

# Things You Need to Know About Mardi Gras

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As the weather warms and our waistlines begin to show the effects of weekly King Cake parties, it's no question that Fat Tuesday is fast approaching. This week I present the "Insider's Mardi Gras Checklist" ? a list that will help you better navigate your Carnival experience.



This list is only a handful of the precautions you should take when attending parades and common sense should always take precedence. Have fun and be safe!

## ***Insider's Mardi Gras Checklist***

### *Check the weather.*

Louisiana weather is finicky. The need for rain boots, winter coats and flip-flops are all possibilities within the same week.

### *Minimize baggage.*

With so much activity around you, you'll want to have two free hands.

### *Consider public transportation.*

Parking near a parade route is a daunting task. Visit the [Regional Transit Authority](#) website for routes and schedules. You can thank me later!

*Carry only small amounts of cash when possible.*

You don't want to chance anyone seeing you shove a wad of money into your pocket.

*Don't disrobe for trinkets.*

Cost of a jumbo strand of beads: \$3. Cost of your exposed self going viral on the Internet: Priceless!

*Download the Experience Mardi Gras app to your smart phone.*

It tracks the parade's location along the route. Available [here](#).

*Know the secret password? "Throw me something, Mister!"*

You can also learn more Mardi Gras vocabulary [here](#).

*Look for the Tulane Marching Band.*

Their first parade is this weekend! You can find their full schedule in the [Tulane Guide to Mardi Gras 2011](#).

*Plan ahead.*

Get your full 2011 parade schedule [here](#).

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