



## **2017 Visitor Safety Statement**

Updated June 2017

### **Overview**

New Orleans welcomes more than 10 million visitors per year and celebrates like nowhere else, with world-class gatherings such as Mardi Gras and dozens of annual festivals and prestigious sporting events. The world's most prominent corporations and associations select New Orleans for conferences and business events ranging from 10-person corporate board meetings to large association citywide conventions with tens of thousands of attendees from around the world.

In 2017, New Orleans has already successfully hosted large events and tradeshows including the National Automobile Dealers Association centennial celebration with 23,000+ attendees and the Society for Human Resource Management's Annual Conference & Expo, with more than 15,500 attendees. The city has also hosted annual sporting events, such as the All-State Sugar Bowl and the NBA All Star game, which welcomed hundreds of thousands of sports enthusiasts. New Orleans remains poised to begin Tricentennial celebrations as the growth in the city ensues with the new airport expansion, Convention Center District Development Projects and many additional capital improvements.

### **Visitor Safety**

Universal personal safety precautions are appropriate as is the case in all destinations. We recommend visitors exercise common sense, stay aware of their surroundings, avoid unpopulated or unlit areas, and enjoy their exploration with friends.

The New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and its tourism partners maintain great relationships with the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) and Superintendent Michael S. Harrison. The NOPD's senior leadership team is happy to meet with 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.

Like in any major U.S. city, crime exists in New Orleans. But our state and local police have implemented several new tactics to make New Orleans safer for its citizens and visitors. To date in 2017, overall violent crime is down more than 37% in the 8<sup>th</sup> District, which includes much of the popular visitor areas such as the French Quarter, Central Business District and Warehouse District. Armed robbery in 2017 is down 53% year over year and simple robbery has decreased 57%. The NOPD continues to stay vigilant in protecting the safety and security of visitors and locals alike.

### **NOPD PATROLS**

- Bourbon Street patrol has been expanded to include one Lieutenant, 3 Sergeants and 50 officers (16 officers at night/2 officers per block)
- Mounted unit will consist of one Sergeant and seven officers (unit will cover 8th district)
- General Assignment Unit (undercover officers) will work Bourbon and Jackson Square
- A mobile booking unit will be in the French Quarter on Friday and Saturday nights during large events and arrestees will be taken to jail by deputy sheriffs so that NOPD can remain in the quarter

- State Police will patrol Bourbon Street during the day and NOPD will patrol at night

## **STATE POLICE PATROLS**

- Louisiana State Police troopers are deployed in shifts – 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants and 20-26 troopers, which will provide foot patrols on Bourbon
- 24-hour patrol plan with 9 officers that patrol the area from Iberville to Calliope and Claiborne to the river

## **BOURBON STREET**

- Sections of Bourbon Street are currently under construction for surface and underground infrastructure improvements. Small segments of the road will close, but all businesses continue to operate and are accessible. Construction is anticipated to be complete in January 2018. The latest information on road closures can be found at <https://roadwork.nola.gov/bourbon/>.

## **JACKSON SQUARE**

- The City and Downtown Development District (DDD) are enhancing security and sanitation. DDD rangers will enforce quality of life regulations, including patrolling and cleaning the Jackson Square area; NOPD will patrol on weekends; the sanitation department will clean the area two times per day
- There will be dedicated security and sanitation services for Jackson Square with a special “Strike Team” to enforce city regulations in the area around the square
- The City will require tarot card readers and street performers to get permits and wear ID badges
- The boundaries of Jackson Square Park are going to be expanded so that rules and regulations, including hours of operation, can apply to the area
- French Market personnel will enforce Jackson Square Park rules and regulations

## **CAMERA SYSTEM**

- More than 200 new high-definition, public security cameras and more than 100 new license plate readers were deployed citywide in January 2017

## **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, backpack or briefcase unattended.
- Be on the lookout for pickpockets. Consolidate your wallet. Don't bring every credit card and move it to your front pocket or keep your purse in front of you, not on the back of your chair.
- Consider removing your convention badge when leaving your meeting venue.
- When hailing a ride via a mobile app, confirm the identity of your driver before getting in to the car.
- Do not display large amounts of cash in public places.
- Avoid walking alone on unlit deserted streets at night as you would in any major American city, and travel with a colleague or friend, if possible.
- If you are intoxicated, please take a taxi cab, Uber or Lyft 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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