

Mardi Gras,  
Music,  
& "Mmmm"

Three Things  
that Make  
New Orleans  
Unique!



New Orleans is a city. It is in Louisiana. It is the largest city in that state. The city has water on three sides. The city is close to the Mississippi River. The city is near the Gulf of Mexico.



Continental United States

New Orleans began as a French city. It started in the 1700s. France lent the city to Spain in 1762. Spain gave it back to France in 1803. Then France sold it to the United States.

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## Mardi Gras, Music, and “Mmmm”

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New Orleans grew from a mix of traditions. They come from France. They come from Spain. They come from Africa. New Orleans has a special culture. It is called Creole. Creole people have both Black and European ancestors. Creole is also the name of a language. Creole is a mix of several languages. There are many Creole languages.

New Orleans is a very special place. It has its own festivals. It has its own music. It has its own foods.

### Mardi Gras



**A float in a Mardi Gras parade**

New Orleans is best known for its Mardi Gras Festival. The festival starts 12 days after Christmas. Mardi Gras started in France. It was a big celebration. There were feasts and balls. People dressed up in costumes. People wore masks. The French brought this Mardi Gras to New Orleans. It became a big event. Today, Mardi Gras has parades. It has music. It has feasts and more. People dress in costumes. They also wear masks. The parades have large and colorful floats.

## Music



### A jazz band playing music

New Orleans is famous for its music. It developed from a mix of European music with African and Caribbean music. A special type of music began in 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)



**Shrimp gumbo**

New Orleans is known for its cuisine. Cuisine is a style of cooking food. New Orleans cuisine combines the best of Spanish, French, African, and other cultures. The food is spicy and flavorful. Because the city is surrounded by water on three sides, they use 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.

