



New Orleans Roller Coasters & Divisions

New Orleans has had so many ups and downs, it could almost be called the “Roller Coaster” town. And as for divisions – many dichotomies exist in the “Big Easy” that have made it, at times, difficult to get things done harmoniously. But somehow the “downs” ended up bringing the “divisions” together and has made the city a success, which is an “up”.

New Orleans has been called the non-stop party town, both sordid and sublime. While as a tourist who may be having loads of fun, at the same time you may be struck by the divisions between rich and poor (or more explicitly, between black and white).

But it is exactly that division of cultures and ethnicities that has given the town its texture, for New Orleans is unlike any other city in the U.S.

It was founded in 1718 as a French-Canadian outpost with a set of shacks on a disease-ridden marsh (a definite down). But its very location near the mouth of the Mississippi River led to rapid development. It was the site of mass importation of African slaves, which also added to the cultural

flavor of the town. And in spite of the division between the original French population and the later Spanish colonization toward the end of the 1800s it was a flourishing port.

Adding to this diverse population New Orleans became the haunt of smugglers, gamblers, prostitutes and pirates. Other newcomers included Anglo-Americans escaping the American Revolution and aristocrats fleeing the French revolution. The city also became a haven for refugees – whites and free blacks alike, creating a distinctive Creole culture with its own traditions, cuisine and ways of life.

I will expand on this historical perspective more next week. This is all by way of explaining what has made New Orleans a unique and desirable travel destination. Rooms101.com offers a dozen or more travel packages to introduce you to this most unusual city; a place everyone should visit at least once.

For more information about vacations to New Orleans, LA, visit <http://rooms101.com/category/new-orleans>