

New Orleans: The Gateway Voyage (A Sample Itinerary)



The first time you arrive at New Orleans you will quickly realize there is no place else in the United States like the Big Easy. Every aspect of the city of New Orleans has a unique flavor. Her vivid architecture is bold; her distinctive food is full of gusto; her rich music captivates the senses; and her history is complex and fascinating. While in New Orleans you will dive deep into Cajun culture by exploring a world quite different than the one that is familiar to you.

What most people do not realize is that New Orleans is a gateway to history. Spanish, French, English and Americans have all held her during some period of time. In order to control the Mississippi, one had to control New Orleans. Slavery, war, and most recently Hurricane Katrina, have been gateways that have significantly changed the course of history for New Orleans and the United States.

The Gateway Voyage explores the rich and diverse history and culture of New Orleans while discovering the gateways in our own lives. Often during our personal journeys, God presents us with a door of opportunity. The decision to enter that door or walk the other way can have consequences that affect eternity. Join us as we enter The Gateway.

Day 1 - Harsh Realities

Arrival (Between 1:00 and 5:00 pm)

The team will arrive at the historic neighborhood of Algiers Point. Nestled in the bend of the Mississippi, the quiet streets of Algiers are filled with turn of the century homes. Though directly across the river from the French Quarter, Algiers has become known as Mayberry on the Mississippi because of its peaceful demeanor. Algiers is one of the best-kept secrets in New Orleans.



Your home, for the next few days, is a historic Georgian dwelling we affectionately refer to as the Pink House on Belleville. The upstairs is divided into four bedrooms, dorm style with bunk beds and separate bathrooms. The wood-floored downstairs is our gathering place for meals and discussion.

Cajun Food and Voyage Orientation

Most of your meals will be of the Cajun persuasion. Tonight we will fill your bellies with something that will tickle your taste buds. This will give us a chance to meet your team and take you through Voyage Orientation.

Harsh Realities

Our first encounter, *Harsh Realities*, will focus on the most current gateway New Orleans has walked through, the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Before we become a part of the healing process, through our service, we must put on a mindset of compassion and empathy. The storms of life strike without prejudice. To simply feel sorry for others who are in a storm never helps. How do we empathize with the hurting and become an agent of change? This encounter will help us enter the gateway of compassion so we can effectively relieve those who hurt around us.

Journals

We will end with a small encouragement about journaling and a journaling exercise before a good night of rest.



New Orleans: Day 2 – 3 (A Sample Itinerary)

Day 2 - The Big Easy

Lower 9th Tour (8:00 – 9:15 AM)

The Lower 9th Ward will be your first stop before your mission project. Absorb a piece of history while you take a few moments for a morning devotional and journal time.



Mission Project (9:30 – 3:00 PM)

Your mission project will be a time to serve others through your gifts, time and hard work. The team leader and voyage director will pick the type of project months in advance in order to properly prepare your team.

Exploring Algiers (5:30 – 8:00 PM)

After a hearty evening meal, the team will take some time to explore the historic neighborhoods of Algiers. In small groups, they will launch out. The team that brings back the most interesting fact or story will win a prize. You may visit the world famous Mardi Gras World, play the New Orleans sport of Cabbage Ball, or stop at the famous Tout de Suite coffee shop. Before heading home we will stop at Daigle's Grocery for an encounter we call *The Big Easy*. This exercise challenges us about the present state of our faith. Is it vibrant or lackadaisical? Does the journey you are on present a fantastic future or a drab existence? Will we enter the gateway of obedience?

We will end the evening sharing our moments of wonder in our daily dialogue sessions. The rest of the evening will be free time or customized to the specific devotional direction of the team.

If you are interested in more information:

Complete location itineraries are available.

Contact our office at:

www.wondervoyage.com

or call us at (972) 355-1712