

BZBI Trip to New Orleans

TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

DAY TWO GUIDED EXCURSIONS

FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR

Explore the streets of the *Vieux Carré*, where legend and documented history converge. From the dynamic Mississippi River to serene court yards, experience the *Vieux Carré* with the city's best guide. Discover everything from the outrageous colonial history to Creole culture, from piracy to architectural masterpieces. Hear about Jackson Square and walk through St. Louis Cathedral.

GARDEN DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

Visit the "American" section of New Orleans, built to rival the architectural splendor of the Creoles' French Quarter! Enjoy a walk through this historic and elegant neighborhood, known for its Greek Revival and Italianate architecture. View the former residence of celebrated author Anne Rice, as well as the house where Jefferson Davis died in 1889. Visit Lafayette Cemetery, once part of the plantation owned by Bienville, the city's founder.

MARDIS GRAS WORLD

You know this is going to be a fun tour as soon as you arrive. Colorful Mardi Gras props, like a gigantic jovial jester, fiercely realistic alligators, and a gorgeously exciting Marilyn Monroe with skirt flying greet one and all to this amazing fantasy factory. After a brief introduction by a knowledgeable guide and a spirited video about the history of Mardi Gras and the company, you can dress up in authentic, ornate carnival costumes. Visitors tap into their imaginations, as the ladies don sequined headdresses, gowns, and the gentleman wear regal coats of armor, imagine yourself as a noble king or queen of the ball!

DAY THREE GUIDED EXCURSIONS

NEW ORLEANS CITY TOUR WITH JEWISH HISTORY

This bus tour highlights 250+ years of Jewish history in New Orleans. Following the streetcar line, we will see the mansion of Samuel Zemurray, the Banana King, visit Touro Synagogue, the oldest congregation outside of the original thirteen colonies, and pass through areas where Eastern European Jews sold vegetables from street carts and opened department stores. As we head through the French Quarter and out to City Park, you will hear stories of Jewish entrepreneurs and philanthropists who left their marks on Crescent City. We will briefly stop in the fabulous Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden—a little hidden Garden of Eden—and finish with a stop comparing our Jewish and above-garden cemeteries. This is a tour guide of New Orleans, and the story of Jewish New Orleanians falling in love with their new home.

HISTORIC FRENCH MARKET

The French Market District encompasses six blocks on the riverside of the Lower French Quarter. The district includes over 20 unique retail shops, performance venues, restaurants, cafes, a flea market and a farmers market. In addition to the recreational shopping opportunities and ongoing free special events, the District boasts historical monuments such as Washington Artillery Park (across from Jackson Square) and New Place de France (home of the Joan of Arc statue), public art, scenic walkways, and convenient riverside parking.

WORLD WAR II MUSEUM & *BEYOND ALL BOUNDARIES* FILM

Dedicated in 2000 as The National D-Day Museum and now designated by Congress as the country's official World War II Museum, this remarkable attraction illuminates the American experience during the WWII era with moving personal stories, historic artifacts and powerful interactive displays. From the Normandy invasion to the sands of Pacific Islands and the Home Front, the Museum brings to life the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won the war and changed the world.

Beyond All Boundaries, created exclusively for the National World War II Museum, is a unique and powerful 4D cinematic experience available nowhere else in the world. Created and crafted with 21st-century technology and utilizing a 120-foot wide immersive screen, the production plunges viewers into the 20th-century's most titanic struggle.

DAY FOUR GUIDED EXCURSIONS

SWAMP TOUR

For many years people have traveled extensively to locate a unique and exciting form of entertainment that you can only experience here—the famous Manchac Swamp. We invite you to join us for a unique journey back to the early days of the Louisiana bayou and swamp explorations. Swamp creatures, seeing our boats daily, recognize them as part of their normal environment. In the safety and comfort of the boat, you can actually come within a few feet of jumping alligators.

Houmas House Plantation

Houmas House Plantation and Garden is so much more than just a tour of a grand antebellum estate. Experience the southern splendor of “The Sugar Palace” when you step into 16 rooms filled with period antiques and Louisiana artwork. Enjoy 38 lush acres of gardens, ponds, and a majestic live oak alley. Enjoy the breeze off the Mississippi and navigate through the shadows of ancient oaks.

We will be joined on these excursions by seasoned New Orleans Jewish tour guide, Julie Schwartz.