



Creole Christmas in New Orleans

December 5 – 10, 2027

6 Days / 5 Nights

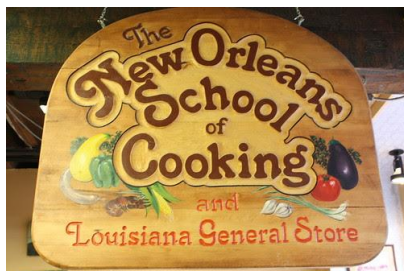


Day #1 – Sunday, December 5th:

- 5:15 AM** Depart Urbana from Peoria Charter, 1910 N Federal Drive on a Shuttle Bus / Van to pick up the Normal passengers and meet the main coach in Lincoln, IL
- 6:15 AM** Depart Normal from Schnuck's off Raab Road, 1750 Bradford Lane on a Shuttle Bus/Van to meet the main coach in Lincoln, IL.
- 6:15 AM** Depart Peoria from Peoria Charter, 2600 NE Adams Street
- 6:45 AM** Depart Morton from Wal Mart, 155 E Courtland Street, behind Culvers
- 7:15 AM** Depart Lincoln from Beck's Truck Plaza, I-55, Exit 126 (behind Arby's). The Shuttle Bus/Van will transfer passengers from Urbana & Normal to the main coach in Lincoln.
- 8:00 AM** Arrive in Springfield at McDonalds off Dirksen Parkway for our break stop and to pickup any Springfield passengers.
- 8:30 AM** Depart Springfield traveling to Batesville, Mississippi to our overnight stop. We'll make rest and meal stops along the way as needed.
- 6:00 PM** We arrive in Batesville where we'll make a stop for dinner on your own before checking into our hotel for the night.
- 7:30 PM** Approximate arrival time at the **Hampton Inn Hotel***. We'll get checked in and have the rest of the night to relax.

Day #2 – Monday, December 6th:

Breakfast* is served at the hotel this morning. Today is another "Travel Day" to get to New Orleans. We'll make rest & meal stops along the way as needed.



Upon arrival in New Orleans, we check into the **Wyndham New Orleans French Quarter*** for the next 3 nights. This hotel is located just steps from Bourbon Street, Jackson Square, and the city's renowned dining & entertainment venues. Tonight, we'll enjoy the **New Orleans School of Cooking Demo & Dinner***. Watch, learn, eat! Sit back and enjoy watching the skilled, entertaining chefs prepare a classic Cajun/Creole meal for you while learning about the vibrant history of New Orleans cuisine! We head back to the hotel following dinner.

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Day #3 – Tuesday, December 7th:

Breakfast* is included at Mr. Ed's Southern Creole Kitchen. Next, we'll enjoy a **guided city tour*** showcasing the vibrant culture, rich history, and unique charm of the Crescent City. Travel through iconic neighborhoods such as the French Quarter, Garden District, and Treme as your expert guide shares stories of Creole heritage, jazz legends, and historic architecture. Highlights include Jackson Square, St. Louis Cathedral, City Park, and the above-ground cemeteries. This immersive tour provides a perfect introduction to the sights, sounds and soul of New Orleans. Lunch will be on your own at The Riverwalk. This afternoon we'll enjoy a **4-D Experience – Vue Orleans*!** Located 33 floors above downtown New Orleans where Canal Street meets the Mississippi River, Vue Orleans immerses visitors in a multi-sensory 4-D experience with nine original films, seven interactive exhibits and the city's only rooftop 360-degree panoramic viewing platform. The attraction uses different technology at every turn to celebrate the art, music, food and history of New Orleans in a way that connects popular culture with its historical foundation. This afternoon you'll enjoy "Free Time" to explore the historic French Quarter, the heart and soul of New Orleans. Wander the charming streets lined with colorful Creole townhouses, cast-iron balconies, and centuries-old architecture. Discover hidden courtyards, browse unique boutiques and art galleries, or stop in at iconic spots like Jackson Square or the St. Louis Cathedral. **Dinner*** is included tonight at **Mulate's Cajun Restaurant**. This restaurant features live Cajun Music and Dancing, and is where Cajuns come to celebrate their heritage. We head back to the hotel after dinner.



Day #4 – Wednesday, December 8th:

Breakfast* is included at Mr. Ed's Southern Creole Kitchen. This morning we'll enjoy a **self guided tour of the Presbytere***. The Presbytere houses an elaborate and exquisite collection of Mardi Gras artifacts and memorabilia. The story of New Orleans' extraordinary Mardi Gras tradition is dynamically told in a high-tech, interactive, permanent exhibition titled "Mardi Gras: It's Carnival Time in Louisiana". The exhibit traces the celebration from its ancient origins to the 19th century emergence of New Orleans' parades and balls to present-day celebration that attracts millions of visitors each year. The new \$7.5 million dollar exhibition "Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond" offers an unforgettable experience of the power of hurricanes. Eyewitness accounts, state-of-the-art sound and video, and rare artifacts recount tragic devastation of Hurricanes Katrina & Rita in 2005. Next, we'll enjoy a **live Jazz Brunch*** at the Court of Two Sisters where you can dine beneath a breathtaking 175-year old wisteria tree. This famous buffet offers everything your heart desires, from Classic Creole & Cajun dishes to Southern favorites, all while live jazz fills the air. It's a perfect way to savor the



flavors and ambiance of New Orleans. This afternoon we'll **Tour* the Hermann-Grima House and the Gallier House***. Discover Creole holiday traditions from the 19th century while touring the Hermann-Grima house and slave quarters. This home is dressed for 19th-century New Year's celebrations. Visit Gallier House which is dressed for a traditional 19th-century Creole Christmas Celebration. Built in 1860, this Victorian French Quarter townhouse exemplifies innovative and advanced features for this time period. We head back to the hotel to freshen up before attending **Celebration in the Oaks – New Orleans City Park*** this evening. Dinner is on your own while at the Celebration. Celebration in the Oaks is a New Orleans family tradition that began in the late 1980's and is now one of the most spectacular holiday lights festivals in the country. Enjoy over a million twinkling lights, unlimited Amusement Park rides as well as access to the elegant Botanical Garden.

Day #5 – Thursday, December 9th:

- Breakfast*** is included at Mr. Ed's Southern Creole Kitchen.
- 9:00 AM** We check out and begin our journey towards home making rest & meal stops along the way to Batesville, MS where we'll overnight.
- 5:00 PM** We arrive in Batesville at the **Hampton Inn*** and enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Day #6 – Friday, December 10th:

- Breakfast*** is served at the hotel before checking out.
- 8:00 AM** We check out, board our awaiting coach and depart for home making rest and meal stops along the way as needed.
- 6:00 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Springfield.
- 6:45 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Lincoln where the Shuttle Bus/Van will be waiting to take the Normal & Urbana passengers home.
- 7:15 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Morton.
- 7:45 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Normal.
- 7:45 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Peoria.
- 8:45 PM** Approximate arrival time back in Urbana.

Cost Per Person:

Single: \$2205.00 Double: \$1845.00 Triple: \$1730.00 Quad: \$1615.00

Tour Includes: Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation, Professional Driver & Tour Hosts, Hotel Accommodations, All Attractions & Meals in bold print and marked with an asterisk*.

If you feel the Driver & Tour Hosts have done a good job, it is appropriate & appreciated if you tip them. We suggest \$4 per customer per day for the Driver & \$4 per customer per day for the Tour Hosts on this trip.

Hotels:

Days #1 & #5:
Hampton Inn
Batesville, MS

Days #2, #3 & #4:
Wyndham New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

