



St. Patrick's Day in New Orleans & Cajun Country!

March 15 - 19, 2018 5 Days/4 Nights

Join **Brian Doughty**, the owner of **TRIPS** and a native of Louisiana for a fun time in New Orleans during St. Patrick's Day! Your time in "The Big Easy" will immerse you in all that is Louisiana! From an authentic antebellum plantation to the magnificent food of New Orleans you'll be immersed in Cajun Country. The highlight will surely be experiencing the heritage and history of immigrants to New Orleans during not one, but two parades! The Irish-American's kick things off on St. Patrick's day with a parade that is like nothing you've experienced! The Italian-American's follow with a delightfully different parade! But both are quintessential New Orleans, a city that love a parade!

Itinerary

March 15, 2018 - Let The Good Times Roll

This morning, depart for **The Big Easy - New Orleans!** On arrival you'll be met and assisted with your transfer to the hotel, your home for the next four nights. After you settle in, you may wish to stroll through the French Quarter or just relax and freshen up for an exciting dinner. This evening, your fabulous New Orleans experience gets off to a great start, as you enjoy a **Welcome Dinner**. As we say in New Orleans, "**Laissez les bon temps rouler!**" - Let the good times roll!

Overnight: Hampton Inn (or similar) (D)

March 16, 2018 - Mardi Gras and Cooking

After breakfast this morning get a **taste of Mardi Gras** with a behind the scenes look its history and traditions when you visit **Mardi Gras World**. See how floats are designed and built from the mule drawn wagons in 1932 to today's extraordinary creations. This is your chance to see some of the 1,000 floats built each year and learn what the colors purple, green and gold signify. Next, visit the **New Orleans School of Cooking!** Housed in a renovated molasses warehouse built in the early 1800s, this will surely be one of the highlights of your trip! Enjoy a cooking class, taught by local chefs, featuring four dishes. You'll be taught the basics of Louisiana cooking in a way you will never forget. After the mouth-watering demonstration, enjoy lunch with time to shop in the School's culinary gift shop featuring Southern Louisiana favorites. Later this afternoon, visit the **National WWII Museum**. Included are tickets for the award winning movie "**Beyond all Boundaries**", narrated and produced by Tom Hanks. This expansive museum has been voted one of the top 5 in the country, and is a must see. Powerful images and extraordinary artifacts bring to life the American Spirit, the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the young men and women who won the war and changed the world. From the 1930s prelude to war, to the Normandy Invasion and the battles of the Pacific

Islands, you'll trace America's role in the war and on the Home Front. New Orleans was selected as the site of this museum because it was here that Andrew Higgins built the landing craft used in the amphibious invasions that President Eisenhower believed won the war for the Allies. Late this afternoon, return to your hotel with the remainder of the day at leisure to enjoy all the **French Quarter** has to offer. This historic area is the heart of New Orleans with many buildings dating from before 1803 when the city was acquired by the United States in the Louisiana Purchase. With trendy boutiques and a wide variety of dining options, you'll find plenty to keep you busy!

Overnight: Hampton Inn (or similar) (B/L)

March 17, 2018 - It's St. Patrick's Day

This morning travel to Plantation Country for a tour of **Laura Plantation**. Here on the banks of the Mississippi River, you'll discover the difference that exemplifies **Creole Louisiana**, in a historic farm surrounded by fields of sugarcane. Included is a guided tour inside a slave cabin, built in 1840 where the ancient west-African tales of "**Br'er Rabbit**" were recorded. Built in 1805 the sugar plantation was run for 180 years by two creole families with European roots. The founder was a veteran of the American revolution and was Laura's great-grandfather. You'll surely enjoy what has been called "the best history tour in the U.S.". We stop near the plantation for an **included lunch** on the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain in the heart of Louisiana Plantation Country. It's nothing fancy, but the food is mouth-watering and you won't get a more authentic **Country Cajun** meal! Discover what generations of Cajun Fisherman have - living close to the swamp lands and marshes have created a whole different cuisine that can't be duplicated anywhere! As you return to town, you'll have a sightseeing tour of **St. Charles Avenue**. Described as **The Jewel of America's Grand Avenues**, it is the most superb collection of historic mansions in the South. In addition to the beautiful mansions, St. Charles Avenue is also where you'll find Audubon Park, Loyola and Tulane Universities.

Stop at City Park for a traditional New Orleans pass time. Sitting down for beignets and coffee at **Morning Call**, a New Orleans tradition for over 140 years. This venerable establishment is described as **“one of the world’s great coffee houses”!** And of course, the beignets are delicious. Referred to as **French Market Donuts**, they’re hand rolled and liberally dusted with powdered sugar, an irresistible New Orleans creation! Return to the hotel with the remainder of the day yours to enjoy **St. Patrick’s Day in New Orleans**. TRIPS will provide you with maps showing the parade route for the **Downtown Irish Club Parade**. Experience the feeling of Mardi Gras without the crowds and hopefully catch some colorful beads. Be on the lookout for what’s thrown your way, on St. Patrick’s Day cabbage and potatoes are tossed to honor the Irish heritage! This is one big street party!

Overnight: Hampton Inn (or similar) (B/L)

March 18, 2018 - Enjoy New Orleans Your Way - All Day

You have the entire day to **explore and discover New Orleans on your own**. Stroll through the heart and soul of the city - the **French Quarter**. With a unique blend of architecture, you’ll see cast iron balconies, boutiques and galleries galore! Perhaps visit the world class **Aquarium of the Americas** or try your luck at **Harrah’s Casino**! Of course New Orleans is synonymous with great food and it’s no surprise with chefs such as Emeril Lagasse and Paul Prudhomme

hailing from the Crescent City! Be sure to enjoy one of the local specialties. From **Gumbo** to **Muffuletta**, you’ll not go hungry.

We’ve included a coupon at world famous **Pat O’Brien’s** for a famous **Hurricane Cocktail** - and you get to take home the hurricane glass. You can use the coupon anytime during your time in New Orleans, but today might just be the perfect time! At the end of prohibition in 1933, Pat O’Brien converted his speakeasy into a legitimate drinking establishment. In the mid 1940’s, there was a short supply of liquor such as whiskey, bourbon and scotch. There was access to rum however, but bar owners were forced to buy 50 cases or more in order to purchase other liquor. Out of this forced necessity, Pat O’Brien came up with a drink that everyone loved, and of course it’s always served in a glass shaped like a Hurricane lamp! Tonight is yet another parade as **Italian-American’s** celebrate! The **St. Joseph’s Day Parade** kicks off at 6pm and of course you’ll have a map provided by TRIPS so you can enjoy the festivities! Marchers are elegantly dressed in black tuxedos and they hand out silk flowers, dried fava beans and **genuine Italian kisses!** Only in New Orleans!

Overnight: Hampton Inn (or similar) (B)

March 19, 2018 - Parting is Such Sweet Sorrow

This morning after breakfast, transfer to the airport for you flight home. **Memories of your time celebrating St. Patrick’s Day in New Orleans will last a lifetime!** (B)

St. Patrick’s Day in New Orleans & Cajun Country!

\$1,898.00

per person/double occupancy
Single Supplement is an additional \$598.00



Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and strongly suggested.

Check with your club representative for details.

Inclusions

- Round-trip airport transfers
- Round-trip airfare to New Orleans (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 4 nights hotel accommodation in New Orleans at the Hampton Inn including complimentary wi-fi
- Breakfast daily at the hotel
- Welcome to New Orleans dinner
- Lunch at an authentic Country Cajun restaurant
- Lunch and a cooking class at the New Orleans School of Cooking
- Coffee and beignets at the renowned Morning Call
- All sightseeing and admissions as listed in the detailed itinerary, including a National World War II Museum and Beyond All Boundaries film, Mardi Gras World, Laura Plantation, coupon for “Hurricane Cocktail” at Pat O’Brien’s and St. Charles Avenue
- Maps for St. Patrick’s Day Parade and St. Joseph’s Day Parade
- Private, deluxe motor coach
- All taxes, government fees and service charges

Call today to reserve your space!!

Reservations for **“St. Patrick’s Day in New Orleans and Cajun Country”** are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$500.00** deposit is required to hold space on this tour.

This deposit is fully refundable up to December 5, 2017.

Final payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before December 5, 2017.

Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.

50% non-refundable on December 6, 2017. 100% non-refundable as of January 12, 2018.

Make checks payable to **Truity Credit Union**

c/o Leslie Jerden

P.O. Box 1358 Bartlesville, OK 74005

(918) 337 - 7732

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