

# New Orleans Holiday Scavenger Hunt

Planning to call New Orleans your home for the holidays? The city is bustling with holly jolly fun, from festivals and parades to uniquely New Orleans traditions. We've made our list of holiday favorites—and checked it twice. See if you can find all 10 before ringing in the New Year!



A Snowman With an Ice Cream Cone Cap

Mr. Bingle has been a beloved character in New Orleans Christmas celebrations since his arrival in the local department store Maison Blanche in the 1940s. Look around town for his signature ice cream cone hat and holly leaves for wings, with an especially prominent statue under the twinkling branches in City Park.

Mr. Bingle®, a New Orleans icon, is a registered trademark of Dillard's

While you shouldn't miss the Celebration in the Oaks in New Orleans' City Park, that's not the only place to find majestic live Oaks glistening with lights and decorations. Take a stroll down St. Charles for a stunning showcase of lights. Hint: If you find the Academy of the Sacred Heart, then you know you're close to one of our faves (pictured right)!



Oak Trees Strung With Lights



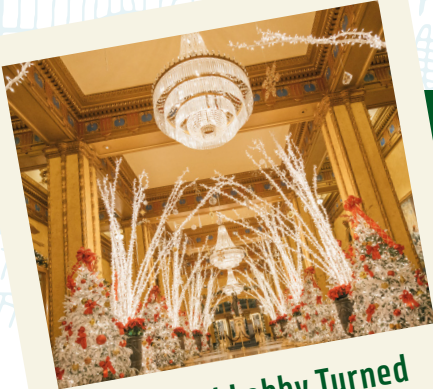
Mrs. Claus on Ice Skates

For a festival of all things merry and bright, you can't miss NOLA ChristmasFest. This annual celebration in the New Orleans Convention Center includes an ice-skating rink, ice slides, a carousel, and crafts. Wave hello to Mrs. Claus on your way to the world's tallest snowman!

Riding the streetcars in New Orleans is a charming experience any time of year, but it feels extra special around the holidays. These historic cars get outfitted with greenery and red bows. Hop on the green St. Charles line to see even more spectacular decorations as locals showcase their holiday spirit.



A Streetcar Dressed in Holiday Best



A Hotel Lobby Turned Winter Wonderland

Sure, one beautiful Christmas tree is a lovely sight. But at the Roosevelt Hotel, guests are in for a treat. Their annual display of holiday cheer includes hundreds of Christmas trees adorned with thousands of intricate ornaments and twinkling lights. All are welcome to take a tour of the hotel's historic lobby.

You may not get real snow in New Orleans, but the powdered sugar piled high on top of fresh, piping hot beignets might just be better. Venture to the French Quarter for the world-famous Cafe Du Monde beignets, open 24 hours. You'll only wish your stockings were stuffed with more!



A Sugary Snow Drift Atop Beignets



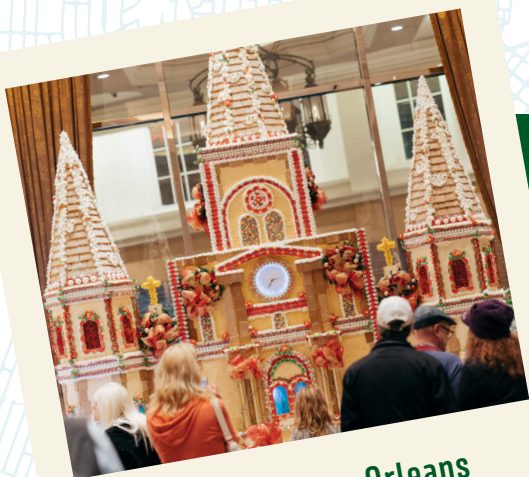
A Gator Made of Christmas Lights

Believe it or not, there's more than one way to catch a glimpse of a bedazzled alligator in NOLA! Your best bet? Head to Celebration in the Oaks in City Park for access to the Botanical Garden lit with half a million lights, plus Storyland rides and live entertainment. Or, get your ticket for Audubon Zoo Lights to enjoy animal-themed light displays combined with crafts and a holiday marketplace!

Mardi Gras isn't the only holiday that gets a parade. Take the family to the Central Business District to kick off the holiday season with the Krewe of Jingle Christmastime parade or to New Orleans East for Jingle On The Boulevard. You'll see marching bands, festive dance troupes, and floats led by Santa and his helpers.



Santa Claus on a Float



A Uniquely New Orleans Gingerbread House

In New Orleans, we have a tendency to go a little overboard for holidays. In true yuletide spirit, you can tour hotel lobbies featuring gingerbread houses decked with sugar and spice and everything nice—including life-sized creations and replicas of local landmarks. Hint: Harrah's Hotel, The Ritz-Carlton, Royal Sonesta, and Sheraton Hotel are just a few that won't disappoint.

Bring the kids to a local restaurant, teahouse, or hotel upholding New Orleans' Teddy Bear Tea tradition. Sip on afternoon tea and indulge in sweet treats in the company of favorite holiday characters, then take home a special commemorative teddy bear.



A Teddy Bear Drinking Tea

