

TRAVEL *with the* PRC

THREE CULTURES *of New Orleans*

A seven-day immersion into the Crescent City exploring
Irish, Sicilian and Black Masking Indian traditions

March 16-22, 2027

PRESERVATION
RESOURCE CENTER
— of NEW ORLEANS —

Explore **LIVING HISTORY** *with the PRC*

The Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and Project Por Amor have partnered to create a **seven-day immersion** into the Crescent City during the one week of the year when **three of its founding cultures** step into the streets – and almost no outsiders know it's happening. Between March 16 and 22, **St. Patrick's Day, St. Joseph's Day**, and **Super Sunday** converge, and we'll be on the inside of all of it: pouring whiskey with the family who runs the **Irish Cultural Museum**, visiting the towering **St. Joseph's Altars** that Sicilian parishioners spend weeks building, and – rarest of all – we're invited to walk beside Big Chief Shaka Zulu and the Golden Feather Hunters as the **Black Masking Indians** appear in their hand-sewn suits of beads and feathers.

We'll sleep at the legendary **Hotel Monteleone**, founded by a Sicilian shoemaker in 1886 and still family-run five generations later; and stand with **Dr. Ibrahima Seck** on the grounds of **Whitney Plantation**, where America's history demands to be understood. **Daily private concerts** and **discussions** with Tulane geographer **Richard Campanella** and the city's leading historians and culture bearers, this is a weeklong seminar disguised as a celebration – the story of three ethnicities who built New Orleans, and in doing so, built America.

We hope you will join us.



DAY 1—*Arrival*

Our home for the week is **The Hotel Monteleone**, the grand French Quarter landmark founded in 1886 by Sicilian immigrant Antonio Monteleone. Five generations later, the family remains at its helm – a rare continuity and a fitting introduction to the Sicilian story woven through New Orleans. Settle into the hotel's old-world elegance, linger at the legendary **Carousel Bar**, or retreat to the rooftop pool and spa. Faulkner, Hemingway, Capote, and Welty all found inspiration here. This week, the city will be yours to discover. At sunset, gather in the **Riverview Room** for sweeping views across the French Quarter and Mississippi River, followed by a **private Creole dinner** and **live New Orleans jazz**.



DAY 2—*The French Quarter & St. Patrick*

Explore the **French Quarter** with **Russell Blanchard**, a ninth-generation Cajun and licensed New Orleans guide who also serves as Tour Manager for the Preservation Resource Center. Beginning at the **Cabildo**, we uncover the Spanish foundations beneath the city's French identity, then trace the Irish, Sicilian, and Black Masking traditions that shaped these streets. At **The Historic New Orleans Collection**, rare photographs and documents illuminate those intertwined histories. Lunch in **Tableau's Parlor Room** overlooks **Jackson Square**, with classic Creole dishes and a refined French Quarter setting. The afternoon turns to **St. Louis Cathedral** and our personal guided tour with Executive Director Chris Wiseman. Our afternoon will be spent at the **Irish Cultural Museum**, where over whiskey, live music, and stories of the Irish Channel and Basin Canal, we celebrate St. Patrick's Day in distinctly New Orleans fashion.



DAY 3 – *Geography, Tréme & Sicilian Tradition*

At the historic Leeds-Davis Building, **Kristin Gisleson Palmer**, Executive Director of the Preservation Resource Center and former City Councilmember, offers a private introduction to the people safeguarding New Orleans' architectural heritage. Historian **Dr. Richard Campanella** follows with a revealing portrait of the city through geography, migration, race, and power. A **muffuletta tasting** accompanied by **live Italian opera** brings Sicily to the table. In **Tremé**, historian, photographer, and storyteller **Malik Bartholomew** leads a private exploration of the nation's oldest African-American neighborhood and birthplace of jazz, including **Congo Square** and the **Tomb of the Unknown Slave**. After time to relax at the Monteleone, evening brings us to **Irene's** for an intimate **St. Joseph's celebration**, complete with a magnificent altar, blessing, chant, and Sicilian-Creole feast. Later, we follow the music into the night.



DAY 4 — *St. Joseph's Day & Night*

Begin at the **American Italian Cultural Center**, tracing the Sicilian migration that transformed the lower French Quarter into "Little Palermo." At **St. Joseph Church** and **St. Francis Xavier**, we are welcomed to extraordinary **St. Joseph's Altars**—devotional tables of bread, flowers, fruit, and sweets, created with care and shared with those in need. Lunch at **Dooky Chase's** in Tremé offers Creole cooking, family history, and the remarkable Chase collection of African-American art. Celebrated painter **Ron Bechet** joins us to discuss the creative legacy of the Civil Rights discussions that happened in those very rooms. At the **Petit Jazz Museum**, we follow jazz from its African roots through the Caribbean to its emergence in Tremé. Then comes the evening's rarest access: walking with Big Chief Shaka Zulu and the Golden Feather Hunters as the **Black Masking Indians** appear in full regalia. This is a living tradition, not a staged performance, and we experience it as invited guests.



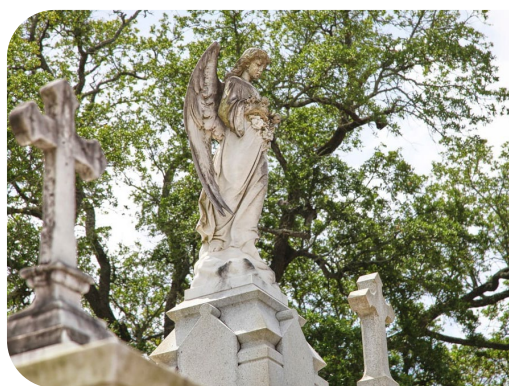
DAY 5 — *River Road & Whitney Plantation*

Follow the Mississippi along historic **River Road**, where live oaks, sugarcane, cypress, plantation houses, and modern industry reveal Louisiana's layered history. At **Whitney Plantation**, **Dr. Ibrahima Seck**, its founding director of research, leads a private exploration of the site. The cabins, memorials, and first-person testimonies place the story of the enslaved at the center of the landscape. Lunch at **B&C Seafood Riverside Market** offers local seafood and Cajun cooking, accompanied by a private performance by a **Cajun band**. Before Super Sunday, scholar **Dr. Kim Vaz-Deville** offers an intimate introduction to New Orleans' masking traditions. Through conversation and live performance, she explores the history, symbolism, and extraordinary craftsmanship behind the suits. Return to the Monteleone by late afternoon. The evening is yours.



DAY 6 — *Super Sunday*

Our final day begins at **St. Louis Cemetery No. 3** with Save Our Cemeteries, exploring the tombs and society vaults where generations of Irish, Sicilian, and Black New Orleanians were laid to rest. The stories of musicians, soldiers, jazz funerals, and Storyville figures reveal another side of the city's history. Then, in **Tremé**, trumpeter **Leroy Jones** welcomes us into his home for red beans and rice and a private performance in his living room – a deeply personal expression of New Orleans hospitality. For **Super Sunday**, our base is the legendary **Dew Drop Inn**. Once the center of Black entertainment in the South, it now offers an extraordinary vantage point for one of New Orleans' great cultural traditions. Step outside as the **Black Masking Indian tribes** pass in their magnificent new suits. Our farewell is at **Brennan's**, where Creole elegance and classic New Orleans cooking provide the final chapter. Over turtle soup, Gulf seafood, short rib, and Bananas Foster, we raise a glass to the musicians, chiefs, cooks, artists, and culture keepers who opened their city to us.



The Trip *Basics*

Program Pricing

Double Occupancy:

\$5,750

Per person, based on double occupancy

Single Occupancy:

\$6,930

Per person, based on single occupancy

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

What's Included

- Six nights at Hotel Monteleone, with daily breakfast
- Select lunches and dinners, including experiences at the Riverview Room, Tableau, Irene's, Dooky Chase's, B&C Seafood, Leroy Jones' home, and Brennan's
- Private presentations, tours, festival access, and live musical experiences
- Full-time private transportation, including scheduled airport transfers
- Pre-trip guidance, trip materials, and 24-hour program management

Payment & Registration

A **\$750 non-refundable deposit per traveler** is due upon registration to reserve your place.

Final balances are due December 16, 2026.

Space is limited and reserved on a first-come, first-served basis.

If minimum enrollment is not reached, payments will be refunded in full.

Important Travel Notes

- Airfare to and from New Orleans is not included. Travelers are responsible for booking their own flights.
- The program includes six nights of accommodations, beginning Tuesday, March 16.
- Departure is Monday, March 22. Scheduled transfers to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport are included.
- Three dinners are on your own.
- Tips for guides, the chauffeur, and hotel staff are not included.
- Third-party travel or trip-interruption insurance is not included and is strongly recommended.
- Schedule and program details may change as final arrangements are confirmed.
- Please review the current terms and conditions before registering.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a highly ornate altar. On the left, a statue of a cherub holding a lute is visible. In the center, there is a large arrangement of pink and yellow roses in a brass vase. To the right, a tall, ornate brass candlestick holds several lit candles in red and white holders. The altar is decorated with various religious items, including a crucifix and a statue of a saint in the background.

Learn More: Live Webinars

Join us for an informational webinar to meet the program organizers,
learn more about the itinerary, and ask questions.

Wednesday, September 30 at 11 a.m. Central

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 6 p.m. Central

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Full Details & Registration

[PROGRAM OVERVIEW](#)

[DETAILED ITINERARY](#)

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