

## Back to the Big Easy

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Who can forget the sights of New Orleans during the last days of August in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed the city? When we viewed the traumatic photographs and digital footage com-

ing out of New Orleans during that time, we thought of ... of all things ... the Golf Industry Show.

As ignorant as that may sound, we thought of our annual trade show because it was scheduled for the following February at the city's Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. But we thought of the show because we wanted New Orleans to be normal again. We wanted everything and everybody to be OK. But that was impossible, considering what the city had endured.

More than three years later, the Golf Industry Show returns to New Orleans. That's a miraculous thing, considering that a lot of people wondered if New Orleans could rebound after the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

I've heard people say that "New Orleans is back!" Don't kid yourself; the city is not back. It's coming back, but there's a lot of work to be done. If you leave the upbeat French Quarter for a tour of the Lower Ninth Ward or other hard-hit parishes, you'll see what I mean.

It's an awesome thing that we get to hold our annual show in New Orleans. If you're going, have a great time. And we hope this guide helps you in your plans to have a good time. Considering where New Orleans has been, it will be easy *not* to take the Crescent City for granted.

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