

6th Grade Trip to New Orleans May 13-17, 2014

DETAILED TOUR ITINERARY

• Day 1- Tuesday, May 13: Bonjour New Orleans

Leave Milwaukee

We're on Southwest Flight #618. Meet us at General Mitchell International Airport no later than 10:30am!

Arrive in New Orleans!

Meet your Tour Director

New Orleans City Walk: French Quarter, Warehouse Arts District, Garden District, a Experience the authentic flavor of New Orleans as you walk amongst the history, architecture and splendor of the famed French Quarter, the bustling Warehouse Arts District, and the opulent Garden District. Along the way, you'll see the former homes of famous local residents and you'll even have a chance to swing by the always lively Bourbon Street. A great time for souvenir shopping and photo-ops

Traditional Cajun Dinner

Riverwalk and visit to the scenic and popular Riverside Mall

Walk through the premier festival marketplace in New Orleans, watch cruise ships, riverboats and steamers come and go at the New Orleans Port and wander along a half-mile of shops and restaurants offering a taste of the unique Cajun and Creole culture.

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• Day 2- Wednesday, May 14: New Orleans Landmarks

Breakfast

Visit French Market

The French Market, once a Native American trading post on the shores of the Mississippi River, has become a cultural, commercial and entertainment treasure to New Orleans. Wander through the open-air community flea market, cultural shops and unique boutiques to see arts, crafts and trinkets unique to New Orleans.

Visit Voodoo Museum

Think Voodoo is nothing more than superstition? Think again. Learn about the history, spells and spirits associated with the native-African religion of Voodoo from those who truly believe in it. Hear about Marie Laveau, the Voodoo Queen of New Orleans, and all of the voodoo secrets, from zombies and Mardi Gras to voodoo dolls and magic potions.

Mississippi River Riverboat Cruise

Start your 7 mile Mississippi riverboat cruise at the Port of New Orleans, one of the busiest ports in the world. Listen as your captain points out famous spots, local flora and wildlife. Maybe you'll even spot a Louisiana Alligator sunning itself on the riverbank!

Audubon Aquarium of the Americas visit

One of the top five in the country, the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas features more than one million gallons of fresh and saltwater exhibits of 530 species in a variety of wondrous habitats.

Dinner

Preservation Hall evening jazz performance

Established in 1961 to honor one of America's truest art forms – Traditional New Orleans Jazz-- Preservation Hall operates as a music venue, a touring band, and a non-profit organization. Preservation Hall continues its mission today as a cornerstone of New Orleans music and culture. Situated in the heart of the French Quarter, the Preservation Hall venue presents intimate, acoustic New Orleans Jazz concerts featuring ensembles from a current collective of 100+ local master practitioners. On any given night, audiences bear joyful witness to the evolution of this venerable and living tradition.

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• **Day 3- Thursday, May 15: Plantations & Bayou Country**

Breakfast

Excursion to Bayou Country Plantations

Step into scenery pulled straight from a Gone with the Wind old south. On the outside, see grand allées of live oak trees and manicured gardens. On the inside, period antiques and Louisiana art. Get magnificent views but also rich stories about life on sugarcane farms from inside the walls of antebellum mansions, authentic Creole cottages and slave cabins alike.

Visit Barataria Preserve

Originally settled by Canary Islanders in 1779, the Barataria Preserve offers a good introduction to the wetlands environment—just watch out for alligators!

Visit River Road African Museum & Gallery

Located in Donaldsonville, once the capital of Louisiana, you'll explore plantation life from the perspective of African American history. Hear stories about the Underground Railroad and the rural roots of jazz. Learn about Louisiana African American pioneers, like the man who invented the sugarcane-planting machine and America's first female self-made millionaire. Plus, see rare photos and unique historical documents, like newspaper ads for runaway slaves.

Dinner

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• **Day 4 – Friday, May 16: Make a Difference Day**

Breakfast

New Orleans full-day volunteer program

The group will be volunteering at New Orleans' City Park. The 1,300-acre outdoor oasis has enchanted New Orleanians since 1854, making it one of the nation's oldest urban parks. The story of City Park was shaped by two major events: the Great Depression and Hurricane Katrina. During the Great Depression

of the 1930s, the Roosevelt Administration invested \$12 million in developing the park as part of the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.), which employed 20,000 men and women to build roadways, fountains and Tad Gormley Stadium. The failure of the federal levee system following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 left 95 percent of City Park sitting in floodwaters for weeks, inflicting \$43 million in damages to the park alone. Support and donations have poured in over the years but there is still work to be done. Our group will be helping to restore Gormley Stadium to its former glory. Wear comfortable shoes to work in and let's truly MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Audubon Zoo visit

Get a taste of the Louisiana Swamp – all without getting wet! See authentic bayou wildlife, like the famous white alligator, amid cypress trees and Spanish moss in this imitation swamp. Sample Cajun cuisine, watch an alligator feeding, and learn all about the habitats and wildlife found in Louisiana.

Dinner

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• Day 5- Saturday, May 17: Lafayette Cemetery & Au Revoir

Breakfast

St. Charles Avenue

Lee Circle along with its monument to the Confederate general separates downtown and uptown sections of this grand avenue. Heading upriver, stroll past an impressive showcase of southern mansions where the power players of The Crescent City once lived. And ride on one of the longest running streetcars in the world anchored by renowned universities, Loyola and Tulane.

Lafayette Cemetery

Why are cemeteries in New Orleans largely above ground? Contrary to myth, it's not about the water table. Learn the truth as you walk through this "City of the Dead," a former French plantation turned final resting place for legends of the Civil War and hundreds of victims of the 19th century yellow fever plague.

Travel home

We're on Southwest Flight #2536. Meet us at General Mitchell International Airport at 4:55pm!