

SUMMER 2010

# Cheap Living...

OPIA's Guide to Affordable Housing, Transportation,  
Food, and Fun in Major Cities for HLS Students  
Spending a Summer Working in the Public Interest

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**New Orleans**

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Congratulations! You've gotten a great public interest internship. You're ready for the challenges and rewards of your job, but are you ready to move to, navigate, and enjoy a new city on a modest salary?

It can be difficult to live cheaply in some of the world's most expensive (and exciting) cities, so OPIA and the 1L Public Interest Section Representatives have put together a guide to give you a few tips on how to get by (and have fun) on a public interest salary. We'll tell you how to find safe, inexpensive housing, get around in the city, eat out or in, hang out, and explore the city's cultural offerings. This is our 15th edition of Cheap Living.

In compiling these guides, we relied on numerous sources: our own experiences, law

school career service offices, newspapers, the Internet, and especially Harvard Law School students. The information in *Cheap Living* is meant to be helpful, not authoritative. No doubt, we have missed some stellar bargains. By listing a feature in the guide, we do not mean to endorse it, other than to say that a student like you has mentioned it as a great deal. *Cheap Living* remains a work in progress. Restaurants and attractions continuously open and close.

A very special thanks to all of the 1L Section Reps who researched and wrote this year's *Cheap Living Guides*. Even in the midst of exams, the Auction, Ames, and everything else that consumes 1L year, they made time to make sure that their classmates get the most out of their public interest summer internship experience. Have a wonderful summer!

- Kirsten Bermingham, OPIA Program Coordinator

*The New Orleans Guide was written by 1L section reps Amy Palumbo and Mary Catherine Blanton.*

## HOUSING

Notes: Be sure to further research all areas, as safety varies block to block.

### *Places to live and explore*

- French Quarter: The oldest neighborhood in New Orleans. Home to Jackson Square, Bourbon and Royal Streets, and hundreds of shops and restaurants. The French Quarter is New Orleans' oldest and most famous neighborhood. Very vibrant area in terms of both culture and nightlife. Housing here will be more expensive than in some areas. Popular with tourists for the nightlife, shopping, restaurants.
- Central Business District: What you would picture as a traditional downtown. Can be a bit more subdued after working hours are over, but home to Lafayette Square, theaters, and music venues.
- Central City/ Garden District: Home to New Orleans' grandest mansions. Central City has had a lot of crime in recent years, so be somewhat mindful.
- Uptown/ Carrollton: This University area is home to both Tulane University and Loyola University (both in Carrollton). Can have a more laidback, college town feel. Make a trip to Magazine Street for the shops and restaurants.  
*Note: It would probably be easiest to find summer sublets here as most of the university housing is off campus.*
- Mid-City: An eclectic area of locals and artists and the home of the historic Tremé neighborhood. Central part of town. Home to the New Orleans Museum of Art, City Park, and the New Orleans Fair Grounds (a racetrack that hosts the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival every spring).
- Lakeview: Home to City Park. Moderately affluent neighborhood filled with frame cottages and brick ranch-style homes.
- Gentilly: Badly damaged by Katrina, this neighborhood is still recovering.
- Bywater: Home to the post-Katrina Musician's Village neighborhood.
- Lower Ninth Ward: One of the hardest hit by Katrina. Go visit and see the rebuilding.



### *Housing Resources:*

Craigslist! New Orleans has a very active craigslist housing market. As compared to many other cities, housing in New Orleans is relatively affordable. That being said, there are some unsafe areas of the city, and sometimes it may even vary by block. Be particularly careful when it comes to areas that remain largely unoccupied post-Katrina. It may be worth talking to a resident or someone familiar with the city once you get to the point of committing.

There are also dorm-style accommodations available in the summer as New Orleans' student population disperses for the break. Loyola University offers housing for up to 10 weeks for \$190/wk for a double occupancy room or \$246 for a single.

*Links:* [www.nola.com](http://www.nola.com)  
[www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com)  
<http://www.loyno.edu/reslife/housingcontract.htm#Interns>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

### ***NORTA***

Public transportation in New Orleans is unreliable and inconvenient. The streetcar has become more a nostalgic tourist attraction than a real mode of transportation. Cars run approximately every 15 minutes, but delays can make the wait closer to 45 minutes, especially when embarking from Canal St. There are three streetcar routes in the city. For routes and schedules, check out [www.norta.com](http://www.norta.com); <http://www.norta.com/routes/timetables/system.pdf>.

### *Fares*

- One Time Ride (Streetcar/Bus): \$1.25
- One month pass: \$55.00
- One Day Pass (Unlimited Rides): \$5.00
- Three Day Pass (Unlimited Rides): \$12.00
- Five Day Pass (Unlimited Rides): \$20.00

Transfer: \$0.25

*For Purchasing Passes See:*

<http://norta.com/passes/buypasses.php>

### **Taxis**

Generally, downtown cabs are easy to hail on the street and at certain other locations throughout the city (Magazine St. and the University area Uptown). During major events, it is best to call for a cab. Be prepared to wait at least 15 minutes after calling during peak hours and when there are major events in town. In New Orleans it is always best to find a cab driver that you trust. Many drivers will take more expensive routes if they think you don't know the way. Be careful. Rides from the airport are a flat \$30 dollar charge (exclusive of tip).

United Cabs: (504) 522-9771

Checker Yellow Cabs: (504) 525-3311

American Taxi: (504) 299-0386

White Fleet: (504) 822-3800

### **Cars/Bikes/Walking**

A car is likely a necessity in New Orleans due to the dismal public transportation system. Be careful when driving; speed limits are not posted on most roads. Generally, if there is "neutral ground" on the road, the speed limit is 35. New Orleans roads can also be rough on your car, so watch for potholes. Unless you live very close to work, walking in New Orleans summer humidity and afternoon showers will make for a less than pleasant experience. Most things are not in close walking distance. Biking is a feasible option, but sidewalks and streets can prove to be major hazards due to the condition of the pavement and protruding tree routes. Biking should be left to those with ample experience.

### *Getting There*

#### **Bus/Train**

Bus and train stations are next to each other at 1001 Loyola Avenue, by the edge of the Central Business District and within walking distance of the Super Dome. Both Greyhound [11] and Amtrak [12] service the terminal.

#### **Plane**

Louis Armstrong International Airport is the city's primary airport, located in the suburb of Kenner. After a severe dip after the Hurricane Katrina disaster in 2005, by late 2006 the airport had rebounded to 3/4 of its pre-Katrina flights.

To get into town a taxi (\$30 for one or two people, \$14 per person for three or more) is quickest; that's the flat fee from the airport to any spot in the French Quarter or Central Business District. Airport shuttle is \$20, and Jefferson Transit Airport Express route E2 only \$2.

## **FOOD**

General note: Food in New Orleans is awesome. Eat out a lot. Also look out for restaurants that are BYOB, which can be a great way to save money/have fun.

### **Uptown**

#### *Cheapish:*

Ninja: A personal favorite for sushi. Ninja is fresh and well priced. Service is spotty. Try the Rainbow Roll, Dynamite Roll, and Special Crunchy Roll.  
Address: 8433 Oak St.

Fresco: A Tulane go-to for a diverse selection of pasta, sandwiches, and salads. There are coupons on the back of the to-go menu, which are sitting on the main counter.  
Address: 7625 Maple St.

Juan's Flying Burrito: This burrito place is far from authentic Mexican and is known for its gutter punk vibe. The burritos are untouchable for how good they are for the price. Try the jerk chicken burrito on a chipotle wrap.  
Address: 2018 Magazine St., 4724 South Carrollton Ave.

Crabby Jack's (only open until 3): The best po' boy in New Orleans! This po' boy shop is the lunchtime counterpart to the more upscale Jacques Imos. Try the oyster po' boy and the fried green tomatoes.  
Address: 428 Jefferson Highway

Slice: For fresh pizza by the pie or the slice, this relatively new pizza place is the best. Try the fresh pizza.  
Address: 1513 St. Charles Ave.; 5538 Magazine St.

Domilise's: Another favorite for a good po' boy. Try the roast beef po boy.  
Address: 5240 Annunciation St.

Naked Pizza: Made with whole wheat and high fiber crust and fresh toppings, this pizza place is great for eating a little healthier. Check the website for coupons.  
Address: 748 Camp St.

Stein's Market and Deli: A traditional Jewish deli. Try the bagel and lox.  
Address: 2207 Magazine St.

St. James Cheese Company: Great sandwich shop. Nice outdoor seating. Try the brie plate.  
Address: 5004 Prytania St.

#### *Not So Cheap:*

Jacques Imos: Creole food and flare.  
Address: 8324 Oak St.

Commander's Palace: A New Orleans tradition.

Address: 1403 Washington Ave.

*Dessert:*

Sucre: An upscale sweets shop.  
Address: 3025 Magazine St.

Creole Creamery: Known for its creative flavor combinations such as Lavender Honey and the massive Tchoupitoulas Sundae, Creole Creamery is extremely popular and well priced homemade ice cream. Try the red velvet! Featured on the Food Network.  
Address: 4924 Prytania St.

**Downtown**

*Cheapish:*

Port of Call: "Cheeseburger In Paradise" was written about Port of Call. Only serves burgers or steaks with a potato or salad. Big drinks.

Address: 838 Esplanade Ave. (Hint: if very crowded, go to Snug Harbor, which is owned by the same people and serves all Port has to offer and then some)

Coop's: Great New Orleans food at a great price. Nice stop after walking around on Royal St. Get the Cajun pasta.

Address: 1109 Decatur St.

*Not So Cheap:*

NOLA: One of Emeril's three restaurants in New Orleans. Casual atmosphere but fine dining. Try the duck and then the sweet potato ice cream.

**Midcity:**

*Cheapish:*

Parkway Bakery and Tavern: Great place to grab a po' boy or a Reuben. Try the sweet potato fries.

Address: 538 Hagan Avenue

*Not So Cheap:*

Ralph's on the Park: New Orleans style small plates.

Address: 900 City Park Ave.

*Dessert:*

Brocato's: Wonderful gelato and pastries. Been around forever. Try the cannolis.

Address: 214 N. Carrollton Ave.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Restaurants!**

See above.

**Festivals**

Check out <http://www.nola.com/festivals/>.

Creole Tomato Festival: A celebration of the tomato. Free music and food tastings. Mid- June in the French Quarter.

Food and Wine Festival: “The New Orleans Wine & Food Experience, one of the most prestigious festivals of its kind, celebrates 19 years of wine and food with a five-day extravaganza, May 25-29, 2010. The event brings together world-renowned winemakers, celebrated chefs and industry insiders for a showcase of signature events designed to entertain, educate and inspire!” [www.nowfe.com](http://www.nowfe.com)

Essence Music Festival: July 4<sup>th</sup> Weekend  
<http://www.essencemusicfestival.com/>

## **Parks**

Audubon Park – City park located in Uptown, between St. Charles Ave. and Magazine Street. Contains the Audubon Zoo, running/biking tracks, etc.

City Park – one of the most visited urban parks in the United States. Located in Mid-city, 2 miles from the French Quarter. Contains the New Orleans Museum of Art, a sculpture garden, and a botanical garden.

“The Fly” aka the Levee – Riverview Drive, part of Audubon Park, long stretch of land behind the zoo, on the levee overlooking the Mississippi River. A popular place for picnics and pick-up sports.

## **Sports**

New Orleans Zephyrs: New Orleans minor league baseball team. Check the website for specials such as Thirsty Thursdays. Tickets are around \$10.  
<http://www.minorleaguebaseball.com/index.jsp?sid=t588>

## **Nightlife**

Check out <http://www.neworleansdrinkspecials.com> to find a great deal any night of the week.

### *Frenchman Street*

Recommendations: Blue Nile, DBA, Apple Barrel, Snug Harbor (best jazz in the city)  
It is fun and charming and is where the locals go out downtown.

### *Magazine St*

Recommendations: The Bulldog, Ms. Mae’s, The Boot, Balcony Bar, Bridge Lounge  
Specials:

Bulldog: free pint glasses on Wednesdays, great atmosphere, and bring your dog

Ms. Mae’s: Open 24/7, one dollar wells, 2 dollar beers all the time

The Boot: an Uptown staple for college students;

50 Cent night: 5 dollar cover, 50 cent drinks

Wednesday and Friday happy hour: 3 for 1 Beers and Wells

### *Downtown*

Recommendations: The Republic, One Eyed Jack's

### Bourbon St.

Recommendations: Worth a visit once. Try the Piano Bar at Pat O'Brien's and a hand grenade at Tropical Isle.

### **Museums**

#### New Orleans Museum of Art:

Free admission Wednesdays from noon to eight PM. Check out the City Park Sculpture Garden in the back.

Address: 1 Collin Diboll Circle

#### Newcomb Art Gallery:

<http://www.tulane.edu/~newcomb/artindex.html>

Address: 55 Newcomb Place

#### WWII Museum:

<http://www.ddaymuseum.org/>

Address: 945 Magazine St.

#### Ogden Museum:

Home to the largest collection of Southern art in the world.

<http://www.ogdenmuseum.org/>

Address: 925 Camp St.

#### New Orleans Mint:

<http://lsm.crt.state.la.us/Mintex.htm>

Address: 400 Esplanade Ave.

### **Zoo, Aquarium, etc.**

The Audubon Institute runs all of New Orleans major animal attractions. Check out

<http://www.auduboninstitute.org/> for packages for the three locations.

#### Audubon Zoo:

One of the top five zoos in the country. Beautifully layout out with an amazing assortment of animals.

Address: 6500 Magazine St.

#### Aquarium of the Americas:

One of the leading aquariums in the United States. Located along the Mississippi on the edge of the French Quarter. Also has an IMAX. Can also combine a trip here with a river cruise.

Address: 1 Canal St.

#### Audubon Insectarium:

Address: 423 Canal St.

## **Movies**

Prytania Theater: The only one house theater in the state. [www.theprytania.com](http://www.theprytania.com)  
Address: 5339 Prytania Street

Canal Place Cinemas: Mostly independent films.  
Address: 333 Canal St

## **Shopping**

Canal Place: Saks, Banana, Coach, BCBG  
[www.theshopsatcanalplace.com](http://www.theshopsatcanalplace.com)  
Address: 333 Canal St.

Lakeside Mall (Metairie): [www.lakesideshopping.com](http://www.lakesideshopping.com)  
Address: 3301 Veterans Memorial Boulevard (Metairie)

Magazine Street: Boutique shopping for blocks, some blocks are higher end, others are funky and cheap vintage

French Market: Crafts, spices, and souvenirs galore. [www.frenchmarket.org/](http://www.frenchmarket.org/)

## **Other Fun Ideas:**

Abita Factory: Free tour of New Orleans own brewery. A bit of a drive across the lake.  
[www.abita.com/](http://www.abita.com/)

Address: 166 Barbee Rd., Abita Springs, LA

Racetrack/Fairgrounds: <http://www.fairgroundsracecourse.com/>

Address: 1751 Gentilly Boulevard

Algiers Ferry Ride: Take a free ride from the East Bank, downtown, to the West Bank.

<http://www.algierspoint.org/>

Plantation Tours

<http://www.plantationadventure.com/>

<http://www.graylineneworleans.com/plantation.shtml>

Swamp Tours

You're likely to see alligators, bald eagles, waterfowl, egrets, owls, herons, ospreys, feral hogs, otters, beavers, frogs, turtles, raccoons, deer, and nutria (maybe even a black bear or a mink) as you spend a morning floating on a bayou.

[www.pearlrivercotours.com](http://www.pearlrivercotours.com)

[www.westwegoswampadventures.com](http://www.westwegoswampadventures.com)

[www.honeyislandswamp.com](http://www.honeyislandswamp.com)

Historic/Ghost Tours

Historic New Orleans Tour: very highly recommended. Give daily walking tours of the French Quarter. Also offer a Voodoo tour, Haunted Tour, and Garden District tour.

[www.tourneworleans.com](http://www.tourneworleans.com)