



"THE ULTIMATE INSIDER'S WAY TO TRAVEL"™

Spelman College Museum of Fine Art: Ultimate Insiders at Prospect.3 New Orleans

23 - 26 October 2014

Royal Insider

is a special form of "culture sustaining" travel company orchestrating trips that allow you to participate in the authentic culture of New Orleans, hosted by the people whose strivings sound out the heartbeat of that culture every day. By doing so, we afford you otherwise inaccessible experiences, while channeling resources to support the people who actually drive the culture—rather than feeding a caricature-heavy tourism infrastructure detached from the soul of the place. We literally never hire tour guides, but instead maintain a membership of local insiders like top chefs, jazz singers, artists, curators, gospel choir directors and many others who are leaders in the fields into which they are welcoming you. They are peer-level hosts, and as such it is never appropriate to offer them a gratuity.

Day 1 ~ Thursday, 23 October

- **Arrivals**
 - Independent
- **Check in at Hotel InterContinental** ~ Situated three blocks from the French Quarter on historic St. Charles Avenue, Hotel Inter-Continental blends cosmopolitan sophistication with an appreciation of—and involvement in—New Orleans' unique culture. Streetcars roll past year 'round, and at Mardi Gras time the Inter-Continental reviewing stands are home to the Royal Courts of some of New Orleans' most prestigious "krewes." The Inter-Continental is a classic four-star with all the amenities discerning travelers demand.
- **Afternoon Outing: "Prospect.3 VIP Previews"** ~ Fifty six artists on the cutting edge of the global contemporary art scene. Installation venues both established and unexpected throughout New Orleans. You will be among the select group of directors, curators and benefactors of leading art institutions to have been extended VIP status and invited to participate in the Prospect.3 Previews.
 - Transport by mini-motorcoach
 - You'll be met in the lobby by your Royal insider Member Host, a charming local artist or curator well-versed in the P.3 installations, and escorted to your waiting mini-coach to set off to the VIP Previews—visits to which will be prioritized in advance with your trip leaders.
- **Dinner On Your Own**

Day 2 ~ Friday, 24 October

- **9:15am-4:30pm ~ Day Outing: "Prospect.3 VIP Previews"** ~ Fifty six artists on the cutting edge of the global contemporary art scene. Installation venues both established and unexpected throughout New Orleans. You will be among the select group of directors, curators and benefactors of leading art institutions to have been extended VIP status and invited to participate in the Prospect.3 Previews.
 - Recommended attire: casual to dressy casual, at your discretion
 - Please gather in the lobby by 9:15am to meet your Royal Insider Member Host (an engaging and knowledgeable local curator or artist) for a 9:30am departure in your mini-motorcoach.
 - Prospect.3 installations open for VIP Previews at 11:00am, so we've arranged a special private studio visit to start the day.
 - **12:30pm ~ Lunch: "Dooky Chase"** ~ An institution among the Créole elite for many years, this bastion of New Orleans-style soul food has become so revered that it regularly hosts visiting heads of state, movie stars—and New Orleanians from every social circle. Dooky Chase was inundated by the Katrina flooding in 2005, but is back in full swing, with octogenarian and local celebrity Leah Chase running the show. It doesn't get any more authentic than this.
 - A full lunch buffet with drinks & beer.
 - Prospect.3 VIP Previews continue through the afternoon
- **Evening Outing: "The Prospect.3 Gala"** ~ The Contemporary Arts Center (CAC) is the cornerstone of the Warehouse Arts District, a multi-disciplinary arts center that organizes, presents and tours curated exhibitions, performances and programs by local, regional, national and international artists. The CAC is also one of the key venues for P.3, and the site of its Inaugural Gala. These folks know how to throw an art party, and this one is not to be missed.
 - The CAC is a pleasant, 5-1/2 block stroll from your hotel, or a brief taxi ride.

Day 3 ~ Saturday, 25 October

- **9:45am-4:00pm ~ Day Outing: "The Adventure Continues"** ~ More P.3 installations, a private studio visit and a special exploration of the Vodou religion with artist Renée Stout and a local Vodou priestess.
 - Transport by mini-motorcoach
 - An artist studio visit in the morning, followed by more P.3 installations.
 - **Lunch** ~ A quintessential New Orleans neighborhood restaurant serving po-boys and other casual local classics. You'll be free to order from the menu, including beer and cocktails, if desired (included).
 - **"Dancing with the Loa"** ~ Contrary to the macabre popular impressions fostered by novels and films, Vodou is a living religion that evolved over the past few centuries in the Caribbean islands and Gulf of Mexico rim—and is still practiced today by a small but dedicated group of followers in New Orleans. One group, or *société*, is led by a Vodou priestess (*manbo*) who is also a noted writer on the contemporary Vodou culture. This priestess has graciously agreed to host you today on an exploration that will take you into the heart of the Vodou culture, from the botanica where the necessary items are acquired to the *peristile* (temple) to see where their actual rituals are performed. And those with a deeper interest will be invited to participate in the Saturday evening ritual of the oufou on whatever level is comfortable for you, from respectful observation to "Dancing with the Loa" (the phrase used to describe the movements of one who is transformed during a ritual by one of the Loa—the pantheon of spirits in the Vodou faith).
- **4:30pm-5:30pm** ~ Best to grab a snack at the hotel or nearby.
- **6:00pm-8:30pm ~ Evening Outing: "St. Claude Arts District Gallery Stroll"** ~ Before Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the St. Claude Arts District (located on the Créole side, downriver of the French Quarter in the Faubourg Marigny and the Bywater) was a loose collective of a few renegade galleries showing artists too little known to be exhibited on Julia Street, the center of New Orleans' contemporary art scene in the Warehouse District on the American side. Since the flood, The St. Claude Arts District has burgeoned into a hip scene and acknowledged incubator for cutting-edge New Orleans artists—both natives and the transplants who have flocked here since Katrina to be a part of the renaissance. This evening, the St. Claude Arts District galleries are opening their doors for a special gallery stroll to celebrate the opening of Prospect.3.
 - Recommended attire: dressy casual to chic, at your discretion

- Most of the galleries offer wine, beer or cocktails for modest prices (in some cases free).
- Royal Insider Member Host
- Transport by chauffeured mini-motorcoach
- **9:00pm ~ Dinner: "Herbsaint"** ~ Declared "Best Chef in the South" by the James Beard Foundation in 2008, chef Donald Link has now risen to star status on the New Orleans contemporary cuisine stage. His "French-American bistro" menu is filled with wide-ranging artisanal ingredients joined confidently into inspired and resonant dishes. The wine list is imaginative and very knowing—often the best in town by the glass. Indeed, virtually every detail of food, wine and service at this casually chic and blissfully unpretentious bistro is carefully considered and lovingly rendered.
- Chef is preparing a special 3-course menu with expertly selected wines.

Day 4 ~ Sunday, 26 October

- **Departure** ~ Taxis are readily available at your hotel. The fixed charge to the airport is \$33 for 1-3 guests or \$12 per guest for more than 3, plus gratuity.

Farewell from Royal Insider!

Price per-guest: \$1,850 for double occupancy or \$2,300 for single occupancy.

Note: this price includes the \$500 P.3 patron ticket, which is required for admission to the VIP previews on October 23 and 24 and the P.3 gala.

Participants are responsible for their own transportation to New Orleans.

Please contact Wyatt Phillips (404.270.5606 or wphillips@spelman.edu) to confirm your participation today.