

Mardi Gras in New Orleans

March 4, 2025

We're pleased to hear of your interest in visiting New Orleans during Mardi Gras 2025!

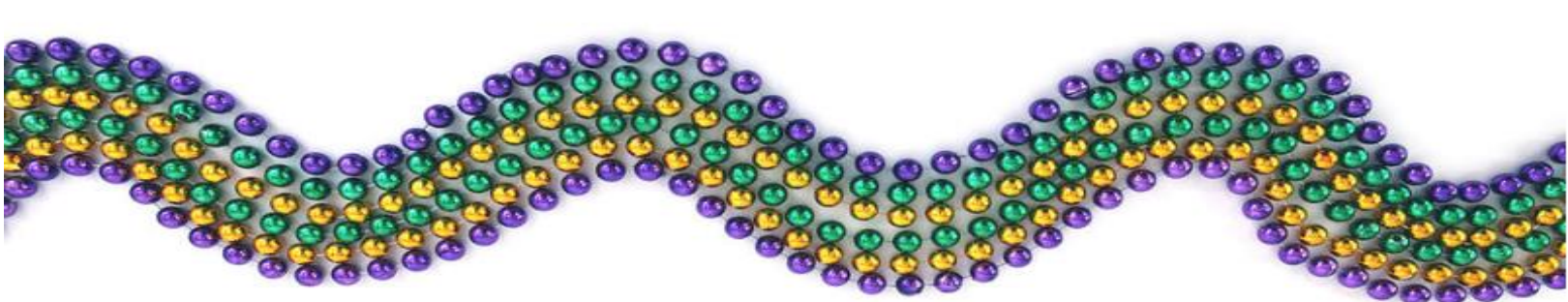
Mardi Gras Day in 2025 is March 4th. While Carnival season kicks off on January 6th, most parades will roll from February 1st through Mardi Gras Day on Tuesday, March 4th.

Parades only occur at night Monday-Friday but run both during the day and at night on the weekends during Carnival season. Mardi Gras Day is an all-day celebration. Most travelers coming to New Orleans for Mardi Gras like to arrive the Thursday before and stay through Mardi Gras Day on Tuesday. The days leading up to Mardi Gras Day are very exciting and filled with activities, so arriving early allows guests to participate.

Hotel accommodations fill up quickly. Many hotels only accept arrivals on or before the Friday just before Mardi Gras Day, and most require a three- or four-night minimum stay.

Let the experts at New Orleans & Company assist you in planning your Mardi Gras trip. For complimentary assistance for group accommodations of 10 or more, please contact the Tourism Department at 504-566-5011 or visit www.neworleans.com.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!



Mardi Gras FAQ

What does 'Mardi Gras' mean?

Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday.” The day before is Lundi Gras, or “Fat Monday.”

When is Mardi Gras?

Mardi Gras Day changes every year, as it depends on the date of Easter. It is always 46 days before Easter (40 days of Lent plus six Sundays) and the day before Ash Wednesday.

What is a parade?

Mardi Gras parades have their roots in Mardi Gras krewes. Krewes, or groups of revelers, band together to put on a parade or Mardi Gras ball during the Carnival season. Each parade is named for a krewe and fills its floats with members. The King and Queen of each krewe lead the parade, followed by multiple floats. Parades can also include marching bands, dancing groups, horses and riders, clowns, motorcycle units and more. It's not uncommon for there to be up to 3,000 participants in a parade.

When are the parades held?

Carnival season kicks off on January 6th each year, bringing king cakes, Mardi Gras decorations and an overall sense of celebration. Most parades do not start rolling until two Fridays before Mardi Gras Day, however. See below for a parade schedule.

What makes Mardi Gras parades different?

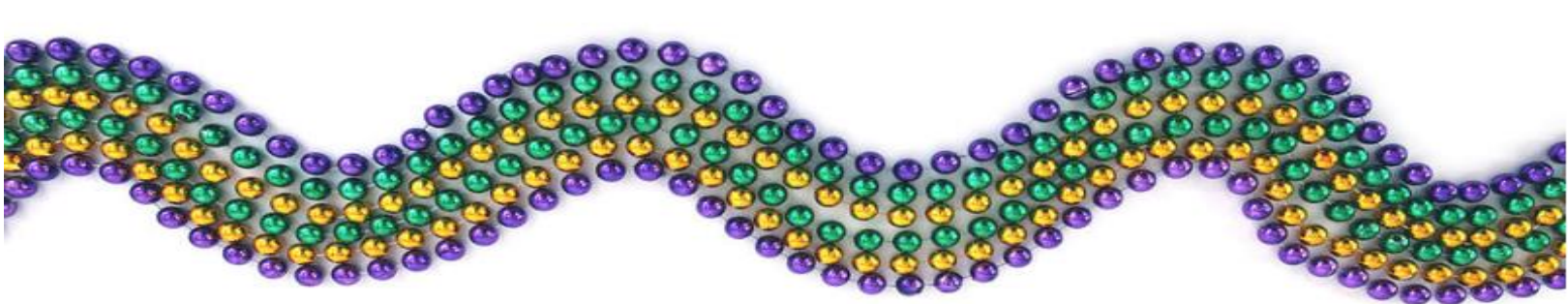
Throws turn New Orleans parades into crowd participation events. The most popular items are those that bear the krewe's insignia, such as doubloons (metal coins), cups and medallion emblem necklaces. Many items also illustrate the parade's theme, making them collectibles.

Where do I watch a parade?

Check online for the specific route of each parade and join the locals on the curbside! You can also enjoy viewing from grandstand seats along St. Charles Avenue. These are available for purchase through Mardi Gras Parade Tickets at www.mardigrasparadetickets.com and New Orleans Parade Tickets at www.neworleansparadetickets.com.

How do I go to a Mardi Gras ball?

Admission to traditional tableaux balls is by non-transferable invitation only. The carnival organizations are private clubs and invitations are normally not extended to the public. You can buy tickets to Orpheuscapade, however, the Krewe of Orpheus' extravagant version of a Mardi Gras ball. This black-tie event has live music, dancing and a chance to catch some throws when the parade rolls through the Convention Center. Visit www.kreweoforpheus.com for more information on purchasing tickets.

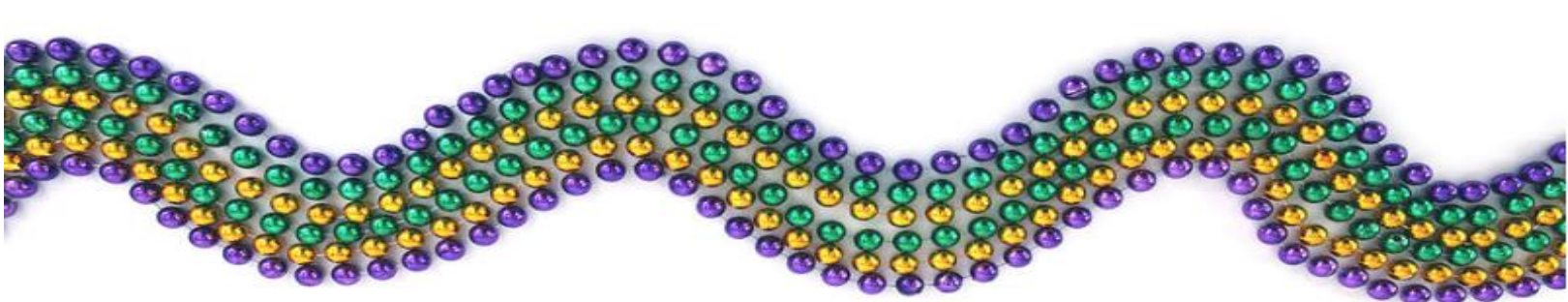


Where can I stay?

New Orleans has many hotels in all price ranges. These do fill up early for the Mardi Gras season, however, especially those nearest the French Quarter. Make sure to book early to ensure room availability.

What goes on during Mardi Gras besides parades?

Like Christmas, Mardi Gras is a season of celebration with a variety of themed activities, from the famous Mardi Gras parades to exclusive formal balls, concerts, debutante activities, sporting events, block parties and much more.



Helpful Mardi Gras Tips

Bathrooms: Especially if you have children with you, it's important to figure out where the nearest bathroom is located. Portable toilets are placed in various locations, but lines can be long. Restaurants and bars along the parade route usually only allow paying customers to use their bathrooms, but many offer daily bathroom passes. You can also buy parade passes from some businesses that will give you bathroom access in addition to amenities like seating, food and drinks.

Weather: Be sure to check the forecast before you leave. Bring a raincoat if rain is forecasted, as parades will typically run unless the weather becomes dangerous. If the skies are clear, make sure to pack sunscreen, as sunburns are common in New Orleans even in February.

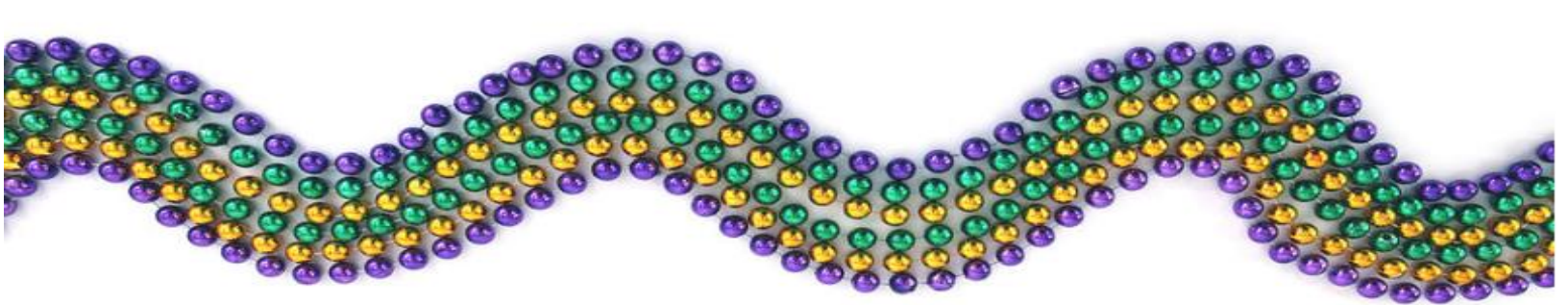
Folding Chairs/Seating: If you will be viewing parades from the curbside, you might want to bring folding chairs or stools with you to give your legs a break. People often get to the parade routes early to claim a spot for their chairs, blankets and coolers. If you plan on doing anything after watching the parade, however, you will have to carry them with you the rest of the day.

Water and Food: It can get quite warm standing in the sun and watching parades. Make sure to stay hydrated and bring some bottled water with you. Food and beverage vendors line the streets but may not take credit cards, so carry a small amount of cash.

Safety: Mardi Gras attracts a large crowd, so be sure to designate a meeting point in case you get separated from your group. Pay attention when riders are throwing beads into the crowd and stay a safe distance from the floats. You'll also want to make sure your phone is charged and has New Orleans emergency numbers saved. Police officers will be present throughout the parade route, so find one in the event of an emergency or call 911.

Driving/Parking/Barricades: Police block traffic from major parade routes well before the parades, so allow extra time to arrive and find parking. If you're on foot, make sure to not cross police barricades unless there is an opening specifically for pedestrian crossing.

Attire: You will be doing a lot of walking and standing during Mardi Gras, so comfortable shoes are a must. These shoes will likely get dirty, so it's recommended to wear a pair you wouldn't mind throwing away when the party's over. Go crazy with the rest of your outfit! Revelers who dress in costume often catch more. While some people stick with purple, green and gold clothes, others wear full costumes, paint their faces and more. Lastly, make sure to bring a bag for all your beads!



Parade Schedule 2025

Times and routes are subject to change

Monday, January 6

Societe Des Champs Elysee (French Quarter) – 5:00 PM
Krewe Joan d’Arc (French Quarter) – 7 PM
Phunny Phorty Phellows (Uptown) – 7 PM
Funky Uptown Krewe (Uptown) – follows
Fools of Misrule (Covington) – 6 PM
Mande Kings Day (Mandeville) – 3PM

Saturday, February 1

Krewe of Chewbacchus (Marigny) – 7 PM

Friday, February 14

Krewe of Titans (Slidell) – 6:30 PM
Krewe Boheme (French Quarter) – 7 PM

Saturday, February 15

Krewe du Vieux (French Quarter) – 6:30 PM
Krewedelusion (French Quarter) – follows
Krewe of Bilge (Slidell) – 12 PM
Krewe of Poseidon (Slidell) – 6 PM

Sunday, February 16

Krewe of Little Rascals (Metairie) – 12 PM
Krewe of Antheia (Slidell) – 1 PM
‘tit Rex (Marigny) – 4:30 PM
Krewe of Pearl River Lions Club (Pearl River) – 1 PM
Krewe of Nefertiti (New Orleans East) – 1 PM

Friday, February 21

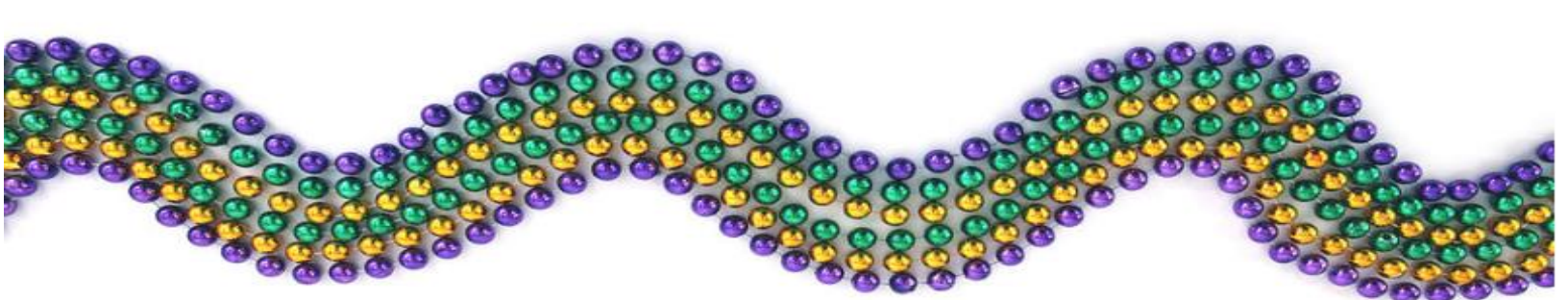
Krewe of Cork (French Quarter) – 3 PM
Krewe of Excalibur (Metairie) – 7 PM
Krewe of Oshun (Uptown) – 5:30 PM
Krewe of Cleopatra (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Eve (Mandeville) – 7 PM

Saturday, February 22

Krewe of Pontchartrain (Uptown) – 9:30 AM
Krewe of Mars (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Choctaw (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Freret (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Sparta/ Spartan Society (Uptown) – 1 PM
Magical Krewe of Mad Hatters (Uptown) – 5 PM
Krewe of Pygmalion (Uptown) – 6:15 PM
Krewe de Paws of Old Towne (Slidell) – 10 AM
Krewe of Tchefuncte (Madisonville) – 1 PM
Krewe of Olympia (Covington) – 4 PM
Knights of Nemesis (Chalmette) – 11 PM

Sunday, February 23

Mystic Krewe of Barkus (French Quarter) – 2 PM
Krewe of Atlas (Metairie) – 2 PM
Krewe of Caerus (Metairie) – follows
Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale (Uptown) – 11 AM
Krewe of Carrollton (Uptown) – 12:30 PM
Krewe of King Arthur (Uptown) – 1:30 PM
Krewe of Dionysus (Slidell) – 1 PM
Krewe of Push Mow (Abita Springs) – 2PM



Monday, February 24

The Mystic Krewe of Music (Westbank) – 6PM

Tuesday, February 25

The Culinary Queen of New Orleans (Westbank) – 6 PM

Wednesday, February 26

Krewe of Druids (Uptown) – 6:15 PM
Krewe of Alla (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Nandi (Westbank) – 6 PM

Thursday, February 27

Krewe of Symphony (Metairie) – 6:30 PM
Krewe of Babylon (Uptown) – 5:30 PM
Knights of Chaos (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Muses (Uptown) – follows

Friday, February 28

Krewe of Bosom Buddies (French Quarter) – 11:30 AM
Krewe of Hermes (Uptown) – 5:30 PM
Le Krewe d’Etat (Uptown) – 6:30 PM
Krewe de Morpheus (Uptown) – 7 PM
Krewe of Selene (Slidell) – 6:30 PM

Saturday, March 1

Krewe of Iris (Uptown) – 11 AM
Krewe of Tucks (Uptown) – 12 PM
Krewe of NOMTOC (Westbank) – 10:45 AM
Krewe of Endymion (Mid-City) – 4:15 PM
Krewe of Isis (Kenner) – 6 PM
Krewe of Bush (Bush) – 9 AM

Sunday, March 2

Krewe of Okeanos (Uptown) – 11 AM
Krewe of Mid-City (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Thoth (Uptown) – 12 PM
Krewe of Bacchus (Uptown) – 5:15 PM

Monday, March 3

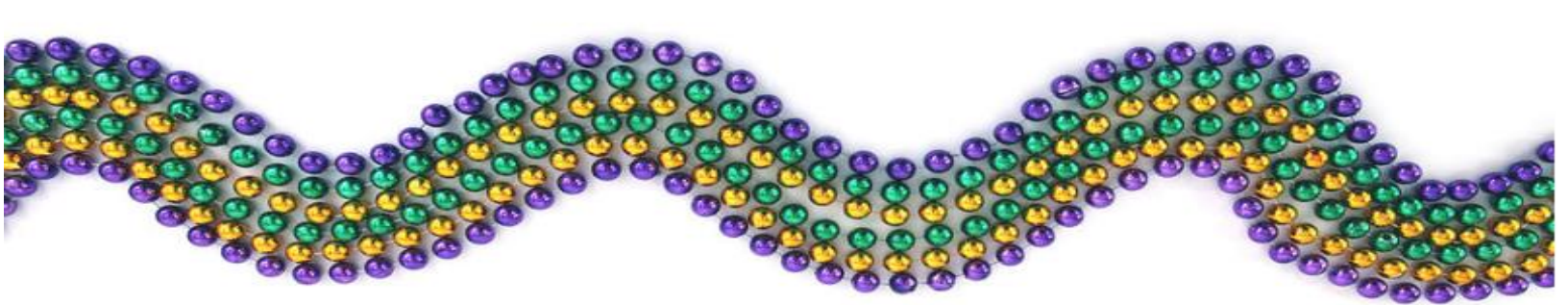
Krewe of Proteus (Uptown) – 5:15 PM
Krewe of Orpheus (Uptown) – 6 PM
Krewe of Athena (Metairie) – 5:30 PM
Krewe of Centurions (Metairie) – 6:30 PM
Krewe of Kings (Metairie) – follows

Tuesday, March 4

Krewe of Argus (Metairie) – 11 AM
Krewe of Elks Jefferson (Metairie) – follows
Krewe of Zulu (Uptown) – 8 AM
Krewe of Rex (Uptown) – 10:30 AM
Krewe of Elks Orleans (Uptown) – follows
Krewe of Crescent City (Uptown) – follows
Covington Lions Club (Covington) – 10 AM
Carnival in Covington (Covington) – follows
Krewe of Folsom (Folsom) – 2PM

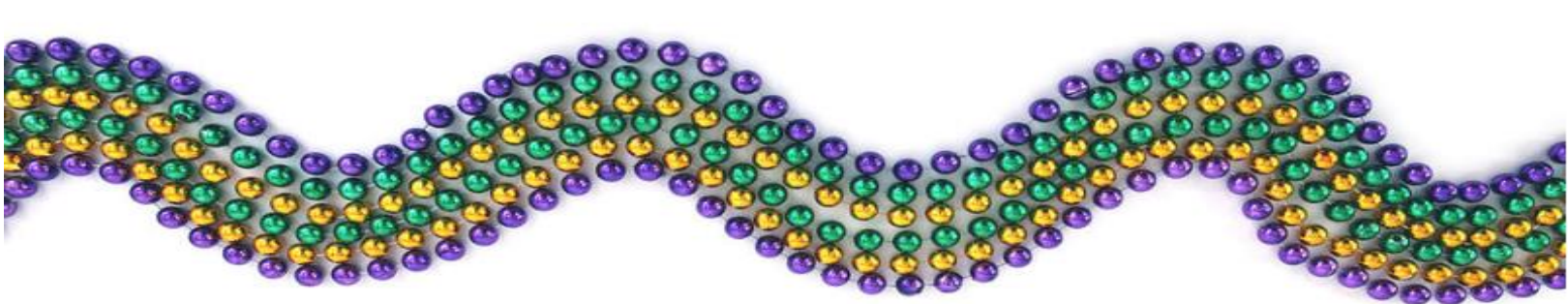
Saturday, March 8

Krewe du Pouch (Mandeville) – 12 PM



Sunday, March 9

Krewe of Mardi PAWS (Covington) – 2 PM



Parade Tracking Apps

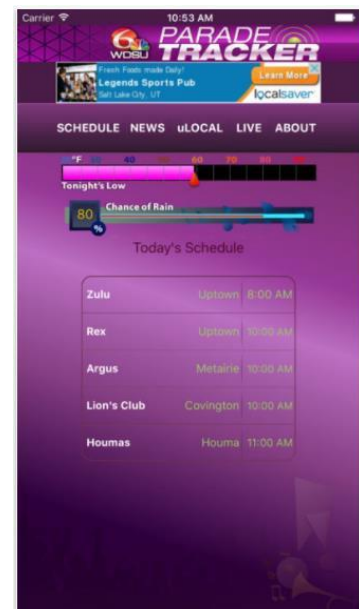
WWLTV Channel 4's Mardi Gras Parade Tracker:

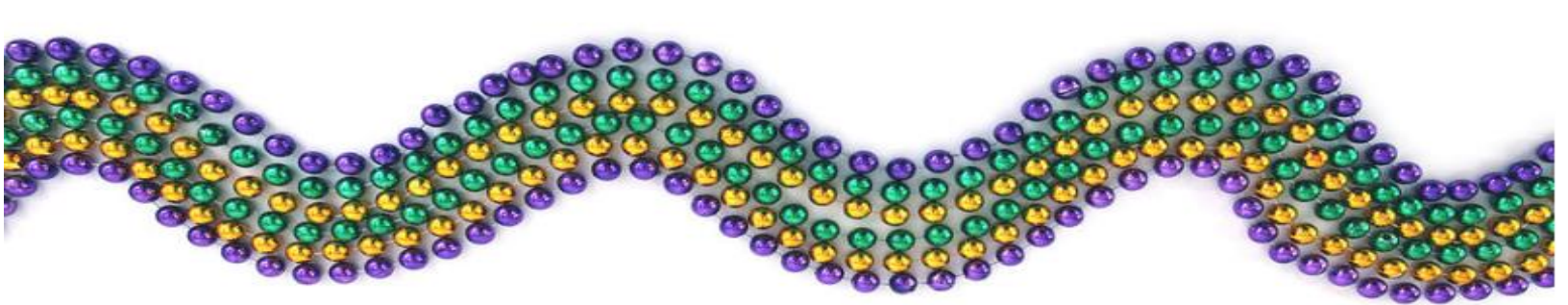
- Free!
- Features real time GPS updating, weather updates and parade information.
- Download on the App Store or Google Play
- www.mardigrasparadetracker.com



WDSU Parade Tracker:

- Free!
- Features real-time locations of parades, schedules, route maps and related news.
- Available for iPhone and Android
- Watch in real time as the floats travel along the parade route, plus get a complete list of parade schedules, maps, news, videos and more
- www.wdsu.com





2025 Mardi Gras Parade Packages

Parade Viewing Stand Packages

The Blake Hotel

500 St. Charles Avenue
+1-504-522-9000

The Blake Hotel, located right in the center of the St. Charles Avenue parade route, is offering both viewing stand and balcony passes for the 2025 Carnival Season. Ticket prices vary by date and are available for purchase at <https://blake-hotel.ticketleap.com/blake-hotel-new-orleans/>

Lula Restaurant Distillery

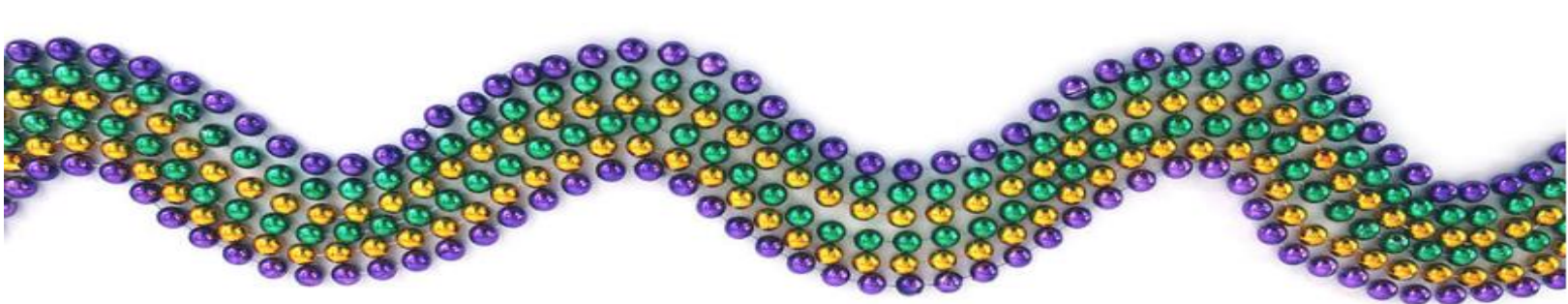
1532 St. Charles Ave
+1-504-267-7624
www.lulanola.com

Lula Restaurant Distillery will be offering a LulaGras 2025 Mardi Gras package which will include access to Lula's private room (to include tables/seating for guests), private bathrooms, VIP balcony access, and all you can eat buffet, and a private cash bar for LulaGras ticket holders only. Take a look at LulaGras 2024 [here!](#) Ticket prices vary by date and are available for purchase at www.lulanola.com/mardi-gras-2025

Mardi Gras Parade Tickets

+1-504-636-1017

Mardi Gras Parade Tickets offers tickets for grandstand seating at Lafayette Square and at the corner of St Charles and Poydras next to Gallier Hall. Tickets are available for parades starting Friday, February 21st. Prices vary by date and can be purchased directly from www.mardigrasparadetickets.com



New Orleans Parade Tickets

+1-504-636-1017

New Orleans Parade Tickets offers tickets for grandstand seating in front of Place St. Charles (200 block of St. Charles) and the Lafayette Hotel (600 block of St. Charles). Tickets are available for parades starting Friday, February 21st. Prices vary by date and can be purchased directly from www.neworleansparadetickets.com.

Nole

2001 St. Charles Avenue

+1-504-593-9955

www.noleevents.com

*Nole will be offering Mardi Gras packages for the 2025 season. Watch the fun unfold on St. Charles Avenue from their Terrace Room windows or enjoy reserved seating in their main area at the bar inside the venue. Individuals can purchase wristbands for in and outdoor admission during the parade, unlimited buffet, unlimited beer, wine, and non-alcoholic drinks, private restrooms, and reserved tables inside the venue. For additional information and booking, email info@noleevents.com. **Tickets are not available for purchase at this time.***

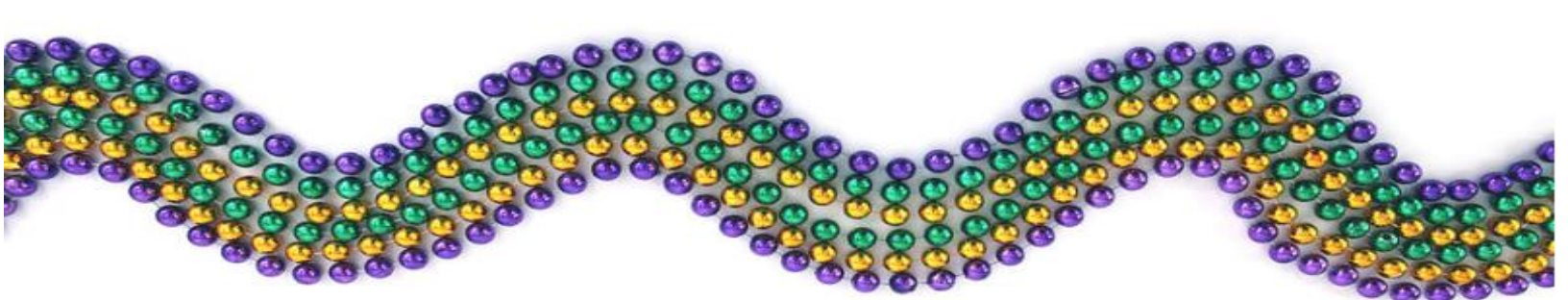
Residence Inn New Orleans

360 St. Charles Avenue

+1-504-522-0360

www.residenceinnfrenchquarter.com

*The Residence Inn New Orleans French Quarter Area/CBD is offering bleacher and balcony seating from their St. Charles Avenue location for parades during the 2025 Mardi Gras season. **Tickets are not available for purchase at this time.***



French Quarter Balcony Packages

Bourbon Heat

711 Bourbon Street

+1-504-324-4669

www.711bourbonheat.com

Bourbon Heat is offering balcony packages for the 2025 Mardi Gras season. The package includes a 3-hour open bar call with Call brand liquors and domestic beers, balcony access, VIP restrooms, and the ability to skip the line at the door. Ticket prices vary by date and can be purchased directly from <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/mardi-gras-on-bourbon-street-1373749>

Bourbon Vieux

501 Bourbon Street

+1-504-586-1155

Bourbon Vieux's 2025 Mardi Gras package includes access to their balcony overlooking the Mardi Gras festivities on Bourbon Street, as well as an open bar, gourmet cuisine and private restrooms. Prices and times vary by date and can be purchased directly from <https://bourbonvieux.com/mardi-gras-2/>

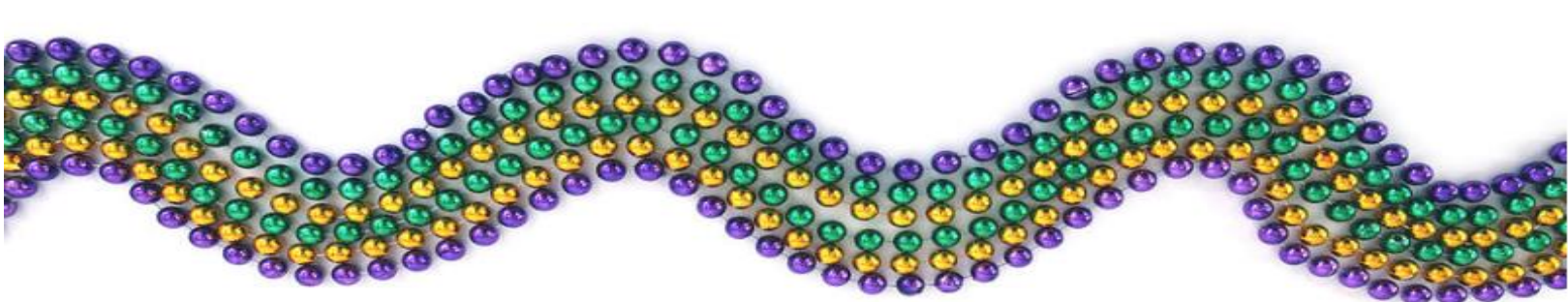
Cornet Restaurant

700 Bourbon Street

+1-504-231-8519

<https://cornetnola.co/>

Cornet Restaurant will offer balcony packages for the 2025 Mardi Gras season. Passes include open bar and Bourbon Street balcony access with Cajun cuisine unless the event is noted beverage only. Ticket prices vary by date and can be purchased directly from www.bourbonstreetbalconyrentals.com/balcony-tickets/mardi-gras-balcony-tickets



Courtyard by Marriott Near the French Quarter

124 St. Charles Avenue

+1-504-581-9005

www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/msycy-courtyard-new-orleans-downtown-near-the-french-quarter/overview

*Elevate your Mardi Gras experience with front-row seats from our Balcony Terrace Rooms! Immerse yourself in the vibrant energy of the parades as colorful floats and processions pass right before your eyes. Capture the essence of Mardi Gras from the comfort of your private balcony, where the festivities unfold in an exclusive and unforgettable display. **Tickets are not available for purchase at this time.***

Olde NOLA Cookery

205 Bourbon Street

+1-504-525-3661

www.nolacookery.com

Olde NOLA Cookery will be offering special Mardi Gras packages at their location in the French Quarter during the 2025 Mardi Gras season. Packages will include an open bar, a fully stocked buffet, and access to a private bathroom and Bourbon Street balcony. Please contact the team at info@nolacookery.com for more information. Ticket prices vary by date and can be purchased directly at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/nola-cookerys-events-25209>

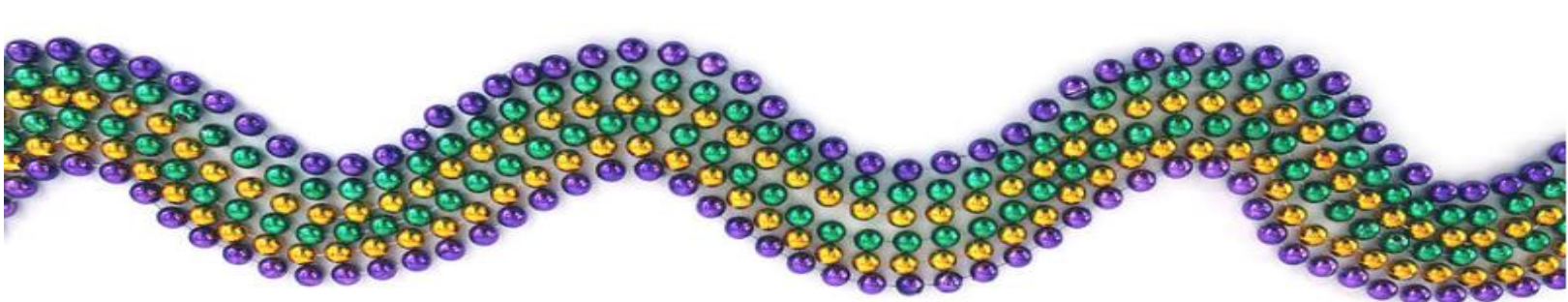
Mambos

411 Bourbon Street

+1-504-407-3717

www.mambosnola.com

Mambos will be offering special Mardi Gras packages at their location in the French Quarter during the 2025 Mardi Gras season. Packages will include an open bar, a fully stocked buffet, and access to a private bathroom and Bourbon Street balcony. Ticket prices vary by date and can be purchased directly at <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/mambos-events-25199>



Lucy's Retired Surfers Bar & Restaurant

701 Tchoupitoulas Street

+1-504-523-8995

www.lucysurf.com/location/new-orleans

*Lucy's 2025 Mardi Gras Balcony Bash party tickets include exclusive balcony access, dinner buffet, private restrooms, and cash bar. **Tickets are not available for purchase at this time.***