Self-Guided Frenchmen Street Live Music Club Strut

You may have heard that New Orleans has a little bit of a reputation for being a party town. Much of that reputation focuses on Bourbon Street. But if you are interested in seeing great live music, then you need to head to Frenchmen Street. The 500 and 600 blocks of Frenchmen house a large number of clubs that form the hottest live music scene in town.

Frenchmen Street is at the far end of the French Quarter, which is a short cab ride from the PAA conference center. Although it is not all that far, we advise against walking to Frenchmen Street.

On Saturday evening (April 13), a small group of Tulane faculty and students will accompany interested PAA members to Frenchmen Street. We will meet up at the PAA hotel at specified times and take cabs to Frenchmen Street, where we will meet up again and guide you to your favorite club. From that point onward, you will be on your own. What happens in New Orleans stays in New Orleans! That is, unless someone posts it on YouTube...

Live music venues on Frenchmen Street include:

- **Apple Barrel** (609 Frenchmen St, 504-949-9339; no website, it is a miracle that they have a phone). The Appel Barrel offers a range of local (and often lesser known) jazz and blues musicians. The venue is very small, so unless you arrive very early it is likely to be standing room only. It is worthy dropping by, even if only to watch the band from the sidewalk for a little while...

- **Blue Nile** (532 Frenchmen St.; [www.bluenile.com](http://www.bluenile.com)). One of the premier venues for live music.

- **d.b.a.** (618 Frenchmen St.; [http://dbabars.com/dbano/](http://dbabars.com/dbano/)). In addition to offering great live music seven days a week, d.b.a. offers very extensive beer selection.

- **Maison** (508 Frenchmen St.; 504-371-5543; [http://maisonfrenchmen.com/](http://maisonfrenchmen.com/))

- **Snug Harbor** (626 Frenchmen St.; 504-949-0696; [http://www.snugjazz.com/site/](http://www.snugjazz.com/site/)). This is one of New Orleans’ premiere jazz clubs. If you are lucky, you can catch the renowned jazz pianist Ellis Marsalis here on Friday nights. Daily shows at 8 and 10 pm. Reservations strongly recommended.

- **Spotted Cat** (623 Frenchmen St.; 504-943-3887; [http://www.spottedcatmusicclub.com/](http://www.spottedcatmusicclub.com/)). Excellent venue for traditional jazz and (occasionally) blues.

- **Three Muses** (535 Frenchmen St.; 504-298-8746; [http://www.thethreemuses.com/](http://www.thethreemuses.com/)). Three Muses’ is a gastro-pub. The menu includes dishes such as duck pastrami pizza, lamb sliders. Etc. Music offering focus on traditional jazz.


- **Yuki Izakaya** (525 Frenchmen St.; 504-943-1122; [www.myspace.com/yukiizakaya](http://www.myspace.com/yukiizakaya)). Yuki is a Japanese-style tavern that offers a variety of hot and cold small plates. The drink menu includes sake and shochu. Yuki Izakaya frequently offers live music, but not every day.
Just around the corner from Frenchmen St. (within two blocks):

- **Balcony Music Club** (504 Esplanade; 504-599-7770; [www.facebook.com/pages/BMC/136647109726542](http://www.facebook.com/pages/BMC/136647109726542)). Located on the corner of Esplanade Ave. and Decator Street. Daily live music. My favorite part of BMC is the patio bar, which is a true hidden gem. You actually enter the patio bar through a small alleyway, just to the left of the main entrance on Decator Street. You can also get to the patio bar from inside BMC ...if you know that it is there. The patio bar usually has its own live band.

- **Check Point Charlie** (501 Esplanade Ave; 504-949-7012). Targets the young and restless. Also a good play to shoot pool, and you can even do your laundry there...

- **Dragon’s Den** (435 Esplanade Ave, 504-944-2866; [http://www.facebook.com/thedragonsden](http://www.facebook.com/thedragonsden)). An excellent place for the young and restless to show off their tattoos... (On a personal note, the longest I have ever lasted inside the Dragon’s Den is almost a full six minutes...)

- **Mojito’s Rum Bar** (437 Esplanade Ave, 504-252-4800; [http://www.mojitosnola.com/](http://www.mojitosnola.com/)). An extensive selection of cocktails, and a superb patio... Often a live band will play on the patio (but sometimes the band is inside).