

signs that can be spotted throughout the city, have set up shop in this rapidly developing area.

The Garden District is a great neighborhood to stroll (⇒ *See our Garden District Walking Tour in Chapter 1*). Magazine Street, near the southern border of the neighborhood, is an excellent shopping destination with many antiques and novelty shops as well as restaurants and bars. St. Charles Avenue to the north also has several restaurants and bars.

## UPPER GARDEN DISTRICT

A morning walk in this unique neighborhood is like stepping back in time. Besides beautiful mansions with wrought-iron fences that wrap around vibrant manicured gardens, the neighborhood has Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, one of the city's oldest and most beautiful cemeteries, and historic Commander's Palace, one of the city's best-known restaurants. Return to present day by visiting the stretch of Magazine Street that runs alongside the Upper Garden District, which boasts an eclectic mix of restaurants and chichi boutiques.

### TOP ATTRACTIONS

**Brevard House.** Though Anne Rice moved out of her elegant Garden District home in 2004, the famous novelist's fans still flock to see the house that inspired the Mayfair Manor in her series *Lives of the Mayfair Witches*. The house is a three-bay Greek Revival, extended over a luxurious side yard and surrounded by a fence of cast-iron rosettes that earned the estate's historical name, *Rosegate*. ☒ 1239 1st St., *Upper Garden District*.

**Elms Mansion.** Built in 1869, this home saw the Confederate president Jefferson Davis as a frequent guest. The house, which has been meticulously maintained and furnished with period pieces, is the site of many receptions. Self-guided tours of the interior are free. Group tours are conducted on weekdays by appointment. Highlights include a carved oak staircase and mantelpiece and 24-karat gilt moldings and sconces. ☒ 3029 St. Charles Ave., *Upper Garden District* ☎ 504/895-9200 ☎ *Group tours \$6 per person* ☺ *Self-guided tours Tues.-Fri. 10-2; group tours by appointment.*

**House of Broel's Victorian Mansion and Dollhouse Museum.** Antique furnishings fill this restored antebellum home. The dollhouse collection includes miniatures of Victorian, Tudor, and plantation-style houses. The home also features a wedding store. Walk-ins are welcome, however larger groups should call

### TOURS

#### Historic New Orleans Tours.

This excellent guided tour of the Garden District meets twice daily (11 am and 1:45 pm) in front of the Garden District Book Store (2727 Prytania Street) inside the Rink. No reservations are needed, but arrive 15 minutes early. It's also possible to buy tickets online. The tour last about 2 hours and takes you to the former home of Ann Rice as well as beautiful Lafayette Cemetery No. 1. ☎ 504/947-2120 🌐 [www.tourneworleans.com](http://www.tourneworleans.com).

## WALKING TOURS

Free one-hour walking tours along the Mississippi River levee, with a discussion of the interaction between the river and the city are given daily at 9:30 am by rangers of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Tickets are available at the Jean Lafitte Parks French Quarter Visitor Center starting at 9 am on the morning of the tour. Check the National Park Service website for details. Tickets are free, but tours are limited to 25 people. Two-hour general history tours, beginning at the 1850 House on Jackson Square, are given Tuesday through Sunday at 10 and 1:30 by Friends of the Cabildo.

Several specialized walking tours conducted by knowledgeable guides on specific aspects of the French Quarter are also available. Be sure to make advance reservations to confirm the tour is being offered. Heritage Tours leads a general literary tour as well as others focusing on either William Faulkner or Tennessee Williams.

The cemeteries of New Orleans fascinate many people because of their unique aboveground tombs. Save Our Cemeteries conducts guided walking tours of St. Louis No. 1 as well as Lafayette No. 1. Reservations are generally required.

Voodoo- and spiritual-themed tours are popular in New Orleans and several companies, including Haunted History Tours, Historic New Orleans Walking Tours, and New Orleans Spirit Tours have spooky options to choose from.

**Contact Information Friends of the Cabildo**

☎ 504/523-3939 🌐 [www.friendsofthecabildo.org](http://www.friendsofthecabildo.org). **Gray Line** ☎ 800/233-2628 or 504/569-

1401 🌐 [www.graylineneworleans.com](http://www.graylineneworleans.com).

**Haunted History Tours** ☎ 888/644-6787 or 504/861-2727 🌐 [www.hauntedhistorytours.com](http://www.hauntedhistorytours.com).

**Historic New Orleans Walking Tours**

☎ 504/947-2120 🌐 [www.tourneworleans.com](http://www.tourneworleans.com).

**Honey Island Swamp Tours** ☎ 985/641-

1769 🌐 [www.honeyislandswamp.com](http://www.honeyislandswamp.com). **Jean**

**Lafitte National Historical Park and**

**Preserve: French Quarter Visitors Center**

✉ 419 Decatur St., French Quarter ☎ 504/589-2636 🌐 [www.nps.gov/jela/french-quarter-site.htm](http://www.nps.gov/jela/french-quarter-site.htm) 😊 Daily 9-5. **Jean Lafitte Swamp**

**and Airboat Tours** ☎ 800/445-4109 or

504/587-1719 🌐 [www.jeanlafitteswamptour.com](http://www.jeanlafitteswamptour.com). **New Orleans Spirit Tours** ☎ 504/314-

0806 🌐 [www.neworleanstours.net](http://www.neworleanstours.net). **Save**

**Our Cemeteries** ☎ 504/525-3377 🌐 [www.saveourcemeteries.org](http://www.saveourcemeteries.org). **Tours by Isabelle**

☎ 877/665-8687 or 504/398-0365 🌐 [www.tourbyisabelle.com](http://www.tourbyisabelle.com).

## A GOOD GARDEN DISTRICT WALK

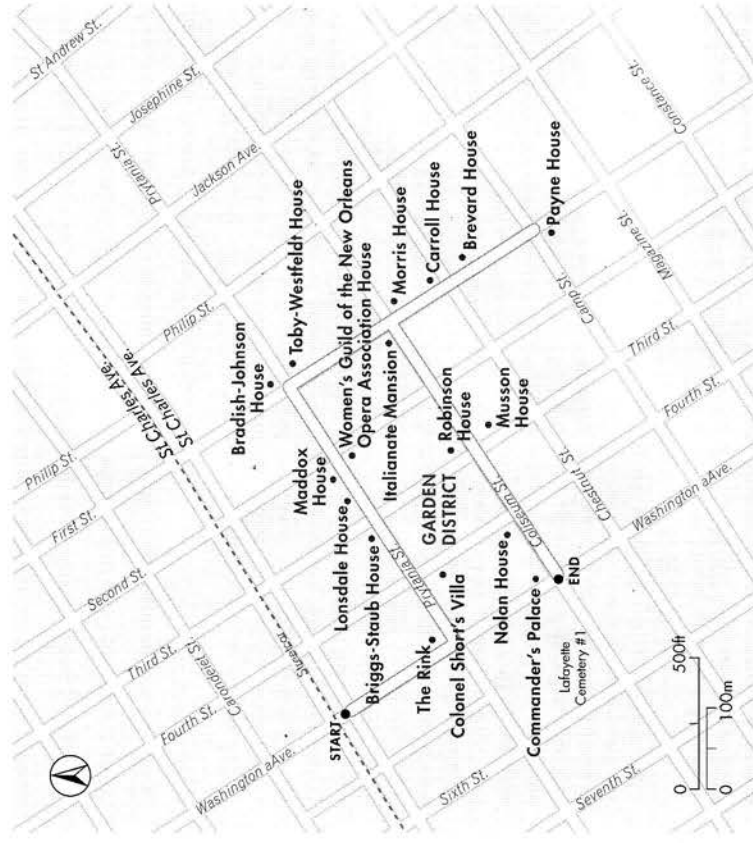
As New Orleans expanded upriver from Canal Street in the 19th century, wealthy newcomers built their majestic homes in the Garden District, one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in the country. Today the area is home to politicians, fifth-generation New Orleanians, and celebrities, including local favorite John Goodman. A walk through the Garden District, just a 20-minute streetcar ride from the French Quarter, provides a unique look at life in New Orleans, past and present.

Start out at the Rink, a small shopping complex at the Washington Avenue and Prytania Street intersection, one block from the streetcar stop. Walk a block east on Prytania (the main artery of the district) to the corner of Fourth Street to see **Colonel Short's Villa**, known for its ornate cornstalk fence, which supposedly was built for his wife who was homesick for Kentucky. Towards Third Street, the **Briggs-Staub House** is one of the few Gothic Revival houses in the city. No expense was spared in the construction of the **Lonsdale House** across the street, which functioned as a Catholic chapel for more than 70 years. The **Maddox House**, next door, is an example of the five-bay Greek Revival expansion. Across Prytania at the corner of Second is the **Women's Guild of the New Orleans Opera Association House**, with its distinctive octagonal turret; it now functions as a catering hall for weddings and other social events. At First and Prytania streets is the regal **Bradish-Johnson House**, now a private girls' school, and the relatively modest raised **Toby-Westfeldt House**, an example of a Creole colonial home.

Turn right and walk down First Street. Built in 1869, **Morris House** on the corner of Coliseum and **Carroll House** next door, where the classic *Toys In the Attic* was filmed, are decorated with "iron lace,"

exemplifying the era's romantic, Italianate style. Across Chestnut Street, **Brevard House**, also known as Rosegate for the ornate cast-iron gate that extends the length of the block, was the home of author Anne Rice from 1989 to 2004. One block farther on the right is the **Payne House**, where Confederate president Jefferson Davis died.

Walk back up First Street, toward Coliseum. The street takes you past some of the most beautiful and historic homes in the South. The **Italianate Mansion** at First and Coliseum streets was the former home of rock singer Trent Reznor. Actor John Goodman now lives there. Across the street from each other at Coliseum and Third streets are the white-columned **Robinson House**, thought to be the first house in New Orleans with indoor plumbing, and the intricate iron-balconied **Musson House**, built by Edgar Degas's maternal uncle. The white-columned **Nolan House**, at 2707 Coliseum, is where Benjamin Button was raised in the film *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*. Next door, one of New Orleans's most famous restaurants, **Commander's Palace**, is a great place to stop off for lunch, and across Washington Avenue is the white-walled **Lafayette Cemetery No. 1**, arguably the most beautiful cemetery in the city.



**Where to Start:** The Rink on Prytania Street and Washington Avenue

**Distance:** 1 mile

**Timing:** 45 minutes (without stops inside)

**Where to Stop:** Women's Guild of the New Orleans Opera Association House for interior tours on Monday; Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, open to visitors from Monday through Saturday

**Best Time to Go:** Mornings, especially in spring and fall. Monday for the Women's Guild tours

**Worst Time to Go:** Midday, especially in summer; Sunday when the cemetery is closed

**Good in the Hood:** Stein's Deli, Tracey's Irish Channel Bar, Coquette bistro and wine bar, Commander's Palace

## A GOOD GALLERY WALK IN THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Julia Street in the Warehouse District is the epicenter of New Orleans's contemporary art scene, and for art enthusiasts, a day on (and just off of) Julia is a requirement. The street is lined with galleries, specialty shops, and modern apartment buildings, with the greatest concentration stretching from South Peters Street to Carrollton Avenue.

Start your walk on Camp and St. Joseph streets. Whet your appetite for art-buying inside the airy, contemporary, stone-and-glass-walled **Ogden Museum of Southern Art** (☎925 Camp St. ☎504/539-9600), which houses the largest collection of Southern art anywhere. Across the street, the multidisciplinary **Contemporary Arts Center** (☎900 Camp St. ☎504/528-3805) hosts performances, concerts, and lectures, and runs stimulating and eclectic exhibitions by local and foreign artists. Pop in if there's an exhibition, and then continue on your way down Camp to Julia Street. Turn left when you get to Julia, where there are five gallery and studio spaces in the single block between this corner and St. Charles Avenue.

At Camp and Julia streets, you'll find the **Jean Bragg Gallery of Southern Art** (☎600 Julia St. ☎504/895-7375), located in the first of the Thirteen Sisters addresses that make up the historic Julia Street Row. Jean Bragg shows a mix of contemporary and historical paintings depicting Louisiana scenery and life, works by the famed Mississippi artist Walter Anderson, and pottery and crafts from the renowned Newcomb College.

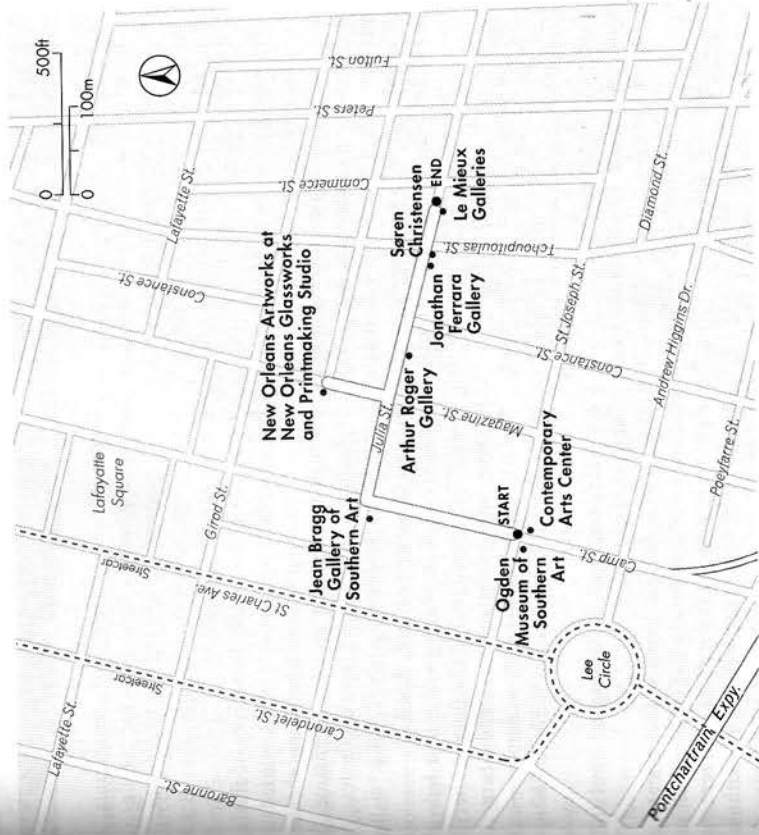
As you head toward the river on Julia Street, detour up Magazine Street toward the French Quarter for a visit to **New Orleans Artworks at New Orleans Glassworks and Printmaking Studio** (☎727 Magazine St. ☎504/529-7279). Watch free, live, artist demonstrations from a front-row

seat or shop the vibrant gallery full of sculptures and glassware in exotic shapes and hues—your purchase will fund education programs at this nonprofit gallery and school. Once outside the studio again, return to Julia and continue your walk toward the Mississippi.

Longtime champion of the visual arts scene in New Orleans, **Arthur Roger** maintains a world-class gallery (☎432-434 Julia St. ☎504/522-1999) that occupies two adjacent Julia Street addresses behind gleaming glass-walled facades. The gallery is a leader in representing prominent local artists and works from around the globe and is an influential presence in the national art scene.

On the next block, you'll find contemporary work with a political edge and a public conscience at **Jonathan Ferrara Gallery** (☎400a Julia St. ☎504/522-5471). Directly next door, the lofty whitewashed brick-and-glass space inside **Søren Christensen** (☎400 Julia St. ☎504/569-9501) provides a gorgeous backdrop for equally gorgeous and always excellent exhibitions, largely of contemporary painting, but sometimes of photography and sculpture.

Keep heading toward the river to **Le Mieux Galleries** (☎332 Julia St. ☎504/522-5988), where Gulf South artists are the stars; drawings, paintings, photography, and sculpture from throughout the region are showcased here.



### Where to Start:

Distance: About a half mile

Timing: Several hours to all day, depending on how much time you have and how much you want to see

Where to Stop: Julia and Commerce streets

### Best Time to Go:

First Saturday of every month, when Art Walks are hosted by Warehouse District galleries from 6 to 9 pm. Two Saturdays not to be missed if you happen to be in town are Jammín' on Julia in April and Whitney White Linen Night in August, wildly popular, all-out art block parties enjoyed by enthusiastic crowds.

Worst Time to Go: Sunday, when nearly all galleries are closed

### Good in the Hood:

Award-winning chefs Donald Link and Stephen Strykowski showcase charcuterie and Southern cuisine at Cochon (☎930 Tchoupitoulas St. ☎504/588-2123). Next door, Butcher (☎930 Tchoupitoulas St. ☎504/588-7675) is a more casual deli offering sandwiches and small plates (with smaller prices to match).