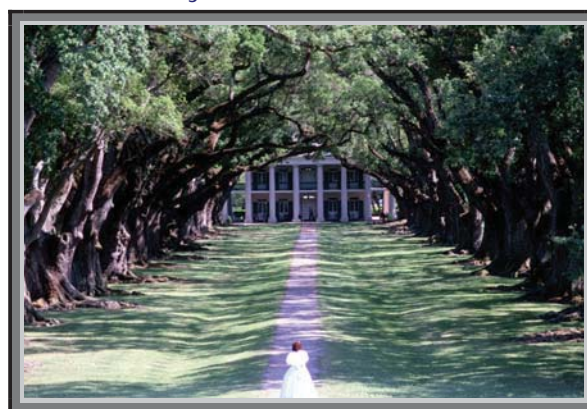
2646 Highway 44/River Road, Garyville, 65 km W

www.sanfranciscoplantation.org

The San Francisco Plantation was built on the Eastern bank of the Mississippi by Edmond Bozonier Marmillon in 1856. It is the only authentically restored plantation in the area and provides a unique insight into life in the great country residences at the time. The style of the San Francisco Plantation is not characteristic for Louisiana, but quite unique with its colours and ornamentation. It is beautifully located close to the Mississippi and with the original old oak trees.

A visit here will also provide information about work on the plantation, its original French-American owners, conditions for the slaves, etc.

32. Oak Alley Plantation



3645 Highway 18/River Road, Vacherie, 90 km W

www.oakalleyplantation.com

The Oak Alley Plantation has a scenic location at the end of a wide alley of old oak trees whose crowns close in above it. The 260-metre alley leads from the bank of the Mississippi to the main building.

The plantation was built in 1837-39 by Jacques Roman, who was the brother of Louisiana's governor. It was initially called *Bon Séjour* and later changed its name to Oak Alley. The main

house is dominated by the 28 impressive Doric columns that surround the building.

The plantation changed owners several times between 1866 and 1925, when Andrew and Josephine Stewart launched a large-scale restoration.

Inside the building you get a good impression of the work on the plantation and daily rural life at the time.

33. Baton Rouge



Baton Rouge, 130 km NW

www.bracvb.com

www.ususkidd.com

www.lasm.org

Baton Rouge is the capital of Louisiana and its second-largest city. Its history as the state's political centre has led to the erection of several fine buildings, and the region also contains several historical plantations.

The Louisiana State Capitol (State Capitol Drive) is at 150 metres the tallest capitol building in the USA. It was built in the Art Deco style in 1932 on the initiative of Huey Long, who was later killed in this building. Today his grave can be visited in the surrounding park. On the 27th floor of the Capitol there is an observation deck, offering great views across Baton Rouge.

The Old Capitol (100 North Boulevard) is the former parliament of Louisiana. It was built from 1847-50, and was in 1862 ravaged by a fire that caused the political work to be temporarily moved elsewhere for the next 20 years. Today it is a museum.

The city is also home to the USS Kidd, a World War II destroyer. The ship is moored by the Baton Rouge Nautical Center.

The Louisiana Art & Science Museum was created in a previous railway building from 1925. The museum displays an Egyptian collection, sculptures by the Croat artist Ivan Meštrovi and a collection of paintings from the 18th-20th Centuries by American and European artists.

34. Natchez



Natchez, 280 km NW

www.natchez.ms.us

The town of Natchez by the banks of the Mississippi was one of the greatest shipping ports in the era of the great plantations, and prosperous

plantation owners built their mansions here in the shape of fantastic town houses. The many mansions have been preserved and are unique in the entire USA, and Stanton Hall, Dunleith, and the octagonal Longwood deserve a visit.

Natchez can be the third part of experiencing the historical South, with New Orleans as the main city, the plantations along the Mississippi as the rural life, and Natchez as the central provincial town.

35. Biloxi

Biloxi, 145 km NE

www.biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi is the oldest city along this stretch of the Gulf of Mexico and was founded by the French in 1699. From 1702 to 1722 it was the capital of French Louisiana. It is a cosy town with a holiday feeling, and it is home to casinos and the famous lighthouse from 1848.

35. Beauvoir

www.beauvoir.org

The Beauvoir mansion was built in a cottage style in the years 1848-51. In 1877 Sarah Dorsey invited the former president of the Confederate States of America, Jefferson Davis, to write his memoirs here. Davis came, and two years later he bought the mansion and stayed here until his death in 1889.

Today Beauvoir is a museum and memorial, partly to Jefferson Davis and partly to the fallen Confederate soldiers during the American Civil War. You also find a cemetery for the Confederate soldiers here with 771 graves in total.

Beauvoir was badly damaged during the hurricane in 2005 and a large restoration is now taking place with expected completion in 2008.

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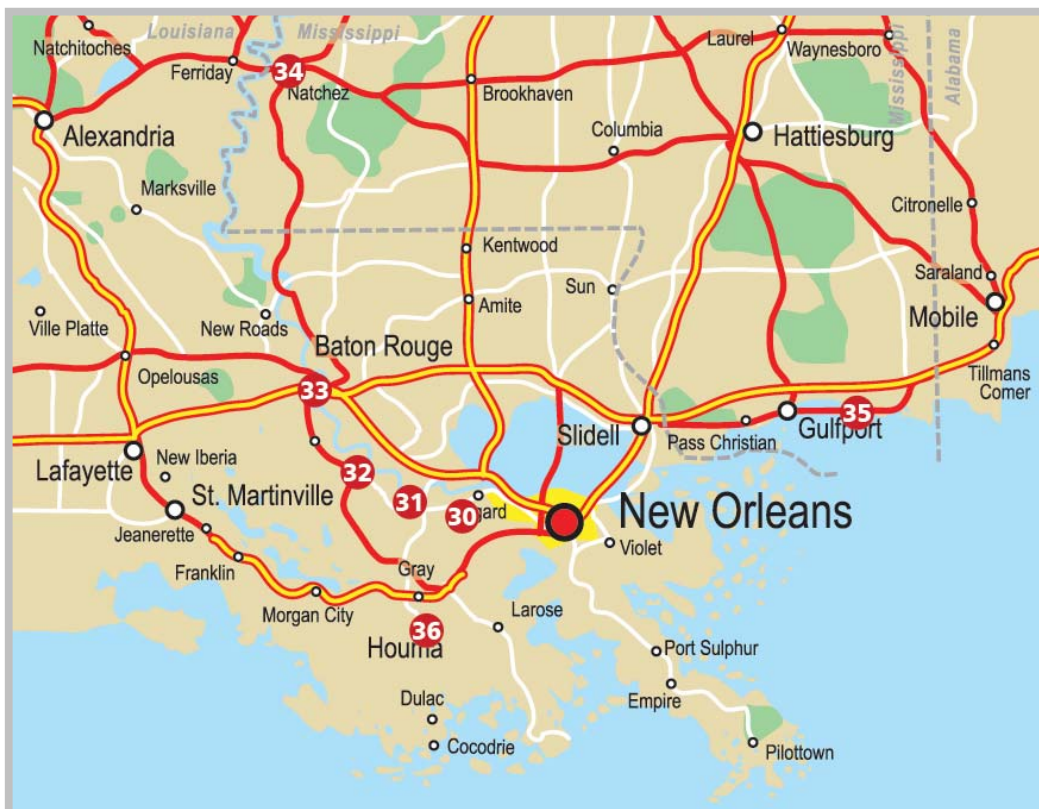
36. Houma

Houma, 92 km SW

www.houmatourism.com

The Mississippi Delta is a beautiful area of nature with mangrove swamps, large canals, and alligators. The delta is home to the French Cajun culture, which is particular for the New Orleans area.

The town of Houma is centrally located and the best starting point for tours (Swamp Tours) of the mangroves. The nature offers an array of attractions, and a trip with one of the propeller-driven airboats that can go where normal boats cannot. This allows you to get really close to the spectacular nature and the many alligators drifting around everywhere in the swamp area.



With children in New Orleans

Aquarium of the Americas (1 Canal Street):
www.auduboninstitute.org

Audubon Zoo (6500 Magazine Street):
www.auduboninstitute.org

Carousel Gardens (1 Palm Drive):
www.neworleanscitypark.com

Storyland (1 Palm Drive):
www.neworleanscitypark.com

Shopping in New Orleans

Chartres Street, Royal Street, Faubourg Marigny
Jax Brewery (Jackson Square):
www.jacksonbrewery.com

Riverwalk Marketplace (1 Poydras Street):
www.riverwalkmarketplace.com

The Shops at Canal Place (333 Canal Street):
www.theshopsatcanalplace.com

French Market (1008 North Peters Street):
www.frenchmarket.org

Public transportation in New Orleans

New Orleans Transit Authority:
www.norta.com

New Orleans Airport:
www.flymsy.com

USA's railways:
www.amtrak.com

Facts about USA



Political

Official name	United States of America
Capital	Washington
Government	Federal republic
Head of State	President George W. Bush
Deputy Head of State	Vice President Richard B. Cheney
National day	July 4
Date of independence	July 4, 1776 from Great Britain
Primary religion	Christianity
Language	English
Area	9,631,420 km ²
Population (2000)	281,421,000

Borders on

North	Canada, The Arctic Sea
South	Mexico, Gulf of Mexico
East	The Atlantic Ocean
West	The Pacific Ocean, Bering's Sea, Bering's Strait

Highest Mountains	
Mount McKinley	6,194 meters
Mount Saint Elias	5,489 meters
Mount Foraker	5,304 meters
Mount Bona	5,045 meters
Mount Blackburn	4,996 meters
Mount Sanford	4,949 meters
Mount Fairweather	4,671 meters
Mount Hubbard	4,557 meters
Mount Bear	4,520 meters
Mount Hunter	4,442 meters

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Brain power

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SKF

Largest islands

Hawaii	10,414 km ²
Kodiak Island	9,293 km ²
Prince of Wales Island	6,675 km ²
Chichagof Island	5,388 km ²
St. Lawrence Island	5,135 km ²
Admiralty Island	4,362 km ²
Nunivak Island	4,209 km ²
Unimak	4,119 km ²
Baranof Island	4,065 km ²
Long Island	3,629 km ²

Largest lakes

Lake Superior*	82,414 km ²
Lake Huron*	59,596 km ²
Lake Michigan	58,016 km ²
Lake Erie*	25,745 km ²
Lake Ontario*	18,529 km ²
Great Salt Lake	4,400 km ²
Lake of the Woods*	4,390 km ²
Lake Okeechobee	1,890 km ²
Lake Pontchartrain	1,630 km ²
Champlainsee*	1,130 km ²

* partly in Canada

Longest rivers*

Missouri	4,023 km
Mississippi	3,765 km
Yukon River	3,185 km
Rio Grande	3,034 km
St. Lawrence River	3,058 km
Arkansas River	2,364 km
Colorado	2,333 km

Red River	2,189 km
Snake River	1,965 km
Columbia River	1,857 km
Ohio River	1,579 km

* Some of the rivers run through other countries as well as the USA

Largest cities (2006)

New York-Jersey City	18,818,000
Los Angeles	12,950,000
Chicago	9,506,000
Dallas-Fort Worth	6,004,000
Philadelphia -Wilmington	5,827,000
Houston	5,540,000
Miami-Fort Lauderdale	5,464,000
Washington-Arlington	5,290,000
Atlanta	5,138,000
Detroit	4,469,000

Administrative regions

State	Capital	Area
Alabama	Montgomery	135,293 km ²
Alaska	Juneau	1,717,854 km ²
Arizona	Phoenix	295,276 km ²
Arkansas	Little Rock	137,732 km ²
California	Sacramento	411,912 km ²
Colorado	Denver	269,837 km ²
Connecticut	Hartford	14,371 km ²
Delaware	Dover	6,452 km ²
District of Columbia*	Washington	159 km ²
Florida	Tallahassee	170,451 km ²
Georgia	Atlanta	154,077 km ²
Hawaii	Honolulu	16,377 km ²
Idaho	Boise	216,632 km ²
Illinois	Springfield	149,998 km ²

Indiana	Indianapolis	94,321 km ²
Iowa	Des Moines	145,743 km ²
Kansas	Topeka	213,283 km ²
Kentucky	Frankfort	104,749 km ²
Louisiana	Baton Rouge	134,382 km ²
Maine	Augusta	86,542 km ²
Maryland	Annapolis	32,160 km ²
Massachusetts	Boston	27,360 km ²
Michigan	Lansing	250,941 km ²
Minnesota	Saint Paul	225,362 km ²
Mississippi	Jackson	125,546 km ²
Missouri	Jefferson City	180,693 km ²
Montana	Helena	381,156 km ²
Nebraska	Lincoln	200,520 km ²
Nevada	Carson City	286,367 km ²
New Hampshire	Concord	24,239 km ²
New Jersey	Trenton	22,608 km ²
New Mexico	Santa Fe	315,194 km ²
New York	Albany	141,205 km ²
North Carolina	Raleigh	139,509 km ²
North Dakota	Bismarck	183,272 km ²
Ohio	Columbus	116,096 km ²
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City	181,196 km ²
Oregon	Salem	255,026 km ²
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg	119,283 km ²
Rhode Island	Providence	4,005 km ²
South Carolina	Columbia	82,965 km ²
South Dakota	Pierre	199,905 km ²
Tennessee	Nashville	109,247 km ²
Texas	Austin	696,241 km ²
Utah	Salt Lake City	220,080 km ²
Vermont	Montpelier	24,923 km ²
Virginia	Richmond	110,862 km ²
Washington	Olympia	184,824 km ²

West Virginia	Charleston	62,809 km ²
Wisconsin	Madison	140,662 km ²
Wyoming	Cheyenne	253,554 km ²
American Samoa**	Pago Pago	199 km ²
Guam**	Hagåtña	541 km ²
Northern Mariana Islands**	Saipan	477 km ²
Puerto Rico**	San Juan	9.104 km ²
US Virgin Islands**	Charlotte Amalie	346 km ²

* Federal capital, is not considered a state
 ** Overseas territories

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Inés Aréizaga Esteva (Spain), 25 years old
 Education: Chemical Engineer

– You have to be proactive and open-minded as a newcomer and make it clear to your colleagues what you are able to cope. The pharmaceutical field is new to me. But busy as they are, most of my colleagues find the time to teach me, and they also trust me. Even though it was a bit hard at first, I can feel over time that I am beginning to be taken seriously and that my contribution is appreciated.

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Heads of State since 1789

George Washington	1789-1797
John Adams	1797-1801
Thomas Jefferson	1801-1809
James Madison	1809-1817
James Monroe	1817-1825
John Quincy Adams	1825-1829
Andrew Jackson	1829-1837
Martin Van Buren	1837-1841
William H. Harrison	1841-1841
John Tyler	1841-1845
James K. Polk	1845-1849
Zachary Taylor	1849-1850
Millard Fillmore	1850-1853
Franklin Pierce	1853-1857
James Buchanan	1857-1861
Abraham Lincoln	1861-1865
Jefferson Davis*	1861-1865
Andrew Johnson	1865-1869
Ulysses S. Grant	1869-1877
Rutherford B. Hayes	1877-1881
James Garfield	1881-1881
Chester A. Arthur	1881-1885
Grover Cleveland	1885-1889
Benjamin Harrison	1889-1893
Grover Cleveland	1893-1897
William McKinley	1897-1901
Theodore Roosevelt	1901-1909
William H. Taft	1909-1913
Woodrow Wilson	1913-1921
Warren G. Harding	1921-1923
Calvin Coolidge	1923-1929
Herbert Hoover	1929-1933
Franklin D. Roosevelt	1933-1945

Harry S. Truman	1945-1953
Dwight D. Eisenhower	1953-1961
John F. Kennedy	1961-1963
Lyndon B. Johnson	1963-1969
Richard Nixon	1969-1974
Gerald Ford	1974-1977
Jimmy Carter	1977-1981
Ronald Reagan	1981-1989
George H. W. Bush	1989-1993
Bill Clinton	1993-2001
George W. Bush	2001-

* President of the Confederate States of America (The Southern States)

Vice Presidents since 1929

Charles Curtis	1929-1933
John Nance Garner	1933-1941
Henry A. Wallace	1941-1945
Harry Truman	1945-1945
Alben W. Barkley	1949-1953
Richard M. Nixon	1953-1961
Lyndon B. Johnson	1961-1963
Hubert H. Humphrey Jr.	1965-1969
Spiro T. Agnew	1969-1973
Gerald R. Ford	1973-1974
Nelson A. Rockefeller	1974-1977
Walter F. Mondale	1977-1981
George H. W. Bush	1981-1989
J. Danforth Quayle	1989-1993
Albert A. Gore Jr.	1993-2001
Richard B. Cheney	2001-

Holidays	
January 1	New Years Day
Third Monday in January	Martin Luther King Day
January 20 every 4 years	Presidential inauguration
Third Monday in February	Washington's birthday
Last Monday in May	Memorial Day
July 4	Independence Day
First Monday in September	Labour Day
Second Monday in October	Columbus Day
November 11	Veterans Day
Fourth Thursday in November	Thanksgiving Day
December 25	Christmas Day

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Various facts

Currency	US dollar
Currency code	USD
Time zones	Eastern Standard Time/EST (UTC-5) Central Standard Time/CST (UTC-6) Mountain Standard Time/MST (UTC-7) Pacific Standard Time/PST (UTC-8) Alaska Standard Time/ASKT (UTC-9) Aleutian Standard Time/AST (UTC-10) Hawaii Standard Time/HST (UTC-10)
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Climate – New York	Mean temperature °C	Precipitation millimetres
January	-0.2	84
February	0.8	79
March	5.7	99
April	11.3	93
May	17.0	106
June	22.0	85
July	24.8	105
August	24.1	104
September	20.1	91
October	14.1	84
November	8.6	107
December	2.5	92

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Miami	Mean temperature °C	Precipitation millimetres
January	6.9	53
February	9.1	45
March	11.9	46
April	16.1	19
May	20.8	10
June	26.2	9
July	28.4	65
August	27.1	77
September	24.3	40
October	18.3	33
November	11.7	35
December	7.6	59

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Denver	Mean temperature °C	Precipitation millimetres
January	-1.2	14
February	0.7	16
March	3.8	34
April	9.0	45
May	14.0	63
June	19.3	43
July	23.0	47
August	21.8	38
September	16.8	28
October	10.7	26
November	3.8	23
December	-0.5	15

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

Climate – Los Angeles	Mean temperature °C	Precipitation millimetres
January	13.5	67
February	14.1	59
March	14.8	46
April	16.0	22
May	17.4	3
June	19.5	1
July	22.0	0
August	22.4	3
September	21.6	5
October	19.5	8
November	17.0	40
December	14.4	40

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

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Climate – Seattle	Mean temperature °C	Precipitation millimetres
January	4.5	141
February	6.3	107
March	7.5	94
April	9.5	64
May	12.8	42
June	16.0	38
July	18.4	20
August	18.6	27
September	15.8	47
October	11.5	89
November	7.3	149
December	4.7	149

Source: WorldClimate (www.worldclimate.com)

A man wearing a wide-brimmed hat, a tropical print short-sleeved shirt, and shorts stands on a brick-paved platform next to a silver train car. He is looking towards the right. The background shows a clear blue sky and the side of the train with several windows.

About the Author

Stig Albeck (1969) is the author behind the travel books at OnLibri.com. Stig writes the way you travel the destinations!

The books often take their departure in the world's most exhilarating cities and evolve to the attractions and sights in their vicinity. Stig is a devoted traveller and a passionate explorer which brings him around the world several times each year to search for new exciting destinations.

Going to big cities or more adventurous destinations, Stig writes his travel guides to help and inspire readers to get the full benefit of their destination of choice.

Travelling is about enjoying the moment, but also about taking home memories and gaining new knowledge. No matter how far or near by the destination might be there sure are great experiences waiting to be unveiled.

Stig holds a masters degree in marketing and tourism from Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. He has been working in the tourism industry and with global marketing of tourist destinations.

If you have questions or perhaps made a discovery that you would like to share, then send Stig an email to travelstig@gmail.com (if you attach photos you agree to letting us use these for future travel guides).

Stig offers lectures on his travel experiences, or any specific tour that you might be about to head out for. To learn more about things like touring Australia, visiting the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, or enjoying a fresh smoked omul at the Lake Baikal in February, visit www.stigalbeck.com.

Bonne Voyage!