



New Orleans, Louisiana Cruise Port Guide

Mississippi River terminals, parking, airport transportation, hotels, dining, attractions, and embarkation planning

Information reviewed August 1, 2026. Cruise schedules, terminals, parking prices, hotel packages, store hours, and transportation options can change. Verify current details before travel.

Cruise Port Overview

The Port of New Orleans cruise terminals are beside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and close to the French Quarter, Warehouse District, and Riverwalk. New Orleans is one of the easiest ports for turning a cruise into a food, music, and history vacation.

Port area	Downtown New Orleans along the Mississippi River
Ocean cruise terminals	Erato Street and Julia Street
Primary airport	Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY)
Best pre-cruise areas	Warehouse District, Central Business District, French Quarter, or Garden District
Special advantage	Many attractions and restaurants are a short ride or walk from the cruise area.

Cruise Lines Sailing From This Port

Carnival Cruise Line Regular departures, commonly from Erato Street Cruise Terminal.	Norwegian Cruise Line Seasonal Caribbean departures, commonly from Julia Street Cruise Terminal.
Royal Caribbean Selected seasonal sailings from the Julia Street area.	American Cruise Lines Mississippi River itineraries from New Orleans-area river facilities.
Viking Mississippi Seasonal Mississippi River cruises; embarkation details differ from ocean terminals.	Other seasonal calls Schedules can change, so confirm the exact cruise line, ship, and terminal.

Cruise Terminals and Orientation Map

New Orleans Riverfront Cruise Area (not to scale)



Erato Street Cruise Terminal is at 1100 Port of New Orleans Place and is commonly associated with Carnival. Julia Street Cruise Terminal is at 920 Port of New Orleans Place and commonly serves Norwegian and Royal Caribbean. The two facilities are close but use different garages and traffic approaches.

Parking Options and Costs

Erato Street garage	\$25 per day flat rate as listed by the port. The garage is connected to the terminal.
Julia Street parking	\$25 per day, with an additional reservation fee that may be about \$1 per day. The port also publishes sailing-length examples for certain facilities.
Published examples	The port has listed totals such as \$120 for four days, \$135 for five days, and \$180 for seven days at specific Julia/Whale Lot facilities. Verify for your sailing.
Payment and access	Follow official terminal directions and retain your parking documentation.
Best advice	Reserve when offered and use the garage assigned to your terminal.

Airport Transportation

<p>MSY airport</p> <p>The primary airport, roughly 15 miles from the cruise district depending on route. Taxi, rideshare, shared shuttle, and private transfer options are available.</p>	<p>Taxi or rideshare</p> <p>Simple for couples and small families; allow extra time for convention, festival, and downtown traffic.</p>
<p>Private transfer</p> <p>Helpful for larger groups, mobility needs, or substantial luggage.</p>	<p>Streetcar and public transit</p> <p>Useful for sightseeing, but not usually the easiest airport-to-cruise option with luggage.</p>

Cruise-Friendly Hotels and Parking Packages

Hotel cruise-parking packages and shuttle schedules change frequently. Verify parking duration, transfer fees, vehicle access, and package restrictions directly with the hotel before booking.

<p>Hilton New Orleans Riverside</p> <p>Adjacent to Riverwalk and near the terminals; a cruise-and-park offer may be available for selected dates.</p>	<p>Hilton Garden Inn Convention Center</p> <p>Close to the cruise area and has offered five- or seven-night cruise parking packages.</p>
<p>Wyndham New Orleans French Quarter</p> <p>Has offered a one-night stay with up to seven nights of parking; transportation may be separate.</p>	<p>Hampton Inn & Suites Convention Center</p> <p>Convenient Warehouse District option; ask about parking and cruise transfer packages.</p>
<p>Omni Riverfront Hotel</p> <p>Walkable location near Riverwalk and Julia Street; verify parking duration and fees.</p>	<p>Renaissance New Orleans Pere Marquette</p> <p>Central Business District option with seasonal cruise-related offers; confirm package details.</p>

Best Restaurants Nearby

<p>Cochon</p> <p>Louisiana-focused cooking in the Warehouse District.</p>	<p>Cochon Butcher</p> <p>Casual sandwiches, charcuterie, and quick meals near the port.</p>
<p>Peche Seafood Grill</p> <p>Award-winning Gulf seafood in the Warehouse District.</p>	<p>Mother's Restaurant</p> <p>Classic po-boys and New Orleans comfort food near the cruise area.</p>

Cafe du Monde

Famous beignets and cafe au lait in the French Market area.

Compere Lapin

Caribbean and New Orleans influences in the Warehouse District.

Local Attractions

French Quarter

Historic streets, Jackson Square, music, restaurants, and architecture.

Mardi Gras World

See floats and learn how Mardi Gras displays are created.

Garden District

Historic homes, oak-lined streets, and Magazine Street access.

National WWII Museum

Major museum in the Warehouse District, close to the cruise terminals.

Frenchmen Street

Live music and evening entertainment beyond Bourbon Street.

Steamboat and riverfront experiences

River cruises, waterfront walks, and views of working Mississippi River traffic.

Shopping

Riverwalk Outlets

Outlet shopping directly beside the Julia Street terminal area.

French Market

Food stalls, souvenirs, crafts, and local products.

Royal Street

Antiques, galleries, jewelry, and decorative arts.

Magazine Street

Miles of boutiques, vintage shops, cafes, and local businesses.

Grocery and Liquor Stores

Rouses Market

Local grocery chain with downtown and French Quarter options.

CVS and Walgreens

Many locations for toiletries, medicine, and travel essentials.

Cruise policy reminder

Verify the cruise line's carry-on alcohol rules before buying wine or spirits.

Whole Foods Market

Full grocery shopping on Magazine Street for travelers staying uptown.

Total Wine and local package stores

Larger liquor selection is often outside the immediate tourist core; local groceries also sell beer, wine, and spirits.

Weather by Season

Winter	Mild to cool, generally 40s to 60s. Cold snaps and rain are possible.
Spring	Comfortable 50s to upper 70s, with increasing humidity and festival-season crowds.
Summer	Hot, humid, and rainy, often mid-70s to 90s. Afternoon storms are common.
Fall	Warm in September, then milder. Hurricane-season disruptions remain possible through November.

Embarkation Day Tips

Confirm Erato or Julia	Watch festival traffic
Use the exact terminal address and garage instructions.	Mardi Gras, conventions, football, and festivals can create road closures and high hotel demand.
Keep essentials with you	Use hotel luggage storage
Identification, medicine, valuables, electronics, and a change of clothes belong in your carry-on.	If exploring before boarding, ask the hotel to hold bags; terminal storage should not be assumed.
Plan for heat and rain	Arrive one day early
Downtown walking can be hot or wet. Carry water and light rain protection.	New Orleans is worth the extra time and a day-early arrival protects the cruise.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I walk from a hotel?	Several Warehouse District and riverfront hotels are walkable, but luggage and heat can make a short taxi easier.
Which terminal does Carnival use?	Carnival commonly uses Erato Street; verify the cruise documents.
How much is parking?	The port generally lists \$25 per day, with some facility-specific reservation fees and totals.
Is the French Quarter close?	Yes, but it is not directly beside the terminal. A streetcar, taxi, rideshare, or moderate walk may be needed.
Can I store luggage at the terminal?	Do not rely on terminal storage. Use a hotel or verified storage service.

Money-Saving Tips

Choose a walkable hotel	Compare cruise packages
A Warehouse District or riverfront location can reduce rideshare expenses.	Hotel parking packages may cost less than separate hotel and terminal parking.
Use the streetcar for sightseeing	Eat beyond Bourbon Street
It can be economical when traveling without luggage.	Warehouse District, Mid-City, and neighborhood restaurants often provide better value.
Avoid peak festival dates	Let KalviTravel build the total plan
Mardi Gras and major festivals can dramatically increase hotel prices.	Scott can compare hotel, parking, airport transfer, and cruise options together.

Why Book With KalviTravel

Personal comparison	Complete trip planning
Scott helps compare cruise lines, ships, cabins, itineraries, ports, and travel dates instead of focusing on only one advertised price.	Cruise fare, hotel, parking, airport transportation, transfers, and protection decisions can be considered as one vacation plan.

Clear reminders

KalviTravel helps clients keep track of deposits, final payment dates, identification needs, and important preparation steps.

Support from a real advisor

You have a person to contact before and during your trip. Call Scott Kalvinek at (508) 769-3808 or visit KalviTravel.com.

Official and Planning Sources

Port of New Orleans terminal information

<https://portnola.com/cruise/terminals>

Port of New Orleans parking and directions

<https://portnola.com/cruise/parking-directions>

New Orleans cruise packages

<https://www.neworleans.com/hotels/cruise-hotels/>

New Orleans weather

<https://www.neworleans.com/plan/weather/>

Official New Orleans tourism

<https://www.neworleans.com/>

My Cruise Port Notes
