

# VACAYA

open sea. open mind.

## 2025 Mardi Gras Experience - Schedule of Events

### Friday, February 28

- Throughout the Day - Arrivals into New Orleans for guests who've booked our 5-night Mardi Gras Experience
- Taxis and Uber are readily available at New Orleans International Airport (MSY)
- Hotel Indigo is located at **705 Common Street**
- Luggage storage is available at Hotel Indigo if you arrive before rooms are ready at 3pm
- **3pm** - Hotel Indigo check-in available
- **3pm-6pm** - VACAYA Hospitality Desk open in the Hotel Indigo Lobby (with printed restaurant and bar recommendations as well as general safety tips for navigating New Orleans)

### Saturday, March 1

- **8:50am** - Group 1 transfers from Brilliance of the Seas to Hotel Indigo\*
- **9:10am** - Group 2 transfers from Brilliance of the Seas to Hotel Indigo\*
- **9:30am** - Group 3 transfers from Brilliance of the Seas to Hotel Indigo\*
- **9:50am** - Group 4 transfers from Brilliance of the Seas to Hotel Indigo\*
- **10:10am** - Group 5 transfers from Brilliance of the Seas to Hotel Indigo\*
- **10:30am** - Group 6 transfers from Brilliance of the Seas to Hotel Indigo\*

\*You'll receive communication onboard Brilliance of the Seas as to which Group you've been assigned to.

- Upon arrival at Hotel Indigo, all rooms will be ready to be occupied
- **9:30am-12:30pm** - Hospitality Desk is open in the Hotel Indigo Lobby. **EVERYONE** needs to swing by the desk to pick up all your event tickets. And you'll hear us say this over and over and OVER again... **BRING YOUR TICKET!** Make it your ever-present mantra throughout your stay and you won't go wrong. And let us say this as clearly as possible... your tickets are irreplaceable. If lost, you're simply out of luck in regard to attending that ticketed event. And if you don't have your ticket with you for an event,

you won't get in. And no level of frustration, anger, or yelling at anyone will change that situation. So, breathe it in and repeat after us: "*Bring My Ticket. Bring My Ticket. Bring My Ticket.*" Ok... dead horse, beaten.

- **4pm** - Grandstands open to watch the Krewe of Endymion

Our "Poydras B" grandstand is located at the corner of St. Charles Avenue & Poydras Street. You'll get to the grandstand on foot. Make a left when exiting the hotel lobby and then turn immediately right onto St. Charles Avenue. Walk 4 short blocks, cross Poydras Street, and ours will be the first grandstand on the corner. **BRING YOUR TICKET!**

**Pro Tip:** Download the WDSU Parade Tracker app for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#). This app will give you the exact location of each parade from the moment it begins rolling. We anticipate Endymion will reach our grandstand by 6pm (a rough estimate, to be sure). Use the parade tracker app to follow the parade's progress to time your arrival at the grandstand.

## Sunday, March 2

- **4pm** - Suggested time to leave Hotel Indigo. You'll be walking to Brennan's, and although it's a relatively short distance, you'll be required to cross the active parade route on Canal Street to get to the restaurant. There will be locations along Canal Street that you'll need to queue up to cross (these Crossing Points should be fairly obvious). When there's a break in the parade, the barricades will open, and everyone will be allowed to cross into the French Quarter. Brennan's is located at **417 Royal Street**.

To get to Brennan's, make a left when exiting the hotel lobby, then a left onto St. Charles Avenue. If there's no queue on the next corner, make a right onto Canal Street and proceed until you find a Canal Street Crossing Point. Once you've crossed Canal Street, simply use your phone's Map to guide you to the restaurant. It'll be crowded out there but just keep swimming swimming swimming.

- **4:30pm-6:30pm** - Pre-parade Cocktail and Dinner Reception at one of New Orleans' most famous restaurants, Brennan's.

Open Premium Bar, with the following food menu:

- Gulf Oysters, served with Lemon, Mignonette, and Cocktail Sauce
- Marinated Crab Claws
- Seafood File Gumbo
- Vegetable Orecchiette Pasta, with seasonal Squash, Spinach, Leeks, Tomato, Shitake Mushrooms, etc. in a creamy herb and wine sauce
- BBQ Shrimp & Grits
- Sweet Tea-brined Turkey Breast
- Pepper-Dusted Prime Rib of Beef
- Whipped Potatoes
- Roasted Root Vegetables
- Bananas Foster (Brennan's is where this delicious dessert was invented!)
- Assorted Seasonal Mini Desserts

- **5:30pm** - Grandstands open to watch the Krewe of Bacchus. We're once again at "Poydras B," same as last night - on the corner of St. Charles Avenue and Poydras Street. We anticipate Bacchus arriving at our grandstand around 7pm (but again, this is a rough estimate). Use the WDSU Parade Tracker to follow the parade's progress. To get from Brennan's to "Poydras B," you can put the following address into your phone's map: 500 St. Charles Avenue. That'll get you to the correct cross streets. **BRING YOUR TICKET!**

### Monday, March 3

- **10:15am** - Meet in the Hotel Lobby for a 10:30am departure to the Bayou Barn Cajun Fais Do Do (that's a party, y'all)!
- **11:30am** - Anticipated arrival at Bayou Barn

Our Crawfish Boil lunch features:

- Premium Open Bar
  - Boiled Crawfish
  - Louisiana Celebration Salad
  - Cochon de Lait (that's roasted pig)
  - Vegetarian Jambalaya
  - Vegetarian Mardi Gras Pasta
  - Cajun Corn Maque Choux
  - Spicy Boiled New Potatoes
  - Jalapeño Cornbread
  - White Chocolate Bread Pudding
- **1:40pm** - Depart Bayou Barn via bus for Airboat Adventures. It'll be windy out there. So, be sure to bring an appropriate outer layer depending on the weather.
  - **2pm** - Anticipated arrival at Airboat Adventures
  - **4pm** - Depart Airboat Adventures for Hotel Indigo
  - **5pm** - Anticipated arrival at Hotel Indigo
  - **7:45pm** - Meet in Hotel Indigo Lobby in Black Tie Evening Wear for our group walk one block away from Hotel Indigo to our bus pick-up spot at 200 Carondelet Street. We'll turn right as we exit the hotel lobby, walk one block, and then turn left to get to the busses.
  - **8pm** - Busses depart for the Krewe of Orpheus Ball, Orpheuscapade, at the New Orleans Convention Center (the Ball is where the parade ends - the floats come right into the Convention Center for a massive celebration!) **BRING YOUR TICKET!**

Upon arrival at the Convention Center, join one of the 18 VACAYA tables

Each 10-top table will receive the following:

- 2 Bottles of Ketel One Vodka
- 1 Bottle of Tanqueray Gin

- 1 Bottle of Crown Royal
  - Mixers & Sliced Fruit
  - 25 Mini Muffulettas (those are some yummy Nola sandwiches, y'all)
  - 50 Finger Sandwiches
  - 50 Boiled Large Gulf Shrimp
  - 24 Meat Pies
  - 24 Chicken Tenders
  - 20 Slices of King Cake
  - A Souvenir Mardi Gras Bag (for all the beads you'll catch!)
- **3am** - Busses depart the Convention Center to return to Hotel Indigo. If you'd like to leave before 3am, you can certainly try to get a taxi or Uber, but your best bet is to return to Hotel Indigo on foot. It's about a 0.8 mile walk and will likely take you about 20-30 minutes.

## Tuesday, March 4 - FAT TUESDAY!

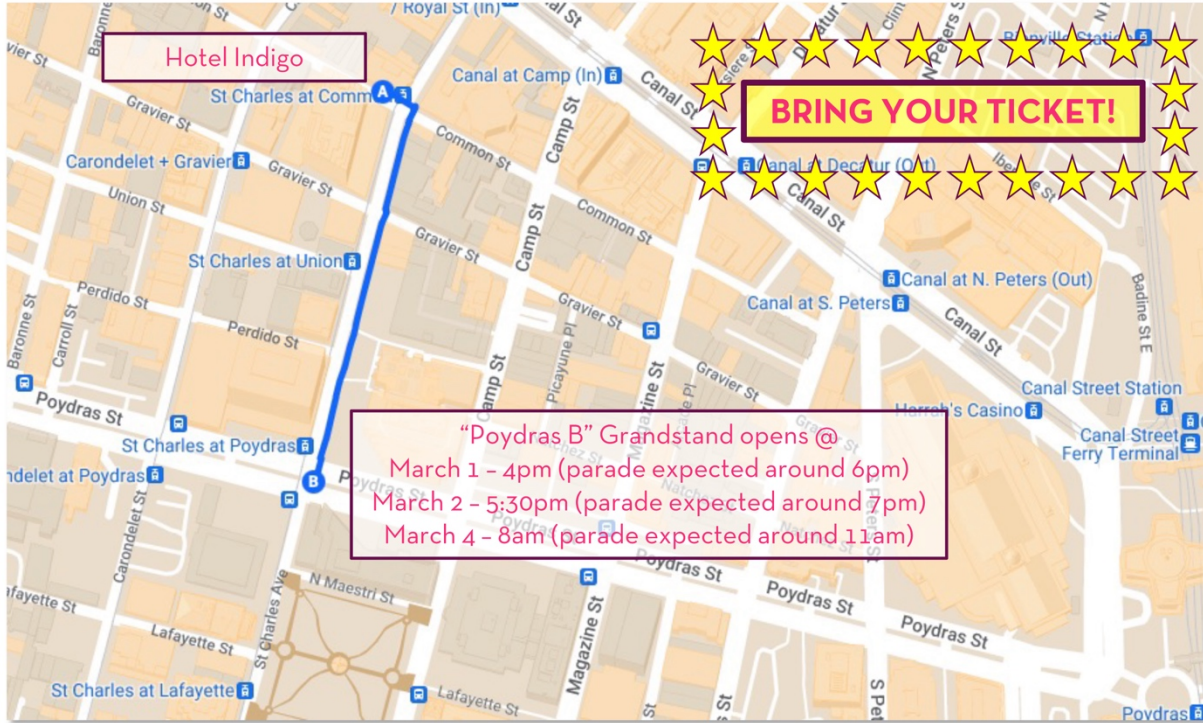
- **8am** - Grandstands open to watch the Krewe of Zulu (try to catch one of their famed coconuts!) and the Krewe of Rex (the King of Mardi Gras). Once again, we're at "Poydras B." We estimate the first parade will reach the grandstand around 11am, but watch your WDSU Parade Tracker app to follow its progress and arrive accordingly. **BRING YOUR TICKET!**
- **12pm** - The Bourbon Street Awards (740 Dauphine Street in the French Quarter). It's been called "the most famous drag-queen contest in America" and it's been going on for more than four decades. Dozens of men in colorful, elaborate - often flamboyant - costumes compete for top honors each year for what are now known as the "Bourbon Street Awards." Participants and spectators alike come to the contest from all over the world and are rewarded with a flashy spectacle that often defies the imagination. Participants compete in the following categories: Best Drag, Best Leather, Best Group, and Best of Show. First, Second, and Third place prizes will be awarded in each category. Celebrity hostesses (in drag, of course) serve as emcees for the contest and awards ceremonies. The contest is held every year on Mardi Gras Day, rain or shine. Attendance at this event is on your own, but it's great fun if you decide to make your way into the French Quarter after today's parades.

## Wednesday, March 5

- **6am-3pm** - Group transfers from Hotel Indigo to New Orleans International Airport (MSY) are available throughout the day. One bus will depart Hotel Indigo on the hour every hour from 6am until 3pm. Depending on your flight time, you can hop on any of those departures depending on how early you'd like to get to the airport before your flight. The drive from Hotel Indigo to MSY is about 30 minutes, depending on traffic. The airport will be VERY busy on Mar 5, so we recommend arriving at least a couple hours before your flight. Please note that each bus will arrive at Hotel Indigo approximately 30 minutes before its on-the-hour departure time, giving you a half hour to bring your luggage down, load your luggage onto the bus, and check out.
- **12pm** - All Vacayans must be checked out of their room



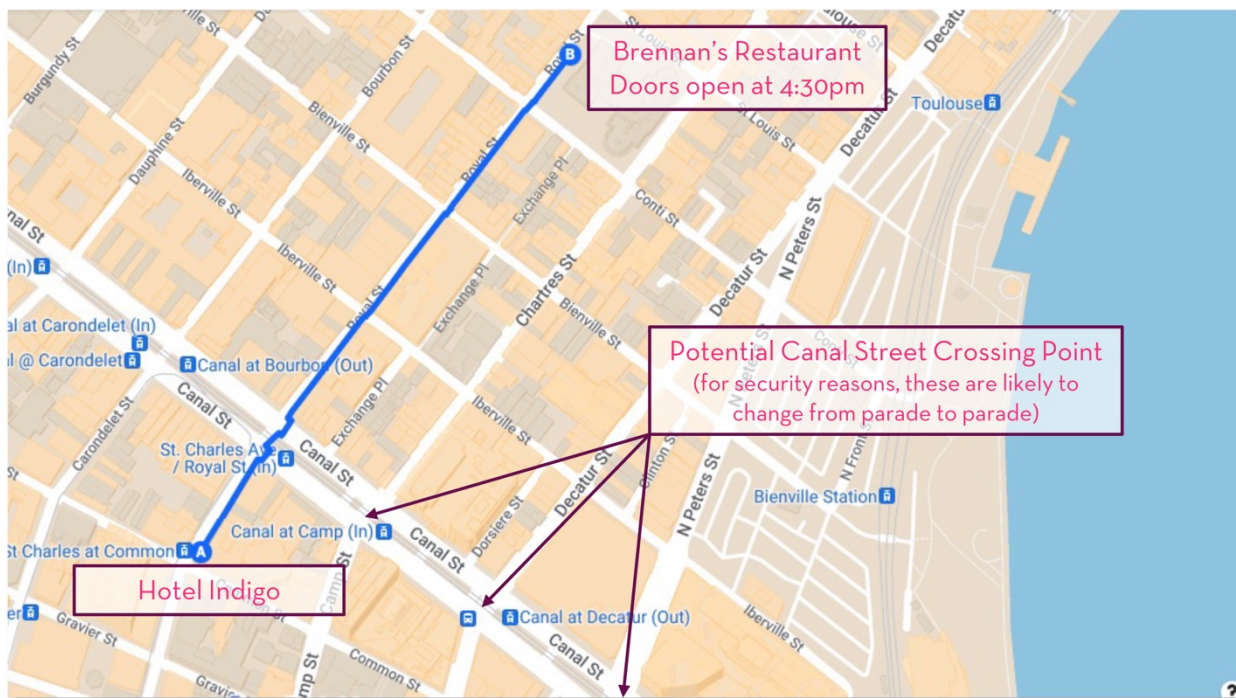
**MARCH 1, 2, and 4 - HOTEL INDIGO TO "POYDRAS B" GRANDSTAND**



A – Hotel Indigo – 700 Common Street

B – "Poydras B" Grandstand – Use 500 St. Charles Ave to navigate by mobile map

**MARCH 2 - 4PM - HOTEL INDIGO TO BRENNAN'S**



A – Hotel Indigo – 700 Common Street

B – Brennan's – 417 Royal Street