

Free Things to Do in the City

...and Almost Free

New Orleans is noted for its music, and it seems only appropriate that there is much here that can be seen and heard for a song. Free!

The logical place to start is with the MUSIC! MUSIC! MUSIC! It's absolutely everywhere in New Orleans, and you'll find that even New Orleans' street musicians are the best in the business. The music soars from street-corners in the Quarter; sings in the French Market, where weekend jazz concerts take place the year round. Each Sunday at 4 p.m. there are classical music concerts at Christ Church Cathedral on St. Charles Avenue. And you can hear all sorts of great street musicians in Jackson Square.

Speaking of which...**JACKSON SQUARE** is the hub and heartbeat of the French Quarter, and has been from the very beginning. It was originally named Place d'Armes and was the center of activity for the French Creoles. Today, the former parade grounds is a pretty green park, smack in the midst of things. The fence surrounding the park is decorated with the wares of the New Orleans artists who work in the Square. And musicians in the Square play everything from jazz to reggae to rhythm and blues, while tap-dancers, mimes, and fire-eaters entertain the on-lookers and listeners.

No trip to New Orleans is complete without a look inside **ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL**. It's the country's oldest active cathedral, and it's located right in Jackson Square.

You can get a great view of Jackson Square and of the Mississippi River from **WASHINGTON ARTILLERY PARK** on Decatur Street. And if you want to get closer to Old Man River, stroll along the **MOONWALK**. Park benches on the promenade offer a ringside view of the foreign vessels, pugnosed tugs and frilly riverboats on the Mississippi.

On the downriver side of Washington Artillery Park, the **FRENCH MARKET** has been a trading center for over 250 years. The busy and colorful market is chock-a-block with specialty shops, fruit and vegetable stalls, lots of entertainment, and a flea market. On the other side of the Park, **JACKSON BREWERY, THE MILL-HOUSE** and **THE MARKETPLACE** are on the site of a famed brewery. The renovated buildings now house a host of boutiques and eateries overlooking the Mississippi River.

Stroll through **WOLDENBERG RIVERFRONT PARK**, 13 acres of landscaped greenspace featuring more than 300 oak trees, magnolias, willows and crepe myrtles with a large lawn and brick promenade offering direct access to the Mississippi River.

Follow the **FRENCH QUARTER WALKING TOUR**, published by the Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, and see the historic sights and sites in the Vieux Carre. The brochure also includes a driving tour that takes in some of the handsome mansions of the **GARDEN DISTRICT**, which lie upriver of the French Quarter. St. Charles Avenue is a lovely, tree-lined street that leads to the Garden District, and a walk or drive down First Street will give you a tempting taste of what that splendid part of town has to offer.

Park Rangers of the **JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK** conduct free tours of the French Quarter and the Garden District. You can spend a full day browsing through the city's **ART GALLERIES**. There are 48 of them that feature rotating exhibits!

The **FOREIGN PLAZAS** pay tribute to four nations that have figured prominently in the city's history. Piazza d'Italia features an open-air temple and a fountain in the shape of the map of Italy; Sir Winston Churchill jovially waves a cigar in English Place; a small but dazzling statue of Joan of Arc marks Place de