

Mardi Gras LIVE! Watch All the Happenings in New Orleans

Posted by Kathryn Cartini March 2, 2014 07:32 AM

Mardi Gras Live! Catch Live Streaming Video

If you weren't able to break out of Bean Town and head to the Big Easy for Mardi Gras this year, I'd like to introduce you to a lively app by [EarthCam](#) that lands you in the heart of New Orleans, delivering the Mardi Gras action LIVE to your iPhone and iPad.

Mardi Gras LIVE! via EarthCam

Price: \$2.99

Platforms: Requires iOS 6.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch. This app is optimized for iPhone 5.

Should you get it? Well, it's less expensive than a plane ticket, and the app has some fun photo and image side features.

While I generally don't gravitate to apps that cost money to download given the great many free mobile apps on the market, EarthCam connects viewers to Mardi Gras with live web cameras streaming in real-time throughout the city of New Orleans - a destination and international attraction I wish I could experience in person, but one my schedule doesn't allot for. I hope it's worth it...

Upon opening the app I am greeted with a countdown. Only a couple more days until Fat Tuesday!

Now I can choose from Live Cams, Map View and Party. Let's go for the goods and see what's going on now.

Hey, wait a second! Only three cams to choose from? It appears EarthCam's coverage only consists of a small cluster of Google Map pindrops on the corner of Bourbon and St. Peter Streets. The cameras are titled Cats Meow Karaoke, Bourbon Street and Cats Meow Balcony.

Clicking on Cats Meow Karaoke, it takes a short time to download and then there you are, as promised, inside a Mardi Gras karaoke party, complete with singing, dancing, t-shirt giveaways and of course, synchronized group shots. The camera is pretty clear, the sound is actually great, and the content is what it is - a crazy Mardi Gras karaoke party.

Now switching over to the Bourbon Street cam I see lots of foot traffic from a ground view. The Cats Meow Balcony cam, however, is positioned to cover the street activity from above, which could make this camera great for watching a Mardi Gras parade.

The Mardi Gras Live! app also checks the New Orleans time and weather, and offers some cute special features under the Party button, such as a virtual photo booth with several digital Mardi Gras costumes from masks to beads.

Choosing a colorful peacock feather mask to impose over my picture. I'm now given sharing options of text, email, Twitter and Facebook, so I'll save the picture onto my phone to post to Instagram later.

Also under the Party tab is a section called Party Box. It houses audio clips to a few Big Easy sounds like the crack of a brew, Mardi Gras music and cheers for beads. Clicking back and forth between the sounds to create a little remix is amusing I confess.

To complete my journey, I just text my friend some virtual beads. Happy Mardi Gras!

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After you've had your digital fun, you may be inspired to Celebrate Mardi Gras In the Boston Area. Boston.com has compiled an extensive list of Fat Tuesday celebrations in Boston and beyond over the next week.

However you celebrate, make sure responsibly. Use Uber's Mobile App to locate a driver. Who knows, you may end up getting a lift from former Bolocco CEO John Pepper!

