

Send North America: New Orleans

Fun Facts

1. The predominant religion in New Orleans and the surrounding area (parishes) is Catholicism. The influence of Catholicism is reflected in many of the city's French and Spanish cultural traditions, including its many parochial schools, street names, architecture and festivals, including Mardi Gras.
2. The New Orleans Saints won the Super Bowl in 2009. The Mercedes-Benz Superdome is the home of the Saints, the Sugar Bowl and other prominent events. New Orleans has hosted the Super Bowl a record seven times (1978, 1981, 1986, 1990, 1997, 2002 and 2013).
3. Louisiana ranks fifth among states in oil production and eighth in reserves in the United States.
4. New Orleans is world-famous for its food. Beignets are square-shaped, fried pastries that are similar to doughnuts. Some other favorites are Po-boy sandwiches, Gulf oysters and boiled crawfish. Étouffée, jambalaya and gumbo are favorite Creole dishes, as well as red beans and rice. Another New Orleans specialty is praline candy.
5. Dixieland music or New Orleans jazz is a style of jazz music that developed in New Orleans at the start of the 20th century. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage festival, held in April and May, attracts several hundred thousand fans every year.
6. New Orleans Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, one of the six Southern Baptist seminaries supported through the Cooperative Program, is located in New Orleans.
7. New Orleans is located near the Gulf of Mexico and on the Mississippi River. It is a crucial transportation hub and distribution center for waterborne commerce.
8. The official elevation of New Orleans is two feet below sea level, making it especially susceptible to flooding.
9. In 2005, New Orleans was catastrophically affected by Hurricane Katrina because of the breaching of its levees and the failure of pumping stations. Nearly 80 percent of the city flooded. It is still struggling to recover.
10. Krewes are private organizations that stage festivities (and parades) during Mardi Gras in New Orleans.
11. The New Orleans zoo is named after John J. Audubon, a famous naturalist.
12. Near New Orleans is the Causeway; stretching 24 miles, it is the longest contiguous bridge in the world.
13. Tourists come to New Orleans to attend Mardi Gras festivities, visit parks and museums, listen to jazz and other types of music, fish, see the animals at the zoo, go to the aquarium, golf and to learn about New Orleans history.