



HI New Orleans Hostel Opens Its Doors

Hostel creates space for travelers and locals to connect, discover, and explore

March 20, 2019, New Orleans, LA: Today HI New Orleans Hostel opened its doors, joining the Hostelling International USA (HI USA) brand, a national nonprofit with more than 50 hostels nationwide. Located at 1028 Canal Street at Rampart, HI New Orleans Hostel provides authentic, local experiences to a global community travelers, as well as empowers the local community to become global citizens.

Located in the heart of New Orleans's Central Business District, HI New Orleans Hostel is within arm's reach to the French Quarter, museums, public transportation, performance venues, and diverse shops and restaurants. This state-of-the-art hostel features:

- 122 dorm beds
- 24 private rooms
- Bike storage
- Free wifi, breakfast, and activities

Additionally, the hostel features an onsite café, TaCreole, featuring Cajun-inspired tacos, as well as wine, beer, and sake, which is open to guests and locals alike.

Built with sustainability in mind, HI New Orleans Hostel is an adaptive reuse building, repurposing two historic buildings – which had left the upper floors vacant for several decades – into a state-of-the-art accommodation. The lobby features a dramatic cistern, designed to address citywide water runoff challenges. Additionally, all showers are equipped with Hydrao SmartShowers, which use colored lights to provide visual cues of shower duration. This is part of a [national initiative](#), and lights are programmed to reduce average shower length.

Other notable sustainability features include: food waste composting; 100% renewable electricity through the purchase of certified Renewable Energy Credits, and; Green Globe certification to be earned within its first year of operation.

The HI New Orleans Hostel – like all HI USA hostels – are designed to foster interaction and build friendships among travelers from diverse backgrounds. Large common rooms, a self-serve kitchen, and regularly scheduled free or low cost tours and activities help travelers build personal connections, while immersing in the local culture.

As a community resource, the hostel also enables locals to see the world and deepen their understanding of other cultures. With many more programs to come, the HI New Orleans Hostel's current program highlights include:

Explore the World Travel Scholarships – this annual program awards \$2,000 travel scholarships to underserved New Orleanians interested in an educational or service-based trip abroad but lack the financial resources.

Cooking as a Second Language – held in partnership with the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans’s Immigrant and Refugee Services program, as well as with the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, this program introduces participants to another culture through that culture’s food. The food is prepared collectively and is followed by a discussion.

“HI USA is excited to share the vibrant culture, heritage, and traditions of New Orleans with a diverse community of travelers from across the globe. With a rich history, New Orleans is an ideal location to further our nonprofit purpose to build understanding through experiential travel,” says HI USA CEO Russ Hedge. “Likewise, we hope to inspire the local community to see the world.”

For more information, visit www.hiusa.org/NewOrleans, or contact Netanya Trimboli, HI USA Director of Communications & PR, at Netanya.Trimboli@hiusa.org or (240) 650-2104.

Press Invite: Join us at the Grand Opening, March 21, 2019

Members of the press and media influencers are cordially invited to attend the HI New Orleans Hostel Grand Opening event on Thursday, March 21, 2019. The event includes a ribbon cutting ceremony from 11am-12pm and a celebration from 5-8pm. If you would like to attend one or both portions, please RSVP by March 14 to Sarah Berger at Sarah.Berger@hiusa.org.

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Hostelling International USA (HI USA) is a nonprofit, member organization founded on an enduring belief in the power of travel to foster a deeper understanding of people, places, and the world around. HI USA promotes a dynamic community of global citizens who have the wisdom and humanity to actively make the world a better place. As the nation’s leading hostel brand, HI USA hosts more than 1 million overnights annually across more than 50 hostels, with guests from more than 100 countries. For over 80 years, HI USA has provided a network of affordable hostels in converted mansions, reinvented lighthouses, and historic urban buildings all across the country. Visit www.hiusa.org for more information.