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Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve News Release

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Jean Lafitte, New Orleans Jazz Tourism = \$31.5 Million in Economic Benefit

Report shows visitor spending supports 452 jobs in local economy

NEW ORLEANS, LA: A new national Park Service (NPS) reports that 419,694 visitors to Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in 2012 spent over \$22 million in communities near the park's six sites in Lafayette, Eunice, Thibodaux, and the greater New Orleans area, including Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parishes. That spending supported 317 area jobs. The same report shows that New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park attracted 177,909 visitors in 2012 who spent over \$9.5 million during their visits. That spending supported 135 jobs in the city of New Orleans.

"Jean Lafitte and New Orleans Jazz are proud to welcome visitors from across the country and around the world," said Superintendent Lance Hatten. "We are delighted to share the stories of these places and the experiences they provide and to use the parks as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by US Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and Lynne Koontz for the NPS. The report shows \$14.7 billion of direct spending by 283 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 243,000 jobs nationally, with 201,000 jobs found in these gateway communities, and had a cumulative benefit to the US economy of \$26.75 billion.

According to the report, most visitor spending supports jobs in restaurants, grocery and convenience stores (39%), hotel, motels and B&Bs (27%), and other amusement and recreation (20%).

To download the report, visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>. The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state. NPS b-roll footage is available at http://www.nps.gov/news/econ_b-roll.htm

To learn more about national parks in Louisiana and how the NPS works with Louisiana communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/louisiana.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 400+ national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.