

OBSERVATIONS:

- I didn't see any signs of destruction on my ride in from the airport to downtown. The one thing I did notice was a lot of help wanted signs.

AIRPORT:

- New Orleans Airport is a smaller airport
- Airport is approx. 30 min cab ride (w/traffic)
- The majority of the shops and restaurants are **IN FRONT** of security check-points
- Very few choices behind security check-points

CITY:

- The section of the city where the convention is located is clean and safe with plenty of security and lighting
- You can walk on very nice paved pathway along the Mississippi River from the hotel to Jackson Square and the French Market area. Walking time approximately 15 minutes. If you are unable to walk, there is a train (similar to a trolley) that will get you there as well. I noticed that the fare for a one day pass was \$4.
- Canal Street is 1 approx. block away
- Bourbon Street is approx. 4-5 blocks away (quick 10-15 minute walk)
- For the SHOP-A-HOLICS:
 - The Riverwalk Mall is attached to the hotel so you do not have to venture outside to go shopping
 - Mall is full of clothing, jewelry, souvenir, and specialty shops
 - Saks is across the street in another mall (less than 5 min walk)
 - Full food court (inside Riverwalk Mall) is less than 5 minutes from the hotel
- New Orleans is an **adult / party** town
 - Be prepared to see people walking around with alcohol. (Apparently is it legal for open containers (non-glass)).
 - Be prepared to see inebriated adults (trying) to walk around town (more in French Quarter than near hotel).
 - Unconventional store fronts in French Quarter

HOTEL:

- Convention will be held in the hotel (Riverside Hilton)
 - Convention section of hotel is three floors and we will occupy those floors during the week
 - Easy to navigate and rooms are well marked
 - Both elevators and escalators to convention areas
 - There will be an overflow room for the banquet this year, however there is only a small hallway separating the two rooms
 - Hotel rooms are in three sections, two by the river and one tower that overlooks the river (working freight and trolley railroads split the tower from the riverside sections)
 - There are **SMOKING** permitted floors. Be sure to state your preference.
 - Restaurant in lobby serves STARBUCKS but is not a STARBUCKS store
 - One hotel restaurant (Drago's – excellent seafood) is not open on Sunday.
 - WIFI for \$11.95 per 24 hour period. There are other rate plans.
 - Room service is pricy

- No in-room safes; had no problem leaving computer in computer bag in closet
- There is coffee, irons, ironing boards and hair dryers in rooms
- CHASE Bank ATMs throughout hotel
- Check-in time may be long, as the lobby area is small
- Check-out was smooth and uneventful
- This is a convention hotel meaning they have more double rooms than kings, please be specific when making reservations
- Some noise bleeds in from adjoining rooms
- Harrah's Casino is across the street

Please contact me should you have any questions.

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