

Mardi Gras,
Music,
& "Mmmm"

Three Things
that Make
New Orleans
Unique!



New Orleans is in Louisiana. It is the state's largest city. It is one of America's most unique cities. This means that it is very special.



Continental United States

New Orleans is close to 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. Goods were shipped in and out of its port.

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The French started the city in the 1700s. People there mostly spoke French. France made a deal with Spain in 1762. Spain ruled the city for a number of years. Then France got the city back 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 mixed in African traditions of the African slaves. 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. It is a mix of several languages such as French and African languages. There are a number of Creole languages.

The mix of 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 starts 12 days after Christmas. Mardi Gras started in France. It was a big celebration

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with feasts and balls. People dressed up in costumes or wore masks. The French brought this celebration to New Orleans. It became a big event. Today, Mardi Gras has parades, music, feasts, and more. People dress in costumes. They also wear masks. The parades feature 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.

