

Mardi Gras,
Music,
& "Mmmm"

Three Things
that Make
New Orleans
Unique!



New Orleans is located in Louisiana. It is the state's largest city. It is known as one of America's most unique cities. This means that there's no other city quite like New Orleans in the United States.



Continental United States

New Orleans is located along the Mississippi River. It is near the Gulf of Mexico. It is surrounded by water on three sides. Being so close to the water made New Orleans an important city in the from the 1700s to the 1900s. Tons of goods were shipped in and out of its port.

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The French founded the city of New Orleans in the early 1700s. French was largely spoken in that area for many years. France made a deal with Spain in 1762 that allowed Spain to rule the area for a period of time. Spain returned control of the area to France in 1803. That same year, the United States bought the area from France. This is known as the Louisiana Purchase.

New Orleans became a mixing pot of French and Spanish traditions. It also includes African traditions that were brought there by African slaves. New Orleans has a special culture called Creole. Creole people have both Black and European ancestors. Creole is also a type language. It is a mix of several languages such as French and an African language. There are a number of Creole languages.

The mix of French, Spanish, and African cultures made New Orleans into a unique place. It has its own festivals, music, and foods.

Mardi Gras



A float in a Mardi Gras parade

New Orleans is possibly best known for its Mardi Gras Festival. The festival has pagan and Catholic origins. It starts on Fat Tuesday and lasts for 10 days. This is about 12 days after the holiday of Christmas. Mardi Gras started in France. It was a big celebration. There were feasts and balls where people

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would come dressed in costumes or wearing masks. The French brought this celebration to New Orleans. It became a big event. Today, Mardi Gras features parades, music, feasts, and more. People dress in costumes and, of course, wear masks. The parades feature large and colorful floats.

Music



A jazz band playing music

New Orleans is famous for its music. The music developed from a mix of European music, African music, and Caribbean music. A special type of music developed out New Orleans. It is known as Jazz music. Jazz music is a mix of blues music, spiritual music, and marching band music. Many of the most famous jazz bands came from New Orleans.

“Mmmm” (Food)

By Jeffrey via Wikimedia Commons



Shrimp gumbo

New Orleans is known for its cuisine. Cuisine is a style of cooking. New Orleans cuisine combines the best of Spanish cuisine, French cuisine, African cuisine, and the cuisines of other cultures. The food is spicy and flavorful. Because the city is surrounded by water on three sides, it uses a lot of seafood. This includes shrimp and oysters.

Gumbo is possibly the most famous food in New Orleans. It is also the state's official food. Gumbo is a thick, spicy stew. It is usually made with shrimp or meat. It also has celery, peppers, okra, and onions.

