

General information: New Orleans

Some of New Orleans is still lacking electricity, although the situation improves daily. First Unitarian Church and Community Church of New Orleans were both located in areas that flooded. The tourist areas, such as the French Quarter, Warehouse District, and parts of Uptown, were largely unaffected by the floodwaters.

Accommodations

Volunteer Center of First UU Church of New Orleans: Pleasant “camping conditions.” The center has cots and air mattresses and a full kitchen in an air-conditioned space. Showers are guaranteed, but not always hot showers. The center requests a \$5 donation per person per day to cover utility costs.

Carrollton United Methodist Church: Has kitchen facilities, showers, and air mattresses for a \$3 donation per person per day to cover utility costs.

Parking

Street parking is available at both facilities.

Food and drink

Your group will be responsible for all meals and drinks. Most sites will have microwaves and refrigerators.

Area Grocery Stores

Hours subject to change. Call ahead to confirm.

Whole Foods Market

5600 Magazine St.

New Orleans, LA 70115

504-899-9119, www.wholefoods.com

Store hours:

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday–Saturday

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday

Wal-Mart Supercenter Store

1901 Tchoupitoulas St.

New Orleans, LA 70130

504-522-4142

Crescent City Farmers Market

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Broadway Avenue side of Uptown Square (closest to church)

8 a.m. to noon Saturday, at Magazine and Girord streets

www.crescentcityfarmersmarket.org

A list of open restaurants can be found at

http://neworleansonline.com/neworleans/cuisine/restaurant_listings.html.

Transportation

You must provide your own transportation.

Climate

South Louisiana is a coastal climate and to say it's humid is an understatement. The winters are short and mild and the spring and fall delightful. The summer, unfortunately, can sometimes be a long, steamy, hot four to six months. This is the kind of humidity where you take a shower, emerge outside and get wet all over again.

Rainfall hits about 60 inches a year for New Orleans. Hard rainstorms can deliver several inches within a few hours! Summertime means daily thunderstorms off the Gulf. Wait 20 minutes and they are usually gone and the sun reappears. Be sure and carry umbrellas with you everywhere. If lightning happens (and it should), take cover.

If you're working in the summer, please take precautions. Try to work in early and late afternoons-evenings to avoid the hot part of the day. Drink lots of water, since you will sweat a lot in the excessive humidity. Watch out for sunstroke; wear appropriate hats and clothes to keep cool and the sun off your face.

If you're working in the winter, chances are it will be damp and cool with stretches reaching down to freezing and below. Wear clothes in layers. It's not unusual for winter weather to be spring-like in the morning and close to snow in the afternoon. Cold fronts move in fast and bring drastic temperature changes and sometimes violent weather. Get used to those beeping noises on your TV that the weather service issues.

Spring and fall are the best times to visit New Orleans. However, drastic temperature changes can still occur, as well as stormy weather. It's best to bring all kinds of clothes, wear them in layers, and adjust accordingly.

During emergencies

[New Orleans medical facilities and pharmacies](#). <link to this list>

Because of the fragile nature of the Gulf Coast, mandatory evacuations may be issued if hurricanes approach the area. Be prepared to leave immediately should this occur.

The UUA-UUSC Gulf Coast Volunteer Program will have an evacuation plan in place, but you will be expected to bring bedding, food, and water with you. As a reminder, all volunteers must provide their own transportation in and out of the region.

Please see [Hurricane season for volunteers](#). <link to this form>