



Visitor Safety Tips – Revised December 9, 2011

Overview

New Orleans welcomes eight million visitors per year and the New Orleans Police Department is world renowned for the safe and successful management of major cultural events such as Mardi Gras, festivals, and special sporting events. The world's most prominent corporations and associations select New Orleans for conferences and business events ranging from a 10-person corporate board meeting to large association city-wide conventions with tens of thousands of attendees from around the world.

The New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and its tourism partners maintain a great relationship with the New Orleans Police Department and Superintendent of Police Ronal Serpas.

For 2011, crimes are down the 8th District, which encompasses popular tourist areas such as the French Quarter, downtown/Central Business District, Morial Convention Center, Riverfront and Marigny.

Although we maintain a very safe record for visitors, local elected officials and the New Orleans Police Department have a proactive, comprehensive plan for improving the quality of life for all those who visit, live and work in New Orleans. This includes a strategic approach to addressing graffiti, solicitation, poor lighting, parking violators, truancy, curfews for juveniles, loitering, panhandling and the enforcement of noise ordinances.

Superintendent Serpas and his senior leadership team are happy to meet with New Orleans CVB customers about their specific groups. In addition, the New Orleans CVB informs the top leadership of the NOPD of the complete convention and visitor schedule so they may provide customized coverage in areas where specific events are occurring.

Visitors to New Orleans Can Expect

- 133 officers assigned to the 8th District
- 13 officers assigned specifically to Bourbon Street during the evening through the early morning hours
- Police patrols on Segways
- 11 officers and supervisors devoted to daytime patrols on foot as well as Vespa scooters, golf carts, motorcycles, and Segways. This includes Royal Street, Bourbon Street, Chartres Street, Jackson Square and parks.
- 10 officers and supervisors assigned to Canal Street and Convention Center Blvd. via patrol cars, Vespa scooters, Polaris carts and Segways
- A minimum of six officers on horseback every night
- Portable light boxes on major cross streets such as Canal, Iberville, St. Louis and St. Peter
- Sky Watch towers to increase visibility, observation and police presence
- The permanent staffing of tourist areas is also routinely augmented by the assignment of Reserve NOPD Officers who are assigned on night shifts and weekends

Crime exists in all major cities. In New Orleans, the vast majority of violent crime is targeted criminal-on-criminal drug and retaliation acts which occur in specific neighborhoods, not in popular tourist areas. As with any destination, we recommend that vacationers and convention attendees practice common sense and do not wander into deserted, non-tourist areas of the city.

Common Sense Tips for Visitors to Any Major City

- iPhones and smart phones have been the target of thieves nationwide ... be aware of your surroundings when walking and using your smart phone.
- Do not leave your purse unattended.
- Consider removing your convention badge when leaving your meeting venue.
- Do not display large amounts of cash in public places.
- Avoid walking alone on deserted streets at night as you would in any major American city, travel with a colleague or friend if possible.
- If you are intoxicated, please take a taxi instead of walking or driving.
- Trust your gut instincts. If someone or something seems suspicious, leave the area or alert a police officer.
- If approached by strangers for con games such as, "I bet I can tell you where you got your shoes," do not participate. Simply smile and walk past them.
- Lock car doors. Stow valuables out of sight in your vehicle.
- Remember that most laws enforced in your city are enforced here as well.

Downtown Public Safety Rangers

Visitors Downtown also can utilize the Downtown Development District's (DDD) Public Safety Rangers, who are on duty seven days a week from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. They act as extra eyes and ears for the police and the DDD and assist visitors with directions, etc. Downtown SafeWalk escorts are offered free of charge within the Downtown DDD boundaries. Call or text (504) 415-1730 to check availability.

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