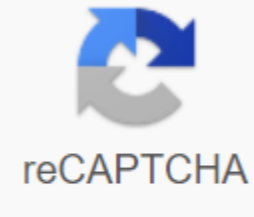




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New Orleans: It has an undeniable intrigue that attracts about 10 million visitors a year (and as the backdrop to much of Beyonce's lemonade visual albums, we can only imagine interest increasing). Nevertheless, it is possible that too few visitors know this historic city next to the Mardi Gras balls of Bourbon Street or the city's famous po' boys - both valuable things to experience, no doubt. But during your visit, it's worth going further into new Orleans' history, art and neighborhood to truly understand the magic of one of America's oldest cities. ELLEDecor.com spoke to New Orleans-based interior designer Chad Grarac, who, while preparing his Mardi Gras costume early Tuesday in Fat, borrowed some surprising tips for experiencing more unseen parts of The Big Easy. His advice proves that it is a city filled with hidden wonders, irresistible mystique and spaces that may not adhere to the traditional aesthetics of the city, but nevertheless reflect its contemporary spirit. What To Sight-See: Beauregard-Keys House Flickr/Teemu008 Exterior of the House of Beauregard-Keys, home circa 1826 which is now a museum, near the French Quarter. The main attractions on your New Orleans travel list probably include walking through French Quarter memorabilia or perhaps jumping on one of the city's charming street cars. While you're at it, sit in beauregard-keys, a historic home built in 1826 for wealthy auctioneer Frances Parkinson Keyes. Now converted into a museum, the house is painted in a pale yellow hue and has a stoned garden that is also part of the museum. It's a wonderful example of a villa in the French Quarter, says Graci. His historical collection in New Orleans has an amazing combination of rooms from the period of the original family who lived there, but it is also combined with the dissolution of Louisiana history. Owned by many other famous families over the years (such as Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard), the house is said to be haunted - and even if you don't go on its nearly 200 years of fascinating history (as you certainly should), you can go on some good old-fashioned ghost hunts. Tours start at an hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day except Sunday, each lasting about 45 minutes. Where To Shop: Uptowner Antiques Courtesy uptowner Antiques Items on display at Uptowner Antiques, a Magazine Street store that offers an 18th-century mix of antiques. New Orleans sees an increasing number of indie boutiques appearing in the French Quarter, and of course there are souvenirs that can be found throughout the city, but visitors with a penchant for antique furniture will want to take out their wallets at Uptowner Antiques on Magazine Street. It has a nice mix of pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries, but it also branched out into the great non-New Orleans era of French pieces from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, so it's a good destination for that, says Graci. Magazine Street has really become destination for findings of all price points and style ranges. Just take these awe-worthy finds in store: Louis XVI Nut Commode (\$11,000), early 19th century French foot bath (\$850), mid-century French wall sconces (\$1,250) and 1960s French swan brass and glass coffee table (\$3,400). Another good option? Antique shops Mac Maison, also on Street magazine, for eclectic continental finds from various periods. We can already hear you booking tickets to The Big Easy. Where to drink: Vessel courtesy of vessel Interiors vessel, which was originally built as a church in 1914 but renovated in a bar and reopened last year in Mid-City. Sure, you can drink hurricanes in Pat O'Briens (the birthplace of the famous drink), but be sure to take the opportunity to grab a cocktail at Vessel, the ship's church-facing bar. This NoLa place will satisfy your craving for design and good handmade drinks with its iconic space and industrial design. The bar is located inside a 1914 New Orleans church, still with original stained glass windows and a ceiling built from the bottom of the ship - a common practice during this period. They did a really stellar renovation and redevelopment, graci says. You still feel all these beautiful elements of the church. The way they fitted the bar on the stained glass window is excellent. Order a special cocktail that will surely surprise, such as Violent Delights Have Violent Ends (fusion of sheep sauce mixed whisky, Liquore D'Erbe Tosolini Amaro, St. George Spiced Pear Liquor, lime and ginger beer) or Brown's Homage (a blend of Rougaroux Full Moon rum, Avuá Cachaça, St. Elizabeth's Allspice Dram, pineapple and lime). If your libations make you hungry, order a snack or a small plate from the food menu, which includes an Arkansas rabbit rillette and cast-iron octopus. Chef Nick Vella creates a menu that infuses the flavors of North Africa and Italy. Where to eat: Doris Metropolitan Courtesy of Doris Metropolitan Lined walls of the French Quarter of Doris Metropolitan, a modern restaurant that offers sophisticated gastronomic meals in New Orleans. Once you get your fill po'boys and beignets, head to Doris Metropolitan - a restaurant you might be surprised to see in the southern city. It's a design to go from what would be expected of a restaurant in New Orleans, graci says. It feels a little more modern, with a cleaner palette than you'd find in other restaurants in New Orleans. He doesn't seem to belong in New Orleans, but he really is with the way the kitchen cuts through wine matching. Named my New Orleans magazine's best new restaurant in 2013, the restaurant offers gastronomic delights such as a short rib cooked for 24 hours, lamb chops with a slide and fresh Gulf fish. There are also recommendations for pairing appetizers and a wide selection of wines (exhibited in modern sweeping shelves over walls). for example, pair a beetroot dish with a 2012 Sylvie Esmoinin Gevrey-Chambertin or order a hot eggplant with NV Moet-Chandon Brut Imperial Champagne. You're just going to wish you had an endless appetite to try everything. Where to see art: The Ogden Museum of Southern Art courtesy of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art Piece at an exhibition in the Central Business District of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, which showcases more than 4,000 artworks ranging from sculpture to literature. If you love design, you have probably visited your fair share of historical and contemporary museums. But how much do you know about Louisiana's art throughout history? For art specific to Louisiana, from contemporary to 19th century. The Ogden Museum is located in the Warehouse Arts District in downtown New Orleans, displaying Southern traditions in art, music, literature and culinary heritage. Founded in 1999, it was based on the founding donation of more than 1,100 works from new Orleans entrepreneur Roger H. Ogden's private collection. Now, that collection has grown to include more than 4,000 works. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily (and until 8 p.m. for Ogden After Hours on Thursdays). Tickets are \$13.50 for adults and \$6.75 for children 5 to 17. Children up to 5 years old are free. Where to walk: Garden district and marigny neighborhood Getty Images Villa in the garden district. You've walked up and down the French Quarter enough times to remember practically every shop and building, so feast your eyes on architecture elsewhere - namely the Garden District and the historic Marigny district. The Garden District has the best examples of the typical, elegant architecture of New Orleans, where you have great villas, graci says. Then you have Marigny, an older neighborhood, which has the best examples of different kinds of smaller, regular homes in New Orleans, like cottages and double shotguns, for more regional architecture. In the Garden District you will find landscaped gardens and beautiful homes behind cast iron fences. The neighborhood was first set up in 1832 after Louisiana Buying as a place for U.S. residents of the city to settle down, many wealthy by the cotton and sugar industries. The Marigny neighborhood, officially known as Fauborg Marigny, was founded as a second suburb of New Orleans in 1806. Previously, it was a plantation, but after being divided as a suburb, it developed a cosmopolitan style with European influence. Today it is an artistic neighborhood with a lot of excellent local music and dining options that deviate from the typical tourist offer. Getty Images A house adjacent to Marigny. This content is created and maintained by a third party and is imported to this page to help users order their e-mail addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content in piano.io piano.io