

New Orleans National Parks (Jean Lafitte and Jazz)

Two National Parks celebrate New Orleans cultural history, the creation of jazz, and the natural beauty of Louisiana. These two National Parks are Jean Lafitte National Historical Preserve and New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park.

Both sites serve as a window into the past that allow visitors a chance to appreciate the significant struggle for change, the celebration of art of an earlier time, as well as the environmental uniqueness of the area. New Orleans history is rich in cultural genres, and both National Park sites focus on this, recounting stories of the past in unique interpretive ways, providing meaning to all audiences. As author, and former New Orleans resident William Faulkner stated, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park consists of six New Orleans neighborhoods and streets which can be explored to view important sites where jazz music first came to be, and how it has evolved throughout the years. In addition, six walking tours are available for visitors to experience the roots of the jazz movement in New Orleans, which was created by respected artists like Louis Armstrong, Charles Bolden, and Sidney Bechet. Also available at the park is a series of recorded accounts of traditions and memories of New Orleans musicians. To date, over 100 musicians have been interviewed and videotaped. These first-hand accounts allow guests to hear the experiences of New Orleans jazz musicians. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/jazz

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve showcases the history and beauty of New Orleans and its surrounding areas. Its mission is to "preserve the natural and cultural resources of Louisiana's Mississippi River delta region." The park consists of six separate units,

or locations, that display the "treasures of South Louisiana." The six units include the Acadian Cultural Center-Lafayette, Prairie Acadian Cultural Center-Eunice, Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center- Thibodaux, Barataria Preserve- Marrero, Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery-Chalmette and The French Quarter Visitor Center- New Orleans.

Both New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park and Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve serve as windows into the history, culture, and uniqueness of southern Louisiana and how it has transformed over the centuries.

Source(s):

<http://www.nps.gov/jazz/index.htm>

-<http://www.nps.gov/jela/index/htm>

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