

ACUA

AUDITCON 2026

NEW ORLEANS FIELD GUIDE

Things to do • Places to see • Where to eat • Where to drink

A vibrant poster for the ACUA AuditCon 2026 in New Orleans. The background is a night scene of a New Orleans street with a man in a hat playing a trumpet. The text is overlaid on the left side. At the top left is the ACUA logo (a fleur-de-lis) followed by 'ACUA' in white. Below that, 'AUDITCON' is written in large, bold, white letters, and '2026' is in a large, stylized, yellow font. Below the title, the text 'Big ideas. Stronger connections. Unforgettable Experience.' is written in white and yellow. Underneath are three columns: 'LEARN' with a group of people icon and 'Cutting-edge insights'; 'CONNECT' with a handshake icon and 'Build lasting relationships'; and 'EXPERIENCE' with a fleur-de-lis icon and 'The energy and culture of New Orleans'. A teal banner across the middle contains the dates 'SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 2026'. Below that, a location pin icon is followed by 'SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL'. At the bottom left is the ACUA logo and the text 'ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AUDITORS'. On the right side, there is a line drawing of New Orleans landmarks and the text 'New Orleans' in a large, stylized, yellow font, followed by 'WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!' in white.

ACUA
AUDITCON 2026

Big ideas. Stronger connections.
Unforgettable Experience.

LEARN
Cutting-edge insights

CONNECT
Build lasting relationships

EXPERIENCE
The energy and culture of New Orleans

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 2026

SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL

ACUA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AUDITORS

New Orleans
WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

CONFERENCE BASE Sheraton New Orleans Hotel • 500 Canal Street • New Orleans, LA 70130

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1, 2026

[Conference details at acua.org](https://acua.org)

START HERE

How to use this guide

Built for short breaks, open evenings, and anyone extending the trip by a day.

WALK BADGE Items marked WALK are approximately 20 minutes or less on foot from the Sheraton. Times are estimates from 500 Canal Street; weather, crowds, construction, and personal pace can change them.

New Orleans in one glance

French Quarter **WALK • 5-20 min** — Architecture, restaurants, galleries, courtyards, bars, and major landmarks immediately across Canal Street.

Best for: first-time visitors • 5-20 min walk

Warehouse / Arts District **WALK • 15-20 min** — Museums, polished restaurants, and Julia Street galleries southwest of the hotel.

Best for: museums and dinner • 15-25 min

Marigny / Frenchmen Street — Compact live-music corridor with jazz, brass, funk, and late-night energy.

Best for: music • rideshare or 30 min walk

Garden District / Uptown — Mansions, oak-lined streets, Magazine Street, and destination restaurants.

Best for: half-day • streetcar/rideshare

Mid-City / City Park — Sculpture garden, art museum, oaks, casual food, and neighborhood atmosphere.

Best for: half-day • streetcar/rideshare

Riverfront **WALK • 5-15 min** — Woldenberg Park, Mississippi views, ferries, riverboats, and Vue Orleans.

Best for: a quick reset • 5-15 min

Getting around

On foot — The Sheraton sits at the edge of the French Quarter and CBD, making many core attractions easy to reach without a car.

Use well-traveled streets; stay aware of uneven sidewalks.

Streetcars — The Canal and St. Charles lines are useful for Mid-City, the Garden District, and Uptown. Buy fares through the Le Pass app or at available vending points.

Allow extra time; streetcars are scenic, not always fast. | [Website](#)

Rideshare / taxi — Best for Frenchmen Street after dark, City Park, Uptown dining, and airport trips.

Use the hotel's Canal Street entrance as the pickup point.

Ferry **WALK • 8-10 min** — The Canal Street ferry offers a quick Mississippi crossing to Algiers Point and skyline views.

Check RTA schedules before leaving. | [Website](#)

FAST AND WALKABLE

Best bets near the Sheraton

Strong options when you have only 30 minutes, an hour, or one free evening.

Sazerac House **WALK • 2 min** — Free, interactive cocktail-history museum with exhibits, tastings, and a working distillery.

101 Magazine St. • reserve a timed tour

French Quarter gateway **WALK • 3 min** — Cross Canal at Royal or Bourbon for an immediate introduction to historic streets and architecture.

Start at Canal & Royal

Vue Orleans **WALK • 7-9 min** — Indoor/outdoor observation experience with panoramic views and interactive local-history exhibits.

2 Canal St. • ticketed

Woldenberg Riverfront Park **WALK • 8-10 min** — Easy Mississippi River walk with public art, benches, and ship traffic.

Riverfront between Canal and Jackson Square

Canal Place **WALK • 3-4 min** — Upscale shopping and a convenient indoor break next to the riverfront.

333 Canal St.

Carousel Bar **WALK • 6-8 min** — Iconic revolving bar inside Hotel Monteleone; arrive early for a seat.

214 Royal St. • smart casual works well

Palace Café **WALK • 2-3 min** — Classic New Orleans dining in a lively historic building directly on Canal.

605 Canal St. • reservations helpful

Bourbon House **WALK • 4-5 min** — Seafood, oysters, and a deep bourbon list near the foot of Bourbon Street.

144 Bourbon St.

Harrah's / Caesars New Orleans **WALK • 6-8 min** — Casino, entertainment, and restaurants opposite the riverfront.

8 Canal St.

Spanish Plaza **WALK • 8-10 min** — Riverfront plaza beside Canal Street; a simple photo or fresh-air stop.

At Canal St. and the Mississippi River

ONE-HOUR LOOP Sheraton → Sazerac House → Royal Street → Jackson Square overlook → riverfront → return along Canal. Keep the full loop to about 60-75 minutes by browsing lightly.

SEE THE CITY

Landmarks, history & museums

Reserve ticketed attractions early when possible; museum hours and exhibits can change.

Jackson Square & St. Louis Cathedral **WALK • 14-17 min** — The city's classic postcard view, surrounded by artists, historic buildings, and the Mississippi River levee.

701 Decatur St. • best in daylight | [Website](#)

The Historic New Orleans Collection **WALK • 10-12 min** — Excellent, manageable introduction to regional history and art. Admission is free, though tickets are required.

520 Royal St. • Tue-Sun | [Website](#)

The Cabildo & Presbytère **WALK • 15-18 min** — Louisiana State Museum sites flanking St. Louis Cathedral; pair them with Jackson Square.

701 & 751 Chartres St. | [Website](#)

New Orleans Jazz Museum — Music history and performances inside the historic Old U.S. Mint at the edge of the French Market.

400 Esplanade Ave. • allow 1-2 hours | [Website](#)

The National WWII Museum — A major, immersive campus that rewards at least three hours; open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. under current posted hours.

945 Magazine St. • ticketed | [Website](#)

Ogden Museum of Southern Art **WALK • 20 min** — Focused collection of Southern visual culture across the street from the WWII Museum.

925 Camp St. | [Website](#)

Contemporary Arts Center **WALK • 19-20 min** — Rotating contemporary exhibitions and performances in the Warehouse District.

900 Camp St. | [Website](#)

Mardi Gras World — Behind-the-scenes look at float building, props, and Carnival artistry.

1380 Port of New Orleans Pl. • rideshare recommended | [Website](#)

Vue Orleans **WALK • 7-9 min** — Best compact overview for visitors short on time; combines skyline views with cultural storytelling.

2 Canal St. | [Website](#)

HEAR NEW ORLEANS

Live music & nightlife

Check each venue calendar during conference week; ticket policies and lineups vary nightly.

Preservation Hall **WALK • 14-17 min** — Intimate, traditional New Orleans jazz in a historic room; advance tickets are strongly recommended.

726 St. Peter St. | [Website](#)

The Jazz Playhouse **WALK • 8-10 min** — Reliable nightly jazz in the Royal Sonesta with seating, cocktails, and an easy French Quarter location.

300 Bourbon St. | [Website](#)

Fritzel's European Jazz Pub **WALK • 15-18 min** — Small Bourbon Street club known for traditional jazz and a casual atmosphere.

733 Bourbon St. | [Website](#)

Mahogany Jazz Hall **WALK • 6-8 min** — Cozy room featuring traditional jazz, swing, and local musicians.

125 Chartres St. | [Website](#)

The Davenport Lounge **WALK • 8-10 min** — Polished hotel lounge with jazz led by trumpeter Jeremy Davenport on scheduled nights.

921 Canal St. in The Ritz-Carlton | [Website](#)

Frenchmen Street — Walk the compact corridor and compare bands before choosing a club; strongest concentration is around 500-700 Frenchmen.

Marigny • rideshare recommended after dark

Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro — Respected listening room with seated shows and a restaurant on Frenchmen Street.

626 Frenchmen St. • reserve tickets | [Website](#)

The Spotted Cat Music Club — Tiny, lively club for jazz, swing, and blues; often standing-room only.

623 Frenchmen St. | [Website](#)

d.b.a. — Roomy Frenchmen Street bar with strong local and touring music programming.

618 Frenchmen St. | [Website](#)

LOCAL ETIQUETTE Buy a drink where required, tip the band, keep conversation low during listening-room sets, and never block sidewalks or doorways while deciding where to go.

EAT WELL

Classic & celebratory dining

Reservations are wise for group dinners. Jackets are not universally required, but verify dress codes.

Galatoire's **WALK • 7-9 min** — Historic Creole dining and a famously social main dining room.

209 Bourbon St. • classic

Arnaud's **WALK • 10-12 min** — Grand Creole rooms, soufflé potatoes, and strong cocktail tradition.

813 Bienville St. • classic

Brennan's **WALK • 9-11 min** — Polished Creole dining in a landmark pink Royal Street building; known for breakfast and Bananas Foster.

417 Royal St.

Antoine's **WALK • 11-14 min** — One of the city's oldest restaurants, with labyrinthine historic dining rooms.

713 St. Louis St.

Mr. B's Bistro **WALK • 5-7 min** — Dependable Creole bistro known for barbecue shrimp and gumbo ya ya.

201 Royal St.

GW Fins **WALK • 10-12 min** — Excellent Gulf seafood with a menu that changes around the freshest catch.

808 Bienville St. • reserve

Restaurant R'evolution **WALK • 9-11 min** — Luxury Creole and contemporary Louisiana cooking in the Royal Sonesta.

777 Bienville St.

Miss River **WALK • 7-9 min** — Chef Alon Shaya's polished take on Southern and Louisiana dishes inside Four Seasons.

2 Canal St.

Compère Lapin **WALK • 10-12 min** — Nina Compton's Caribbean- and Creole-influenced cooking in the Warehouse District.

535 Tchoupitoulas St.

Pêche Seafood Grill **WALK • 17-20 min** — Wood-fired seafood and shareable plates in the Warehouse District.

800 Magazine St.

Worth the ride

Commander's Palace — Garden District institution for polished Creole dining, jazz brunch, and celebratory service.

1403 Washington Ave. • reserve well ahead | [Website](#)

Dooky Chase's Restaurant — Landmark Creole restaurant with deep importance to Black history, art, and the Civil Rights Movement.

2301 Orleans Ave. • rideshare | [Website](#)

EASY CHOICES

Casual food, coffee & New Orleans essentials

A practical mix for lunch breaks, quick dinners, and first-time local favorites.

Café du Monde **WALK • 16-19 min** — Beignets and café au lait at the open-air French Market stand.

800 Decatur St. • cashless policies may vary

Café Beignet **WALK • 8-10 min** — Convenient beignets, breakfast, and light fare at multiple French Quarter locations.

334 Royal St. is closest

Johnny's Po-Boys **WALK • 11-13 min** — Old-school counter-service po-boys in the French Quarter.

511 St. Louis St.

Killer PoBoys **WALK • 8-10 min** — Creative po-boys in a compact Dauphine Street shop.

219 Dauphine St.

Napoleon House **WALK • 10-12 min** — Muffuletta, gumbo, and Pimm's Cups in one of the Quarter's most atmospheric buildings.

500 Chartres St.

Central Grocery **WALK • 18-20 min** — Birthplace of the muffuletta; check current service arrangements and hours before going.

923 Decatur St.

Cochon Butcher — Casual sandwiches, boudin, charcuterie, and plates from the Cochon team.

930 Tchoupitoulas St.

Willa Jean **WALK • 13-16 min** — Bakery-café for biscuits, pastries, coffee, and a polished casual breakfast or lunch.

611 O'Keefe Ave.

French Truck Coffee **WALK • 9-11 min** — Local roaster with several shops; the Poydras location is convenient from the hotel.

650 Poydras St.

Drago's at the Hilton **WALK • 10-12 min** — Charbroiled oysters and seafood in the riverfront Hilton.

2 Poydras St.

Order at least once

THE SHORT LIST Gumbo • red beans and rice • po-boy • muffuletta • charbroiled oysters • barbecue shrimp • beignets • bread pudding. Ask about spice and shellfish if you have dietary restrictions.

Parkway Bakery & Tavern — Destination po-boy shop best reached by rideshare; expect a line at peak times.

538 Hagan Ave. in Mid-City | [Website](#)

Willie Mae's Scotch House — Celebrated fried chicken with current location/service details worth checking before the trip.

Check official channels before traveling | [Website](#)

RAISE A GLASS

Cocktails, bars & rooftops

New Orleans allows drinks in plastic go-cups in many public areas, but glass containers and venue rules still matter.

The Sazerac Bar **WALK • 8-10 min** — Elegant hotel bar for a namesake Sazerac or Ramos Gin Fizz.

The Roosevelt, 130 Roosevelt Way | [Website](#)

Carousel Bar & Lounge **WALK • 6-8 min** — Revolving centerpiece bar and classic hotel atmosphere; seats fill quickly.

Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal St. | [Website](#)

Arnaud's French 75 Bar **WALK • 10-12 min** — Refined cocktail room with classic technique and an adjoining Mardi Gras museum.

813 Bienville St. | [Website](#)

Jewel of the South **WALK • 18-20 min** — Destination cocktail bar in a Creole cottage with a thoughtful food menu.

1026 St. Louis St. | [Website](#)

Cane & Table — Rum-forward cocktails and Caribbean-influenced food in a courtyard setting.

1113 Decatur St. • rideshare or long walk | [Website](#)

Bar Tonique — Neighborhood-style cocktail bar with an approachable menu near Armstrong Park.

820 N. Rampart St. • rideshare after dark | [Website](#)

Bar Marilou **WALK • 9-11 min** — Stylish, book-lined cocktail lounge in the Maison de la Luz.

544 Carondelet St. | [Website](#)

Hot Tin — Rooftop bar with skyline views atop the Pontchartrain Hotel.

2031 St. Charles Ave. • streetcar/rideshare | [Website](#)

Bacchanal Wine — Backyard wine bar, food, and live music in the Bywater; best as a dedicated outing.

600 Poland Ave. • rideshare | [Website](#)

Erin Rose **WALK • 10-12 min** — Tiny, casual French Quarter bar known for frozen Irish coffee.

811 Conti St. | [Website](#)

PACE YOUR NIGHT Warm weather and conference days make hydration matter. Alternate water with drinks, use a rideshare after late nights outside the core, and travel with colleagues.

GO BEYOND CANAL

Neighborhoods, outdoors & scenic breaks

Choose one area rather than trying to cross the city several times in a single free afternoon.

Royal Street **WALK • 3 min** — Galleries, antiques, architecture, and street performers; particularly pleasant in the morning.

Begin one block from the Sheraton

French Market & Moonwalk **WALK • 16-20 min** — Open-air market corridor, river views, and an easy continuation from Jackson Square.

Decatur St. from Jackson Square to Esplanade

Algiers Point **WALK • 8-10 min to ferry** — Quiet historic neighborhood across the river with one of the best skyline approaches.

Canal Street ferry from the foot of Canal

Garden District — Oak-lined streets and historic homes. Combine a self-guided walk with Magazine Street or lunch.

Take the St. Charles streetcar; avoid treating private homes as attractions.

Magazine Street — Long corridor of local boutiques, cafes, bars, and restaurants; choose a specific segment before going.

Lower Garden District and Uptown • streetcar/rideshare

City Park & Besthoff Sculpture Garden — Large urban park with free outdoor sculpture garden, lagoons, oaks, and the New Orleans Museum of Art.

1 Collins Diboll Cir. • streetcar/rideshare | [Website](#)

Audubon Park — Walking loop, oaks, lagoon views, and easy access from the St. Charles streetcar.

6500 Magazine St. • allow a half-day with transit

Crescent Park — Linear riverfront park with skyline views connecting Marigny and Bywater.

Multiple entrances • rideshare recommended | [Website](#)

Steamboat NATCHEZ / Riverboat CITY of NEW ORLEANS **WALK • 12-15 min** — Sightseeing and jazz cruise options from the French Quarter riverfront.

Toulouse Street Wharf • check sailing calendar | [Website](#)

RAIN PLAN Sazerac House + Historic New Orleans Collection + a long lunch is an excellent mostly indoor day. For a full rainy afternoon, use the WWII Museum or Mardi Gras World.

USE YOUR FREE TIME

Ready-made itineraries

Each plan begins and ends at the Sheraton unless noted.

One hour: French Quarter essentials

Route **WALK • full route** — Royal Street → Jackson Square → Mississippi River overlook → return along Decatur and Canal.

Best in daylight • mostly outdoors

Two hours: cocktails & history

Route **WALK • full route** — Reserved Sazerac House tour → quick stop at Canal Place or the riverfront → Carousel Bar.

Book the museum time first

Three hours: classic New Orleans evening

Route **WALK • full route** — Early dinner at Mr. B's, Brennan's, GW Fins, or Arnaud's → reserved Preservation Hall show → one cocktail at French 75 or Carousel Bar.

Reserve dinner and show • all walkable

Three to four hours: Warehouse District

Route — Ogden Museum or WWII Museum sampler → dinner at Pêche, Compère Lapin, or Cochon → return by rideshare if tired.

WWII Museum deserves longer if this is your first visit

Half-day: music & neighborhoods

Route — Streetcar through the Garden District → lunch or early dinner Uptown → rideshare to Frenchmen Street → choose a ticketed set at Snug Harbor or browse clubs.

Use rideshare back to the Sheraton

Full extra day: signature city sampler

Morning — WWII Museum or City Park/NOMA.

Afternoon — Garden District and Magazine Street, or French Quarter museums and riverfront.

Evening — Celebratory dinner followed by Preservation Hall or Frenchmen Street.

GROUP TIP For colleagues with different interests, set one fixed dinner reservation and let smaller groups choose museums or bars beforehand. It is much easier than moving a large group through the Quarter without a plan.

CONFERENCE WEEK

What is happening during AuditCon

Event details are current as of July 29, 2026 and should be reconfirmed before making plans.

New Orleans Saints vs. Las Vegas Raiders — Home game at Caesars Superdome on Sunday, September 27, currently listed for 3:25 p.m. Central. Expect heavy downtown traffic before and after the game.

Caesars Superdome • ticketed • schedule subject to change | [Website](#)

NOLAxNOLA — Citywide celebration of New Orleans music running into conference week, with performances at participating venues.

Begins September 24 • verify 2026 lineup and participating venues | [Website](#)

Beyond the Veil — A locally produced haunted variety show listed for Tuesday, September 29.

Ticketed • verify time and venue | [Website](#)

Two Portraits by Julien Hudson — A cultural listing appearing on the city's September 29 calendar; useful for visitors interested in local art and history.

Verify venue, time, and admission | [Website](#)

Plan around the Sunday game

ARRIVAL DAY The Saints game overlaps with AuditCon's opening Sunday. If arriving by car or rideshare in the afternoon, allow extra time around the Superdome, Poydras Street, and downtown garages.

Book before you arrive

High priority — Preservation Hall, Snug Harbor, Commander's Palace, GW Fins, Brennan's, popular river cruises, and any ticketed conference-week event.

Reserve when convenient — Sazerac House timed admission, Vue Orleans, WWII Museum, and larger group dinners.

Keep flexible — French Quarter walking, riverfront, Royal Street, French Market, and most casual food stops.

LIVE CALENDARS For the most current music schedule, check WWOZ Livewire and individual venue calendars during the week.

[WWOZ Livewire music calendar](#)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Practical notes & trusted links

Late September is still summerlike in New Orleans. Build in shade, water, and a little schedule flexibility.

Weather — Expect heat, humidity, and possible afternoon storms. Pack light clothing, a compact umbrella, and comfortable shoes.

Check the forecast daily

Walking — Sidewalks can be uneven. Distances that look short on a map may feel longer in heat.

Use the WALK estimates as a planning guide

Safety — Stay on active, well-lit streets; keep phones and wallets secure; use a rideshare for late returns from outlying neighborhoods.

Travel with colleagues after dark

Dining — Confirm dress codes, cancellation policies, and automatic gratuities for groups.

Reservations matter for 6+ guests

Streetcars — Allow extra time and check service alerts. The experience is part transportation, part sightseeing.

Le Pass app / RTA website

Tipping — Tip musicians, bartenders, servers, tour guides, and hotel staff according to service.

Carry small bills for bands

Open-container rule — Ask for a plastic go-cup when leaving eligible venues; do not take glass into the street.

Rules may vary by location/event

Hurricane season — September is within Atlantic hurricane season. Monitor official forecasts and conference communications.

Follow hotel and local guidance

Trusted planning links

[AuditCon 2026](#)

[Official New Orleans visitor guide](#)

[New Orleans RTA](#)

[WWOZ Livewire music calendar](#)

[National Weather Service New Orleans/Baton Rouge](#)

[City of New Orleans emergency information](#)

Research notes

Conference dates and venue: ACUA AuditCon 2026 event page.

Current tourism, neighborhood, attraction, and September event information: New Orleans & Company.

Museum hours and admission notes: official websites for The National WWII Museum and The Historic New Orleans Collection.

Music venue descriptions and schedules: official venue websites; verify conference-week calendars closer to arrival.

Walk times are rounded planning estimates from Sheraton New Orleans Hotel, 500 Canal Street, and are not accessibility guarantees.

Laissez les bons temps rouler — and have a great AuditCon.