

City Of New Orleans

Arlo Guthrie

<https://tinyurl.com/339tr3hj>

Edited 10-30-25

INTRO

F | F | F | F |

VERSE 1

F | C | F | F |
..Riding on the City of New Orleans.
Dm | Bb | F | F |
Illinois Central, Monday morning rail.
F | C | F | F |
15 cars and 15 restless riders.
Dm | C | F |
Three conductors and 25 sacks of mail.

F | Dm | Dm |
..All a-long the southbound odyssey.
| Am | Am | C |
The train pulls out at Kankakee. Rolls
| C | G | G |
along past houses, farms and fields.

Dm | Dm | Am |
Passing trains that have no names. Freight
| Am |
yards full of old black men. And the
C | C | F | F |
graveyards of the rusted automo-biles

CHORUS

Bb | C | F |
Good morning, America, how are you?
F | Dm | Bb |
..Say, don't you know me? I'm your
| F | F \ C \ pause2 | F |
native son. I'm the train they
| C | Dm | G |
call the City of New Orleans. ..I'll be
Eb Bb | C | F | F | F |
gone 500 miles when the day is done

VERSE 2

F | C | F |
..Dealin' card games with the old men in
| F | F | Dm | Bb |
the club car. Penny a point ain't no
| F | F | F |
one keepin' score. Pass the paper

C | F | F | Dm |
bag that holds the bottle Feel the
| C | F |
wheels rumblin' 'neath the floor

F | Dm | Dm |
..And the sons of Pullman porters.
| Am | Am |
And the sons of engine-ers. Ride their
C | C | G | G |
father's magic carpets made of steel

Dm | Dm |
Mothers with their babes asleep.
| Am | Am |
Are rockin' to the gentle beat. And the
C | C | F | F |
rhythm of the rails is all they feel

CHORUS

VERSE 3

F | F | C | F | F |
Nighttime on the City of New Orleans.
Dm | Bb | F | F |
Changing cars in Memphis, Tennes-see.
F | C |
Halfway home and we'll be there by
F | F | Dm |
morning. Through the Mississippi,
| C | F |
darkness rolling down to the sea

F | Dm | Dm |
...But all the towns and people seem
| Am | Am |
To fade into a bad dream. And the
C | C | G |
steel rail still ain't heard the news

G | Dm | Dm |
..The conductor sings his songs again. The
Am | Am | C |
passengers will please refrain. This train got
| C | F | F |
the disa-ppearing railroad blues

CHORUS

F | F | F | F | C | F | F | Dm | Bb | F | F \

