

BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL

BAND PROGRAM

National Festival of the States Concert Series New Orleans, Louisiana

Custom March 2025 Tour (4 Nights / 5 Days)

Day 1

(D)

Morning departure from Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport via scheduled airline service to New Orleans, Louisiana

Morning or afternoon arrival to the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport

Meet your full-time local Tour Managers (*1 full-time Tour Manager, per motorcoach*) who will remain with you for your entire time in New Orleans and will guide you through the duration of your activities

Lunch, on own

Enjoy an orientation tour of New Orleans that includes the French Quarter, Frenchman Street, Jackson Square – a National Historic Landmark nestled in the center of the French Quarter, the historic St. Louis Cathedral – the oldest Cathedral in North America and the Cabildo – once the site of the Louisiana Purchase transfer and now home to the Louisiana State Museum. Also enjoy the Royal Street Promenade – one of the original streets of the city, dating from the early 18th century, well known today for its antique shops, quaint markets, and art famous galleries

Afternoon hotel check-in with free-time to relax and freshen up

Evening included dinner with live jazz music at a local restaurant (i.e. Palm Court Jazz Café, The Maison, Mulates, or similar)

Return to the hotel for overnight



Day 2

(B,D)

Breakfast included at the hotel

Morning visit to Tulane University, the most famous university in Louisiana. Alumni include twelve governors of Louisiana; one Chief Justice of the United States; numerous members of Congress, including three Speaker of the House; four Surgeon Generals of the United States, 25 Marshall Scholars, 19 Rhodes Scholars, 17 Truman Scholars, over 160 Fulbright Scholars, and a former President of Costa Rica

*Brainerd High School Band Program morning private clinic with Barry Spanier, Director of Bands at Tulane University as part of the National Festival of the States Concert Series**

Lunch, on own (if you want a local recommendation, grab a muffuletta at Central Grocery – where the Superdome-shaped sandwich, filled with cured meats, cheese and olive dressing, was invented. Grab one to-go and eat it from a bench on the bank of the Mississippi River where you can watch ships on the river go by)



Music Celebrations International

Concert Tours With Integrity

Brainerd High School Band Program afternoon visit and shared/exchange musical experience with a local high school band program as part of the National Festival of the States Concert Series*

Dinner included at a local restaurant

Attend a private evening Jazz Concert at Preservation Hall*

Enjoy a Private Concert and Q & A with the Preservation Hall Jazz Ensemble. Established in 1961 to honor one of America's truest art forms - Traditional New Orleans Jazz, this hall and the jazz musicians who perform here serve as a cornerstone of New Orleans music and culture.

Return to the hotel for overnight

Day 3

(B,D)

Enjoy a Jazz Brunch – Breakfast Buffet at the legendary Court of Two Sisters Time permitting, enjoy some additional free-time in the downtown French Quarter area – the vibrant heartbeat of New Orleans' central district
Lunch, on own

Afternoon Louis Armstrong tour. This walking tour takes visitors on the important historic sites related to Louis Armstrong's life in New Orleans. The tour begins in the French Quarter and includes historic sites where he stayed, worked, studied and played as an adult. It continues to the Storyville/Basin Street area where he worked as a youth, and then continues to the "back o town" section of the Central Business District where he grew up

Dinner included aboard the Creole Queen, the authentic Paddle-wheeler Mississippi River Cruise

Brainerd High School Jazz Band/Brass Band Performance aboard the Creole Queen as part of the National Festival of the States Concert Series*

Return to your hotel for overnight

Day 4

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we will explore the Swamps in and around New Orleans, as you explore acres of authentic and iconic Louisiana mossy swamps and waterways. Board your fleet of comfortable, sightseeing air boats to explore the swamp. As your knowledgeable guide leads you down the Bayou on our swampland adventure, marvel at the swamp's natural beauty. Enjoy this thrilled "uniquely New Orleans" experience as you See alligators, Egrets and other abundant wildlife as we explore Louisiana's wilderness paradise

Lunch, on own

Enjoy an afternoon private performance by the Grammy Award Winning **Hot 8 Brass Band**, for the Brainerd HS Band Program. Get ready to groove to the electrifying sound of New Orleans with the Hot 8 Brass Band! With their contagious energy and soulful melodies, this Grammy-winning powerhouse ensemble blends traditional jazz with modern funk, creating a pulsating rhythm that'll have you grooving all afternoon. Renowned for their lively performances and innovative arrangements, the band brings the spirit of the Big Easy to life, igniting audiences worldwide with their irresistible blend of brass brilliance and irresistible beats (subject to confirmation)

Dinner included at a local restaurant

Attend an evening Broadway Musical performance of Funny Girl* in the historic in the historic Saenger Theatre. (\$75 ticket allowance included – subject to the finalized Broadway calendar)

Overnight at your hotel



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Breakfast at the hotel, followed by check-out

Flight time permitting, enjoy some morning and afternoon free time in/around the French Quarter for shopping in New Orleans or additional sightseeing with your Tour Manager

Lunch, on own

Afternoon transfer to the airport for your return flight to Minnesota

Afternoon or evening departure from the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport via scheduled airline service

Evening arrival to the Minneapolis–Saint Paul International Airport

*** Subject to availability and confirmation**

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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