

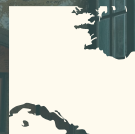


PRC's New Orleans Holiday Heritage Tour

December 9-14, 2026

*An immersive insider journey through architecture,
music, cuisine and holiday traditions*

PRESERVATION
RESOURCE CENTER
— of NEW ORLEANS —



PROJECT
FOR
AMOR

New Orleans doesn't just decorate for the holidays.

It transforms.

A New Orleans Holiday Heritage Tour is a six-day journey through the architecture, food, music, history and cultural traditions that make this city unlike anywhere else.

From December 9–14, 2026, guests will move beyond the usual visitor experience and step into the stories, spaces and celebrations that define New Orleans at the holidays.

The journey includes the city's beloved Réveillon tradition, the spectacular Festival of the Bonfires along the Mississippi River, the glow of Celebration in the Oaks, intimate live music, special access to PRC's cherished Holiday Home Tour, and a private Civil Rights Christmas Cards exhibition with Dr. Leona Tate, revealing the support, hostility and racist backlash she received as one of the young girls who helped desegregate New Orleans public schools in 1960.

For more than 50 years, PRC has worked to protect the places that make New Orleans special. This experience offers guests a rare opportunity to see those places — and the culture surrounding them — through the eyes of the people who help preserve them.

Space is limited to 24 guests, and registration is now open.





Holiday Heritage Tour: *Day by Day*

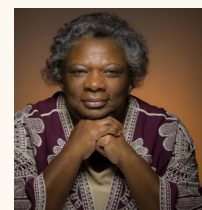
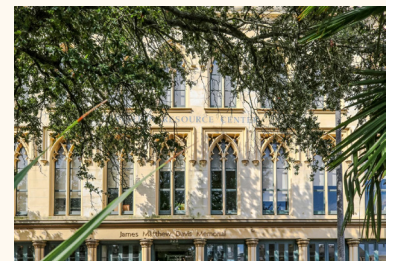
Wednesday, December 9th

Settle into the **Henry Howard Hotel**, an intimate boutique property decorated for the holidays and private for our group in the Lower Garden District. This beautifully restored 1867 mansion features just 18 rooms uniquely designed with period architectural details, soaring ceilings, and modern luxuries. Start your holiday adventure with **Beams & Brews**, the Preservation Resource Center's beloved casual gathering where preservationists and curious travelers come together, accompanied by **Mike "Teezy" Torregano** performing live on piano. Then stroll one block to our welcome dinner at **Mr. John's Steakhouse**, a New Orleans institution. This family-owned establishment has prepared us a menu of filet mignon, ribeye, pan-roasted gulf fish, turtle soup, Caesar salad, and chocolate bread pudding. The wood-paneled dining room exudes old-world charm, this is New Orleans dining at its most satisfying — unpretentious, generous, and executed with the kind of attention to detail that has made Mr. John's a local favorite for over two decades. Join us for an optional evening jazz concert at the intimate Bayou Bar.



Thursday, December 10th

Start the day at the Preservation Resource Center to meet with the team and discover why this organization has been the guardian of New Orleans' architectural soul for over 50 years. Then, experience an illustrated presentation by historical geographer **Prof. Richard Campanella**, examining how successive waves of builders from around the world left their marks on the streetscape. We will then travel into the **French Quarter**, the historic heart of the city, to have a private lunch at **Napoleon House** with live music. At the Historic New Orleans Collection we will meet one of New Orleans' living civil rights pioneers as **Dr. Leona Tate** shares her extraordinary story. At just six years old, Dr. Tate was one of three young students to desegregate McDonogh 19 Public School—the same week Ruby Bridges integrated William Frantz Elementary. We will end our day with a visit to spectacular **holiday displays in historic hotel lobbies**, featuring towering Christmas trees, elaborate gingerbread displays and festive decorations that showcase the city's flair for celebration.

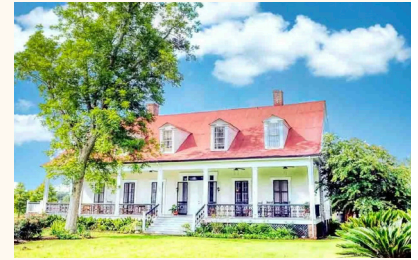




Holiday Heritage Tour: *Day by Day* CONTINUED

Friday, December 11th

Enjoy a leisurely morning on your own before lunch at **Café Reconcile** — a community pillar and beloved restaurant that serves as a working training ground for young adults embarking on careers in the service industry. After lunch, travel the legendary Great River Road, following the meandering curves of the mighty Mississippi to **Woodland Plantation**. This historic space — the site of the largest slave revolt in the U.S. South — is now stewarded by **The Descendants Project** as a powerful museum dedicated to truth-telling and healing. Hear from founders of the Descendants Project as they share the story of how the same lands that once enslaved people now poison their descendants with industrial pollution and the essential work they are doing to protect their communities. In the evening, experience one of Louisiana’s most spectacular and unique holiday traditions at the **Festival of the Bonfires**, with a gumbo cook-off and live music. For centuries, residents of the river parishes have built towering bonfires along the levee on Christmas Eve to light Papa Noël’s way down the river.



Saturday, December 12th

Begin your day with the Preservation Resource Center’s legendary **Holiday Home Tour** and step inside private homes, decorated for the holidays and open only during the tour, to experience the creativity, elegance, and beautifully preserved historic interiors that make this tour a beloved New Orleans holiday tradition. Prepare for one of the trip’s most intimate and memorable experiences as award-winning **Chef Jason Goodenough** welcomes you into his Garden District home for a supper club of music, storytelling, and the Italian-American tradition of the Feast of the Seven Fishes. As darkness falls, experience City Park transformed into a magical winter wonderland at **Celebration in the Oaks**, one of the nation’s most spectacular holiday light displays among with historic oaks and elaborate light sculptures.





Holiday Heritage Tour: *Day by Day* CONTINUED

Sunday, December 13th

Explore the rich history and unique above-ground burial traditions of New Orleans with a guided cemetery tour through **St. Louis Cemetery No. 3**, on stately Esplanade Avenue near City Park. Meet musician and culture bearer **Bruce “Sunpie” Barnes** for an intimate talk and performance that explores the legacy of the Louisiana Creole language through contemporary Creole music. Sunpie’s extraordinary life journey — from Arkansas sharecropper’s son to Kansas City Chiefs defensive end, from National Park Service ranger to acclaimed musician, photographer, author, and Big Chief of the Northside Skull and Bones Gang — embodies the creative spirit and cultural richness of New Orleans. Enjoy a final afternoon on your own before we celebrate the culmination of your New Orleans holiday journey with a **Réveillon dinner** in **Antoine’s legendary, private Rex Room**. Since 1840, Antoine’s has been the crown jewel of French Quarter dining, and tonight you’ll experience both the restaurant’s storied elegance and the cherished Réveillon tradition—special multi-course menus served during the holiday season that date back to 19th-century New Orleans.



View the full itinerary at prcno.org/events/travel



Meet your guide

Russell Blanchard is a ninth-generation Cajun descendant who has a deep passion for sharing our history and culture. He brings his love of storytelling and extensive experience as a licensed New Orleans tour guide along with his work developing and coordinating international travel to the PRC’s Tour Program.

He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Hawai’i at Manoa in Cinematic Production and has worked on major film projects around the globe over the last 20 years.

Russell resides in Algiers Point, where he and his wife renovated a historic home and now share it with their daughter Sally.

Program Details

Double occupancy:

\$4,875
(per person)

Single occupancy:

\$5,960



Local resident Rate:

\$3,875

We offer a reduced rate for local participants wishing to join the tour's full cultural program, excluding accommodations and daily breakfast.

Payment Schedule

A non-refundable \$750 per person deposit is due upon registration to secure your space. Final balance is due September 9, 2026.

Registration & Confirmation

Up to 24 spaces are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Full refunds will be provided if minimum enrollment is not reached.

Travel Arrangements

Airfare is **not** included. Flight bookings are the responsibility of each traveler.



Book your spot at
preno.org/events/travel

Stay in the Heart of the Garden District



During our Holiday Heritage Tour, guests will enjoy a stay at the elegant **Henry Howard Hotel**, a beautifully restored boutique hotel in New Orleans' historic Lower Garden District. Originally constructed in 1867 by famed architect Henry Howard, the grand double-gallery townhouse has been thoughtfully reimagined into an intimate retreat that blends historic character with contemporary comfort.

Located along picturesque Prytania Street, the hotel offers an ideal home base for exploring the city's architectural treasures, festive holiday traditions, and celebrated culinary scene.

Highlights of Your Stay

- Historic 1867 mansion designed by renowned local architect Henry Howard
- Intimate boutique experience with just 18 guest rooms
- Located in the charming Lower Garden District
- Walking distance to Magazine Street shops and restaurants
- Easy access to the St. Charles Avenue streetcar line
- Elegant interiors featuring soaring ceilings, original fireplaces and historic architectural details
- Thoughtfully designed guest rooms with modern comforts and local character
- Quiet residential atmosphere ideal for relaxing after daily excursions

Inside, guests are welcomed by graceful Corinthian columns, curated vintage furnishings, and inviting parlors that capture the timeless romance of New Orleans. The hotel's intimate scale and attentive service create an experience that feels both refined and deeply personal.

The quieter pace of the Garden District offers a relaxing contrast to the energy of the French Quarter, while still placing guests close to many of the city's most beloved neighborhoods, music venues, and dining destinations.

Learn more at henryhowardhotel.com.

Join us *for an*
unforgettable holiday
season *in* New Orleans.



prcno.org/events/travel

Questions?

Contact Tour Manager, Russell Blanchard
(504) 636-3047 | rblanchard@prcno.org