



LouisianaTravel.com

# LOUISIANA ITINERARIES

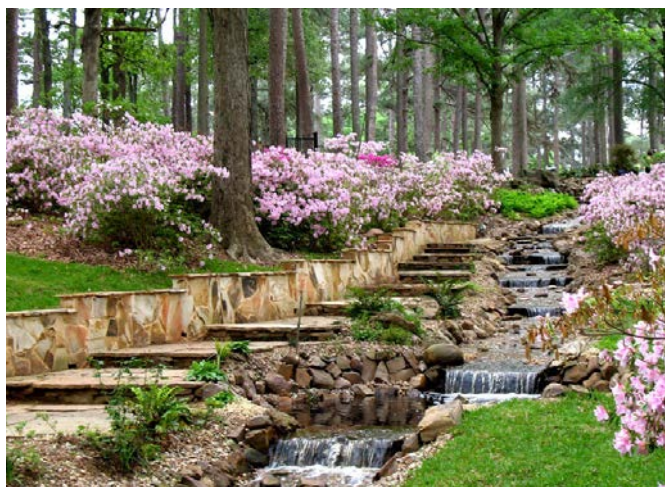
## Dallas to New Orleans

Enter Louisiana along the northwest border, near Shreveport. Right off of Interstate 20, the American Rose Society preserves and protects the wide variety of roses found at its 118-acre park which features 20,000 rosebushes, companion plants, sculptures and fountains.

Continue into Shreveport on Interstate 20 and indulge in retail therapy at the Louisiana Boardwalk — outdoor shopping center combining retail shopping, restaurants, and entertainment. It is located in Bossier City, Louisiana, between the Horseshoe Bossier City and Margaritaville Resort Casino.

This is when the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Program comes in handy. Did you know Louisiana was the first state of offer sales tax refunds to international visitors? This means international visitors find Louisiana a shopping paradise. Not to be confused with duty free, Louisiana Tax Free Shopping is available at well-known stores, such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Best Buy, Macy's and at most factory outlet stores and shopping centers in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. The sales tax refund is provided on tangible items purchased at tax-free stores and permanently removed from the United States. There is no refund for sales taxes paid for personal services, such as: hotels, restaurants, entertainment and transportation.

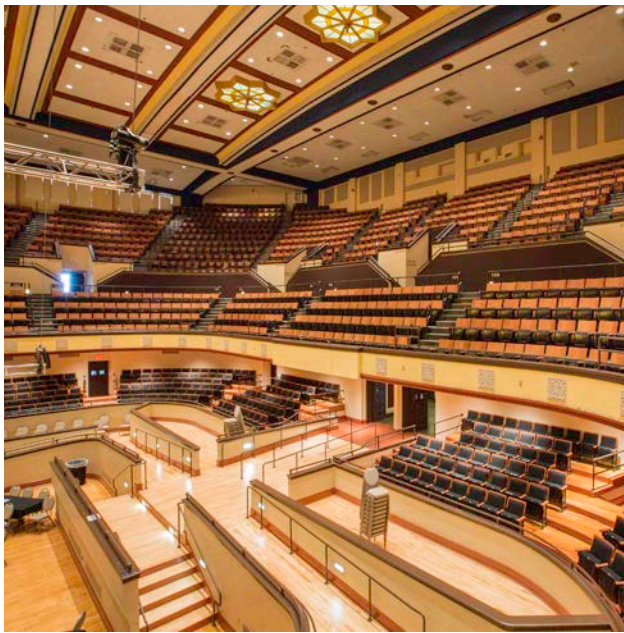
While in Shreveport, discover an underwater world of wonder at the Shreveport Aquarium. Travel through brightly colored coral reefs, creaking shipwrecks, dark ocean caves and tropical lagoons. Marvel at the variety and diversity in the unique freshwater domed gallery and travel to the deep to visit the strange creatures that lurk in the dark. Get up close and personal with sharks, rays, jellyfish and a host of other cool creatures in one of our many touch tanks. Learn how these animals adapt and survive in their environment and understand how you can make a difference in both their world and ours.



American Rose Center



Louisiana Boardwalk



Shreveport Municipal Auditorium

If you want to learn Louisiana history, visit the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum. Completed in 1939 as one of the New Deal's Public Works projects, the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum is an architectural jewel built in the ultra-modern style of the time. This circular building is home to 23 beautifully rendered scale dioramas that portray a snapshot of Louisiana life in the 1940s. Collections include Louisiana Native American artifacts, regional and national history artifacts, original works by local artists, and natural history exhibits.

At the Barksdale Global Power Museum, see vintage aircraft like the venerable B-17 and B-24 bombers of World War II; along with their best "Little Friend," the P-51 Mustang. You can also see Cold War heroes such as the B-52D and B-52G Stratofortress. Don't miss the highest and fastest flying jet aircraft ever – the MACH 3+ SR-71 Blackbird and many more on display.



Clementine Hunter Murals

If you are into music, the Backstage Music Tour is for you. Visit the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium to learn the stories and hear the songs of the many stars that have graced the stage. Walk in the footsteps of music legends and make your own debut when you get the chance to stand on the stage where idols like Elvis Presley and James Burton have performed. Private group tours include a surprise musical performance that brings the stage and venue to life.

Natchitoches, established in 1712, is the oldest town in the Louisiana Purchase, making it the perfect place for your next stop. This quaint town is the setting and filming location of "Steel Magnolias," 28 bed & breakfasts, Cane River National Heritage Area and Front Street. Take a stroll along the banks of Cane River and enjoy the many shopping and dining opportunities.

On the way to Alexandria, visit Melrose Plantation. Here the Cane River Creole culture began with Marie Therese Coincoin and her ten Franco-African children with Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer. In early part of the 20th Century, Melrose became an artists' retreat founded by Cammie Henry. Well-known primitive artist Clementine Hunter was once a cook at Melrose.



African House, located on the grounds of Melrose Plantation, is part of the Cane River National Heritage Area. Melrose Plantation is a National Historic Landmark and is considered one of the finest examples of a Creole plantation in America. The plantation was established in 1796 by Louis Metoyer, a slave who would become a gens de couleur libre (free person of color) when his father granted his freedom in 1802.

By the 1820s, the plantation was prospering, and Metoyer had the African House constructed by his slaves. Although its original purpose is unknown, the building has seen service as a store house, residence for visiting artists, and as the home of the Clementine Hunter murals.

In Alexandria, tour Kent Plantation House — the oldest standing structure in central Louisiana. Completed in 1800, Kent House and authentic outbuildings depict history of plantation life from 1795–1855.

Stay overnight at the historic Hotel Bentley, a classic Renaissance-style hotel located near City Hall in downtown Alexandria. The hotel was built by the timber baron Joseph Bentley at a cost of \$700,000; allegedly because he had been refused dinner service at another local hotel for not being properly attired. It opened to the public in August 1908, and Mr. Bentley lived in the hotel until his death in 1938.

A case in the lobby has historic artifacts on loan from the Louisiana History Museum, and an area inside the main lobby has also been utilized to create a World War II exhibit, which showcases many items of memorabilia from the war. Hotel Bentley was significant to World War II because of the famous Louisiana Maneuvers which were conducted nearby. Notable military leaders visiting the area during that time included Generals George S. Patton, Jr., Omar Bradley, and Dwight Eisenhower among others. Many of these headquartered at the Bentley.

Close by the Hotel Bentley is the Alexandria Museum of Art. The museum holds between five and seven exhibitions each year, displaying a variety of historic and contemporary subjects.



Melrose Plantation



Alexandria Museum of Art



Louisiana State Capitol



Houmas House & Gardens

It also offers multidisciplinary programming surrounding every exhibit, including lectures and master classes on the subject of or in the medium of the exhibit.

Central Louisiana is full of history and charm. Going south on Interstate 49, tour Loyd Hall Plantation. Situated on the banks of Bayou Boeuf, its colorful 180-year past is marked by countless tales of survival and even a few ghosts.

At Louisiana State University at Alexandria, you can find yourself at the Epps House, located along the Northup Trail, where the true story behind “Twelve Years a Slave” actually took place.

If you are hungry or just want to grab a piece of pie, Lea’s Lunchroom is the place for you. The story goes that Mr. Lea opened the restaurant and hired a waitress who wanted to make pies. Her pies were so popular that Mr. Lea wanted her recipes. She wouldn’t divulge her secrets and eventually he ended up marrying her. Aside from pies, Lea’s is known for their plate lunches, and strong coffee.

On to Baton Rouge, Louisiana’s Capitol City. In Baton Rouge, a main attraction is the State Capitol Building – the tallest capitol in the United States, built in only 14 months in 1932. The symbolism in the carvings on the State Capitol represent the state’s people, crops, traditions, and history.

Other sites in Baton Rouge to visit include the Old State Capitol – a gothic structure standing high on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Built in 1847-1852, it housed the Louisiana Legislature and government offices until the new state capitol building was built in 1932.

Check out the Louisiana State University Rural Life Museum, located on Essen Lane, which is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of rural life in Louisiana in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Take a detour for shopping just a few miles outside of Baton Rouge at the Tanger Factory Outlet Mall. While there, you can submit receipts for purchases at the Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Refund Center.

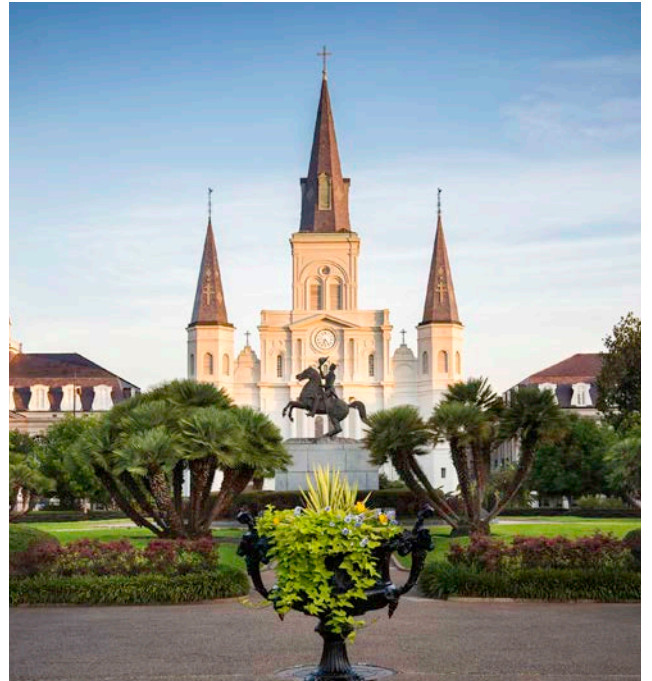


From Baton Rouge, travel the Louisiana Great River Road to the magnificent plantation homes of the antebellum era. Oak Alley, Laura Plantation: Louisiana's Creole Heritage Site, and Houmas House & Gardens and The Great River Road Museum.

Houmas House & Gardens, one of the South's oldest and most beautiful plantation estates, is the home of Latil's Landing Restaurant, The Carriage House Restaurant, Café Burnside, The Turtle Bar, and The Wine Cellars of Houmas House.

After Plantation Country, head into New Orleans, the most unique city in America – the “Big Easy,” as it is commonly known. New Orleans is a feast for the senses – music, world-renowned food, interesting sightseeing and historical architecture everywhere.

Stop at Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World – Where Every Day is Mardi Gras. When you begin your Mardi Gras World tour, you'll get an overview of the history of Mardi Gras in New Orleans before guides take you through our float den, where artists work year-round to build spectacular floats and props. You never get this close to the floats while they're rolling in Mardi Gras parades, and this is certainly the only place to see how these amazing pieces come to life each year. When you're sightseeing in New Orleans or looking for fascinating tours in New Orleans, this is something you just can't miss. Come see where the Mardi Gras magic is made!



Jackson Square



Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World

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## Louisiana Office of Tourism

1051 N. Third St. | 3rd Floor | Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Megan Ryburn | (225) 342-4354 | [mryburn@crt.la.gov](mailto:mryburn@crt.la.gov)