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Frommer's New Orleans 2010 (Frommer's Complete Guides)



Synopsis

Completely updated every year, Frommer's New Orleans features a full rundown of the unique experiences that await you. Our author hits all the highlights, from the French Quarter to the Garden District to Mid-City and beyond. She's checked out all the city's best hotels and restaurants in person, and offers authoritative, candid reviews that will help you find the choices that suit your tastes and budget. You'll also get up-to-the-minute coverage of shopping and nightlife; an in-depth look at Mardi Gras; detailed walking tours; accurate neighborhood maps; advice on planning a successful vacation; and side trips to Cajun Country and the nearby plantation homes.

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Customer Reviews

For fantastic architectural highlights and all the best of the French Quarter, see chapter 8. Detailed maps throughout Exact prices, directions, opening hours, and other practical information Candid reviews of hotels and restaurants, plus sights, shopping, and nightlife Itineraries, walking tours, and trip-planning ideas Insider tips from local expert authors

Mary Herczog remains a proud New Orleans homeowner. In addition to this book, she writes Frommer's Las Vegas, California For Dummies, and other Frommer's titles. She has also written about Bali for Frommer's Dream Vacations and Frommer's Southeast Asia. She is the author of the young adult novel Figures of Echo, the basis for the recent Lifetime movie Custody.

We purchased this guide about three weeks before our first trip to New Orleans, and studying it really made a difference in sorting out the plethora of options, especially when it comes to food and restaurants. Even though we were staying with a close friend who was very helpful in pointing us in the right direction, I would not have had a clue what I wanted to do in this busy, historic and unique city if I hadn't done my homework first. We were able to hit the must-see stuff first (Cafe du Monde, French Quarter, Bourbon Street, cemeteries, Garden District), then venture out of the city on the fourth day for a swamp tour, and spend the remaining days hitting some additional interesting places (Harrah's Casino, Insectarium, Audubon Park, City Park). It was fun going back through the book mid-trip and checking off all the stuff we'd seen and done, the uniquely-New Orleans foods we tried and cocktails we sipped.

Pros: The writing was easy and conversational, and really made you feel like you were getting some insider scoop. The reviews were glowing and critical and seemed honest, even sharing personal like and dislikes. The love the author felt for the city really came through. Plenty of information, historical rumors and facts, anecdotes. I appreciated the "best of" lists in the very beginning of the book - it's a good place to start getting a taste of the city.

Cons: Even though we got the most up to date version of the book (2009), there were of course things that were out of date, like restaurant closings and such. In the face of post-Katrina recovery and the economic problems, it would be difficult to find one that accurately reflects the city's quickly changing dynamics. I will gladly say that the city was not as dangerous as it was made out to be, and we were often in the "dangerous" areas outside of the Quarter without any problems. (That being said, we do live in NYC and are used to the big city life) Another criticism is the layout of the book, which was confusing and not very instinctual. A lot of information repeated, a lot of maps were not where it seemed they should have been, causing one to flip back and forth through the book quite a bit. But how to do it better? I'm not sure. I've experienced this same issue with other Frommer's guides.

If you're planning your first trip to New Orleans, I would recommend getting this book, studying it thoroughly before you go. Then when you hit the city, leave the guide in your room and let the city unravel before you. Then when you return each night, check the guide again for what you saw and did, and see what else there is to do the next day. It worked for us, and made the trip well worth it!

I live about 30 miles East of New Orleans, so I know the city very well, but I needed more specific information on many of the restaurants, hotels, shops, bars, and attractions in the city for the novel I am writing. This guide to the city is absolutely amazing, and it is a must have for anyone staying in the city who is not extremely familiar with the various parts of New Orleans. It includes walking tour

suggestions for the French Quarter, Arts District, Fabourg Marigny, lower and upper Garden Districts, Mid-City area, and Riverbend Area. It is also broken down into sections that include the best restaurants, bars, cafes, shops, museums, art galleries, and many more sights and great attractions. If you have never been to New Orleans and would like to see some of the best attractions the city has to offer, do not hesitate to purchase this book. It will definitely make your stay there a much more enjoyable, memorable, and cheaper vacation.

This guide is recommended. We stayed in the French Quarter the entire weekend we were there and it worked well for that. While we were in New Orleans we had a friends in the indie rock scene - and ended up going to the little dive clubs they played and talked about. Surprisingly even all of these "underground" places were in the guide. We weren't there for Mardi Gras - but there is really good background info in the guide on Mardi Gras including an amusing anectode of the author's experience riding on a float. The one thing is I wish there was more indication of which restaurants might be vegetarian friendly. We had problems finding restaurants to accomodate those who don't eat meat,

As this was my first trip to New Orleans, I wanted to make sure I had a thorough and up to date guide book, and I was NOT disappointed. Not only was the book accurate and complete, the author had an amazing sense of humor! Countless times I laughed out loud at her comments, and I will say this: If all Frommer's guides are written like this one, I will continue purchasing them for all new cities I visit!!!

We didn't have much time in the Crescent City and wanted to see all we could. Frommer's helped us decided what was important and gave us accurate reviews on restaurants as well. It was an inexpensive tool and easy to bring along.

We are spending part of our vacation in New Orleans this winter before we set sail on a carib cruise. Great information and maps.

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