



February 6-7, 2012

Tours available on February 5, 6, 7

In the Heart of the French Quarter

Royal Sonesta Hotel

CFA in NEW ORLEANS

***** AT A GLANCE *****

Join us for our Winter Meeting in the exciting city of New Orleans February 6th and 7th, 2012. We have many things planned for you in New Orleans. But first and foremost YOU must make your room reservation at the hotel.

Royal Sonesta Hotel

\$189 per night (plus taxes)

MENTION: Central Fabricators Group

To get this rate reserve your room no later than: Friday, January 6, 2012

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

February 5, Sunday (This is Super Bowl Sunday)

- 9:30 am – 2:30 pm OPTIONAL: **Riches of the River** – Tour length 5.5 Hours
(There is a cost for this tour, see additional detail on pages 8-9)
- 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm OPTIONAL: **Grand Manors of the Garden District** - Tour length 3.5 Hours.
(There is a cost for this tour, see additional detail on pages 10-11)
- Evening We may plan a get together to watch the Super Bowl

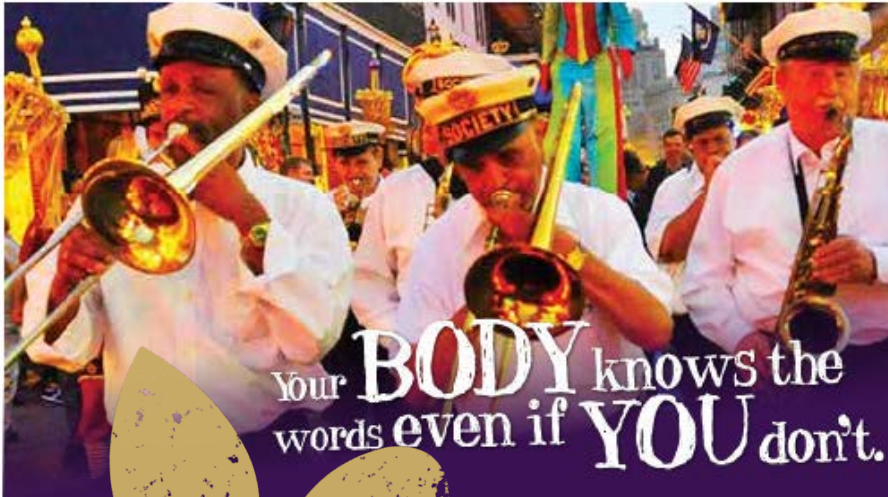
February 6, Monday:

- 9:00 am – 12:30 pm OPTIONAL: **Forever New Orleans** - Tour length 3.5 Hours
(There is a cost for this tour, see additional detail on pages 12-13)
- 9:00 am – 12:30 pm OPTIONAL: **Cajun Swamp** Tour length 3.5 Hours
(There is a cost for this tour, see additional detail on pages 14-15)
- 6:00pm – 10:30 pm **Mill Dinner:** Progressive Dinner from Royal Sonesta, Acme Oyster House, The Bombay Club
(See additional detail on page 4)

February 7, Tuesday:

- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Breakfast with roundtable discussion sessions at Royal Sonesta Hotel
- 8:30 am – 9:00 am **VERSABAR Tour** Brief presentation by Tom Cheatum, Sales & Marketing Manager, Versabar
- 9:00 am – 12:15 pm Travel to and Visit Versabar Facility
- 12:15 pm – 1:15 pm Return to Hotel

WELCOME TO NEW ORLEANS

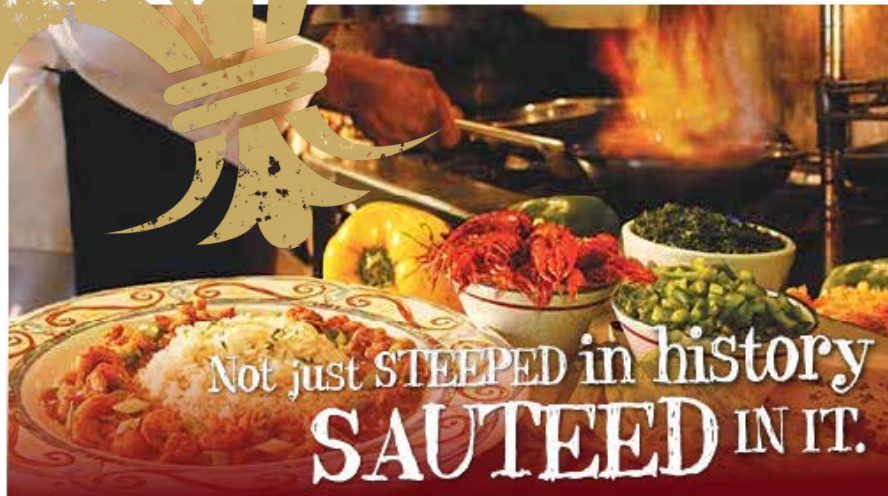


As a famous New Orleanian so aptly quipped:

"New Orleans is like an old fashioned cocktail. It's a collection of distilled spirits and effervescent souls vigorously shaken and poured into the levee rimmed bowl that is the Crescent City."

Located in southeastern Louisiana on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River, New Orleans is a city full of history, culture, mystery and sensuality. It is called the "Queen of the Mississippi River" and "the Paris of the Americas", and is known for its Old World charm and "joie de vivre." Its music is sweet, its food divine and its atmosphere is enchanting. Yes, Marie Laveau, the Voodoo Queen is buried here.

And, yes, streetcars still clang along "The Avenue" just as they did at the turn of the century. New Orleans is good cooking and the best food ever – Creole, Cajun, or "soul food" – is still dished up here from a black iron pot. Everything is slower, more leisurely, in the "City That Care Forgot" – except world-famous Bourbon Street – where the jazz and blues are just the beginning of an adventure into a very distinct and captivating nightlife!



**MILL DINNER
PROGRESSIVE DINNER
Monday, February 6
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

- 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm** Cocktails & Hors d'ouvres at the Royal Sonesta
Tour Guides will lead the groups to our Restaurant for Dinner.
- 7:15pm to 8:45 pm** Dinner at Acme Oyster House (private room)
Escort guests to The Bombay Club for desserts and entertainment
- 9:00 pm to 10:30pm** Dessert Reception at The Bombay Club



INCLUDES:

GUIDED STROLL TO PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Two (2) licensed Tour Guides to guide group of 50 to our dinner stops.

RECEPTION AT THE ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL ~ The Courtyard

DINNER AT ACME OYSTER HOUSE~ Private Room

Buffet Menu: Creole Jambalaya; Red Beans and Rice; Fried Oysters, Fried Shrimp; Fried Catfish, Cole Slaw, French Bread and Butter
(Subject to change)

DESSERT RECEPTION AT THE BOMBAY CLUB

Dessert Reception Menu:

Tropical Fresh Fruit, Gourmet Cheese Display, Assorted Miniature Pastries, New Orleans Bread Pudding , Crème Brulee,
Coffee Station featuring Café Brulot (Subject to change)

Acme Oyster House

Mill Dinner

Monday, February 6 2012



Since 1910, Acme Oyster House has been pleasing the plates of discriminating diners. Originally located around corner 117 Royal Street, The Acme Café, as it was then called, was nestled next to the old Cosmopolitan Hotel, described by the New Orleans Item as "for 50 years the scene of the making and breaking of Louisiana politicians..."

Acme Oyster House is a French Quarter landmark, favored by locals for the best, fresh ice-cold "shucked while you wait" oysters, along with fresh seafood of all types - an Acme po-boy is a work of art! For more than 90 years, Acme has entertained generations of New Orleans' families - winning raves from local folks as well as visitors from around the world. Acme's menu offers traditional New Orleans' Creole favorites, including its world-famous raw oysters and other oyster dishes, prepared in a unique Louisiana style, like no place else on earth!

Acme's emphasis has always been on fun and fine food, true to what people expect from living and dining experiences in New Orleans. Located between Royal and Bourbon at the gateway to the French Quarter, Acme's location provides a perfect setting for an evening of good times and good cheer!

Dessert and Entertainment at the Bombay Club Mill Dinner

Monday, February 6 2012



The Bombay Club features casual setting and live music in an elegant and sophisticated atmosphere. Less than a block from Bourbon Street, perhaps the most famous jazz destination in the world, the club is convenient to some of the greatest sights, entertainment, and attractions in New Orleans. The club also offers a quiet escape from the Bourbon Street madness.

The Bombay Club is decorated in a plush British theme, with overstuffed leather wingback chairs, rich wood, and fine portraits, and features a lovely small courtyard. It feels like a living room—albeit a slightly finer living room than most of us are lucky enough to experience. In one corner of the small club, live music is played nightly.

The Bombay Club is also beloved for the delicious Nouveau Creole food and desserts prepared by its superb chef. It's a pleasure to find food as well-crafted as this, in a city renowned for its food.

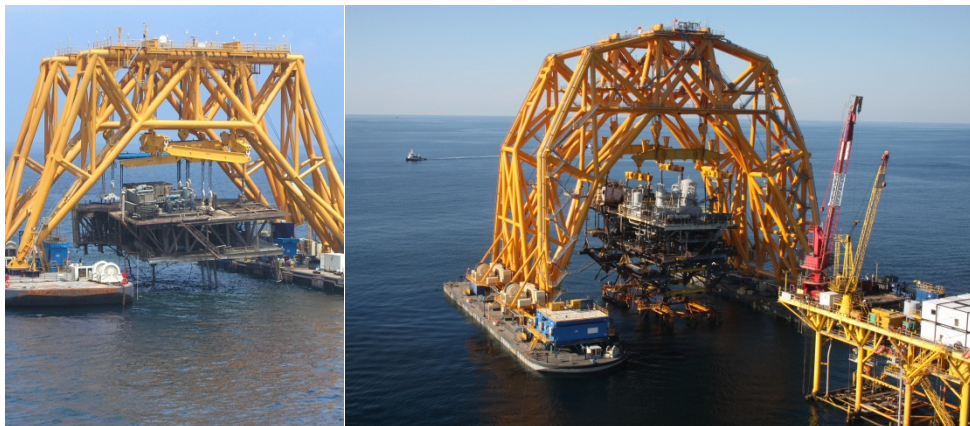


Tuesday, February 7, 2012 – 8:30 AM – 1:15PM

VERSABAR was founded in 1981 by University of Illinois Civil Engineering Graduate Jon Khachaturian. Beginning with the reusable spreader bar, Jon has presently registered 44 foreign and domestic patents, leading Versabar to a position of world leadership in the development and application of heavy lifting solutions. Pioneering the disciplines of certified weight measurement and proof load testing, Versabar has expanded its international portfolio to include hydraulic winch and custom chain jack rental, subsea lowering systems, umbilical and riser pull-ins and deployment of subsea jumper bars. Versabar helps clients manage risk while delivering solutions to increasingly complex projects. Over the course of time oil companies and contractors continue to bring lifting challenges to Versabar which has led to patented innovation such as Versabar's platform raising system and the largest heavy lift system ever built in the USA, the VB 10,000.

NOTES:

- Transportation picking up and dropping off from Bourbon and Canal Street, approximately 3.5 blocks from Royal Sonesta Hotel



RICHES OF THE RIVER



Today's journey takes you into the river region of southeastern Louisiana to reminisce about the days of a bygone era. Enjoy a ride on the picturesque River Road as you wend your way along the mighty Mississippi River. You will see antebellum plantation homes, West Indian cottages and sugarcane fields. Your escort will provide you with enchanting tales of plantation life in the Old South.

Over time, many of these once glorious examples of Antebellum architecture have fallen victim to war, nature, vandals and bankruptcies. However, a good number have thankfully been salvaged by individuals and foundations and ultimately been restored to their former grandeur, and such has been the fate of Laura, a remarkable example of a mid-19th century Creole Plantation. Unique for her heritage, Laura Plantation offers an alternative touring experience to her sister Antebellum plantations documented Creole found in the Deep South. Laura boasts one of the largest complexes on the River Road, and the tour focuses on traditional Creole customs and enchanting, albeit sometimes scandalous, tales of Creole plantation life two centuries ago. Laura is also known as the "American Home of Br'er Rabbit" as the notable century-old tales of this West African folk hero were first recorded in North America on these historic grounds.

Traveling across the Mississippi River you will next visit Houmas House Plantation and Gardens. Upon its completion in 1840, Houmas House was the "Crown Jewel of Louisiana's River Road" with its heroically-columned Greek Revival exterior topped by a belvedere that surveyed the oak alley leading south to the sweeping bend in the Mississippi and the miles and miles of cane fields to the north and east.

But that 1840 mansion with its broad galleries and thick masonry walls had humble beginnings in the mid-1700's when the original house was built on the site it reflected a more modest home with both the French and Spanish architectural influences. The gardens of Houmas House Plantation have been developed as a lush 12-acre panorama of indigenous Louisiana plant life and stunning exotics designed to beckon visitors to extend their stay. Upon arrival, you'll adore the sweet sounds of old African Spirituals coming for one of the docents on the balcony. Breathtaking!

As your mini coach meanders back to New Orleans, it is a perfect time for you to reflect on the days of Louisiana's glorious past!

AVAILABILITY: February 5, Sunday 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

COST: \$ 262.00 per person

INCLUDES:

- Professional USA Hosts licensed tour escort.
- The most modern equipment available for your exclusive use.
- Admission and tour of Laura Plantation.
- Admission and tour of Houmas House Plantation.
- Coordination and supervision by USA Hosts.
- All current taxes and gratuities.
- Based upon a minimum of five (5) participants.
- Tour length is approximately (5.5) hours.



GRAND MANORS OF THE GARDEN DISTRICT



History has a way of bringing people and places together to produce the beautiful and the unexpected. Such was true of the creation of New Orleans' exquisite lower and upper Garden Districts.

Today, take a ride in a privately chartered street car along St Charles Avenue to the Garden District! As you travel the beautiful tree-lined streets, a professional, licensed tour guide will provide a detailed history of these impressive sections, pointing out areas of interest along the way.

The homes in the Garden District were built by American settlers to rival those of the Creole French Quarter. They are surrounded by lovely semi-tropical gardens and flowers of season and exhibit a strong influence of Greek Revival-style architecture, most commonly seen in the plantation-styled raised cottages and mansions found in the area.

The American settlers, who flocked to New Orleans following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, began building in the Lower Garden District before expanding into the Upper Garden District. The Lower Garden District was laid out in 1806 and 1807 by Bartheleme Lafon and the street design, with vistas, curves, diagonals followed the latest classicizing taste. The homes here represent the renaissance of the Greek Revival Style. Today, you will have a rare opportunity to tour a private home that has been beautifully restored. There, you will witness firsthand the genteel manner of living for which the South is noted.

Today you will be visiting the Upper Garden District where you will stroll past many exquisite mansions. You will also have an opportunity to visit Lafayette Cemetery where your escort will explain our unique aboveground burial system, utilized in New Orleans because of our location below sea level. While visiting the Upper Garden District you will visit one of the grand mansions prior to lunch at Commander's Palace, the jewel in the crown of the Brennan family's culinary dynasty. Founded in 1883, Commander's has been the place to dine for generations of New Orleanians. A stellar establishment and consistent recipient of some extraordinary acclaim, the restaurant itself is nestled among century-old live oak trees and verdant gardens.



AVAILABILITY: February 5, Sunday: 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

COST: \$ 165.00 per person

INCLUDES:

- Professional USA Hosts licensed tour escort.
- The most modern equipment available for your exclusive use throughout the Garden District and return.
- Admission and tour of a private home in the Lower Garden District.
- A walking tour of the Upper Garden District.
- A tour of Lafayette Cemetery.
- Admission and tour of a home in the Upper Garden District.
- All current taxes and gratuities.
- Based upon a minimum of five (5) participants.
- Tour length is approximately (3.5) hours.

NOTES:

- ❖ Portions of this tour include walking. Participants are advised to wear comfortable walking shoes.
- ❖ No jeans, shorts or T-shirts are allowed at Commander's Palace.
- ❖ USA Hosts reserves the right to rearrange the sequence of this tour.
- ❖ Homes featured are dependent upon the owner's schedule.
- ❖ Availability of homes and cemetery is not guaranteed until contracted and deposits are received.



FOREVER NEW ORLEANS

Our story begins in the area where the French first founded New Orleans almost 300 years ago, the historic and charming French Quarter. Originally an Indian trading post located on the banks of the Mississippi, the French were looking for an area that they could establish a port on this mighty river, a River that stretches from the Gulf of Mexico to French Canada. Thus was the foundation of this quaint and lovely European city.

Beginning with Jackson Square in the French Quarter, site of St. Louis Cathedral, you will see New Orleans most famous (and infamous!) landmarks and learn the fascinating history behind these buildings and our unique city. After seeing the French Quarter, you will proceed to City Park and Bayou St. John, where you will visit historic St. Louis No.3 Cemetery. Your escort will explain our unique aboveground burial system, utilized in New Orleans because of our location below sea level.

As the tour continues through City Park, toward the Lake Pontchartrain you will notice remnants of damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on August 29th, 2005. This powerful storm breached our protective levees flooding much of the city. Our guide will explain the intricate balance of engineering against Mother Nature and the long road of recovery as the city continues to rebuild.

Continuing through the city, you travel along the route of the beautiful St. Charles Avenue streetcar line, passing picturesque Tulane and Loyola Universities. Long known as "the Avenue", St. Charles is lined with rows of magnificent homes and mansions. The lovely Garden District features antebellum homes built by wealthy Americans following the Louisiana Purchase.

AVAILABILITY: February 6, Monday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

COST: \$159.00 per person

INCLUDES:

- ❖ One (1) professional USA Hosts licensed tour escorts.
- ❖ One (1) Executive Van available for your exclusive use.
- ❖ A stop or pause at an aboveground cemetery- please note that cemeteries close at 3:00pm and will not be available for a walking tour at night.
- ❖ All current taxes and gratuities.
- ❖ USA Hosts coordination and supervision.
- ❖ Based upon a minimum of five (5) participants.
- ❖ Tour length is approximately (3.5) hours.

NOTE:

- ❖ Pricing is based on current costs and cannot be guaranteed until contracted.

CAJUN pride

Swamp Tour

Join us for an incredible journey into the mysterious swamps and bayous of Southern Louisiana. On today's swamp boat tour, you will be introduced to the interesting history of our Louisiana wetlands and the rich Cajun heritage of the people who inhabit this region.

Cajuns are descendants of the French Acadians who fled to Louisiana after the British deported them from Nova Scotia in 1755 for refusing to pledge allegiance to England. They are stubborn, to be sure, however, the people of Acadia are warm and friendly with a "joie de vivre" matched by none. Today, as your swamp boat travels into the depths of Cajun country, you will hear the tales of the Cajun folks and how they reap the bounty of their surroundings: trapping nutria, mink, otter and muskrat; hunting frogs and alligators; fishing for catfish and crabs. You will also soon discover the respect and knowledge the Cajun people have for the wildlife and vegetation indigenous to the swamp.

As your swamp boat glides through the waters, gently breaking the tranquility of the ancient swamp, you will see exotic tropical plants and wildlife only found in the Louisiana wetlands. Majestic herons, nutria and large turtles sunning themselves on tree stumps are abundant, and the swamp's favorite son, the alligator, will be witnessed in its glory, easing quietly through the murky, cypress shrouded waters of Louisiana. You will return to your hotel with a true appreciation of the Acadian people and the unique region they call home!



AVAILABILITY: February 6, Monday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm

COST: \$ 182.00 per person

INCLUDES:

- Professional USA Hosts licensed tour escort.
- The most modern equipment available for your exclusive use.
- Guided tour to and from the bayou region of southern Louisiana.
- Guided tour through the marsh area aboard a specially designed swamp boat (Approximately one and one-half [1½] hours).
- Based upon a minimum of five (5) participants
- Maximum depends on swamp toured.
- Length of this activity is approximately three (3.5) hours in length.



NOTES:

- Comfortable outdoor clothes and tennis shoes are recommended for this activity.
- Length of activity varies depending on which swamp toured.

NEW ORLEANS - AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

New Orleans has a subtropical climate with pleasant year-round temperatures. Temperatures range from the mid 40's in winter to more than 90's in the summer. Rainfall is common in New Orleans, with a monthly average of about five inches of precipitation.

MONTH	MAX	MIN	AVERAGE RAINFALL	% SUNSHINE
January	63	43	4.9	49
February	64	45	5.2	51
March	72	52	4.7	57

TRANSPORTATION

AIRPORT:

New Orleans is served by one major airport: Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY).

FRENCH QUARTER:

In an effort to preserve the picturesque atmosphere of the French Quarter, the City of New Orleans has an ordinance which prevents local motor coaches over thirty feet (30') in length from entering this area. Local large coaches are not allowed to enter the French Quarter to pick up or drop off airport transfers, shuttles, tours or charters.

The French Quarter is a relatively small area, only seven (7) by thirteen (13) blocks. It is an area where walking from one place to another can be an exciting and captivating experience.