

New Orleans Travel Tips

[How Safe is New Orleans for Visitors? | Tips from Locals \(freetoursbyfoot.com\)](#)

[Visit New Orleans | Official New Orleans Tourism Website](#)

1. **Travel in Groups**
2. **Project Situational Awareness**
3. **Trust Your Instincts!**
4. **Take a Taxi, Uber, Lyft or Pedicab at Night**
5. **Stay in Well-Lit Areas**
6. **Hide Emergency Cash**
7. **Don't get Distracted by Pickpockets**
8. **Lock Up Your Valuables**
9. **Stop Using Your Back Pocket & Hand Purses**
10. **Don't Share Too Much With Strangers**
11. **Write Down Emergency Info**
12. **Keep Luggage and Valuables Stored Away**

**Your safety is worth more than a few dollars, credit cards and ID's.
Items can be replaced. YOU CAN'T**

1. Travel in Groups

Pickpockets and other petty criminals are less likely to approach large groups of people who know each other.

If you're alone or only traveling with one or two other people, make sure you are not the only person or group walking on the street you are on.

Or, join several of our walking tours. They are pay-what-you-wish tours, and you will be joined by other travelers, including solo travelers.

2. Project Situational Awareness

Did you know that a majority of human communication [is based on non-verbal body language](#)? This projection of confidence can prevent you from becoming a target.

Keep your head up, stay alert, and aware of your surroundings. When you're confident, potential attackers can sense it through your body language and eye contact.

3. Trust Your Instincts!

Your body might sense signs of danger before your brain is fully aware.

This is why gut feelings are always worth examining! If you're feeling uneasy and you don't know why, try not to write it off as irrational fear. Stop and pay closer attention to the situation. Can you figure out what the problem is?

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4. Take a Taxi, Uber, Lyft or Pedicab at Night

While it's usually much easier to walk around locations such as the French Quarter, we recommend taking a cab or rideshare to get around the city after dark. If you do decide to walk, do so on major thoroughfares, such as Bourbon, Royal, and Decatur Streets.

5. Stay in Well-Lit Areas

This advice might seem obvious, but you'll want to avoid any dark alleys at night when you're visiting New Orleans.

Stay around the well-lit areas of the city if you want to stay safe.

With that said, the chances that you would run into trouble on one of these alleys in the French Quarter, for example, are almost zero but still significantly higher than the main illuminated strips.

6. Hide Emergency Cash

While it's good to do everything you can to prevent worst case scenarios – it's equally smart to assume it'll happen and plan ahead for it. This is the thinking behind having an emergency stash of funds, stored in a safe place.

7. Don't get Distracted by Pickpockets

The senses can be heightened when in New Orleans with so much to see, hear, smell, and taste.

For that reason, visitors can find themselves distracted, maybe enjoying some Dixieland Jazz being played on the street.

Pickpockets and thieves know this and may victimize those who are unaware.

Bars and live music areas can be prime locations for opportunists to prey upon tourists.

Stay aware while still enjoying yourselves. **Smart tourists leave valuables and some identification and money in their hotel room when heading out on the town.**

When out in the Quarter keep your phones and cameras secure, put them away when not using them.

It is also advised to keep your ID and Wallet in your front pocket. Women often use crossbody bags that are harder to be snatched off their shoulders or from their hands.

It's common for people to walk up to tourists and say, "I bet I can tell you where you got your shoes." Walk past them and do not engage.

It is best to not engage with scammers, people trying to sell you trinkets (hats, beads, bracelets) often have accomplices who will try to distract you for theft reasons.

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8. Lock Up Your Valuables

Putting aside the fact that traveling with anything super valuable is usually a bad idea, there will always be something you absolutely cannot afford to have stolen. I travel with a lot of expensive camera gear for example.

Your job is to minimize the easy opportunities for theft.

9. Stop Using Your Back Pocket & Hand Purses

It's the first place any pickpocket will check, the best way to deal with the dangers of having a back pocket is to never use it. Cross-body purses and bags are harder to take.

Your front pockets are a lot harder to steal from without being noticed.

10. Don't Share Too Much With Strangers

If you're ever tempted to make your itinerary more public, say in a Facebook post, just remember it can be a roadmap of your movements – just the sort of thing someone with ill-intentions would love to know.

I also don't recommend sharing too many details about your travel plans or accommodation details with people you've just met. For example, don't tell a local shop owner or street tout where you're staying when asked.

If someone does ask, rather than be rude, you can be vague about an area of town rather than the name of your hotel. Or lie and name a hotel you're not actually staying at.

11. Write Down Emergency Info

If disaster strikes, you might not have time to search for numbers for local police or ambulance services, or directions to the nearest embassy for your country. You may also be too stressed and panicky to think straight.

Don't put yourself in that position. Instead, record that information in advance, and create an "Emergency Plan" for you to follow if things go badly.

Write down on a small card or sheet of paper, get it laminated (easily done at your local office supply store) to protect it from moisture, and keep it in your wallet/purse.

12. Keep Luggage and Valuables Stored Away

If you're carrying a wallet, backpack, or purse around the city, and it's located somewhere on your body that you can't see easily, it could be easy to pickpocket.

One way to avoid this is to keep valuables out of easily accessible areas of your bags, but another option is to use a [luggage storage service](#).

There are storage options for as little as an hour or two.

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Which New Orleans Neighborhoods Are Safe for Tourists?

1. [The French Quarter](#)

This neighborhood is almost always safe during the day. It's the main area for tourism in New Orleans, so there's usually a decent amount of police presence in the area. Popular streets and attractions are usually pretty safe even at night, but I still recommend walking in groups if possible.

2. [The Garden District](#)

Garden District is known for its historic charm, beautiful architecture, and affluent residents, which often contribute to a relatively safe environment. However, like any urban area, it's essential to exercise caution and awareness of your surroundings, especially at night and in less populated areas. While visiting the Garden District, remember not to pass Magazine Street towards the river. This area is known as the Irish Channel. It is not a tourist neighborhood and you will stick out as not being a resident. Uptown and Lakeview are also good choices to hang around.

3. [Armstrong Park](#)

Armstrong Park is home to many music festivals, due to the fact that it's named after Louis Armstrong. It has undergone revitalization efforts in recent years, making it a safer and more vibrant destination compared to its past reputation. During the daytime, Armstrong Park generally sees more visitors, activity and tours, making it safer to explore.

At night, it's typically recommended to avoid secluded areas and to stay in well-lit, populated areas if you're visiting the park.