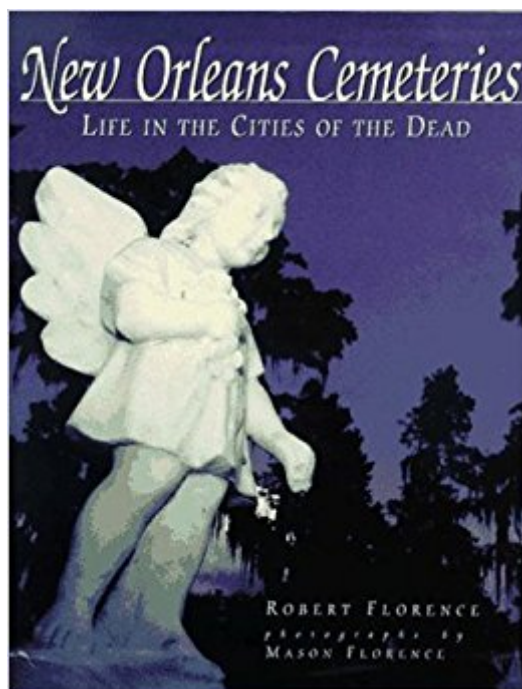


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# New Orleans Cemeteries: Life In The Cities Of The Dead



## Synopsis

From the edge of the French Quarter to the heart of the bayou, *New Orleans Cemeteries: Life in the Cities of the Dead* is a journey through the Crescent City as seen through her phenomenal aboveground cemeteries. Through their artful and documentary-style color and black and white photographs, Robert and Mason Florence depict the "cities of the dead" in all their grandeur and decay, exquisite artisanship and humble memorials, their voluminous historical accounts of the city and undefinable spiritual qualities. *New Orleans Cemeteries* is an enchanting account of one of the world's true treasures, as enjoyable and entertaining as it is educational.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Just as Tennessee Williams' legendary heroine Blanche duBois followed the advice of strangers who suggested she 'take a streetcar named Desire, and then transfer to one called Cemeteries,' those who read "New Orleans Cemeteries" will be taken on a fascinating ride through places where memories of loved ones are still very much alive." -- The Times Picayune, New Orleans, September 28, 1997"

"New Orleans Cemeteries: Life in the Cities of the Dead by brothers Robert and Mason Florence is a lavish volume overflowing with wonderful photographs of thirteen of the city's wonderful graveyards, as well as historical accounts of each site. Painstakingly assembled, this book is a must for anyone fascinated with this city's aboveground tombs. Yes, Anne Rice does pop up in the chapter on Lafayette Cemetery #1." -- Anne Rice's Vampire Lestat Fan Club Newsletter, Fall, 1997"

"One doesn't need a sense of the macabre to appreciate the beauty of the cemeteries that

constitute one of the Big Easy's distinguishing features. Filled with color and black and white photographs by Mason Florence of the area's above-ground tombs, the book explores the history, art and architecture of 13 burial grounds, as well as the people and traditions that bring them to life."  
--USA Today, Oct. 31, 1997

What struck me most as I researched and wrote this book was how "alive" these remarkable cemeteries really are. In the book, I profile five very unique people who have touching and amazing stories to tell about their experiences and relationships with cemeteries. I wanted this book to be about people, and life, rather than the macabre aspects of death. Although the cemeteries in New Orleans are one of the city's biggest tourist attractions, I have been thanked by locals for documenting monuments which are such an integral part of the life of the city. Fifty-eight photographs from *New Orleans Cemeteries: Life in the Cities of the Dead* will be on display at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans for one year so that visitors can see how extraordinary these burial grounds truly are.

During our stay in New Orleans my husband I decided to take a cemetery tour (well, in actuality, we actually took two tours, one of the Garden District which included a cemetery and also one of the cemetery/voodoo tours). We find history fascinating and for some odd reason, cemeteries equally so. New Orleans takes much of its above ground cemetery stylings from both the Spanish & French influences, where the cemeteries are more like cities of the dead than a well manicured park. There is a beauty in the history and the decay. One of the fascinating things about the cemeteries is that whole families and generations are kept in just a few vaults, using the year and a day standard where after a year and a day the remains are moved to the back of the vault, to make room for the next occupant. Some of the crypts also are used like "rentals", until there is room in the family vault. Interesting, and quite different from the way we bury those in other areas of the country. The cemeteries and graves in this book are beautifully photographed and sections tell you about each cemetery with much detail and love of the history of New Orleans which is in and of itself a treasure in all its crazy uniqueness. I bought this book after our trip and though a strange souvenir, it was an interesting and informative part of our trip that I didn't want to forget. Don't miss taking one of the guided trips to one of the cemeteries in New Orleans, no trip would be complete without visiting at least one just for the history alone. We found the guides that do the tours to be very passionate about the history of New Orleans and were very interested in sharing the stories and answering your questions no matter how bizarre. My only suggestion, as previous noted is that Saint Louis #1

should be visited with a group tour. It is in a "dicier" neighborhood and also it is not recommended that you go out at night on your own. This may seem like common sense, but it bears repeating so that you make sure that you don't ruin a good trip with a bad decision. Overall, a great book for history and the art in the cities of the dead.

This is a very nice book. We always go to the cemeteries when we visit New Orleans. I take photographs of angels. This book has great pictures and so much information and interesting facts on all the cemeteries.

The combination of stories and background do a good job of supporting the photos in this book. I was less than enthusiastic about the quality of the binding/paper - When I first opened the the cover of the book, all along the binding the page/paper cracked as though extremely dry. Other than that, we're enjoying the book.

Bought this book for historical and genalogy reasons. Fun book, and interesting. Don't know that its important enough to recommend, but good fun read.

Really Great reference book. We took Ma to NOLA and gave it to her on the plane over... Problem was, when she opened the box, the book was crushed and the bindings torn away; so we kept all the pages together and in the box it came in.

The Cities of the Dead can provide valuable insights into the cities of the living. This can be said about a lot of places " I recall wandering the cemetery of my hometown, and the one in Salem Massachusetts, just to cite two examples. However, probably nowhere in the world is this as true as in New Orleans, Louisiana. Robert Florence, along with his photographer brother Mason, attempted to provide some insight into the history of New Orleans by exploring its unique cemeteries. Their architecture, their rules, the sometimes unique "neighbors", and the times when the various cemeteries were established, all contribute to telling the story of the much larger city built by and for the living. This is augmented by offering a few sidebars into some of the characters that might be found loitering in and around the cemeteries " perhaps helping to maintain the structures, perhaps begging, perhaps communing with spirits only they can see " This is a very nicely produced coffee table book, with more prose than is often found in such a publication. Somewhat difficult to pack and read on an airplane, perhaps, but beautiful to be displayed at the

home " and yes, read and examined. Postscript: I acquired this book in 2001. I have to wonder just what effects Hurricane Katrina may have had on the cemeteries of New Orleans since publication. RATING: 4 1/2 stars. Going to round up to 5 stars on this one.

Visited a New Orleans Cemetery while on vacation in New Orleans. The type of monuments found in the Cemetery, was as interesting as the type of architecture found in the buildings in the city itself. I had to know more, very interesting and informative, learned about the customs and traditions families follow regarding the final resting place of their loved ones.

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