

New Orleans Mardi Gras 2017



Hello Friends:

Darryl and Sharon are planning a trip to New Orleans for Mardi Gras 2017. Some of you have joined us before so you already know how much fun we had in 2014. We're always making adjustments based on what worked well and what could have been better. **So – this trip has some new exciting things being added.**

- 1) First things first – the dates for this trip is **February 23 – 27, 2017.**
- 2) We are again staying at **The Blake Hotel** which is on the corner of St. Charles Ave. & Poydras – meaning we are right on the parade route. That means – you walk out the front door and the parades are right there. It also means you have access to the bathroom and your hotel room during the parade. Bathrooms are real important during Mardi Gras. The parades will pass in front of the hotel on Thursday night (3 parades), Friday night (3 parades), Saturday – parades the entire day (but we see The Krewe of Endymion at the Superdome), Sunday – parades the entire day.
- 3) Here are the details on the flights to and from New Orleans (from Raleigh).

Delta 2351 Feb 23 Raleigh/Atlanta 9:30AM-10:55AM

Delta 2425 Feb 23 Atlanta/New Orleans 12:55PM-1:30PM

Delta 1119 Feb 27 New Orleans/Atlanta 1:15PM-3:41PM

Delta 440 Feb 27 Atlanta/Raleigh 5:35PM-6:57PM

Flight times may change by a couple of minutes or so. We have no control over changes in flight times. If you are travelling from different departure cities – our travel agent **Debbie Himbert** will help with this (and your cost for airfare will be adjusted accordingly). If you are driving – the cost for airfare will be deducted. We are not sure of available parking at The Blake so keep that in mind if you drive.

- 4) In the past – some people have decided to stay longer in New Orleans – if you want to do that – make sure you communicate this to Sharon and Debbie please. Extended stays are not included in this group price – and there is no guarantee of hotel room availability past the group's departure date. The sooner you decide to do this – the better chance you have of staying at The Blake.
- 5) The price **per person** is **\$2,209.48** –**DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**. Here is what's included in this price:

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- a. ROUNDTrip AIRFARE RALEIGH/NEW ORLEANS
- b. ROUNDTrip TRANSFERS AIRPORT/HOTEL (ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE)
- c. FOUR NIGHTS AT THE BLAKE HOTEL (CORNER OF POYDRAS & ST. CHARLES AVE.)
- d. WELCOME LUNCHEON AT ANDREA'S RESTAURANT (METAIRIE, LA)
- e. ONE NIGHT BALCONY PARADE VIEWING AT THE BLAKE HOTEL (THUR. FEB 23)
- f. PRIVATE SECOND LINE PARADE/PUB CRAWL IN THE FRENCH QUARTER WITH OUR OWN NEW ORLEANS STYLE BRASS BAND (THIRD LINE BRASS BAND) AND LUNCHEON (FRI. FEB 24)
- g. ROUNDTrip TRANSPORTATION FROM THE BLAKE HOTEL TO THE EXTRAVAGANZA
- h. COURTYARD SEATING FOR THE **ENDYMION EXTRAVAGANZA FEB 25TH INCLUDING OPEN BAR AND OPEN BUFFET.** (MARDI GRAS ON STEROIDS)

We want to point out – that this time airfare is quite high compared to previous years which is the one reason former attendees will notice an increase over previous trips.

Also – we have two new events included in the price. (1) Balcony Parade Viewing at the Blake, and (2) Second Line Parade/Pub Crawl. **Both of these events will make Mardi Gras even more special.**

- 6) Having access to a balcony (at The Blake) for Mardi Gras (“e” above) is a great way to see and enjoy the parade. Your view is less restricted – you will have greater access to the Krewe members (and get more throws) – all the while still having access to your room and bathroom,
- 7) Another fantastic thing that is added on to the trip – and a new feature from previous trips – is the Private Second Line Parade (“f” above). We are arranging a parade permit with police escort and a New Orleans Style Brass Band called the Third Line Brass Band. **Our group will literally become a part of Mardi Gras.** Keep in mind – this is a marching group in the New Orleans tradition – meaning we start with Bloody Mary's at a local bar - **don't** literally march – we will stop in a few bars (pub crawl) – we will throw beads – and end with a buffet lunch at a local restaurant. The pub crawl with the brass band will

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be for 2 hours. We are real excited about this – lets “Get Out of Line” with the Third Line Band!

- 8) In order to secure space on this package, a \$250 per person deposit is due on/or before **APRIL 29TH**. (We have to secure our airfare and hotel – deadlines for both.)

Payment Schedule:

April 29th - \$250.00 per person deposit

June 29th - \$489.87 per person

August 29th - \$489.87 per person

October 29th - \$489.87 per person

December 20th – \$489.87 per person final payment

Final payment is due on/before **DECEMBER 20th**. **Credit Cards Accepted!!** To secure space on this Special Package, **CALL DEBBIE HIMBERT - DH TRAVEL AND CRUISES AT 504-456-0846.**

You are welcomed to invite friends and family to join you on this trip – just let Sharon know when to send the details via e-mail.

We are, of course, real excited about Mardi Gras 2017 – this time will be just as much fun as the last time **if not more**. Sharon & Darryl will have a get together in January in Raleigh to discuss the particulars, answer questions, discuss some other optional things we might consider doing not included in this package, and meet each other. In the meantime – if you have any questions contact our travel agent Debbie Himbert (504-456-0846) or (dhtravel@bellsouth.net) and/or Sharon (919-781-2280 (h) or 919-906-1780 (m) or (hammillsm@gmail.com).

Best Wishes & Happy Mardi Gras,

Sharon & Darryl Hammill

“Laissez les bon temps Rouler”