New Orleans is a major United States port located in southeastern Louisiana, straddling the Mississippi River Delta. The city is named after the French city Orléans and is well known for its distinct French Creole architecture, as well as its cross-cultural and multilingual heritage. The city is often referred to as the ‘most unique’ in America and is one of the top ten most visited cities in the United States.

Historically, New Orleans was controlled by the Spanish, then the French. Napoleon sold the territory to the United States in the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. As a principal port, New Orleans played a major role during the slave trade when slaves brought to the Deep South arrived via the city. During the American Civil War, the Union captured New Orleans early, sparing the destruction suffered by many other cities of the American South. By the mid-20th century, the city was being surpassed as the leading urban area in the South. While the port remained one of the largest in the nation, automation and containerization resulted in significant job losses resulting in a steady decline in the city’s fortunes.

New Orleans has always been vulnerable to flooding and the city was catastrophically affected by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. By the time the hurricane approached, most residents had evacuated. As the hurricane passed through the Gulf Coast region, the city’s federal flood protection system failed, resulting in the worst civil engineering disaster in American history leaving 80% of the city flooded. The city is now well on the way to a full recovery with both residents and business returning to the city in increasing numbers.

New Orleans has many major attractions, from the world-renowned French Quarter and Bourbon Street’s notorious nightlife. New Orleans’ unique musical heritage was born in its early days by the blending of European instruments with African rhythms and so becoming the birthplace of jazz. New Orleans is world-famous for its Creole and Cajun cuisine and street food.

New Orleans' professional sports teams include the 2009 NFL Super Bowl champion's the New Orleans Saints. The Louisiana Superdome is the home of the Saints, the Sugar Bowl, and other prominent sporting events. It has hosted the Super Bowl a record seven times.

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