



New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation
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www.NewOrleansOnline.com - The City of New Orleans' Official Tourism Web Site

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FAMILY MARDI GRAS TIPS

New Orleans, LA – Revelers of all ages gather each year in New Orleans to celebrate the Mardi Gras season. Most parades are held in the last two weeks before Mardi Gras day and that is when families gather to celebrate the most extravagant Mardi Gras celebration in the world. Parades, exhibits, and activities abound for families who travel to the city to experience the sites and sounds of the carnival season.

Parades, balls, and parties are held throughout the city and local children who participate in these celebrations are repeating traditions that have held through generations in their families. Other families choose to costume and parade about the city, often meeting up with other families for a cookout along the median, the strip of grass between lanes on New Orleans' main street, St. Charles Avenue.

To check the parade schedule leading up to Fat Tuesday, go to www.NewOrleansOnline.com. Several parades are often scheduled on the two prior weekends before Mardi Gras day. If you are traveling to New Orleans with your family to experience the event, here are some helpful hints.

Safety

- Arrive early and acclimate your children to the crowds around them.
- Write your last name and phone number on your child's clothing or on your child's arm with an indelible pen.
- Designate a location to meet in case the family is separated.
- Instruct your child to go to the police if he or she forgets the designated location.
- Teach your children about float safety, and keep them away from floats and marching bands as they roll down the street!

Supplies

- Pack snacks, extra toiletries and a cell phone.
- Don't forget an umbrella.
- Locate a public bathroom once you decide where to stop for parades.
- Buy a copy of Arthur Hardy's Mardi Gras Guide in any drug store.
- Buy a traditional King Cake to enjoy while watching the parade.

Dress comfortably

- Wear tennis shoes and jeans under your costume.
- Weather can change quickly in New Orleans, so you might want to layer your clothes.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving.

Stay on the traditional parade route.

- Kids don't belong in the French Quarter or on Canal Street during Mardi Gras.
- Locate your family on St. Charles Avenue between First Street and Napoleon Avenue.
- If you plan to bring a ladder with a kiddie seat on top, make sure it is secured and you stay with your child while he sits in it.

Other Attractions To Visit

- The Audubon Zoo and the Aquarium of the Americas
- The Louisiana Children's Museum
- Storyland at City Park
- The Louisiana State Museum's exhibit, " Mardi Gras: It's Carnival Time in Louisiana"
- Mardi Gras World (just across the river from downtown New Orleans)

To learn more about the history, pageantry and activities surrounding Mardi Gras in New Orleans, visit www.neworleansonline.com, the official leisure tourism website for the city of New Orleans. Order or view online the "New Orleans Official Guide" with \$2400 in coupons to hotels, restaurants, and attractions.

The New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation promotes the city as a leisure tourism destination throughout the year. Annually, NOTMC's marketing campaigns include strategic print, broadcast, Internet advertising and public relations.

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