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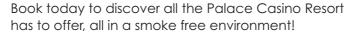
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Louisiana & Mississippi

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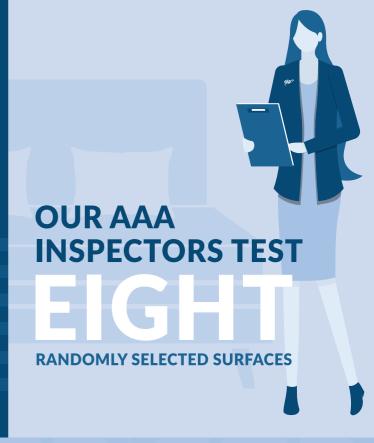






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DIAMOND PROGRAM

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ROAD S.E. Gulf Coast TRIPS

Venture along Southern Swamps Scenic Byway in southeastern Louisiana past bayous, marshes and cypress-tupelo swamps as well as coastal hardwood and pine forests. SR 22/Old US 51 crosses over a network of creeks and rivers past fishing and hunting communities, rural farms and small towns. Or meander on Beach Boulevard, in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi as inland scenery transitions from waterfront houses to seagrass marshes.

















01 **SOUTHERN SWAMPS SCENIC BYWAY, LA**

Take a leisurely drive past wetlands where you might spy alligators, turtles and snakes as well as blue herons, white egrets and songbirds.

02 ATCHAFALAYA BASIN SCENIC FREEWAY, LA

39.8 miles: 0 hours, 36 minutes

In one of the most ecologically varied regions in the United States, watch for alligators in the dense swamp for a true Louisiana nature encounter.

03 **LONGLEAF TRAIL SCENIC BYWAY, LA**

17.3 miles: 0 hour, 28 minutes

If you need a break from driving, hike, bike or go horseback riding on the 10.5-mile Caroline Dormon Trail, surrounded by wax myrtle, French mulberry and pine trees.

04 BATON ROUGE TO LAFAYETTE, LA

55.5 miles: 0 hours, 55 minutes

Baton Rouge, the state capital, is also known as "plantation country" for its lovely antebellum mansions and blossoming magnolias.

05

JACKSON TO NATCHEZ, MS

103.1 miles: 2 hours, 9 minutes With the bustle of Jackson behind you, travel back in time to Natchez Trace Parkway must-sees like the Rocky Springs ghost town.

06 **BEACH BOULEVARD** SCENIC BYWAY, MS

As you cruise along Beach Boulevard, stop to gaze at sandy beaches, sea grasses, bayous and marshes, and take a deep breath of the sea breeze.

For a complete list of itineraries and details



With a heritage that incorporates an intriguing blend of Native American, Spanish, French, English and African cultures, Louisiana is like a good gumbo—a hearty concoction of ingredients with enough variations to suit individual tastes.

This is a state of contrasts, with enticements that can be flamboyant or sedate, raucous or discreet. Louisiana offers you the solitude of a wilderness lake or the excitement of landing a record catch in offshore Gulf waters, the bawdiness and excess of Mardi Gras or the quiet reverence of ancient Native American mounds.

Louisiana is jambalaya and zydeco, beignets at Café Du Monde and jazz at Preservation Hall. Come enjoy the spice, the gentility, the worldly sophistication and the Southern hospitality.

First You Make a Roux

Roux is a mixture of flour and oil—the first ingredients in a traditional gumbo. French-speaking Acadians get the credit for this simple yet flavorful foundation. However, there are as many opinions about how gumbo originated as there are recipes for it in a Louisiana cookbook.

One theory is that local Native Americans created a soupy facsimile with vegetables, meats and seafood. Fact is, they did introduce an ingredient that has stood the test of time: To prepare gumbo today without

adding a pinch of ground sassafras leaves—or *filé* (FEE-lay)—is to commit a culinary faux pas.

New Orleans62

MAJOR DESTINATION:

French Acadians exiled from Nova Scotia in the mid-1700s found refuge in southern Louisiana, bringing with them secrets of Old World cooking that later defined a culinary genre—Cajun cuisine. You can taste the French heritage here in everything from shrimp étouffée to alligator sauce piquant. Or enjoy generous helpings of the Cajun lifestyle at Larc's Acadian Village and Vermilionville, two living-history settlements in Lafayette.

Another word for gumbo is okra. The sticky pod that creates a gummy texture when cooked comes from Africa, but African Americans brought much more than food to Louisiana's ethnic table.

As a child, trumpeter Louis Armstrong followed brass bands through the streets of New Orleans. Satchmo's jazzy sounds still blow through the French Quarter, from Jackson Square banquettes to the venerable Preservation Hall. And at Melrose Plantation in Melrose, you'll appreciate the acclaimed paintings of folk artist Clementine Hunter, who worked her way from the cotton fields to the canvas.

And the Rest is History

In the early 1700s French colonists set up a trading post on the Red River in northern Louisiana. The fickle river changed course, but the outpost named Natchitoches stayed put. Today the city jealously guards its heritage as the oldest permanent French settlement in the Louisiana Purchase.

You can spend days studying architecture that spans more than 250 years in New Orleans. Cabildo. Presbytère. Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France. Make a vow to inspect one of the Vieux Carré's oldest buildings: The Old Ursuline Convent, built in 1745, was a nunnery that miraculously escaped the 1788 fire that destroyed most of the city.

Nearly lost during the Civil War, Baton Rouge's Old State Capitol now is a museum focused on Louisiana's colorful political history. Exhibits recall one of the state's darkest hours—the assassination of Gov. Huey P. Long, a.k.a. the "Kingfish"—as well as brighter moments courtesy of Jimmie Davis, the gubernatorial candidate who sang his way into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Recreation

The Kisatchie, Louisiana's only national forest, is a vast playground comprising six units scattered around the state. Topography ranges from flat to rolling, with dense forests and wetlands throughout.

More than 100 miles of trails invite hiking, bicycling and horseback riding. The Evangeline District (south of Alexandria) offers seven hiking trails of varying lengths, most of which intersect.

The rolling, blossom-covered terrain of the 31-mile Wild Azalea National Recreation Trail, a hiker's springtime favorite, can be covered in 2 to 3 days. Oak, beech and hickory trees shade Lakeshore Trail, the more scenic of two 10-mile hiking paths around Kincaid Lake, while Valentine Trail's 3-mile loop is the way to go if you like to do your walking in circles. Want a little more slant while you pant? Hike or mountain bike on the hilly 8-mile Sugar Cane National Recreational Trail in the Caney District, near Minden.

Canoeing is a peaceful experience on more than 1,400 miles of state-designated natural and scenic streams recommended especially for paddling. The Boque Chitto River, in southeastern Louisiana near the Mississippi border, tops the list; a public boat ramp at Franklinton provides easy access. Navigability,

accessibility and availability of outfitters near Six Mile Creek, north of Lake Charles, make this section of Whiskey Chitto Creek a favorite destination.

North Toledo Bend State Park, west of Natchitoches. lures anglers to Toledo Bend Reservoir, a 186,000-acre basin of the Sabine River. Try for bragsize specimens in False River (truthfully, it's an oxbow lake) near New Roads, or in Black Lake (north of Natchitoches). From the marshes of Bayou Segnette State Park (south of New Orleans) you can hook fresh- or saltwater fish in lakes and bayous that connect to the Gulf of Mexico.

The only state park with direct Gulf access is Grand Isle, where surf fishing for speckled trout is superb and a 400-foot fishing pier is the pride of the park. The mighty tarpon provides the ultimate angling challenge in deep-sea waters; charter boats are available in Grand Isle and other coastal villages.

Nicknamed Sportsman's Paradise, Louisiana offers a hunting season that lasts from September through April.

Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge / © iStockphoto.com / LUNAMARINA



GOOD FACTS TO KNOW

ABOUT THE STATE

POPULATION: 4,657,757.

AREA: 52,378 square miles; ranks 31st.

CAPITAL: Baton Rouge.

HIGHEST POINT: 535 ft., Driskill Mountain.

LOWEST POINT: -5 ft., New Orleans.

TIME ZONE(S): Central. DST.

GAMBLING

MINIMUM AGE FOR GAMBLING: 21.

REGULATIONS

TEEN DRIVING LAWS: No more than one non-family passenger under age 21 is permitted between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m. unless supervised by a licensed parent, guardian or adult age 21 or older. Driving is not permitted 11 p.m.-5 a.m. unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, adult age 21 or older or a sibling age 18 or older. The minimum age for an unrestricted driver's license is 17. For more information about Louisiana driver's license regulations phone (225) 925-6146 or (877) 368-5463.

SEAT BELT/CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS: Seat belts are required for driver and all passengers age 9 and over, if a child has outgrown his or her booster seat manufacturer's weight limits. Children under age 2 must be in a rear-facing system. Children ages 2-4 must be in a forward-facing child restraint. Children ages 4-9 must be in a booster seat. AAA recommends the use of seat belts and appropriate child restraints for the driver and all passengers.

CELLPHONE RESTRICTIONS: Text messaging is banned for all drivers. All cellphone use is banned for drivers under 18 and for those who have had a driver's license less than 1 year. Learner's and intermediate license holders ages 18 and over are subject to a secondary ban on the use of handheld cellphones. Handheld phone use is banned in school zones.

HELMETS FOR MOTORCYCLISTS: Required for all riders.

RADAR DETECTORS: Permitted for non-commercial vehicles.

MOVE OVER LAW: Driver is required to slow down and vacate the lane nearest stopped police, fire and rescue vehicles and tow trucks using audible or flashing signals.

FIREARMS LAWS: Vary by state and/or parish. Contact Louisiana State Police Headquarters, 7919 Independence Blvd., P.O. Box 66375, Baton Rouge, LA 70896; phone (225) 925-4867.

HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS: New Year's Day, Jan. 1 ● Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. (3rd Mon.) ● Mardi Gras Day, Feb. 13 ● Good Friday, Mar. 29 ● Memorial Day, May (last Mon.) ● Juneteenth, June 19 ● July 4 ● Labor Day, Sept. (1st Mon.) ● Election Day, Nov. (1st Tues. following first Mon. in even years) ● Veterans Day, Nov. 11 ● Thanksgiving, Nov. (4th Thurs.)

Christmas, Dec. 25.

MONEY

TAXES: Louisiana's statewide sales tax is 4.45 percent; local parish and city taxes can be as much as 8.5 percent.

VISITOR INFORMATION

INFORMATION CENTERS: State welcome centers are at the Louisiana State Capitol on Third St. and at 702 N. River St. in Baton Rouge ● I-20 eastbound in Greenwood ● I-55 at the Mississippi state line at Kentwood ● at 529 St. Ann St. in New Orleans ● I-59 at the Mississippi state line in Pearl River ● on US 61 at St. Francisville ● on I-10 westbound at Slidell ● I-20 westbound near the Mississippi state line at Tallulah ● US 84 at Vidalia ● I-10 at Atchafalaya ● I-49 at Boyce ● and I-10 eastbound at Vinton. All state welcome centers are open daily 8:30-5, except New Orleans (9-5) and Baton Rouge (8-5). Closed Jan. 1, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism 1051 N. 3rd St.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(225) 342-8100

NATIONAL FOREST INFORMATION:

Kisatchie National Forest Supervisor's Office 2500 Shreveport Hwy. Pineville, LA 71360-2009 (318) 473-7160

FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries 2000 Quail Dr.

Baton Rouge, LA 70898

(225) 765-2800

(225) 765-2887 Licensing/Boat Registration

(800) 256-2749

RECREATION INFORMATION:

Louisiana Office of State Parks 1051 N. 3rd St.

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(225) 342-8111

(888) 677-1400



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

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Louisiana

Orientation



GULF

OF

MEXICO

Recreation Areas Chart

Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.



Find thousands of places to camp

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at AAA.com/campgrounus	S	립	王	m	m	m	正	S	۵	面	Ż	>	ĭ	Ĭ
NATIONAL FORESTS	/O	/ -	/		\	_		_		_	_			
NATIONAL FORESTS	(See	pıa	ce i	ISTIN	igs.)									
Kisatchie 604,000 acres. Central and northern Louisiana. Bird-watching, equestrian camping, water skiing; horse trails.														
NATIONAL WILDL	IFE	REF	UG	ES										
Bayou Sauvage 25,000 acres.														
Black Bayou Lake 4,500 acres just e. on Richland Pl. off US 165 in Monroe. Bird-watching, hunting, wildlife viewing; canoe and kayak rentals; canoe trail. Bicycles are only permitted on unsurfaced trails.														
Cat Island 10,473 acres. Bird-watching, canoeing, hunting, wildlife viewing; ATV trails. Note: The refuge is temporarily closed due to damage to the main access road; phone (601) 442-6696 for updates.														
Sabine 124,511 acres. Waterfowl hunting, wildlife viewing.														
Tensas River 76,000 acres 7 mi. w. on US 80, then 11 mi. s.w. to 2312 Quebec Rd. in Tallulah. Canoeing, hunting, wildlife viewing.														
ARMY CORPS OF	EN	GIN	EEF	RS										
Bonnet Carré Spillway 8,000 acres. 6 mi. w. of Destrehan off SR 48. Bicycling, horseback riding, hunting; ATV trails.														
STAT	E													
Bayou Segnette 580 acres in Westwego off US 90. Playground, swimming pool.														

Recreation Areas Chart



SR 2. Disc golf, playground, swimming pool.

Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Bogue Chitto 1,758 acres 7 mi. s. of Franklinton off SR 25. Canoeing, kayaking; beach, canoe launch, equestrian trails, playground, water playground.														
Chemin-A-Haut 503 acres 10 mi. n.e. of Bastrop on SR 139. Canoe trail, equestrian trail, playgrounds, swimming complex.														
Chicot 6,400 acres 8 mi. n. of Ville Platte off SR 3042. Arboretum, canoe trail, playground, water playground.														
Cypremort Point 185 acres 24 mi. s. of Jeanerette off SR 319. Crabbing, water skiing, windsurfing; beach.														
Fairview-Riverside 98 acres 2 mi. e. of Madisonville on SR 22. Historic. Playground.														
Fontainebleau 2,809 acres 4 mi. s.e. of Mandeville on US 190. Beach, playground, water playground.														
Grand Isle 140 acres at Grand Isle off SR 1. Beach.														
Jimmie Davis 296 acres 4 mi. w. of Chatham via SRs 4 and 1209. Beach, playground.														
Lake Bistineau 750 acres 8 mi. s. of Doyline on SR 163. Disc golf; playground.														
Lake Bruin 53 acres 4.1 mi. n.e. of St. Joseph via SRs 605 and 604. Beach, playground.														
Lake Claiborne 620 acres 7 mi. s.e. of Homer on SR 146. Disc golf; beach, playground.														
Lake D'Arbonne 655 acres 5 mi. w. of Farmerville on														

skiing.

ATURE PROGRAM Recreation Areas Chart ISITOR CENTER SICYCLE TRAILS ODGE/CABINS **=00D SERVICE IKING TRAILS ET FRIENDLY BOAT RENTAL** Shaded columns below indicate available **30AT RAMP** PICNICKING SWIMMING services and activities. CAMPING SOATING FISHING Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds Lake Fausse Pointe 6.127 acres 18 mi. s.e. of St. Martinville off the West Atchafalaya Protection Levee road. Canoe trail, playground, water playground. North Toledo Bend 990 acres 9 mi, w. of Zwolle off SR 3229. Nature trails, swimming pool. Palmetto Island 1,299 acres 10 mi. s. of Abbeville off SR 690. Canoe trail, playground, water playground. Poverty Point Reservoir 2,664 acres 3 mi. n. of Delhi off SR 17. Beach, boat slips, canoe trail, marina, playground, water playground. St. Bernard 358 acres 18 mi. s.e. of New Orleans on SR 39. Nature trails, playground, water playground. Sam Houston Jones 1,087 acres 9 mi. n. of Lake Charles off SR 378. Bird-watching, disc golf; nature trails, playground. South Toledo Bend 1,023 acres 17 mi. w. of Anacoco off SR 191. Beach, nature trails. Tickfaw 1,200 acres 32 mi. e. of Baton Rouge off I-12. Canoeing; canoe trail, playground, water playground. **OTHER** Buhlow Lake 73 acres in Pineville off US 71. Disc golf, water skiing; ball field, playground. Caddo Lake 40,000 acres 12 mi. n.w. of Shreveport off SR 1. Bird-watching, canoeing, kayaking, water

Recreation Areas Chart



Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
City Park 1,300 acres at the n. end of Esplanade Ave. in New Orleans. Boating (no private boats permitted), disc golf, golf, tennis; bicycle rental, fishing pier, horseback riding lessons, miniature golf, playground, pedal boat, canoe, kayak paddleboard and rowboat rentals, sports fields.														
Cotile Reservoir 2,000 acres 20 mi. w. of Alexandria via SRs 1 and 1200.														
Cross Lake 8,575 acres in west Shreveport. Water skiing.														
Indian Creek Reservoir 2,250 acres 10 mi. s. of Alexandria off US 165. Canoeing, horseback riding.														
Kincaid Lake 2,600 acres e. of Gardner on SR 28. Water skiing.														
Lake End 30 acres in Morgan City off SR 70.														
Lincoln Parish Park 260 acres 3.5 mi. n. of Ruston on SR 33.														
Valentine Lake 80 acres s.w. of Gardner off SR 28.														



Boating (non-motorized only).

GFT THE APP

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ABBEVILLE

Abbeville, in southwestern Louisiana, was founded in 1843 and is the parish seat of Vermilion Parish, which has proclaimed itself "the most Cajun place on earth." A popular downtown spot is Magdalen Square, which has a gazebo and is shaded by grand old oak trees.

In early November, the Giant Omelette Celebration takes place in downtown Abbeville. While the main event is the cooking of a 5,000-egg omelette in a 12-foot skillet, the family-friendly festival also includes arts and crafts, an antique car show and concerts.

Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission: 1905 Veteran's Memorial Dr., Abbeville, LA 70510. Phone: (337) 898-6600.

ALEXANDRIA

• Hotels p. 20

Alexandria is at the geographical center of Louisiana. The area lost most of its homes, cotton gins, courthouse records, churches and libraries in 1864 when Union troops burned Alexandria and nearby Pineville. The only building spared from destruction was St. Francis Xavier Cathedral (626 4th St.). Although the original church later burned down, a new one was dedicated in 1899. It was the first brick church to be built in the city. Its impressive rose windows remain some of the largest in the state.

During World War II some 7 million troops trained in the Alexandria vicinity under Gens. Dwight Eisenhower, Mark Clark and George Patton. Much overseas military strategy was planned in the historic Hotel Bentley (801 3rd St.), which opened in downtown Alexandria in 1908.

Modern Alexandria is the commercial, educational and military center of central Louisiana. Many lakes, several state parks and two nearby districts of the Kisatchie National Forest (see place listing p. 46) provide opportunities for outdoor activity. Alexandria Park on Masonic Drive has recreational facilities and a zoo.

Alexandria/Pineville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: 707 Second St., P.O. Box 1070, Alexandria, LA 71301/71309. **Phone:** (318) 442-9546 or (800) 551-9546.

KENT PLANTATION HOUSE is at 3601 Bayou Rapides Rd. Built 1796-1800, the house is a mixture of French and Spanish Colonial architecture. The 4-acre plantation and gardens have been restored to their early 19th-century appearance. Outbuildings include a slave cabin, milk house, blacksmith house, dependency, barn, sugar mill, carriage house and kitchen.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (318) 487-5998. GT



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Hotel. Address: 2720 N MacArthur Dr 71303. Facility: 183 units. 2 stories, interior/ exterior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: picnic facilities, exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



























FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON ALEXANDRIA BOOK NOW 318/619-3300



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 2301 N MacArthur Dr 71303.



HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON ALEXANDRIA BOOK NOW 318/704-6450



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 3800 Alexandria Mall Dr 71301.

SUPER 8 BY WYNDHAM, ALEXANDRIA

BOOK NOW

318/484-9155

APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 2001 N Bolton Ave 71303.

AVERY ISLAND

Avery Island, reached by bridge, is underlaid by a great salt dome that in places is within 15 feet of the surface. The rock salt mine on the island is said to have been the first discovered in the Western Hemisphere. During the Civil War the salt it produced was used as a food preservative throughout the lower South.

JUNGLE GARDENS is off SR 329 on Avery Island. CEN Subtropical flora, aged live oaks, mirror pools and sunken gardens cover 170 acres. Nurtured by businessman, explorer and conservationist Edward Avery McIlhenny, the once private property was opened to the public in 1935. Thousands of camellias, azaleas and irises are usually in bloom November through June.

The Bird City sanctuary, established by McIlhenny in 1895 to protect the nearly extinct snowy egret, is home to more than 20,000 herons and egrets during nesting season. Alligators and deer also are part of the gardens' abundant wildlife. The tranquil Chinese Garden contains bamboo stands and a Buddha dating from A.D. 1000. An audio tour by cellphone is available. Guided bird tours also are available with 24-hour advance reservation. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (337) 369-6243. (GT)

MCILHENNY CO. is off SR 329 on Avery Island. According to one tradition, company founder Edmund McIlhenny received a special variety of red capsicum pepper seeds from Central America as a gift from a friend shortly after the Civil War and developed the fiery Tabasco brand pepper sauce that is still produced on Avery Island by his descendants. Guests may view factory operations, multimedia displays and historical artifacts.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (337) 365-8173, (337) 359-9562 or (800) 634-9599. The

BATON ROUGE

• Hotels p. 24

The flags of seven nations have flown over Baton Rouge—those of France, England, Spain, West Florida, the Sovereign State of Louisiana, the Confederacy and the United States. Despite this, the original name bestowed by French explorer Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville in 1699 has endured. Meaning "red stick" or "red staff," the name referred to a tall cypress tree, stripped of its bark and draped with freshly killed animals, that marked the boundary between the hunting grounds of the Bayougoula and Houmas Indian tribes.

In 1849 Baton Rouge became the state capital. As the battlefront moved north through Louisiana during the Civil War, the capital shifted to Opelousas, then Alexandria and finally Shreveport. Union troops occupied Baton Rouge during most of the war.

The Battle of Baton Rouge State Monument, North Boulevard and Riverside Street, is on the site of the 4-hour bloody attempt by Confederate soldiers to retake the city in April 1862. The city again became state capital in the early 1880s when home rule was restored.

Baton Rouge is the second largest city in Louisiana and one of the largest ports in the nation. It is at the northern end of the "Petrochemical Gold Coast"—the industrial belt that flanks the Mississippi for 100 miles downriver to New Orleans. Across the river from Baton Rouge great sugar plantations form an area known as the "Sugar Bowl of America."

The profusion of magnolia and cypress trees and antebellum homes belies the city's industrial image. Baton Rouge also is home to two major universities: Louisiana State University (see attraction listing p. 23) and Southern University, 801 Harding Blvd. The latter overlooks the Mississippi in north Baton Rouge off US 61 and is home to the 36-foot-high Red Stick Monument, an aluminum

22 BATON ROUGE, LA

sculpture created by artist and faculty member Frank Hayden in 1976. Campus tours can be arranged; phone (225) 771-4500.

World-class music and dance performances, plays and film screenings are held at the 325-seat Manship Theatre, at 100 Lafayette St. in the Shaw Center for the Arts (see attraction listing p. 23). The impressive cultural venue also encompasses an art gallery as well as the Hartley/Vey Theaters. Phone (225) 344-0334.

Baton Rouge's oldest church, St. Joseph Cathedral, is at 412 North St. Built in 1853, the cathedral stands upon the site of two earlier churches, the first dating to 1790. The Gothic Revival-style St. James Episcopal Church, with three Tiffany glass windows over the altar, is at 205 N. 4th St.

The Mississippi River Road Corridor, a 70-mile stretch of the Great River Road, winds through eight parishes from Baton Rouge to New Orleans and offers travelers scenic views of the Mississippi River as well as the chance to visit historical sites, plantations, museums, small towns and old cemeteries along the way.

Visit Baton Rouge: 359 Third St., Baton Rouge, LA 70801. **Phone:** (225) 383-1825 or (800) 527-6843.

Shopping: The Mall of Louisiana, 6401 Bluebonnet Blvd., counts Dillard's, JCPenney and Macy's among its stores.

The Arts District on Government Street, Jefferson Highway and Perkins Road, features pottery, photography, paintings and antiques at local shops. The Historic Merchants District, on Perkins Road, is home to several local boutiques.

Towne Center at Cedar Lodge, Corporate Boulevard and Jefferson Highway, is an open-air shopping village with such shops as Banana Republic, Gap and Talbots. Another similar shopping destination is Perkins Rowe at the corner of Bluebonnet Blvd. and Perkins Rd. Its stores include Anthropologie, Barnes & Noble and Urban Outfitters.

BLUE BAYOU WATER PARK AND DIXIE LANDIN' THEME PARK is at 18142 Perkins Rd. Twenty water attractions including waterslides, a wave pool, a lazy river and two children's play areas are the highlights of the water park. Dixie Landin' is an amusement park with 29 rides, including a roller coaster with a 14-story drop and a flume ride with drops of 26 and 50 feet. A children's section includes a carousel and a biplane ride. Note: Restrictions apply to clothing and items that may be carried in; phone ahead for specific details. Wagon and locker rentals are available. Pets are not permitted.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (225) 753-3333.

BLUEBONNET SWAMP NATURE CENTER is off I-10 exit 162, 2.5 mi. s. on Bluebonnet Blvd., then just w. to 10503 N. Oak Hills Pkwy. The nature center houses liveanimal exhibits, touch tables, photographic presentations of local flora and fauna, and a collection of waterfowl decoys. Visitors may explore a 65-acre cypress-tupelo swamp and a magnolia-beech hardwood forest via trails and boardwalks.

The site is home to dozens of bird species including herons, owls and hawks as well as such common swamp animals as raccoons, snakes and turtles. Special events and educational programs are held throughout the year. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (225) 757-8905.

CAPITOL PARK MUSEUM is at 660 N. Fourth St. Items that make up the cultural, industrial and historical fabric of Louisiana are on display in two permanent exhibits—Grounds for Greatness: Louisiana and the Nation and Experiencing Louisiana: Discovering the Soul of America. Visitors can see a Civil War era submarine as well as exhibits about Creoles, African American history, Mardi Gras and the state's musical heritage at this Louisiana State Museum site. **Phone:** (225) 342-5428.

LOUISIANA ART & SCIENCE MUSEUM is at 100 River Rd. S. Housed in a historic train station, the museum features fine art exhibits; interactive children galleries; and the Ancient Egypt Gallery, which houses a mummy from 300 B.C. Permanent exhibits include contemporary photographs, a Southern art collection, 18th- to 20th-century paintings by American and European artists, and sculptures by Ivan Mestrovic. The Irene W. Pennington Planetarium & ExxonMobil Space Theater (see attraction listing) is housed here as well.

Phone: (225) 344-5272.

Irene W. Pennington Planetarium & ExxonMobil Space Theater is in the Louisiana Art & Science Museum at 100 River Rd. S. Planetarium sky shows play on a 60-foot domed screen. Three galleries showcase the solar system, the Milky Way galaxy and the universe. Exhibits include a 40-foot solar system clock and nine built-to-scale planet models, including the 15-foot-wide rings of Saturn. A 1,500-pound triceratops skull also is on display.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (225) 344-5272.

LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL is at 900 N. Third St. The 34-story-high building is said to be the nation's tallest state capitol. Flanking the front steps are the statues "The Patriots" and "The Pioneers" by Lorado Taft. Some 26 varieties of marble adorn the interior. Statuary, murals and a polished lava floor are inside Memorial Hall, which opens to the House and Senate chambers. Also on the first floor is a state visitor information center.

An observation deck on the 27th floor offers a panoramic view of Baton Rouge. Zachary Taylor's former home site is marked on the grounds not far from the sunken garden where Huey P. Long is buried. Long, who spearheaded construction of the Capitol as governor of Louisiana, was assassinated in its corridors in 1935. A bullet hole can still be seen in one of the building's walls. Guided tours are available by appointment. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (225) 342-7317. GT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, 3 mi. s. at jct. Highland Rd. and Dalrymple Dr., is the flagship of the Louisiana State University System. Established near Pineville as the Seminary of Learning of the State of Louisiana in 1853, the institution transferred to Baton Rouge in 1869. On the grounds are Native American mounds believed to be more than 5,000 years old as well as elegant Italian Renaissance-style buildings. Shading the campus are about 1,300 to 1,400 southern live oaks.

LSU's mascot, a Bengal tiger named Mike VII, lives in a 15,000-square-foot sanctuary outside Tiger Stadium, which opened in 1924. Nicknamed "Death Valley," the venerable outdoor stadium is said to be one of the most intimidating venues for opposing teams to play.

Campus maps are available at the visitor center. **Phone:** (225) 578-5030 for the visitor center, or (225) 578-6908 for campus tours. GT

LSU Museum of Natural Science is at Louisiana State University in Foster Hall on Dalrymple Dr. Exhibits include dioramas depicting Louisiana wildlife, early Native American life in Louisiana, recent scientific studies in Antarctica and some 350 mounted native birds. **Phone:** (225) 578-2855.

LSU RURAL LIFE MUSEUM is at 4560 Essen Ln. This 5-acre outdoor folk museum is a re-creation of an 1800s plantation. The cultures and lifestyles of preindustrial Louisianans are recalled through collections of tools, household utensils, furniture and farming implements.

The museum is divided into three areas with 36 relocated or re-created buildings. The Exhibit Barn area contains rural life artifacts from prehistory to the early 1900s, including tools and vehicles. The authentically furnished Plantation Quarters re-create the plantation's major activities and include a gristmill and blacksmith shop. The Louisiana Folk Architecture area showcases diverse construction techniques to illustrate the various cultures of Louisiana settlers. Other highlights include the 25-acre Windrush Gardens.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (225) 765-2437.

SHAW CENTER FOR THE ARTS is at 100 Lafayette St. Opened in 2005, the cultural center covers an entire city block and is home to multiple exhibit spaces and performing arts venues. On-site are the LSU Museum of Art (see attraction listing); the LSU School of Art Glassell Gallery, featuring works from faculty and students of Louisiana State University; and the Manship Theatre, which presents a wide range of live productions, film screenings and classes.

The building incorporates innovative current architecture as well as a 1930s parking garage. The structure, covered with translucent channel glass, overlooks and reflects the Mississippi River. Visitors can see vistas of the river and the Old State Capitol from the fourth-floor River Terrace and LSU School of Art Sculpture Garden and from the sixth-floor Irene W. Pennington Rooftop Terrace and Sculpture Garden.

Some of the facilities, including the rooftop terraces, may be closed if a private event has been scheduled; phone ahead. **Phone:** (225) 346-5001.

LSU Museum of Art is on the fifth floor of the Shaw Center for the Arts at 100 Lafayette St. The museum, which overlooks the Mississippi River, contains more than 6,500 works highlighted in galleries featuring American and British portraiture, decorative arts, landscape painting, New Orleans silver coins, American Arts and Crafts pottery and Chinese jade as well as contemporary works from Southern artists. Changing exhibitions from the permanent collection are rotated throughout the

Educational programs are offered. Guided gallery tours are available by appointment (minimum 10 people). Phone: (225) 389-7200. GT (1)

USS KIDD VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM is on the Mississippi River across from the Baton Rouge Centroplex at 305 S. River Rd. The memorial consists of an observation tower, a museum complex and the USS Kidd. a World War II destroyer. Exhibits include a model ship collection, maritime artifacts and a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. Outside the museum are two fighter planes—a P-40 Flying Tiger and a Corsair A-7E.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (225) 342-1942.



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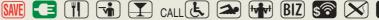




























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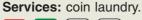
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SAVE Hotel. Address: 10307 N Mall Dr 70809.





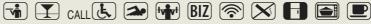
Hotel. Address: 4728 Constitution Ave 70808. Facility: 294 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





























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THREE DIAMOND

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 462 Lafayette St 70801.



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HILTON BATON ROUGE CAPITOL CENTER BOOK NOW 225/344-5866







Historic Hotel. Address: 201 Lafayette St 70801. Facility: The historic hotel has been restored to provide a glimpse into Baton Rouge's past. It celebrates the glory years of legendary governor Huey P. Long. The hotel's

original facade has been preserved. 291 units. 10 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation.

































HOLIDAY INN BATON ROUGE SOUTH BOOK NOW

225/924-7021

Hotel. Address: 9990 Airline Hwy 70816. Facility: 140 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor, heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin



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HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BATON ROUGE EAST BOOK NOW

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AAA/CAA rates!

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HYATT PLACE AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. Address: 6080 Bluebonnet Blvd 70809. Facility: 126 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

























L'AUBERGE CASINO HOTEL BATON ROUGE BOOK NOW 225/215-7777



Contemporary Resort Hotel. Address: 777 L'Auberge Ave 70820. Location: Waterfront. Facility: Rooms offer guests a cozy, upscale spot to relax after spending time at the adjacent casino, or after a live concert or show at the event center. For additional relaxation, enjoy time at the pool. 205 units. 12 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 3 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room, massage. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































RENAISSANCE BATON ROUGE BOOK NOW 225/215-7000



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Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation.





























Hotel. Address: 10332 Plaza Americana Dr 70816.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT BATON ROUGE SOUTH

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 7979 Essen Park Ave 70809.

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SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 8735 Summa Ave 70809.

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225/930-5110



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 2562 Citiplace Ct 70808.

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225/208-7500



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 10960 Siegen Holiday Cir 70809.

WATERMARK BATON ROUGE, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION BOOK NOW 225/408-3200



AUTOGRAPH AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott COLLECTION[®] Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

HOTELS

Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 150 3rd St 70801. Facility: The

historic bank building has been transformed into a trendy and upscale hotel. The cozy, contemporary guest rooms feature walk-in showers and robes: some have a retractable skylight. 144 units. 12 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation.





















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BOSSIER CITY

• Hotels p. 29

Across the Red River from Shreveport and near Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City is the industrial hub of Bossier Parish and an entertainment center for the area. Brookshire Grocery Arena, 2000 Brookshire Arena Dr., hosts athletic competitions, concerts and other live events; phone (318) 747-2501. Thoroughbred racing takes place at Harrah's Louisiana Downs, 8000 E. Texas St., May through September; quarter horse racing begins in January and ends in March. The highlight of the racing

season, the Super Derby in September, is accompanied by a variety of activities, including the Super Derby Hat Contest. Phone (318) 742-5555.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to parimutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

Shopping: Located along the banks of the Red River, Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets (540 Boardwalk Blvd.) features a scenic promenade, a carousel, a movie theater and a picnic area in addition to numerous specialty stores and restaurants.



COMFORT SUITES BOSSIER CITY-SHREVEPORT EAST BOOK NOW 318/742-3444



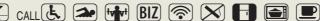


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Hotel. Address: 7950 E Texas St 71111. Facility: 83 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.























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Hotel. Address: 100 Boardwalk Blvd 71111. Location: Waterfront. Facility: 128 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest **Services:** valet and coin laundry.



























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 318/752-1112



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SAVE Hotel, Address: 1005 Gould Dr 71111.



HILTON GARDEN INN SHREVEPORT/BOSSIER CITY BOOK NOW 318/759-1950



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Hotel. Address: 2015 Old Minden Rd 71111. Facility: 177 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: hot tub, picnic facilities, exercise room. Guest **Services:** valet and coin laundry, area transportation.



























HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

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Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 2015 Old Minden Rd 71111. Facility: 114 units, some two bedrooms. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, area transportation.





























RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT BOSSIER CITY

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Residence INI. AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 501 Traffic St 71111. Facility: 131 units, some efficiencies and kitchens. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





























SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT BOSSIER CITY

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AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 8010 E Texas St 71111.

BREAUX BRIDGE

The iconic Louisiana staples of crawfish and Cajun music thrive in this small town about 55 miles west of Baton Rouge off I-10.

Crawfish once were not eaten publicly because they were considered low-class fare. The critters are said to have broken the social barrier and first appeared on a restaurant menu in Breaux Bridge, also where the nowpopular crawfish étouffée was reputedly invented. Eventually the culinary stigma faded, the popularity of the crustacean rose and when the city celebrated its centennial in 1959 the state legislature passed a resolution naming Breaux Bridge la Capitale Mondiale de l'Écrevisse—the Crawfish Capital of the World.

Today crawfish are St. Martin Parish's main aguacultural crop. Held since 1960, the Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival has Parc Hardy teeming with Cajun, zydeco and swamp pop music from more than 30 bands. Cajun entertainment includes a parade, heritage activities, a crawfish étouffée cook-off, arts and crafts vendors, Cajun and zydeco dance contests, and carnival rides and games. The 3-day event is held the first full weekend in May. If you need a fix of Cajun and zydeco music and dancing throughout the rest of the year, you can find it in some of the local restaurants.

The city's name was likely inspired by the footbridge Acadian pioneer Firmin Breaux constructed across Bayou Teche in 1799. The most recent bridge built in the area is the 1950 steel vertical lift bridge standing across from the visitor center. As you approach the bridge from either side you'll see a panel at the top of the structure sporting the name of the city—one side in English and the other in French—along with a festive mural of a crawfish set against the backdrop of an American flag.

Women couldn't vote until the early 20th century, but Scholastique Picou Breaux, daughter-in-law of Firmin Breaux and a 33-year-old Acadian widow, founded the town in 1829, created city plans and sold lots to other Acadian settlers. She is honored in Veterans Park, on Berard Street across from City Hall, with a bronze statue sculpted by Celia Guilbeau Soper, an artist with ancestors from Breaux Bridge. While Soper was researching Breaux's family history, she found out her subject was her own great-great-grandmother. The discovery prompted her to use her daughter as the model for the sculpture. The park is also home to oak trees more than 200 years old.

At Parc des Ponts de Pont Breaux (Park of the Bridges of Breaux Bridge) you can read up on the legend of Bayou Teche. A marker chronicles the Chitimacha tribe's legend of how the indentation from a snake (teche) that reached more than 100 miles from Morgan City to Port Barre formed the bayou. A 25-foot-long sculpture offers a visual depiction of the snake and marks the towns along the bayou. The park also includes the 1855 turntable bridge, which is now used as a fishing pier and a stage for special events. The black line on the flagpole next to the bridge is the water mark from a 1927 flood.

Bayou Teche Visitors Center: 314 E. Bridge St., Breaux Bridge, LA 70517. **Phone:** (337) 332-8500.

Self-guiding tours: Self-guiding tour brochures with information about the town's historic buildings—mainly late 1800s to early 1900s—are available at the visitors center.

Shopping: The downtown historic district features nearly 3 dozen specialty and antique shops, some of which are housed in historic buildings.

CAJUN COUNTRY SWAMP TOURS is off I-10 exit 109. 1.5 mi. s. on SR 328 (Rees St.), .2 mi. s.w. on E. Bridge St., 2.7 mi. s. on SR 31, then 1.5 mi. w. on Lake Martin Rd. This 2-hour swamp tour goes through Lake Martin, home to alligators, cypress trees and a variety of birds. During nesting season (February through July) the tour includes a trip to a wading bird rookery.

The guide, a Breaux Bridge native who has studied botany and zoology, shares his knowledge about the ecology of the area. **Phone:** (337) 319-0010. **GT**

BROUSSARD — CHALMETTE, LA

BROUSSARD

Hotels p. 32

BOOK NOW BEST WESTERN HERITAGE INN & SUITES 337/451-4500

APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 146 Heritage Pkwy 70518.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES BROUSSARD **BOOK NOW** 337/330-8081

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN Hotel. Address: 104 Sweetland Ave 70518.

CHALMETTE

- Hotels p. 32
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

On the east bank of the Mississippi River, Chalmette is the seat of St. Bernard Parish. The town's main industries include oil and gas production as well as commercial fishing. Locals and visitors alike enjoy fishing and hunting in the surrounding wetlands.

CHALMETTE BATTLEFIELD AND NATIONAL CEM-ETERY is on SR 46. 6 mi. downriver from the New Orleans French Quarter, Part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (see place listing p. 43), this 141-acre park preserves the site of the Battle of New Orleans. On Jan. 8, 1815, Gen. Andrew Jackson and 4,000 troops and volunteers defeated a force of British regulars, securing the Mississippi River and America's claim to the Louisiana Territory.

Chalmette National Cemetery, the Malus-Beauregard House and a visitor center are on the grounds. Ranger talks are given; phone ahead for details. An audio tour by cellphone is available. Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 281-0510.





APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 3400 Paris Rd 70043. Facility: 65 units. 3 stories, interior corridors.

Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

















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COVINGTON

- Hotels p. 33
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

The first of two bridges comprising the 24-mile-long Lake Pontchartrain Causeway linked the south shore in Metairie (a suburb of New Orleans) with the north shore at Mandeville in 1956. As a result, residential development of the Ozone Belt-so nicknamed because of the thick pine forests that improve the quality of the air-ensued with land-rush fervor, transforming the peaceful country getaway into a Big Easy bedroom community.

The Tammany Trace, a 31-mile-long rail-to-trail conversion, begins in Covington and continues through Abita Springs, Mandeville, Lacombe and Slidell. The recreational corridor's trailhead is located downtown at 419 N. New Hampshire St. and includes a visitor center with historical exhibits, a small movie theater, and an amphitheater where free evening concerts take place on Thursdays

in April and October. March through October, the free event Concerts at the Landing is held on Columbia Street the third Friday of every month.

Shopping: Covington's compact historic district nestles between two rivers and languishes under stately oaks. Late 19th- and early 20th-century buildings contain shops with home decor, apparel, antiques and artwork having a slightly upscale bent. A fixture in downtown Covington, the H.J. Smith & Sons General Store (see attraction listing this page) has operated continuously since 1876.

H.J. SMITH & SONS GENERAL STORE & MUSEUM is at 308 N. Columbia St. The Smith family has operated this store continuously since 1876. The museum displays such items as a hand-operated washing machine, farm tools, a 1920s gas pump and other memorabilia from the 1870s through the early 1900s. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (985) 892-0460.



COMFORT INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 985/809-1234





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Hotel. Address: 30 Louis Prima Dr 70433. Facility: 75 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

























COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON BOOK NOW 985/809-0467





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Hotel. Address: 130 Holiday Blvd 70433. Facility: 70 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room.

Guest Services: coin laundry.



























COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS

COVINGTON/MANDEVILLE BOOK NOW



COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 101 Northpark Blvd 70433. Facility: 141 units. 3-4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, area transportation.

























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON COVINGTON/MANDEVILLE BOOK NOW 985/809-0019

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 68700 Hwy 190 Service Rd 70433.

HOLIDAY INN COVINGTON

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Hotel. Address: 45 Louis Prima Dr 70433.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS COVINGTON-MADISONVILLE

BOOK NOW

985/892-9811

Hotel. Address: 69354 Stirling Blvd 70433.

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS COVINGTON/NORTH

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Residence INI AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 101 Park Place Blvd 70433. Facility: 125 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 4 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and



CROWLEY • Hotels p. 35



BEST WESTERN ACADIA HOTEL BOOK NOW 337/514-2253



INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 9565 Eagan Hwy 70526. Facility: 49 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. Terms: off-site registration. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: coin laundry.

SAVE (YI) CALL (E) (20) (HS) (20) (M) (F) (E) (20) (SOME (F)

















DARROW • Hotels p. 35

HOUMAS HOUSE PLANTATION AND GARDENS is at 40136 River Rd. (SR 942). Once the seat of a 20,000-acre sugar plantation, the French- and Spanishstyle rear house was built in the late 1700s. A Greek Revival mansion was added in 1828. The restored 16-room mansion is furnished with early 19th-century antiques, including a Parisian mantel clock rumored to have belonged to Marie Antoinette and Limoges china emblazoned with the Houmas name.

A mural depicting a sugarcane field greets guests in the main hall and a graceful spiral staircase winds its way through the manse's three stories. Thirty-eight acres of formal gardens, fountains and live oaks surround the house, which has been the setting for several films, including "Hush...Hush, Sweet Charlotte" with Bette Davis. Guides in period dress provide historical background and a glimpse into the lifestyle of a wealthy sugar baron.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (225) 473-9380. GT (II



THE INN AT HOUMAS HOUSE **BOOK NOW** 225/473-9380



Country Inn. Address: 40136 Hwy 942 70725.

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DELHI

• Hotels p. 36



INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Motel. Address: 135 Snider Rd 71232. Facility: 44 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Pool: outdoor. SAVE (1) CALL & BIZ (HS) (S) [T]

DERIDDER

Hotels p. 36



BEST WESTERN PLUS DERIDDER INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 337/460-2066

Hotel. Address: 1055 N Pine St 70634. Facility: 56 units. 2 stories, interior corridors.

Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

SAVE (TI+) CALL (L) (A) (H) (BIZ) (HS) (A)

DONALDSONVILLE

INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Donaldsonville, on the west bank of the Mississippi River, was settled in 1806 at the point where Bayou Lafourche branches from the great river. The city briefly served as Louisiana's state capital 1830-31. In its contemporary political role it serves as the seat of Ascension Parish, one of the state's original county governments.

Donaldsonville was the site of the 1863 Battle of Fort Butler, the only Union victory led by freed slaves. Though virtually destroyed during the Civil War, the city was auickly rebuilt.

The central business district, several blocks north of the main highway (SR 1), fronts the Mississippi levee. Downtown's Railroad Avenue offers interesting architecture as well as a handful of shops and restaurants.

Donaldsonville Area Chamber of Commerce: 714 Railroad Ave., Donaldsonville, LA 70346. Phone: (225) 473-4814.

EPPS

Epps lies between the Boeuf River and Bayou Macon. The rich Macon Ridge soil of this region supports lush fields of cotton, rice and soybeans.

EUNICE

Hotels p. 37

The rich prairie soil surrounding Eunice enticed the early Acadians to settle in the area in 1894. The Acadian influence can still be seen in the historic buildings around town. Cajun organizations preserve Acadian heritage and provide educational programming about the French/Cajun language.

The Rendez Vous des Cajuns, held every Saturday night at the Liberty Center for the Performing Arts, next

coin laundry. SAVE

door to the Prairie Acadian Cultural Center (see attraction listing this page), features a 2-hour live broadcast of Cajun and zydeco music.

Eunice Tourist Information Center: 200 S. C.C. Duson Dr., Eunice, LA 70535. Phone: (337) 457-2565.

PRAIRIE ACADIAN CULTURAL CENTER is at 250 W. Park Ave. Part of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (see place listing p. 43), the center houses exhibits depicting the Acadian migration and culture. Cooking demonstrations are presented. A live radio show featuring Cajun music and stories is broadcast from the Liberty Center for the Performing Arts every Saturday evening.

Educational programs for children and adults also are offered. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (337) 457-8499.

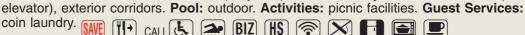


337/457-2800



INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Motel. Address: 1531 W Laurel Ave (Hwy 190) 70535. Facility: 35 units. 2 stories (no

















FRANKLIN

• Hotels p. 38

In 1800 Pennsylvanian Guinea Lewis founded the town and named it for his home state's pre-eminent statesman and philosopher, Benjamin Franklin. Most early settlers came from the Northeast, and their strong Union sympathies saved Franklin from the destruction other towns in Louisiana suffered at the hands of the Union Army during the Civil War. On Bayou Teche in the Atchafalaya Basin, Franklin is presently a center for salt production, sugar refining and carbon-black operations.

Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau—Franklin: 15307 US 90W Frontage Rd., Franklin, LA 70538. Phone: (337) 828-2555.

Self-guiding tours: Brochures describing a self-guiding walking tour of Franklin's historic district are available from the visitors and convention bureau.

BEST WESTERN FOREST INN BOOK NOW 337/828-1810



APPROVED INSPECTED © CLEAN Motel. Address: 1909 W Main St (Hwy 182 W) 70538. Facility: 70 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 1-2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: picnic facilities. Guest Services: coin laundry.























FROGMORE COTTON PLANTATION AND GINS is at 11656 US 84. Tours explain life on a cotton plantation from the 1700s to the present, including the culture of its enslaved inhabitants.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (318) 757-2453 or (318) 757-3333. GT

GARYVILLE

• Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

SAN FRANCISCO PLANTATION is 3.25 mi. w. at 2646 River Rd. (SR 44). The 1856 house set amid 300-year-old live oaks is one of the finest examples of Steamboat Gothic architecture in southern Louisiana. Authentically

restored, the house features hand-painted mural ceilings and period antiques. Also on the grounds are an 1830s slave cabin and 1840s schoolhouse. Tours are led by storytelling guides in period costume.

Phone: (985) 535-2341 or (888) 322-1756. GT

GONZALES

Hotels p. 38

Gonzales is best known for its Jambalaya Festival, which was started in the 1960s as a way to promote the city and raise money for community projects. Held Memorial Day weekend, the event features cooking contests, a carnival and live music.

Shopping: Tanger Outlets, off I-10 exit 177, offers more than 50 outlet stores. Among the brand names sold at the open-air shopping center are Coach and GUESS.

CLARION INN & CONFERENCE CENTER

BOOK NOW 225/647-8000

APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 1500 W Hwy 30 70737.

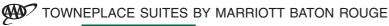
SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT GONZALES/BATON ROUGE

BOOK NOW 225/621-3000



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2801 S Cabela's Pkwy 70737.



GONZALES

BOOK NOW 225/450-3400



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 2823 S Outfitters Dr 70737.

GRAY

Houma Area Convention and Visitors Bureau: 114 Tourist Dr., Grav, LA 70359. Phone: (985) 868-2732 or (800) 688-2732.

GRETNA

- Hotels p. 39
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

The German settlement of Mechanikham was established in 1836. Later renamed Gretna in honor of a Scottish village, the town was incorporated in 1913. Gretna's historic district includes Creole cottages, a blacksmith shop and an 1841 firehouse.

City of Gretna Office of Tourism: 740 2nd St., P.O. Box 404, Gretna, LA 70053. **Phone:** (504) 363-1580.

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COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS WESTBANK/GRETNA

BOOK NOW 504/366-1010

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 5 Westbank Expwy 70053.

HOLIDAY INN NEW ORLEANS WESTBANK TOWER BOOK NOW

504/366-8535

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 275 Whitney Ave 70053.



HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON WEST BANK GRETNA BOOK NOW 504/619-9800





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 3 Westbank Expwy 70053.





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HAMMOND — HARAHAN, LA

HAMMOND

Hotels p. 40

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HAMMOND BOOK NOW 985/956-7730

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN®

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1605 S Magnolia St 70403.

THREE DIAMOND

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HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 985/419-2188

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 401 Westin Oak Dr 70403.

HOLIDAY INN HAMMOND **BOOK NOW** 985/662-3877

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 1819 SW Railroad Ave 70403.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON HAMMOND LA BOOK NOW 985/332-2300

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1608 SW Railroad Ave 70403.

HARAHAN

- Hotels p. 40
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

HAMPTON INN & SUITES ELMWOOD HOTEL BOOK NOW

504/733-5646



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 5150 Mounes St 70123.



TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS

METAIRIE

BOOK NOW 504/818-2400



SUITES® MARRIOTT

TOWNEPLACE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

> Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 5424 Citrus Blvd 70123. Location: Behind Elmwood Shopping Center. Facility: 124 kitchen units, some two

bedrooms. 4 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated outdoor.

Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























HARVEY

- Hotels p. 41
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63



BEST WESTERN PLUS WESTBANK BOOK NOW 504/366-5369







HAMPTON INN & SUITES NEW ORLEANS WESTBANK HARVEY BOOK NOW

504/324-5688



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1651 5th St 70058.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BOOK NOW 504/366-5055

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 2433 Manhattan Blvd 70058.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON HARVEY, LA BOOK NOW 504/962-7222



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1701 11th St 70058.



TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS HARVEY/WEST



504/495-1144



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1800 Central Blvd 70058.

HOUMA

• Hotels p. 42

Laced with waterways spanned by 52 bridges, the delta city of Houma (HO-ma) is often likened to Venice, Italy. Seven bayous converge, and the Intracoastal Waterway and Houma Navigational Canal provide ready access to the Gulf, where saltwater fishing is popular.

A scenic 140-mile stretch of US 90, beginning in Lafayette and ending in Paradis, intersects with SRs 24 and 57 in Houma. Just south of town SRs 56 and 57 form an 80mile circular driving tour through bayou country.

SOUTHDOWN PLANTATION/TERREBONNE MUSEUM is w. on Little Bayou Black Dr. (SR 311), s. on St. Charles

St. (SR 664) then e. to 1208 Museum Dr. The first floor of this pink Victorian manor house was built in 1859; a second story was added in 1893. Original Minor family furniture and Boehm and Doughty porcelain are among the items displayed on a guided tour, which also includes slave quarters. A self-guiding tour of a restored 1885 plantation worker's cabin with period furnishings is also available. Exhibits recount the history and culture of Terrebonne Parish, including its sugar plantations, Cajun heritage, art, literature, industry and local crafts.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (985) 851-0154. $\boxed{\text{GT}}$

CANDLEWOOD SUITES BOOK N

BOOK NOW 985/274-4000



Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 737 Corporate Dr 70360.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT-HOUMA BOOK NOW 985/223-8996



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 142 Library Dr 70360.



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT HOUMA SOUTHEAST BOOK NOW 985/873-9557



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 100 Picone Rd 70363.



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1728 Martin Luther King Blvd 70360.

HOLIDAY INN HOUMA BOOK NOW 985/601-4500

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 1800 Martin Luther King Blvd 70360.

IOWA

• Hotels p. 43





INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 204 W Frontage Rd 70647. Facility: 61 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.























JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND PRESERVE

• Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

Comprising six sites in the Mississippi Delta region, the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve was established to preserve some of the state's richest natural and historic resources.

The park includes the Acadian Cultural Center in Lafavette; Barataria Preserve (see attraction listing this page); Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery in Chalmette (see attraction listing p. 32); the French Quarter Visitor Center in New Orleans (see attraction listing p. 83); the Prairie Acadian Cultural Center in Eunice (see attraction listing p. 37); and the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Thibodaux (see attraction listing p. 142).

BARATARIA PRESERVE is on Barataria Blvd. (SR 45) on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish and is part of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve. Established to maintain and preserve important coastal wetlands, the 23,000-acre unit of hardwood forest, cypress swamp and marsh is home to alligators, herons, egrets and nutria.

On the grounds are a visitor center and 9 miles of boardwalks and trails. Fishing (with a state license) is permitted. Ranger-led walks are offered. An audio tour by cellphone is available. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum.

Phone: (504) 689-3690, ext. 10. GT 🔀 🚎

JENNINGS

Hotels p. 44

Founded in 1884, free homesteads and rich prairie land lured Midwestern wheat farmers, who soon began



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

44 JENNINGS — KENNER, LA

growing rice instead. The Mermentau River, its banks lined with moss-draped trees, flows through this island in an ocean of rice paddies.

In 1901 Louisiana's first oil well came in 5 miles northeast of Jennings, touching off a rush of oil developers to the area. The Louisiana Oil and Gas Park on SR 26 at I-10 houses an information center, live alligator displays and a replica of the state's first oil derrick. Oil and rice are still the mainstays of Jennings' economy. Many wells, streams and canals supply the water needed to grow the rice, and airplanes are often used to plant the crops.

Jeff Davis Parish Tourist Commission: 100 Rue de l'Acadie, Jennings, LA 70546. Phone: (337) 821-5521 or (800) 264-5521.

ZIGLER ART MUSEUM, 154 N. Main St., contains a collection of works spanning several hundred years. Included are early folk paintings, native crafts, and contemporary paintings and sculptures. Phone: (337) 824-0114.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON-JENNINGS

BOOK NOW 337/824-2699

INSPECTED @ CLEAN®

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

(SAVE) Hotel. Address: 310 W Fred-Ruth Zigler Memorial Dr 70546.

JONESVILLE

CATAHOULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE is 13 mi. w. on US 84. Nature trails, a 9-mile wildlife drive and two observation towers are part of the refuge, which protects 25,242 acres of natural habitat for native and migratory waterfowl and such animals as alligators, beavers, bobcats, deer and otters. Hunting, fishing and ATV-use permits are required for those age 16 and over and may be purchased for \$20 at the refuge or by mail. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (318) 992-5261.

Great Northern Railroad to run the railway near their sugar plantations. Currently, oil and gas are the largest industries.

Kenner founded the town in 1852 in a successful attempt

to lure the builders of the New Orleans, Jackson and

Shopping: The Esplanade, 1401 W. Esplanade Ave. off Williams Boulevard, is one of the largest local shopping areas; stores include Dillard's and Target.

KENNER

- Hotels p. 44
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

Kenner lies on the Mississippi River just west of New Orleans, Minor Kenner and his brother William Butler

GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS

• Treasure Chest Casino is off I-10 exit 223, then 2 mi. n. to 5050 Williams Blvd. Phone: (504) 443-8000 or (800) 298-0711. TI

BEST WESTERN PLUS NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT BOOK NOW 504/360-2990



Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry. SAVE) CALL(枆) (☎) (坤•) (BIZ) (HS) (㈜ (※) 🙌 📵 (모)













Hotel. Address: 189 W Airline Hwy 70062. Facility: 70 units. 3 stories, interior corridors.











CLARION HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER NEW ORLEANS

AIRPORT

BOOK NOW

504/467-5611



Hotel. Address: 2829 Williams Blvd 70062.



DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT BOOK NOW 504/467-3111





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

DOUBLETREE Hotel. Address: 2150 Veterans Blvd 70062. Facility: 245 units. 8 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities:

safes. Pool: outdoor, Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation.

















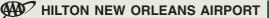












BOOK NOW 504/469-5000





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 901 Airline Dr 70062. Facility: 319 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: outdoor. Activities: hot tub. exercise room. Guest Services: valet



























504/325-5720





504/800-4357



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

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HOLIDAY INN NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT NORTH BOOK NOW

Hotel. Address: 1300 Veterans Blvd 70062.



HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON KENNER NEW ORLEANS AIRPORT BOOK NOW AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1112 Veterans Memorial Blvd 70062.

AAA/CAA rates!

KINDER — LACOMBE, LA

KINDER

Hotels p. 46

THE GRAND HOTEL BOOK NOW 337/738-8701

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 777 Coushatta Dr 70648.

THE INN AT COUSHATTA BOOK NOW

337/738-6001

APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 12102 US Hwy 165 70648.

SEVEN CLANS HOTEL BOOK NOW 337/738-3005

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Contemporary Resort Hotel. Address: 797 Coushatta Dr 70648.

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 80 ft. along the banks of the forest's rivers and creeks to 400 ft. in the Kisatchie Hills. Refer to AAA maps for additional elevation information.

Kisatchie National Forest extends across the central and northern parts of the state. The terrain of Louisiana's only national forest, comprised of six districts and more than 600,000 acres, varies from swamps of hardwood and cypress trees draped with Spanish moss to sandstone hills covered with longleaf pine. Farming and lumbering in the early 1900s left much of this land unproductive, but most of the area revived after the forest's establishment in 1930.

The forest offers more than 40 developed recreation areas. Most are open all year; swimming sites are open seasonally. The 31-mile Wild Azalea National Recreation Trail, near Alexandria off FR 273, offers floral displays in spring and brilliant colors in fall. Castor Creek Scenic Area, reached on foot from the Wild Azalea Trail, has many old, moss-covered hardwoods.

Near Minden the 8-mile Sugar Cane National Recreation Trail mixes history, nature and lakeside scenery as it winds across rolling hills. Among the many other trails within the forest is the 10-mile Big Branch Trail near Leesville. Kisatchie Hills Wilderness Area, also known as Louisiana's Little Grand Canyon, is an area of mesas, cliffs and canyons.

The forest can be enjoyed by car as well as by foot. The 17-mile Longleaf Scenic Byway, beginning at the junction of FR 337 and SR 117 and ending on SR 119, winds through some of Louisiana's most rugged forest land.

Kisatchie Bayou, off FR 366, offers 6 miles of canoe routes and probably the best fishing in the district. Saline Bayou, a national scenic river off FR 513, is good for wildlife viewing and can be canoed for 20 miles. Edible wild foods in Kisatchie include huckleberries, blackberries, elderberries and mavhaw fruit.

Ranger offices for the various districts are in Natchitoches (see place listing p. 59), Leesville (see place listing p. 54), Alexandria (see place listing p. 20), Homer, Winnfield and Bentley. For further information contact the Supervisor, Kisatchie National Forest, 2500 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville, LA 71360. The office is open Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30; closed federal holidays; phone (318) 473-7160. See Recreation Areas Chart.

LACOMBE

Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

BIG BRANCH MARSH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE is off I-12 exit 74 then s. to 61389 SR 434. On the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, the 18,000-acre refuge consists of beaches, grass beds, swamps, hardwood hammocks and pine ridges. These varied habitats invite a variety of fowl as well as deer, minks, otters, nutrias and



raccoons. Visitors may view exhibits and a wildlife demonstration garden at the visitor center.

Fishing, hiking and hunting are permitted. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (985) 882-2000.

LAFAYETTE

• Hotels p. 48

When expelled from Nova Scotia by the British in the 1700s, the French Acadian farmers settled around Lafayette, a region of 22 parishes that would come to be known as Acadiana. Their descendants, commonly called Cajuns, still speak a French dialect and observe the traditions of their ancestors. Like gumbo, the staple of Cajun cuisine, Acadiana has become a melting pot of cultures. French is still the dominant influence, with traces of Spanish, African, Native American, German and English.

Agriculture and cattle raising were the key occupations around Vermilionville, as the town was first called. During the 1850s highly organized rustlers caused the ranchers to band together into an army of 4,000 vigilantes that drove the rustlers out.

The Civil War and yellow fever hindered Vermilionville's growth, but in 1881 prosperity rode into town on an iron horse when the railroad was extended from New Orleans to Houston. Three years later the town changed its name to honor Marquis de Lafayette, a French general who served in the Continental army during the American Revolution.

Like many southern Louisiana towns, Lafayette was transformed by the discovery of offshore oil. Presently it is the center of the Gulf oil and gas industry; many company offices are housed in the Heymann Oil Center. The town also is the home of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

The Live Oak Society has its headquarters in Lafayette. This group was organized to preserve the live oak, an evergreen shade tree. Membership is limited to live oaks at least 100 years old. Annual membership dues were once 25 acorns. One of the society's venerable members stands in front of St. John's Cathedral, 915 St. John St.; it is more than 450 years old.

A scenic stretch of US 90 begins in Lafayette at the I-10 junction and runs 140 miles east to Paradis. Another year-round attraction is Acadiana Park Nature Station, 1205 E. Alexander St., where about 7 miles of hiking trails wind through woodland.

Several major annual events offer an excuse to celebrate. Lafayette Mardi Gras is said to be the state's second largest such celebration. Festival International de Louisiane, a francophone event held for 5 days in late April, honors the diversity of cultures through music, food, dance, theater, storytelling and arts and crafts. In October Festival Acadiens et Créoles showcases Cajun culture with crafts, food and music. From early to mid-December Noel Acadien Au Village takes place at Larc's Acadian Village (see attraction listing this page) and includes lights, parades and live entertainment among its seasonal offerings.

Lafayette Travel: 1400 N.W. Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501. **Phone:** (337) 232-3737, (800) 346-1958 in the United States, or (800) 543-5340 in Canada.

LARC'S ACADIAN VILLAGE is at 200 Greenleaf Dr. This restored bayou town depicts the early 19th-century lifestyle of Acadians in southern Louisiana. Buildings relocated to the site include a general store, a barn, a chapel and several houses. The village also includes 10 acres of gardens and woodlands. An audio tour by cellphone is available in English or French. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (337) 981-2364 or (800) 962-9133.

PAUL AND LULU HILLIARD UNIVERSITY ART MU-SEUM is at 710 E. St. Mary Blvd. on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus. The museum's collection consists of 18th- through 21st-century American, Asian and European artworks, and selections are displayed throughout the 11,000 square feet of gallery space on a rotating basis. Changing exhibitions of regional, national and international art also are presented.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (337) 482-2278.

VERMILIONVILLE is off I-10 exit 103A, 3.5 mi. s. on US 167 (becomes S.W. Evangeline Throughway), .5 mi. e. on Surrey St. then .2 mi. w. to 300 Fisher Rd. This heritage and folklife park brings to life the early days of Acadian, Creole and Native American settlers from the mid-1700s to late 1800s. The 23-acre park features costumed craftspeople, demonstrations, live music and jam sessions and restored homes and reproductions. Guided tours and cooking demonstrations are offered by advance reservation. Guided boat tours of the Bayou Vermilion are available in spring and fall.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (337) 233-4077. $\overline{\text{GT}}$

BEST WESTERN LAFAYETTE INN BOOK NOW 337/769-2900



Hotel. Address: 2207 NW Evangeline Thruway 70501. Facility: 52 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



SAVE (TI+) CALL (E) (2000) (BIZ) (HS) (P) (X) (F) (E) (E) (SOME (F)

























Boutique Resort Hotel. Address: 603 Silverstone Rd 70508. Facility: This all-suite hotel is located in the center of the charming River Ranch planned community, where shopping and restaurants are clustered in a village setting which is great for walking. 20 units, some two bedrooms and kitchens. 3 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, tennis, recreation programs, playground, lawn sports, health club, in-room exercise equipment, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.























COMFORT SUITES OIL CENTER BOOK NOW 337/456-8390





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 114 Rue Fernand 70508. Facility: 80 units. 3 stories, interior corridors, Pool: outdoor, Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





SAVE (YI+) CALL (A) (A) (BIZ) (HS) (R) (A) (A) (A)























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DOUBLETREE BY HILTON LAFAYETTE







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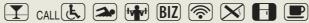
DOUBLETREE Hotel. Address: 1521 W Pinhook Rd 70503. Facility: 327 units. 15 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor.

Activities: exercise room.

























DRURY INN & SUITES-LAFAYETTE BOOK NOW 337/262-0202

Hotel. Address: 120 Alcide Dominique 70506.



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT-LAFAYETTE SOUTH BOOK NOW

337/233-5558



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1606 W Pinhook Rd 70508.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON LAFAYETTE-SOUTH COLLEGE

BOOK NOW 337/266-5858



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1910 S College Rd 70508.



HILTON GARDEN INN LAFAYETTE/CAJUNDOME BOOK NOW 337/291-1977



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors Garden Inn points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2350 W Congress St 70506. Facility: 153 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





























HOLIDAY INN & SUITES LAFAYETTE NORTH **BOOK NOW** 337/706-8199

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Hotel. Address: 2219 NW Evangeline Thruway 70501.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES **BOOK NOW** 337/981-0600

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 3903 Ambassador Caffery Pkwy 70503.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS-LAFAYETTE SOUTH

BOOK NOW

337/456-6900

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 210 Kaliste Saloom Rd 70508.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON PARC LAFAYETTE

BOOK NOW

337/706-8610



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1909 Kaliste Saloom Rd 70508. **Facility:** 106 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. *Bath:* shower only.

Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary and valet laundry.

THREE DIAMOND

























LA QUINTA INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM LAFAYETTE OIL

BOOK NOW 337/706-8330



Hotel. Address: 1321 W Pinhook Rd 70503.



RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT, LAFAYETTE AIRPORT

BOOK NOW 337/232-3341



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 128 James Comeaux Rd 70508.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT LAFAYETTE SOUTH AT RIVER

BOOK NOW |

337/981-5512



MARRIOTT

SPRINGHILL SUITES® AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 321 Settlers Trace Blvd 70508.

Facility: 103 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.























TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT LAFAYETTE SOUTH

BOOK NOW 337/408-8700

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN®

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 119 Lake Farm Rd 70508.



TRU BY HILTON LAFAYETTE RIVER RANCH BOOK NOW 337/534-0844



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE) Hotel. Address: 1310 Camellia Blvd Bldg 3 70508.

LAFITTE

• Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

AIRBOAT ADVENTURES is at 5145 Fleming Park Rd.; pick-up service is available from New Orleans hotels. Airboats take passengers on a tour of private cypress swamplands. Passengers can spot hawks, owls, alligators, egrets, nutria, wildflowers and other wildlife common to the area.

Time: Allow 2 hours, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 689-2005 or (888) 467-9267. **GT**

LAKE CHARLES

Hotels p. 52

Lake Charles owes its early development to a happy combination of Capt. J.B. Watkins, natural resources and a deepwater port. In 1887 Watkins moved his New York newspaper to Lake Charles and started an advertising program that, with the terminus of a railroad at New Orleans, resulted in the establishment of a 17-mill lumber industry.

An abundance of pine and cypress led to a building frenzy at the turn of the 19th century. There were not enough architects to meet construction demands, so carpenters built houses from book plans that they modified for individual homeowners. These distinct designs now define the historic Charpentier (carpenter) District.

Lake Charles' Mardi Gras Day features an impressive parade with lots of music. Louisiana Pirate Festival, which takes place in early May, is one of Louisiana's largest festivals; it centers on the legend of the "Gentleman Pirate," Jean Lafitte, who supposedly hid his treasures along the shores of Lake Charles. When the holiday season rolls around, so does Light up the Lake, which includes music,

52 LAKE CHARLES, LA

a lighted flotilla, a giant balloon parade, a carnival and fireworks.

The Creole Nature Trail National Scenic Byway (SRs 27) and 82), 9 miles west of Lake Charles, runs south from I-10 and passes through several refuges.

Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1205 N. Lakeshore Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70601. **Phone:** (337) 436-9588 or (800) 456-7952.

Self-auiding tours: Brochures for a 180-mile driving tour of the Creole Nature Trail National Scenic Byway and a riding/walking tour of the historic district are available from the convention and visitors bureau.

Shopping: Prien Lake Mall, off I-210 Lake Street exit at 496 W. Prien Lake Rd., features Dillard's, Kohl's and Jc-Penney among its more than 80 stores.

IMPERIAL CALCASIEU MUSEUM is at 204 W. Sallier St. at Ethel St. The museum features historical displays, an art gallery and a library with a collection of Audubon prints. Re-creations of late 19th-century rooms include a pharmacy, Victorian bedroom, parlor, country store and barbershop. The adjacent Gibson-Barham Gallery houses fine arts exhibits. On the grounds is an oak tree estimated to be nearly 400 years old.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (337) 439-3797 for the museum, or (337) 439-3793 for the office.



BOOK NOW

337/477-5900



Hotel. Address: 1245 E Prien Lake Rd 70601. Facility: 69 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest **Services:** valet and coin laundry, area transportation.













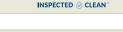












GOLDEN NUGGET LAKE CHARLES BOOK NOW 337/508-7777



Contemporary Resort Hotel. Address: 2550 Golden Nugget Blvd 70601. Facility: The rooms have soft bed linens, a small eating table and upscale appointments. Bathroom features include dual sinks, a tub and a stand-alone shower. 1091 units. 10-22 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 10 restaurants, nightclub, entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, cabanas, marina, fishing, regulation golf, tennis, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































BOOK NOW 337/480-6443



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 3175 Holly Hill Rd 70605.





HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON LAKE CHARLES BOOK NOW 337/990-5330



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1200 W Prien Lake Rd Rd 70601.

L'AUBERGE CASINO RESORT LAKE CHARLES BOOK NOW 337/395-7777



Resort Hotel. Address: 777 Ave L'Auberge 70601. Location: Waterfront. Facility: Rising dramatically in the distance, this upscale property is not your average bayou casino. The rooms are done up in traditional style with touches of some upscale appointments. 995 units. 21 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 4 restaurants, entertainment. Pool: outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, cabanas, regulation golf, recreation programs, game room, trails, exercise room, spa.



INSPECTED @ CLEAN























RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT LAKE CHARLES BOOK NOW 337/474-1772



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

[SAVE] Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1591 W Prien Lake Rd 70601.



SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT LAKE CHARLES **BOOK NOW**



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvov™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1551 W Prien Lake Rd 70601.



TRU BY HILTON LAKE CHARLES BOOK NOW 337/564-6878



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1220 W Prien Lake Rd 70601.

THREE DIAMOND

INSPECTED @ CLEAN

WINGATE BY WYNDHAM LAKE CHARLES CASINO AREA **BOOK NOW** 337/502-5112

Hotel. Address: 1731 W Prien Lake Rd 70601.

54 LAPLACE — MANDEVILLE, LA

LAPLACE

- Hotels p. 54
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

River Parishes Tourist Commission: 2900 Hwy. 51, La Place, LA 70068. **Phone:** (985) 359-2562 or (866) 204-7782.

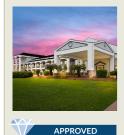
CAJUN PRIDE SWAMP TOURS is off I-10 exit 209 to I-55 exit 1, then .25 mi, e, to 110 Frenier Rd., following signs. Shuttle pick-up is available from most New Orleans, Kenner and Metairie area hotels. Covered steel swamp boats glide through the Manchac Swamp as experienced guides relate facts about the area's history. Alligators, nutria, hawks, raccoons, turtles and swamp vegetation may be seen. Plantation, airboat and combination tours also are offered.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (504) 467-0758, (985) 651-4477 or (800) 467-0758. GT



BEST WESTERN LAPLACE INN BOOK NOW

985/651-4000



Motel. Address: 4289 Main St 70068. Facility: 78 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin

















FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT LAPLACE BOOK NOW 985/359-2000



INSPECTED © CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 944 Belle Terre Blvd 70068.



TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT LAPLACE BOOK NOW 985/651-1700



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 4281 Hwy 51 70068.

LEESVILLE

Vernon Parish Tourism Commission: 201 S. 3rd St., Leesville, LA 71496. **Phone:** (337) 238-0783 or (800) 349-6287.

MANDEVILLE

• Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission: 68099 SR 59, Mandeville, LA 70471. Phone: (985) 892-0520 or (800) 634-9443.

METAIRIE

- Hotels p. 55
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

Metairie, a New Orleans suburb on the southern shore of Lake Pontchartrain, is an unincorporated community with nearly 140,000 residents—including a few famous ones. With the NFL New Orleans Saints' headquarters located in Metairie, some players and coaching staff choose

to live in the area. If you don't happen to run into your favorite "Who Dat" boy around town, the training facility at 5800 Airline Dr. is generally open to fans for the final week of summer training camp as well as during some spring workouts; check the team's website for more information.

Shopping: Lakeside Shopping Center, at Veterans Memorial Boulevard and N. Causeway Boulevard, features about 130 stores and eateries, including Dillard's, Macy's, Pottery Barn, Victoria's Secret and Williams-Sonoma.



COMFORT INN & SUITES AT COPELAND TOWER BOOK NOW 504/526-4595





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2601 Severn Ave, Building A 70002. Facility: 151 units. 5 stories, interior corridors, Amenities; safes, Activities; exercise room, Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

























BOOK NOW 504/835-4141





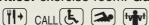
AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2713 N Causeway Blvd 70002. Facility: 138 units. 2-3 stories, interior/exterior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor.

Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























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COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT/METAIRIE

BOOK NOW 504/838-3800



COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2 Galleria Blvd 70001. Facility: 153 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS

METAIRIE

BOOK NOW 504/619-9700



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2710 Severn Ave 70002.



HAMPTON INN METAIRIE

BOOK NOW 504/831-7676



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2730 N Causeway Blvd at Veterans Memorial 70002.



HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON METAIRIE NEW ORLEANS

BOOK NOW 504/509-7410



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Contemporary Hotel. Address: 2730 Severn Ave 70002.



NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT METAIRIE AT LAKEWAY BOOK NOW

504/836-5253



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE) Hotel. Address: 3838 N Causeway Blvd 70002.



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RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS METAIRIE BOOK NOW 504/832-0888



Residence INI AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 3 Galleria Blvd 70001. Facility: 120 units. some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 3 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















MINDEN

• Hotels p. 57



BEST WESTERN MINDEN INN BOOK NOW 318/377-1001



INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 1411 Sibley Rd 71055. Facility: 39 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry. SAVE (TI) CALL (L) (A) (BIZ) (HS) (R) (X) (FI) (E)

























MONROE

• Hotels p. 58

The city has quite a connection to aviation history. Delta Air Lines (originally Delta Air Service then Delta Air Corporation) was formed in Monroe in 1928 with the purchase of the local crop-dusting company Huff Daland Dusters; the fleet eventually began passenger and mail service. During World War II, Monroe's Selman Field Navigation School was the country's largest such school, graduating more than 15,000 navigators. In the late 1940s Monroe gained a very storied aviator as a resident—Lt. Gen. Claire Chennault. His military accomplishments included his role in helping to persuade President Franklin Roosevelt to send volunteer American pilots to assist China in its battle against Japan as well as becoming the leader of the Flying Tigers and the U.S. 14th Air Force. Chennault lived in Monroe until his death in 1958.

The 238-acre University of Louisiana at Monroe campus on Bayou DeSiard was founded in 1931 and has more than 9.000 students.

The Ouachita River separates Monroe from neighboring West Monroe (see place listing p. 144). A boat launch at Forsythe Park, at the junction of Riverside Drive and Forsythe Avenue, provides access. Additional recreational facilities, including a jogging path and children's park, are also featured; phone (318) 329-2523. About 9 miles east at 8475 Millhaven Rd. is Chennault Park, with a paved walking trail and Frisbee golf area. Both parks have picnic areas.

58 MONROE, LA

Monroe Chamber of Commerce: 212 Walnut St., Suite 100, Monroe, LA 71201. **Phone:** (318) 323-3461.

Shopping: The Pecanland Mall, 4700 Millhaven Rd., features nearly 90 stores, including Belk, Dillard's and JCPenney.

BLACK BAYOU LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, just e. on Richland Pl. off US 165, offers ample ways to experience the great swampy outdoors. Some of the inhabitants of this forested wetland include alligators, coyotes, herons, snakes and a variety of songbirds.

Hunting for white-tailed deer, ducks, game birds and small game is permitted in designated areas. Benches, interpretive panels and tree identification labels line a 1-mile boardwalk/nature trail. You can boat and fish in the 1,600-acre Black Bayou Lake—which has a marked canoe trail—or just walk along the wildlife pier that extends into the water. The structure includes informational panels and two covered platforms; the easternmost has spotting scopes.

Other amenities include a visitor center, a conservation learning center, an arboretum and an observation station with interpretive signs. Interpretive programs are offered. See Recreation Areas Chart. Phone: (318) 387-1114.

CHENNAULT AVIATION & MILITARY MUSEUM, 701 Kansas Ln., is housed in one of the last remaining buildings from the World War II-era Selman Field Army-Air Force Navigation School. Exhibits—including weapons, uniforms, medals, photographs and other relics—document everything from World War I to Vietnam to current military conflicts.

Displays in the Chennault Room highlight the accomplishments of Monroe resident Lt. Gen. Claire Lee Chennault, a prominent American pilot best known as the leader of the "Flying Tigers" fighter group. More than five restored aircraft and pieces of military equipment are on the grounds. **Phone:** (318) 362-5540. GT



COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT MONROE AIRPORT BOOK NOW 318/388-0034



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 4915 Pecanland Mall Dr 71203.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON, MONROE, LA BOOK NOW 318/343-6910



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

WE Hotel. Address: 5100 Frontage Rd 71202.



RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT MONROE BOOK NOW 318/387-0210



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 4960 Millhaven Rd 71203.



TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT MONROE BOOK NOW 318/387-7277



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 4919 Pecanland Mall Dr 71203.

MORGAN CITY

Hotels p. 59

The Chitimacha Indians were the first to settle in the area, but the character of the region was shaped by the 18th-century Acadian refugees from Canada. Better known as Cajuns, their culture is evident in the food, lanquage, music and architecture found in this region. Two scenic highways, US 90 and SR 70, intersect at Morgan Citv.

On the banks of the Atchafalaya River, Morgan City once called itself the Jumbo Shrimp Capital of the World. But since offshore oil was discovered in 1947, the petroleum industry has far surpassed the shrimp market in economic importance. Morgan City annually celebrates both industries with its Louisiana Shrimp and Petroleum Festival during Labor Day weekend.

Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau—Morgan City: 900 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Morgan City, LA 70380. **Phone:** (985) 380-8224 or (800) 256-2931.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES MORGAN CITY

BOOK NOW 985/221-4421



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE) Hotel. Address: 6365 Hwy 182 E 70380.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES MORGAN CITY- TIGER ISLAND BOOK NOW

985/300-5300

HREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 704 Dr ML King Blvd 70380.

NATCHITOCHES

• Hotels p. 60

Natchitoches (NAK-a-tish) is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. From 1714 until about 1825 when the Red River channel retreated 5 miles east, Natchitoches was an important trading center.

Creole culture and interesting old homes and plantations are featured in the Cane River Creole National Historical Park south of town. Oakland Plantation and Magnolia Plantation, both along the Cane River, are the park's two main sites. Self-guiding tours of the grounds of both the 1818 Oakland Plantation, on SR 494 in Natchez, and Magnolia Plantation, south on SR 119 in Derry, are available. Special lectures and cultural demonstrations also are offered; phone (318) 356-8441 for information and schedules.

Cane River Creole National Historical Park is within Cane River National Heritage Area, a 45,000-acre parcel known for its Creole culture and architecture. Other facilities within the heritage area include Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site (see attraction listing p. 60) and Los Adaes State Historic Site, 10 miles west off SR 6. Los Adaes State Historic Site, the site of a fort built in 1721 to protect Spanish territory from the French, is open Wed.-Sat. 10-4; phone (318) 356-5555.

Cane River Lake, a 32-mile-long meandering waterway that flows through downtown Natchitoches and into plantation country, is open for fishing, boating, skiing and swimming. The lake is home to ducks, nutria and many varieties of birds, including kingfishers, snowy and great egrets and great blue herons.

Among the city's annual events is the Christmas Festival of Lights, held the first weekend in December since 1926. The lights can be seen from mid-November through early January. Festival and seasonal activities include, in addition to the 300,000 holiday lights, fireworks each Saturday in December, music, arts and crafts, food, a festival parade, a living-history encampment, a special children's festival area and a holiday tour of homes.

Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: 780 Front St., Suite 100, Natchitoches, LA 71457. Phone: (318) 352-8072 or (800) 259-1714.

Self-guiding tours: The St. Denis Walk of Honor, beginning at the corner of Second Street and Rue St. Denis, honors people who have brought recognition to the community. Granite squares embedded in the sidewalk bear the names and professions of such famous people as John Ford, John Wayne and Julia Roberts.

60 NATCHITOCHES, LA

The convention and visitors bureau offers a map detailing a walking tour of downtown's National Historic Landmark District, a 33-block area of historic homes, shops and restaurants, as well as a map outlining a driving tour of the surrounding area. A brochure is available featuring sites used in the filming of "Steel Magnolias." This movie, which originated as an off-Broadway play written by Natchitoches native Robert Harling, was filmed here in 1988; hundreds of locals acted as extras.

FORT ST. JEAN BAPTISTE STATE HISTORIC SITE is at 155 Jefferson St. The site is a reconstruction of the 1732 French fort and trading post. The original fort was built to prevent encroachment by the Spanish from east Texas into French-held Louisiana. Local materials and 18thcentury technology were used in the re-creation. The fort includes a barracks, warehouse, chapel and a commandant's house.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (318) 357-3101 or (888) 677-7853.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH is at 605 2nd St. Designated a minor basilica in 2009, the church building dates from the mid-1850s. The first mass was held in 1717 when a Franciscan walked 21 miles from the Spanish mission at Los Adaes to say Mass in Natchitoches—the first public religious service in the town. Except for the pews and the American- and Austrian-made stained glass windows, all fittings and furnishings in the church were imported from France. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (318) 352-3422.

LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL OF FAME & NORTHWEST LOUISIANA HISTORY MUSEUM, 800 Front St., recognizes the achievements of more than 300 Louisiana athletes, coaches and other sports figures. Exhibits include portraits of hall of famers, sports memorabilia and interactive displays. Also on-site, the Northwest Louisiana History Museum highlights cultural traditions of local peoples, from early Native Americans through modern-day Louisianans. **Phone:** (318) 357-2492.







Hotel. Address: 120 Church St 71457.







AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 151 Hayes Ave 71457. Facility: 84 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT NATCHITOCHES

BOOK NOW

318/354-8007



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 150 Hayes Ave 71457.



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON

BOOK NOW 318/354-0010



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 5300 University Pkwy 71457.



NEW IBERIA

• Hotels p. 61

The area around New Iberia was settled by French Acadians who fled Nova Scotia. In 1779 they were joined by a group of Spaniards under the leadership of Lt. Col. Francisco Bouligny. The Spaniards called their settlement Nueva Iberia, and it is one of the few Spanish town names remaining in southern Louisiana. The majority of the present population is of French and Spanish descent. New Iberia was incorporated in 1839 due to the efforts of Frederic H. Duperier, a plantation owner who also donated the land on which St. Peter's Catholic Church was built.

New Iberia is on Bayou Teche, which flows through the Evangeline country and takes its name from the Native American word teche, meaning "snake." The Teche country is known as the "Sugar Bowl of Louisiana."

Bouligny Plaza on West Main Street honors the town's founder; the central feature of the square is a bust of Francisco Bouligny.

Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau: 2513 SR 14, New Iberia, LA 70560. **Phone:** (337) 365-1540 or (888) 942-3742.

Self-quiding tours: The convention and visitors bureau offers free walking tour maps of New Iberia.

JOSEPH JEFFERSON HOME AND RIP VAN WINKLE GARDENS is at 5505 Rip Van Winkle Rd. Joseph Jefferson was an acclaimed actor in the late 1800s known for his role as Rip Van Winkle; his home was built as a winter respite from his stage performances. The 22-room mansion features a cupola, period paintings and fine furnishings. Camellias, day lilies, roses and magnolias are among the many flowers that blossom year-round in 25 acres of interlocking gardens.

Food is available daily 11-2:30. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (337) 359-8525. **GT**



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New Orleans

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Then & Now

New Orleans, once described as an "inevitable city on an impossible site," survived floods and disasters from its earliest days. Its location on a swampy patch between the mouth of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain made it a vital—and vulnerable—port.

Famous for Mardi Gras revelry and Creole hospitality, New Orleans became a popular tourist destination. The Big Easy's nickname and its unofficial motto, *Laissez les bons temps rouler* ("Let the good times roll"), seemed to belie issues with poverty, unemployment or violent crime; even the political scandals were entertaining.

A complex system of levees, drainage canals and pumps kept the city dry but also caused it to sink below sea level. Hurricanes brought severe flooding, and experts warned that a direct hit would cripple the city. That prediction came true in 2005 with Hurricane Katrina. Lake

Pontchartrain's levees crumbled, leaving parts of the city under water and 1,500 people dead.

Hope emerged, though, through grass roots recovery efforts. Rebuilding homes, restoring a distinctive cultural identity and preserving and nurturing a rich musical heritage were key to the city's revival.

Streetcars once again shuttle passengers down Canal Street and the Riverfront, and the St. Charles Avenue line's cars clang and sway along their 13-mile route. The French Quarter buzzes with activity; music spills onto streets, competing with sidewalk singers, violinists, saxophonists and the Steamboat *Natchez*'s calliope.

Residents refuse to be overwhelmed by their troubles—a spirit that harkens back to the first intrepid settlers who called the Louisiana bayous home.

Founders Pierre and Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne arrived in 1699, claiming the region for France. Slavery was introduced almost immediately, with African Americans populating the Tremé neighborhood. African and West Indian rhythms generated there contributed to the birth of jazz.

Steamboat Natchez / Courtesy of Steamboat ffiNatchez/i

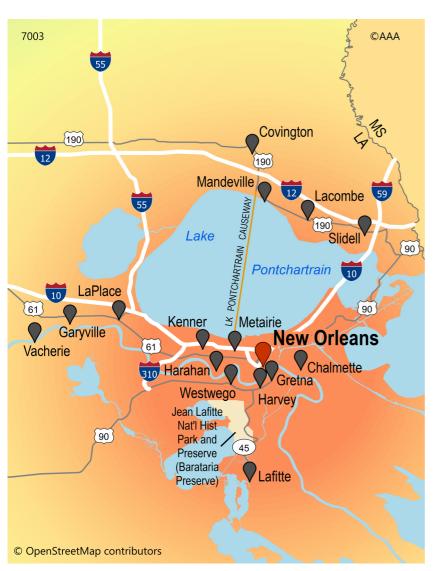






Destination New Orleans

This map shows cities in the New Orleans vicinity where you will find attractions, hotels and restaurants. Cities are listed alphabetically in this book on the following pages.



Chalmette	3
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Mandeville	5
Metairie	5
Slidell	139
Vacherie	14
Westwego	140

FAST FACTS

ABOUT THE CITY

POP: 343.829 • **ELEV:** 11 ft.

MONEY

SALES TAX: Louisiana's statewide sales tax is 4.45 percent; an additional 5 percent is levied in the New Orleans metro area, and Orleans Parish has a .5 percent tax on food and beverages. The city has a 11.75 percent lodging tax, plus an occupancy tax of \$1-\$12 per night. The state's car rental tax is 3 percent.

WHOM TO CALL

EMERGENCY: 911

POLICE (non-emergency): (504) 821-2222 FIRE (non-emergency): (504) 658-4700 **TIME AND TEMPERATURE:** (318) 324-8808

HOSPITALS: Ochsner Medical Center, (504) 842-3000 Touro Infirmary, (504) 897-7011
 Tulane Medical Center, (504) 988-5263 • University Medical Center New Orleans, (504) 702-3000.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Jefferson Convention & Visitors Bureau: 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 411, New Orleans, LA 70123. Phone: (504) 731-7083 or (877) 572-7474.

New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau: 2020 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130. Phone: (504) 566-5011 or (800) 672-6124.

New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corporation: 2020 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130. Phone: (504) 524-4784.

The neighborhood is now a historic district that includes Louis Armstrong Park, a site where enslaved people once gathered.

In the mid-1700s France ceded the city to Spain and the French-speaking ancestors of present-day Cajuns arrived, driven from Acadia (Nova Scotia) by the British and an impending civil war.

Within a month in 1803, Louisiana's ownership passed from Spain to France and then to the United States through the Louisiana Purchase. A clash of cultures commenced: The French kept to the Vieux Carré ("Old Square") and the Americans to the Garden District.

TRANSPORTATION

AIR TRAVEL: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is about 21 miles west of downtown New Orleans in Kenner and is served by nearly all major domestic and foreign carriers. See Arriving, Air Travel.

RENTAL CARS: New Orleans is served by several major car rental agencies. Arrangements should be made before you leave on your trip. Your local AAA club can provide this service or additional information. Hertz, (504) 568-1645 or (800) 654-3080, offers discounts to AAA members.



Visit AAA.com/roadtrips

RAIL SERVICE: Amtrak uses the Union Passenger Terminal at 1001 Loyola Ave. Daily service is offered. Phone (800) 872-7245 for further information.

BUSES: The Greyhound Lines Inc. bus terminal is at 1001 Lovola Ave.; phone (504) 525-6075 or (800) 231-2222 for schedule and fares.

TAXIS: Cabs are plentiful in the main business and tourist areas. Average fare is \$3.50 initially and \$2.40 for each additional mile and \$1 for each additional person. The largest companies are Metry, (504) 835-4242 and United, (504) 522-9771. Information about taxi service also can be obtained from the Taxicab & For Hire Bureau at (504) 658-7176.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: Transportation by bus, streetcar and ferry is available in New Orleans. See Getting Around, Public Transportation.

Less than a decade later, the United States and England were at war. The invading army coveted the port and nearly captured it during the Battle of New Orleans, which pitted the British against Gen. Andrew Jackson.

Farming and a successful port made New Orleans a key Civil War target. Captured a year after fighting began, the Crescent City remained under Union rule until Reconstruction ended.

The Storyville district, created just outside the French Quarter to confine prostitution to one locale, flourished until 1917, and Bourbon Street's bawdy reputation arguably traces to a tolerance for promiscuous behavior. A more favorable outcome of the district was its jazz legacy—Louis Armstrong and Jelly Roll Morton practiced their music styles in Storyville bordellos.

Partying never ends in the French Quarter. Tourists still line up at Pat O'Brien's for fruity rum Hurricanes and music lovers queue outside Preservation Hall for Dixieland jazz.

Must Do: AAA Editor's Picks

- Explore the historic streets of the French Quarter on a carriage ride or walking tour where you'll find local restaurants, shops and historic buildings. Trips depart from the French Quarter Visitor Center (419 Decatur St.) and the 1850 House (The Lower Pontalba Building) (523 St. Ann St.).
- Get a glimpse behind the wrought-iron gates and courtyard doors at the Gallier House (1132 Royal St.), Hermann-Grima House (820 St. Louis St.) or Williams Residence, part of The Historic New Orleans Collection (533 Royal St.). Each of these French Quarter residences belonged to a prominent New Orleans family.
- Visit the Garden District's architectural gems; admire the venerable Uptown neighborhood's Greek-Revival mansions and Creole cottages. Have dinner at Commander's Palace (1403 Washington Ave.), established in 1880. Call ahead: a reservation at the landmark restaurant is highly coveted, as are such signature menu items as turtle soup and bread puddina soufflé.
- In New Orleans, it's all about the food, so you certainly can't leave without sampling some crawfish étouffée, shrimp jambalaya and gumbo. Still hungry? Have a picnic on the river with a muffuletta from Central Grocery Company (923 Decatur St.) or a po'boy from Mother's (401 Poydras St.). For dessert, try a serving of king cake on a guided tour of Mardi Gras World (1380 Port of New Orleans Pl.).
- Sit in on a session at Preservation Hall (726 St. Peter St.). The local band at this shrine to Dixieland jazz plays almost every night. "Hall" is a misnomer; only about 100 people can squeeze into the room, so line up early and bring a fan (there's no air conditioning).
- Cruise up the Muddy Mississippi aboard the Creole Queen (365 Canal St.) or New Orleans Steamboat Company's Steamboat *Natchez* (400 Toulouse St.). The paddlewheelers offer lunch and dinner cruises, live jazz, tours of the Port of New Orleans and trips to the **Audubon Zoo** (6500 Magazine St.).
- Take a trip down River Road. Driving west toward Baton Rouge, you'll pass **Destrehan Plantation** (13034 River Rd. in Destrehan). San Francisco

- Plantation (2646 River Rd. in Garvville) and Houmas House Plantation and Gardens (40136 River Rd. in Darrow). On the south side of the river, you'll find Kaura: A Creole Plantation (2247 SR 18 in Vacherie), Took Alley Plantation (3645 SR 18 in Vacherie) and Nottoway Plantation (31025 SR 1 in White Castle).
- Walk among the graceful mausoleums and tombs of New Orleans' Old Cemeteries. Two of the closest are Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 (1400 Washington Ave.) in the Garden District and St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 (Basin and St. Louis streets) just north of the French Quarter. Guided tours are available from Save Our Cemeteries. Historic New Orleans Tours (departs 334-B Royal St.) or **Haunted History Tours** (723 St. Peter St.).
- You'll see it all on Bourbon Street, a seven-block stretch of music bars, restaurants and strip clubs (not that you would ever step inside). Not for children or the faint of heart.
- Order beignets and café au lait at Café Du Monde (800 Decatur St.). Sit back and watch street performers, fortune-tellers and balloon artists provide



Commander's Palace / @ AAA / Thuvvi Gates



- non-stop entertainment to the steady stream of tourists on **Jackson Square** (701 Chartres St.).
- Hop on the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar, a New Orleans tradition since 1835, for a delightful tour of the city. The main boarding location is at Carondelet and Canal streets, but it can be boarded at stops all along St. Charles Avenue. The historic streetcars run along the edge of the Garden District, past mansions, Loyola and Tulane universities and Audubon Park (6500 Magazine St.).

New Orleans 1-day Itinerary

AAA editors suggest these activities for a great short vacation experience. Those staying in the area for a longer visit can access a 3-day itinerary at AAA.com/TripCanvas.



Jackson Square / @ AAA / Thuyvi Gates

Morning

- Today's exploration of New Orleans is centered in the French Quarter, the heart and soul of the city where New Orleans began. Known as the Vieux Carré (old square), it's still vibrant and loaded with charm and atmosphere. Put on some comfortable shoes and start walking.
- Join locals and tourists like yourself for breakfast at Café Du Monde (800 Decatur St.). The open-air coffee stand has been a fixture across from Jackson Square (701 Chartres St.) since 1862. Although breakfast is a great time to try the chicory coffee and beignets (puffy, square French doughnuts heavily dusted with confectioners' sugar) the restaurant is famous for, you can indulge in these New Orleans treats 24/7; the café closes only on Christmas Day and for the occasional hurricane. The coffee is served either black or au lait (half coffee and half hot milk) and is meant to be enjoyed along with a delicious side order of people watching.
- From the café, walk up the adjacent steps to the top of the levee and survey the sweeping bend of Ol' Man River. You'll instantly understand why New Orleans is called the Crescent City. If you're in the mood for shopping, head to The Shops at Jax Brewery, which overlooks the river; the ground-floor shops in the Pontalba Buildings (500 St. Ann St. and 500 St. Peter St.) on Jackson Square; or the many curio, clothing, candy and souvenir shops you'll encounter as you make your way along Decatur Street to the French Market District (1008 N. Peters St.), where you can find everything from pralines to fine art to farmers markets. Royal Street's art and antique shops are not to be missed.

Afternoon

- Learn how to cook some of the city's signature Creole and Cajun dishes at the New Orleans School of Cooking (524 St. Louis St.). At the end of the 2.5-hour demonstration you'll enjoy lunch-size portions of the chef's creations, which might include gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice, bread pudding and pralines.
- If a cooking class isn't your cup of tea, but you still want to chow down on some New Orleans specialties, head to Central Grocery Company (923 Decatur St.), home of the original muffuletta. For the uninitiated, a muffuletta (at least Central Grocery's version) is sliced salami, ham and provolone cheese topped with a marinated olive salad and stuffed into a round sesame seed-encrusted loaf of Italian bread. There's always a line here, but it's fast moving and

- gives you time to check out the tempting imported goods lining the shelves. If you're lucky, you'll find a space along the counter at the back of the store. If not, find a bench nearby to enjoy this quintessentially New Orleans sandwich.
- After class or lunch, climb aboard a horse-drawn carriage for a leisurely tour of the Quarter (actually, the carriage is likely to be pulled by a mule these days instead of a horse). The rides depart from the Decatur Street side of Jackson Square. The drivers are well-versed in local history and provide a running commentary to go along with the clip-clop of the animal's hooves. This is a great way to view the Quarter's intricate architecture, hidden courtyards and lacy iron balconies and scope out a restaurant or shop you might want to return to.

Evening

- Take a dinner cruise on the Mississippi River. Both the *Creole Queen* (365 Canal St.) and the **New** Orleans Steamboat Company's Steamboat *Natchez* (400 Toulouse St.) offer a full evening of entertainment. Seeing New Orleans from the perspective of a stern-wheel steamboat or from the decks of a paddlewheeler, enjoying a bountiful buffet of New Orleans favorites and being serenaded by a jazz band is a winning combination.
- Speaking of winning—after you return to shore, there's still plenty of evening left to explore New Orleans' nightlife. Continue your winning ways with a visit to Harrah's New Orleans Casino (228 Poydras St.) and test your luck on the slots or roulette, baccarat, blackjack, poker or craps. Then make one last stop at a French Quarter bar for a nightcap.

Top Picks for Kids

New Orleans is a lively city full of many fun things to do and fun places to go, but not every location or event is suitable for the whole family. Consider these spots for the younger members of your group on your next vacation.

Under 13

- A merry-go-round ride puts a smile on any child's face. Carousel Gardens Amusement Park's (7 Victory Ave.) restored 1906 wooden carousel is a timeless classic with 54 hand-carved horses. Other grin-inducing rides include a Ferris wheel, bumper cars, Tilt-A-Whirl and miniature train.
- The Louisiana Children's Museum (15 Henry Thomas Dr.) is full of fun for toddlers and preteens. Make a sculpture or painting, discover how the human body works, build a giant bubble around your body and view learn about caring for wildlife.

New Orleans is world-famous for its magical Mardi Gras parades. Get the Mardi Gras experience without the crazy crowds at Mardi Gras World (1380 Port of New Orleans Pl.), where many of the parade's floats are created. Watch artists paint giant court jesters and mystical creatures in explosive colors.

Teens

New Orleans offers plenty of adventure travel spots teens will love. Venture into the wilds outside of the city for an exciting swamp tour. A shuttle bus picks you up at your hotel and soon you're drifting over glassy waters in a covered boat past shade trees, an old cemetery, and, of course, alligators. Native guides keep the entire family entertained with stories about swamp life, and you can even hold a baby alligator.



St. Charles Avenue Streetcar / © iStockphoto.com / drnadig



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- Stroll around Jackson Square (701 Chartres St.) and ogle the scores of musicians, street performers, fortune tellers and human statues. Have your portrait painted by one of the street artists for a modest fee, or take in the scenery on a mule-drawn carriage ride.
- If you're anywhere near the Garden District, stop at Commander's Palace (1403 Washington Ave.) for its heralded jazz brunch. Put on your Sunday best and introduce your brood to some fine cuisine; it's a little pricey but worth it. Brave kids can try the turtle soup; everyone will like the berry-filled black and blue pancakes topped with whipped Creole cream cheese.

All Ages

 No matter the time of day, a stop at Café Du Monde (800 Decatur St.), a New Orleans institution since 1862, is an absolute must. Just try to resist the



Streetcar on Canal Street / @ AAA / Thuyvi Gates

- light-as-air, smothered-in-confectioner's-sugar beignets. These fried squares of dough will have everyone covered in powdered sugar and begging for more, so factor in more than one trip to this café during your stay.
- Introduce your family to the city's historic form of transportation on the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar. The main boarding location is at Carondelet and Canal streets. Built in the mid-1920s, the streetcars will take you through the Garden District with its stately Greek Revival homes and canopies of magnificent oak and magnolia trees. Let the kids pull the cord to signal the conductor to stop at Audubon Park (6500 Magazine St.).
- Audubon Aquarium of the Americas (1 Canal St.) is filled to the gills with aquatic life. Meet the aquarium darlings, Clara and Ruby, adorable sea otters whose antics will make everyone giggle. You also can pet surprisingly unslimy stingrays, walk through a tunnel of toothy sharks and tour an amazing Amazon rain forest
- Audubon Zoo (6500 Magazine St.) is a sure kid pleaser. It's home to more than 1,500 creatures from all parts of the globe. There's even a re-created swamp complete with live, rare white alligators. Heat-fatigued urchins will be revived at the Cool Zoo splash park.

Arriving

By Car

Two major automobile routes enter New Orleans from the north. I-59, a four-lane controlled-access freeway, comes from Hattiesburg, Miss.; it is paralleled by two-lane US 11. North of Slidell US 11 becomes I-10, an east-west route linking New Orleans with Baton Rouge to the west and Mississippi's Gulf of Mexico beaches to the east.

From Jackson, Miss., I-55 leads south between lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain. It then connects with I-10 at La Place for the final 26 miles into New Orleans. The 24-mile, four-lane Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, a scenic route into the city, is accessible from both I-55 and I-59 via I-12; the toll is \$5.

I-10 and US 90 are the main east-west approaches, running parallel east of New Orleans. US 90 passes through a series of beach communities; I-10 affords faster travel. US 90 follows Claiborne Avenue through the city, crossing the Mississippi River via the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Near the Caesars Superdome, US 90 Bus. Rte. follows the Pontchartrain Expressway across The Crescent City Connection Bridge. Then, as Westbank Expressway, it runs through the suburbs to rejoin US 90 near Bridge City.



I-10 offers expressway travel through the heart of the city and is the direct link to Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport via a four-lane airport access road.

From the west, I-10 and US 90 are parallel or combined routes to Lafayette. From there US 90 takes a scenic, southerly swing through bayou country, and I-10, which is the shorter and faster route, heads for New Orleans via Baton Rouge.

Air Travel

Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport (MSY) is about 21 miles west of downtown New Orleans in Kenner and is served by nearly all major domestic and foreign carriers. Citybound traffic exits the airport in two directions.

To connect with the expressway, exit the airport to the east and take Airport Road (not Airline Highway) north to I-10 east. After about 10 miles I-10 moves southward into town. Exiting to I-610 east will lead to the eastern leg of I-10. Another route into New Orleans is via US 61 east (Airline Highway), which is accessed just south of the terminal building.

The average taxicab fare from the airport to the Central Business District (CBD) is \$41 for one or two people and \$15 per person for three or more riders. Limousine service is available starting at \$58 for up to two passengers. The Airport Shuttle has ticket booths on the lower level of the baggage claim area. Vans depart every 15 minutes from the airport and provide transportation into the city for \$24 one-way and \$44 round-trip; phone (504) 522-3500 or (866) 596-2699 for reservations. Jefferson Transit operates a bus from the airport to Tulane and Loyola avenues Monday through Friday (fare \$2), and to Tulane and Carrollton avenues Saturday and Sunday (fare \$1.50); phone (504) 818-1077.

New Orleans is served by several major car rental agencies. Arrangements should be made before you leave on your trip. Your local AAA club can provide this service or additional information. Hertz, (504) 568-1645 or (800) 654-3080, offers discounts to AAA members.

Getting Around

Street System

The street system is determined by the natural boundaries of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain. North-south streets are usually perpendicular to the lake-shore or riverbank, while east-west routes are more or less parallel to them.

Uptown means upstream and generally toward the river. Lakeside indicates the general direction toward the lake;

riverside denotes the direction toward the river. Downtown, which encompasses the central business district, is east and northeast of Lee Circle.

The river-oriented part of the city falls within the triangle formed by Carrollton and Esplanade avenues and the Mississippi. Canal Street, Tulane Avenue and the Pontchartrain Expressway are the main thoroughfares. New Orleans' principal routes across the city are Tchoupitoulas Street and St. Charles, Claiborne and Broad avenues.

Above the Carrollton-Esplanade apex, roads run approximately northward to Lake Pontchartrain. In addition to Pontchartrain Expressway, the main routes are Wisner Boulevard and Elysian Fields Avenue. Major crosstown routes through New Orleans are Airline Highway, City Park Avenue, Gentilly Boulevard and Lakeshore Drive.

Canal Street, which runs northwest, divides north from south. Thus, street numbering moves outward from it as



The Crescent City Connection Bridge / © iStockphoto.com / sixty7a



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well as lakeward from the Mississippi. Streets also change names as they cross Canal. For example, Royal Street becomes St. Charles Avenue, and Bourbon Street becomes Carondelet Street. Except for divided thoroughfares such as Canal, Tulane, Basin and St. Charles, most streets downtown and in the French Quarter are one-way.

Few left turns are permitted from major arteries or moderately traveled downtown streets. It is easier to loop to the right back around the block than to drive a mile or more in search of a legal left turn. Right and left turns on red at one-way intersections are permitted unless otherwise posted.

The speed limit is 30 mph on most streets and 35 mph on boulevards, or as posted. However, on many streets these limits will rarely be reached. Heat, humidity and a water table that lies only 2 to 3 feet below the surface make street maintenance a continuing problem. A buckle of pavement may be the closest thing to a hill you see in New Orleans.

Rush hours are from 7 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Avoid driving during these hours whenever possible. Congestion is greatest on bridges, I-10, I-610 and on the narrow streets of the French Quarter, several of which are blocked off for pedestrian use. Royal Street turns into a pedestrian mall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Bourbon Street is a pedestrian mall from dusk to early morning hours.

Parking

Parking lots and garages can be found throughout the downtown business area; fees vary and may be increased during special events. Parking fees at the Riverwalk and in areas of the French Quarter are typically higher than in other areas of the city (the closer to Bourbon Street, the higher the rates).

On-street parking is scarce and is prohibited in most central sections. Visitors should read—and heed—the rather small signs that tell where and when parking is legal, as the regulations are strictly enforced by prompt towing and heavy fines.

Regular 2-hour meters are \$2 to \$3 per hour. Meters are enforced Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Parking is prohibited at meters in designated rush hour zones from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. For towing/auto pound information phone (504) 658-8284 or (504) 565-7451.

Public Transportation

New Orleans' city bus system is inexpensive and efficient. On regular runs within the city limits the bus fare is \$1.25 and transfers are 25c; express fare is \$1.50 or 25c with a transfer from a regular bus. The Jazzy pass—\$3 for

1 day—allows unlimited rides on all Regional Transit Authority buses and streetcars; exact change is required.

The clanging streetcars that ply St. Charles Avenue are part of the transit system (see attraction listing p. 91). The Canal Streetcar has two lines. The Canal-City Park/Museum line runs from Esplanade Avenue to Canal Street, then along Canal Street from the Mississippi River to the City Park Avenue terminal. Canal Street connects to City Park at Beauregard Circle via a line along North Carrollton Avenue. The Canal-Cemeteries line runs the length of Canal Street, from the Mississippi River to the old historic cemeteries. The Rampart-St. Claude Streetcar runs along Loyola Avenue to N. Rampart Street to St. Claude Avenue. The Riverfront Streetcar provides transportation along the Mississippi River from Earhart Boulevard to Elysian Fields Avenue. One-way fare is \$1.25 and transfers are 25c. The Regional Transit Authority can provide more information about both bus and streetcar routes and fares: phone (504) 248-3900.

Outlying parishes are served by other bus companies. East Jefferson Parish, including the airport, is served by Jefferson Transit which also operates buses to Gretna, Harvey, Westwego and other suburbs across the river. Phone (504) 818-1077.

A ferry system connects New Orleans with the West Bank and provides excellent views of the downtown skyline. The 10-minute trips depart from Algiers Point and Canal Street docks (pedestrians only) and from Lower Algiers to Chalmette docks; the cost is \$2 per automobile or pedestrian. For ferry schedule and updates, phone the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development at (888) 613-3779.

Shopping

While on your vacation, join locals for a day of serious bargain hunting or frivolous window shopping along some of the South's most picturesque streets. The best places for good finds are just about anywhere in the French Quarter or along 6 miles of Magazine Street, but don't overlook the charming niches in Uptown neighborhoods as well as the variety found on bustling Canal Street in downtown New Orleans.

The French Quarter

New Orleans' distinctive European heritage has made the area a treasure chest for antique hunters. Eighteenthand 19th-century furnishings, rare coins, weapons and estate pieces of all kinds are showcased along with Victorian and art deco items, high-end collectibles and relics from around the globe in dozens of shops throughout the **French Quarter.**



Of the three main shopping arteries—Royal, Chartres and Decatur streets—Royal Street has the greatest concentration of antiques, art and collectibles, while Chartres is known for an eclectic mix of vintage and designer apparel boutiques. On Decatur you'll find a little bit of everything, from custom-blended fragrances to souvenirs to packaged local fare-chicory coffee, beignets, pralines, Tabasco products and more. You'll also want to peruse the quaint shops and restaurants tucked away on side streets and around Jackson Square.

There are more than two dozen antique shops alone in the first nine blocks of Royal Street off Canal Street. Maybe you don't need that sparkling crystal chandelier hanging in Rothschild's Antiques, or the majolica jardinière you spied in M.S. Rau Antiques, or a set of oyster plates like the ones in **Moss Antiques**. But window shopping is still one of the most fun things to do, right? And look you should while you have access to a wealth of fine and rare European antiques the likes of which were first brought to the city by French and Spanish aristocrats.

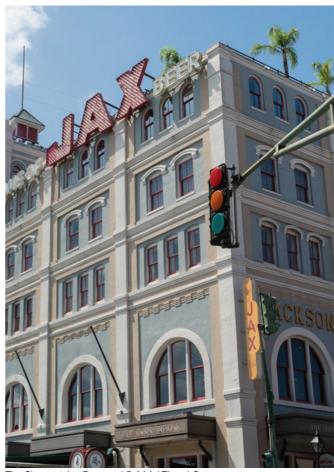
When it comes to antiques, provenance is everything. And so it is with many a family-owned New Orleans establishment operated by third, fourth or fifth generations. In the tradition of Rothschild's, Rau and Moss, several respected businesses have operated in the French Quarter for decades. James H. Cohen and Sons, purveyors of rare coins and early weapons since 1898, is at the very Royal Street address where the company was founded. Waldhorn & Adler carries on a tradition started in 1881 of offering quality furniture, accessories and estate jewelry, while French étagères, alabaster sculptures, Regency secretaries, trumeaux mirrors and case clocks are among the fine hand-picked antiques featured at Ida Manheim Antiques, established in 1919.

On Chartres Street you'll find English silverware, barware and jewelry at New Orleans Silversmiths; luxury culinary antiques and related decor—a veritable feast for the eyes of silver, copper, crystal, china and linens—at Lucullus; and French furniture and Italian accent pieces at Soniat House Antique Galleries. A number of junktique shops on **Decatur Street** might appeal to those who like to poke around for something more affordable.

Curio shops specializing in collectibles are abundant. The Brass Monkey features hundreds of diminutive Limoges porcelain boxes. The unremarkable front door of Quarter Past Time opens onto a wonderland of vintage timepieces, clocks and radios. For fun, funky accessories for yourself and your home, check out Vintage 329's collection of vintage designer jewelry and exquisite barware from the Art Deco to mid-century era.

French Quarter residents embrace a bohemian lifestyle that nurtures all forms of creativity. Artwork ranging from fine to folk to outsider hangs on the weathered iron gates surrounding Jackson Square and in this cross-section of galleries: Kurt E. Schon, Ltd., showing works from the 18th and 19th centuries; Sutton Galleries, emphasizing impressionist paintings; Rodrigue Studio, home of the Blue Dog; and Kako Gallery, a hodgepodge of arts and crafts by Louisiana artists. A number of artists' galleries specialize in paintings, photographs and prints of New Orleans.

Given the creative juices of up-and-coming designers vying for recognition, clothing boutiques are nearly as plentiful as antique shops. Fleur de Paris, on Royal Street, specializes in custom millinery and flirty feminine frocks, all of which are displayed in surroundings reminiscent of a Paris fashion salon. Their hats have coiffed celebrity clients and Kentucky Derby attendees.



The Shops at Jax Brewery / © AAA / Thuyvi Gates



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Most French Quarter shops feature original couture as well as designer ready-to-wear. Whether your style is funky, retro, glam or romantic, you'll find it on Chartres Street. **United Apparel Liquidators** (look for the understated UAL sign) is chockablock with high-end designer clothes at deep discounts. The flagship **Hemline** store, appealing to twenty- to forty-somethings, opened in 1994; today there are more than 20 stores in several states. And here are more trendy and unique fashion boutiques on Chartres Street: **Sweet Pea & Tulip,** at 618 Chartres; and **Violet's,** at 808 Chartres.

Perfume, cigars, occult paraphernalia, Gothic collectibles, souvenirs ranging from Mardi Gras masks to voodoo dolls—the eclectic list of merchandise goes on and on. But you can't leave the city without a box of pralines, New Orleans' signature sweet. **Aunt Sally's Praline Shop** is run by descendants of the family that founded the



Magazine Street / © AAA / Thuyvi Gates

cookery in the 1930s, while "newbie" **Southern Candymakers** has been around since 1992.

A bibliophile's trip to New Orleans isn't complete without a stop at **Faulkner House Books**, in the Pirate's Alley apartment (opposite the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France) where William Faulkner lived and wrote "Soldiers' Pay." **Crescent City Books**, on Baronne Street, is a good resource for scholarly books, and **Dauphine Street Books** specializes in out-of-print reads. **A Tisket A Tasket** on Decatur Street has a nice selection of regional cookbooks.

The **French Market District** (see attraction listing p. 83), along Decatur Street between St. Ann Street and Ursulines Avenue, houses more shops, informal local restaurants, a flea market and open-air produce stands within its centuries-old arcades.

Specialty Districts

The Shops at Jax Brewery, a complex of retail stores, kiosks and eateries overlooking the Mississippi River and the dock of the Steamboat *Natchez* and the Riverboat *City of New Orleans*, is at Decatur and St. Peter streets in a former turn-of-the-20th-century brewery. Browse the upscale retailer and local icon, Cajun Clothing Company by Perlis. Home Team Sportswear displays college and professional sports merchandise, including all things Saints-related.

Another of the complex's shops is Save NOLA, an outlet for a post-Katrina foundation supporting organizations that rebuild homes, sells T-shirts, caps and wearables; entrepreneurial Katrina victims first sold the line of organic cotton sportswear on a street corner. Topped by bold letters proclaiming "Home of Jax Beer," the brewery shops are a favorite spot for browsing and sampling New Orleans cuisine. A memorabilia collection on the second floor chronicles the brewery's history.

If you prefer to do your browsing in the open air, head to Frenchmen Street after dark. The **Palace Market** takes place at 619 Frenchmen St., next to one of this nightlife district's most popular jazz clubs (The Spotted Cat Music Club). Local and regional artisans hawk handmade items at the hip outdoor bazaar, which takes place Sun.-Wed. 7 p.m.-midnight, Thurs.-Fri. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Sat. noon-4 and 7 p.m.-1 a.m.

Another famous New Orleans thoroughfare, **Canal Street** was a stylish retail destination in its heyday, before the advent of suburban shopping malls. Many establishments are still family-owned, some with their roots in the early part of the 20th century.

Whether you're a fashionista, decorator or collector, a day on **Magazine Street** equates to shopping bliss. There are a couple of ways to negotiate this 6-mile artery lined

with antique shops, clothing boutiques, jewelry stores, home decor showrooms, artisans' studios and art galleries, many of which are housed in charming old cottages and warehouses. If you prefer to drive, know that onstreet metered parking or side-street parking is very hard to find, especially at peak times; you may have to park several blocks away from a targeted shop. The Magazine Street bus is a good bet, particularly if you buy a day pass providing unlimited on-off privileges. Either way, take along a directory published by the Magazine Street Merchants Association. Here is a sampling of what is available, arranged by category.

The majority of the nearly 30 antique shops are in the 23-block section between Canal Street and Jackson Avenue and on 13 blocks between Louisiana and Napoleon avenues. Highlights include Magazine Antique Mall, at 3017; and Maison de Provence, 3434, specializing in antiques a la France; Balzac Antiques, 3506; and Wirthmore Antiques, 3727, with 18th- and 19th-century European furniture and decorative objects.

Forget about shopping at the mall. One-of-a-kind apparel stores rule on Magazine Street. Weinstein's, 4011 Magazine, caters to nationwide clientele with high-end European designer clothing and accessories for women. The Red Carpet, 3425 Magazine, dresses clients who want to get noticed at special events.

For vintage, retro or recycled clothing, head to **Buffalo** Exchange, 4119 Magazine; this environmentally conscious chain originated in Tucson, Ariz., in the 1970s. A selection of boy's and men's clothing-Lacoste polos, iconically Southern seersucker suits and a complete line of casual wear bearing the store's signature crawfish logo—can be found at **Perlis Clothing**, 6070 Magazine St. In business since 1939, this family-owned clothier also has upscale ladies' sportswear and accessories.

Accoutrements for children are well represented on Magazine Street. Orient Expressed, 3446 Magazine St., brings together a unique selection of imported, handsmocked clothing. Angelique, 5421 Magazine St., offers fashions, shoes and accessories.

Feet First, a ladies' shoe and accessory emporium at 4122 Magazine, stocks more than 50 designer lines. Pair up Kate Spade slides or Steve Madden leopard stilettos with a handbag from Badgley Mischka or Mary Frances. and you're good to go—to the next shopping block, that

Home decor shops include **Hazelnut**, co-owned by native New Orleanian and former "Mad Men" co-star Bryan Batt (look for decorator items made from Batt's signature New Orleans toile fabric), and Aux Belle Choses, featuring jacquard linens and tableware with a French point of view. At **The Curtain Exchange**, you can take home pre-made, high-quality curtains and try them on your windows—talk about a novel approach to custom drapery shopping. Magazine Street also has your floors covered with rugs ranging from Tibetans to Aubussons at **Talebloo** Oriental Rugs & Antique Gallery, 2015 Magazine, and **NOLA Rugs**, 3944 Magazine.

Uptown New Orleans is primarily a residential neighborhood interspersed with quaint shops, two universities and Audubon Park. In the Riverbend area, where St. Charles Avenue meets Carrollton Avenue and streetcars negotiate an almost right-angle turn, are three boutiques well worth setting aside a few hours of shopping time. Yvonne LaFleur, a Parisian-style salon on Hampson Street, transports clientele to the belle epoque with sumptuous silk frocks, sassy lace lingerie, custom-designed millinery and the shop's signature fragrance. Ballin's Ltd., on Dante



The Shops at Canal Place / Courtesy of Canal Place



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Street, has dressed New Orleans ladies for cruises, carnival balls, a day at the country club or a night at the opera since 1981; check out their trunk show schedule to preview the latest designs from around the world. And if you're a working girl on a budget, you can still look like you walked off the pages of a magazine with trendy garments from **C Collection** on Maple Street.

Locals and university students frequent a number of cafés, shops, restaurants and bars that add to Maple Street's sense of community.

Malls

The Shops at Canal Place, a chic, multilevel mall at the foot of Canal Street, is anchored by Saks Fifth Avenue and includes national retailers Anthropologie, BCBGMAX-AZRIA, Brooks Brothers and White House/Black Market as well as local favorites: distinctive jewelry by designer



The Spotted Cat Music Club / @ AAA / Thuyvi Gates

Mignon Faget and LA Crafts Guild offering the handmade work of artisans that are members of the Louisiana Crafts Guild including décor, furniture, souvenirs and wearables.

The Outlet Collection at Riverwalk stretches for a half-mile along the Mississippi River on the site of the 1984 Louisiana World's Fair. A festive atmosphere prevails at Riverwalk, especially when the resident jazz band strolls through the complex. Needless to say, river views are great from this vantage point. Recognizable national brands—American Eagle Outfitters, Chico's, Gap and Lucky Brand, for example—are among the nearly 75 shops, eateries and services available.

From downtown New Orleans, Lakeside Shopping Center, at Veterans Memorial Boulevard and N. Causeway Boulevard in Metairie (see place listing p. 55), is easily reached via I-10. It is one of the area's largest suburban malls, with about 120 stores. The Esplanade, off West Esplanade Avenue in Kenner (see place listing p. 44), has a nice array of anchor and specialty stores that includes Dillard's.

Nightlife

New Orleans gave birth to jazz and then reared its musical prodigy in everything from bars to riverboats to funerals. A stroll through the French Quarter will take you on a dizzying door-to-door journey through music genres competing with both traditional and contemporary jazz. Sometimes the best music is heard in the most unlikely venues—a neighborhood hangout, a rowdy Bourbon Street bar, a hole-in-the-wall tucked well off the beaten path. You just never know. But locals do. Pick up a copy of *Offbeat* to find out who's playing where and discover things to do while you're in town on your vacation.

Jazz

Preservation Hall (see attraction listing p. 84) on St. Peter Street is a no-frills, intimate parlor promoting jazz at its purest—hallowed ground, some might say, for New Orleans jazz musicians. You get the feeling you sneaked into the back room of a 1920s speakeasy, but don't expect a waitress to sidle up and take orders for libations or food. Seating for the first 40 or so to get in when the doors open sharply at 8 p.m. consists of low, backless benches; the remainder of the 100-capacity crowd stand shoulder-to-shoulder during 45-minute sets, just hoping that someone vacates a seat during the break. Children are welcome, making this one of the few acceptable family entertainment nightspots in the French Quarter.

Are you looking for places to eat with the kids? For a more family-friendly night of music, enjoy a buffet dinner and live jazz by the world-renowned Dukes of Dixieland aboard the **New Orleans Steamboat Company's**

Steamboat Natchez (see attraction listing p. 91) departing from the Toulouse Street Wharf behind Jackson Brewery; or take a jazz dinner cruise on the Creole Queen (see attraction listing p. 91) docked near Riverwalk at the foot of Canal Street.

The saving everything old is new again might apply to The Jazz Playhouse, one of the classiest jazz venues in town and a throwback to the sophisticated nightspots of an earlier Bourbon Street. Some of New Orleans' best jazz musicians perform at the playhouse in The Royal Sonesta New Orleans hotel on Bourbon Street; phone (504) 553-2299. Palm Court Jazz Café, 1204 Decatur St., features lively entertainment in a classic cabaret setting and is a good choice for an evening of dinner and music; phone (504) 525-0200. Restrained jazz and refined decor such as leather couches, rich fabrics and dark wood furniture create a cozy, relaxed ambience in the **Bombay Club**, at 830 Conti St.; phone (504) 577-2237.

Some of the city's best traditional Dixieland jazz musicians jam on the stage of Maison Bourbon, at the corner of Bourbon and St. Peter streets; phone (504) 522-8818. Fritzel's European Jazz Pub, another Bourbon Street bar favoring Dixieland, reverberates with piano, banjo, bass and clarinet razzmatazz created by a house band; phone (504) 586-4800.

Several jazz clubs lie just outside the boundaries of the Quarter, far enough to require cab transportation—in other words, walking is not recommended when visiting these travel sites. At 1931 St. Claude Ave. is Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, a supper club with a 30-year reputation for bringing the best local and national artists to its stage; phone (504) 945-9654. Great musicians regularly perform contemporary jazz at Snug Harbor Jazz Bistro. Dinner is available preceding nightly sets; phone (504) 949-0696. Snug Harbor is in the Faubourg Marigny neighborhood on Frenchmen Street, a two-block-long entertainment district popular with locals. Also here are small (and always crowded) jazz mainstays like The Spotted Cat Music Club and The Apple Barrel.

Evenings in the city offer plenty of things for couples to do. Intimate lounges and bars in some of New Orleans' finer hotels provide the perfect environs for late-night cocktails and live music. The list includes The Victorian Lounge at the Columns Hotel, 3811 St. Charles Ave., (504) 899-9308, and the elegant Polo Club Lounge in the **The Windsor Court**, 300 Gravier St. in the Central Business District, (504) 522-1992.

Rhythm and Blues

The ultimate New Orleans blues house is Tipitina's, at the corner of Napoleon Avenue and Tchoupitoulas Street. Make it a point to visit this destination during your visit. Tip's evolved from juke joint to launching pad for such local talent as Grammy winners Professor Longhair, Dr. John and the Neville Brothers. Some of the music industry's greatest have performed here over the years, and the nightclub continues to be a platform for roots music-New Orleans-style R&B, jazz and the one-andonly Mardi Gras funk—along with rock and alternative sounds. Who knows, on any given night you could be sitting in on the making of a music legend. Phone (504) 895-8477.

It's hard to imagine a major tourist destination without a resident House of Blues, and New Orleans is no exception. This one at 225 Decatur St. solidifies its niche with an eclectic mix of local talent and top-name acts; phone (504) 310-4999. Stiff competition comes from Crescent **City Brewhouse,** a restaurant and microbrewery at 527 Decatur St.; phone (504) 522-0571. Long-standing blues act Big Al Carson keeps the blues honest at The Funky



Mulate's / © AAA / Thuvvi Gates



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Pirate Blues Club, on the corner of Bourbon and Orleans; phone (504) 523-1960. At **B.B. King's Blues Club**, 1104 Decatur St., you'll find the perfect mix of blues, dancing and barbecue; phone (504) 934-5464.

Eclectic

Many clubs, including those centered on jazz or blues, mix it up from night to night with music styles running the gamut from funk revues to indie rock bands to reggae and Latin rhythms. Here are a few to check out: **Maple Leaf Bar**, uptown on Oak Street, (504) 866-9359; **One Eyed Jacks**, 615 Toulouse St. in the French Quarter, (504) 569-8361; **Blue Nile**, 532 Frenchmen St. in Faubourg Marigny, about a block off Esplanade Avenue just outside the Quarter, (504) 948-2583; and **Howlin' Wolf**, 907 S. Peters St. in the Warehouse District, (504) 529-5844. **Republic New Orleans**, 828 S. Peters in the Warehouse



Mardi Gras / © iStockphoto.com / Joel Carillet

District, is a stylish dance club appealing to all ages; phone (504) 528-8282. And on Bourbon Street (at Iberville Street), there's a WE Hard Rock Cafe with a small stage for live shows; phone (504) 529-5617.

Harrah's Casino, at the foot of Canal Street, has several entertainment venues. Fulton Street is a block-long outdoor pedestrian walkway lined with restaurants and shops. But the partying really ramps up at Masquerade, a dance club inside the casino. Motown legends, comic geniuses, local talent and tribute bands are among the varietal acts that have entertained at The Theatre at Harrah's Casino; phone (504) 533-6000.

The French Quarter has a variety of gay and lesbian meeting places. **Café Lafitte in Exile**, 901 Bourbon St., is said to be the oldest and is perhaps the most popular. It was purportedly a favorite of Tennessee Williams; phone (504) 522-8397.

Cajun

Only a few places in New Orleans showcase Cajun music. **Tropical Isle's Bayou Club**, 610 Bourbon St., has live music most nights; phone (504) 529-1702. Bowling while rocking out may seem like an unlikely combination, but it works at **Rock 'n' Bowl**, 3000 S. Carrollton Ave. at Earhart Boulevard, especially during the Cajun and zydeco shows on Thursday nights; phone (504) 861-1700.

Cabaret

Cabaret and burlesque still have a place in the New Orleans entertainment zeitgeist. Chris Owens Club on Bourbon Street presents a sultry song and dance revue starring the club's namesake; phone (504) 523-6400. Although it is known for rock and funk music and an '80s theme night, One Eyed Jacks, 615 Toulouse St., occasionally features traveling burlesque troupes, stand-up comedians and The New Orleans Bingo! Show—a homegrown oddity described as a surreal multimedia stage show; phone (504) 569-8361.

Sing-alongs and a signature Hurricane cocktail in the cabaret-style piano bar at **Pat O'Brien's** promote audience participation and joyful camaraderie. With a second bar and its lush courtyard, Pat O's on St. Peter Street remains one of the landmark drinking and partying stops in the French Quarter and the quintessential New Orleans nightlife experience; phone (504) 525-4823.

Big Events

The city already provides many fun places to go and fun things to do, but many visitors attend just for the events. If you plan your vacation carefully, you might experience the very best this city has to offer.



Traditionally labeled the "City that Care Forgot," New Orleans is a destination that pursues its fun with an enthusiasm rarely found elsewhere. In part this is probably why there are so many parades. At one time or another nearly everyone-from the small, old-time funeral bands to the largest convention group—marches down Canal Street, and others watch with unjaded pleasure.

Sugar Bowl activities kick off New Orleans' events season with a series of major contests in basketball, sailing, soccer, tennis and track; the grand finale is the Allstate Sugar Bowl football game played in early January in the Caesars Superdome.

The event synonymous with the city—and into which it pours its whole soul—is Mardi Gras. This Catholic holiday originated as a final farewell to food and drink before the fasting of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. (The actual date can fall anywhere from early February to early March.) Carnival season in New Orleans starts on Twelfth Night, January 6, with a series of glittering private balls and costume parties. The celebration reaches its peak during the 2 weeks leading up to Shrove Tuesday, better known by the French as Mardi Gras ("Fat Tuesday"), when carnival krewes stage more than 60 parades across the city.

The weekend before Mardi Gras features two of the largest and most elaborate parades, the Krewe of Endymion on Saturday night and Bacchus on Sunday night. Tourists who save a viewing spot in the French Quarter will miss all the beads—most routes have moved uptown to the wider streets of St. Charles Avenue and Canal. After the Proteus, Orpheus and Zeus parades on Lundi Gras ("Fat Monday"), the city hosts a big bash at Spanish Plaza complete with entertainment, fireworks and the riverboat arrival of Rex, the King of Carnival. A mask is required for admission.

On Mardi Gras Day, more than a dozen family parades take place in Covington, Metairie, the West Bank and Uptown, including two of the biggest: Zulu, famous for its coconut souvenirs, and Rex, which introduced the first Mardi Gras king and the traditional colors of green, purple and gold. From here, the party moves to the streets and clubs of the French Quarter. So long as there's no threat to safety, almost anything goes on this maddest, most intoxicating of all Tuesdays. The fun stops promptly at midnight when mounted police officers and cleaning crews begin their march down Bourbon Street.

Just how this citywide party manages to evade commercialism and still thrive can be traced to the fact that New Orleanians stage it for their own enjoyment and out of their own pockets. Some say that even if not one tourist

dime from Mardi Gras clinked into the city's strongbox, the celebration would continue unchanged. It is this genuineness that helps to make Mardi Gras one of the nation's great attractions.

Spring Fiesta and Historic Home Tours, in early March, features ladies in antebellum gowns as well as 2 weekends of pageants, plays, art shows and concerts. Of interest are the tours, which include visits to French Quarter homes and patios, Garden District mansions and plantation homes.

Late March is when the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival is held. Numerous activities celebrate the life of writer Tennessee Williams, including lectures, panel discussions, plays and even a Stanley and Stella Shouting Contest.

In April the French Quarter Festival brings the more boisterous segment back to the city. Music and games are naturally part of the merrymaking, but the big draw is the many food booths set up by local restaurants in Jackson Square.

The **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**, with concerts, food and craft booths, is held for 2 long weekends in late April and early May. Internationally known musicians perform on numerous stages at the Fair Grounds Race Course from 11-7; additional performances are given citywide. An array of musical styles can be heard, including blues, Cajun, folk, gospel, R&B and zydeco. Tickets can be purchased from Ticketmaster.

Celebration in the Oaks transforms City Park (see attraction listing p. 85) into a festive holiday wonderland from the Friday after Thanksgiving through December. Amusement rides, music and dance performances, and walking tours are some of the activities. Christmas New Orleans Style, in December, offers 19th-century house tours as well as concerts at the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France and Hanukkah and Kwanzaa events.

During the holiday season the R+L Carriers New Or**leans Bowl** is played at the Caesars Superdome. On **New Year's Eve** Jackson Square is the place to be when a huge, glittering fleur-de-lis begins to descend the pole atop Jackson Brewery 10 seconds before midnight.

Sports & Rec

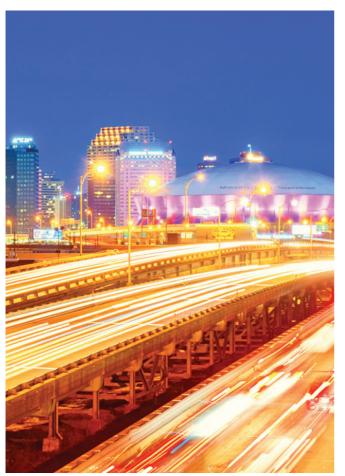
Spectator sports are a fun thing to do on any trip. From professional football to piroque races, there are always exciting things to do or watch. The New Orleans Breakers, a member of the United State Football League, plays home games at **Protective Stadium** (1020 24th St N.) in Birmingham, Alabama. Phone (205) 718-5857.

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For listings of coming games and contests, see the sports and events columns in the daily papers and in the monthly *New Orleans* magazine.

It's also possible to participate in outdoor activities yearround in this semitropical climate. From bicycling to tennis, there are a multitude of fun places to go and fun things to do in and around the metropolitan area to enjoy your sport of choice.

Basketball The New Orleans Pelicans, (504) 525-4667, give NBA aficionados something to cheer about at the Smoothie King Center, 1501 Dave Dixon Dr. across from the Caesars Superdome. The Tulane University Green Wave play at Avron B. Folgelman Arean in the Devlin Fieldhouse; phone (504) 865-5356 for university tickets. The University of New Orleans Privateers, also an NCAA Division I team, hold court at



Mercedes-Benz Superdome / © iStockphoto.com / benedek

Senator Nat G. Kiefer UNO Lakefront Arena (often referred to as Lakefront Arena), which is one block from campus at 6801 Franklin Ave.; phone (504) 280-7222 for tickets.

Bicycling A paved bicycle path running atop the **Mississippi River levee** can be accessed from the west side of Audubon Park near West Drive. The path, part of the 3,000-mile **Mississippi River Trail** system, follows the east bank of the river and extends more than 20 miles upriver. Inline skating, fishing, running and walking also are permitted.

Lakeshore Drive, on the south shore of Lake Pontchartrain, offers scenery and light traffic. Skirting the Metairie section of the south shore is Linear Park, a converted road

Tammany Trace, a rails-to-trails path on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, runs from Covington through Abita Springs, Mandeville, Lacombe and into Slidell. Horseback riding, inline skating, running and walking also are permitted. For information phone (985) 867-9490.

Fishing Bluegill, crappie and largemouth bass are taken from freshwater lakes and rivers. Fishing is permitted at several area state parks, including **Bayou Segnette**, **Fairview-Riverside** and **Fontainebleau**. For information, contact the Office of State Parks, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, P.O. Box 44426, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or phone (225) 342-8111. See Recreation Areas Chart.

Just 2 hours southwest of New Orleans on the Gulf of Mexico, **Grand Isle** offers saltwater fishing. Bluefish, cobia, channel bass, pompano and red snapper range the coastal waters. Game fish such as marlin, tarpon, tuna and sailfish run from late spring through fall in the Gulf. See Recreation Areas Chart.

Boats can be chartered for offshore fishing. A fishing license is required for persons over age 16. A 1-year freshwater license for residents costs \$17, or \$15 for saltwater. The 10-day fee for non-residents is \$17 for freshwater or \$15 for saltwater. For additional information about charters and licenses, contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at (225) 765-2800.

Football The hometown **New Orleans Saints** of the National Football League go marching into the **Caesars Superdome** from August to December, with games generally starting at noon; for tickets phone (504) 731-1700.

Tulane University Green Wave football team frequents the Yulman Stadium. The Superdome becomes a collegiate battlefield every November for the Bayou Classic, a gridiron clash between rival universities Grambling State and Southern, and in early January for the Allstate Sugar Bowl.

Golf The New Orleans area provides several locations for duffers to engage in their favorite activity. The following courses have 18 holes and are open to the public year-round: The Golf Club at Audubon Park, (504) 212-5290, 6500 Magazine St.; English Turn Golf & Country Club, (504) 392-2200, 1 Clubhouse Dr.; and Lakewood Golf Club, (504) 373-5926, 4801 Gen. DeGaulle Dr.

Horse Racing One of the city's most enduring sports, Thoroughbred racing can be enjoyed at Fair Grounds Race Course, 1751 Gentilly Blvd., where the mechanical starting gate was introduced. Racing usually takes place Thursday through Monday from Thanksgiving Day through March. When the live racing season ends, visitors still can partake in the facility's off-track wagering, offered year-round. For information and racing schedule, phone (504) 944-5515.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to parimutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

Jogging and Walking In a city as lively as New Orleans, walking may be the only way to ensure you are not missing anything. A stroll through the French Quarter or the Garden District reveals the city's eclectic history and provides an in-depth look at New Orleans' colorful street life as well. Use good sense and keep all city walking to daylight hours.

Parks are scattered throughout the Big Easy. Audubon Park and City Park in particular are good spots for a stroll or jog, and the seawall along Lake Pontchartrain makes for a particularly eye-catching exercise site. In Metairie, Lafreniere Park offers 155 landscaped acres complete with lagoons encircled by exercise paths.

Picnicking In and around New Orleans, picnicking can be quite a treat, especially if the picnic basket contains some of the local concoctions. **Municipal parks, the levee** and **the lakefront** are good spots. At certain times of the year insect repellent is a prudent accessory for any outing.

Tennis Courts are open to the public at most of the facilities administered by the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission; phone (504) 658-3000. Mid-City's 1,300-acre City Park features the City Park's Tennis Center, which has 16 hard courts and 10 clay courts for \$20 per hour; phone (504) 483-9422. Players will find 10 clay courts for \$14 an hour in Audubon Park; phone (504) 895-1042.

Water Sports Sailing regattas are held throughout the year on Lake Pontchartrain. Audubon and City parks offer a variety of water-related activities. For detailed

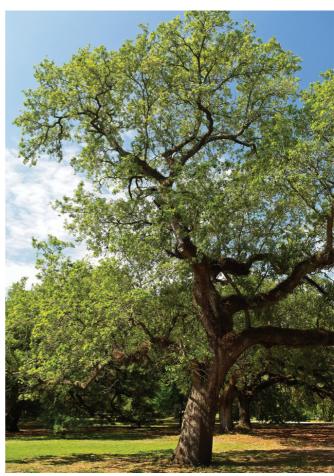
information phone (504) 581-4629 and (504) 482-4888, respectively.

Kayak-iti-yat offers guided kayaking tours of the Bayou St. John in downtown New Orleans; phone (512) 964-9499.

Waterways are accessible at several nearby state parks, including **Bayou Segnette** in Westwego, **Fairview-Riverside** in Madisonville and **Fontainebleau** in Mandeville. See Recreation Areas Chart.

Performing Arts

Although New Orleans is known primarily as the cradle of jazz, other forms of entertainment are an important part of the cultural scene. This top vacation destination offers more than just exciting nightlife, unique culinary fare and



Audubon Park / © iStockphoto.com / GJGK Photography



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beautiful scenery. The city hosts fine art galleries, live music and performances. Its orchestra, which is managed by its members, presents a full season of classical pieces and a summer pops series. Community theater has been a French Quarter institution since 1916, and the cutting edge of arts is explored by Warehouse District groups, in keeping with that area's bohemian reputation.

Dance The **New Orleans Ballet Association** sponsors several international touring dance groups, from major professional companies to smaller avant-garde groups. For venue information and tickets phone the association, (504) 522-0996.

The **Delta Festival Ballet**, Louisiana's largest resident professional troupe, performs October through April.

Film Snacks and soda go upscale at Theatres at Canal Place, where you can indulge in popcorn topped with



Preservation Hall / © AAA / Inspector 87

white truffle oil, sip a glass of wine or munch on a flatbread pizza or panini while watching a critically acclaimed film or standard movie theater fare, all from the comfort of your high-back leather seat; phone (504) 493-6535. Originally built in 1915 as a tent show for short films, the restored **Prytania Theater**, 5339 Prytania St. in the Garden District, now shows feature, foreign and independent films as well as Hollywood classics; phone (504) 891-2787.

The **New Orleans AMC Theater**, a megaplex movie theater at 1200 Elmwood Park Blvd. in Metairie, features 20 movie screens, 36 concession stands and valet parking; phone (888) 262-4386.

Music From September through May, New Orleans' calendar is filled with symphony and chamber music concerts, recitals and other programs. The Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra is a professional regional ensemble that offers a full series of classical works as well as pops concerts, often featuring guest appearances by artists and conductors who travel to New Orleans from all over the world. Performances are given at the Orpheum Theater, 129 Roosevelt Way; phone (504) 523-6530. Special programs are offered at other area venues, including the Roussel Performance Hall on the campus of Loyola University; phone (504) 861-5882.

The Mahalia Jackson Theatre for the Performing Arts, 1419 Basin St., offers a variety of musical performances; phone (504) 525-1052 for general information or (504) 287-0351 for tickets. The Smoothie King Center, at 1501 Dave Dixon Dr. across from Caesars Superdome, hosts popular concerts and center-stage events; phone (504) 587-3822. House of Blues, 225 Decatur St., also is a popular concert venue; phone (504) 310-4999.

Chamber music concerts are sponsored by the **New Orleans Friends of Music**, a volunteer organization that brings several touring groups to the city. Performances are generally held at **Dixon Hall** on the Tulane University campus. For recital and ticket information, phone (504) 895-0690.

Jazz at Preservation Hall (see attraction listing p. 84) is a concert in every sense of the word. Traditional jazz is performed nightly, and sometimes big names in other music genres do pass through; phone (504) 522-2841. The Peoples Health New Orleans Jazz Market, 1436 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., opened in 2015 in the Central City neighborhood. Home to the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, the modern performing arts venue and community center offers music education experiences, a jazz archive and concerts by renowned musicians; phone (504) 371-5849.

Opera In 1796 opera was first performed in New Orleans. The **New Orleans Opera Association**, founded in 1943, presents four productions each season; phone

(504) 529-3000 or (800) 881-4459. Performances are held at the Mahalia Jackson Theatre.

Theater Of the many very good theatrical groups, New Orleans' pride is Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, 616 St. Peter St. Begun in 1916, it is considered the oldest continuously active community theater in the country. A full season of five traditional productions begins in September and ends in July and may include musicals, dramas and classic plays. Phone (504) 522-2081.

Avant-garde theater is centered in the Warehouse District, a funky enclave of both the performing and visual arts. The **Contemporary Arts Center**, 900 Camp St., presents various cultural offerings, including theater, performance art, dance and music; phone (504) 528-3805.

The **Saenger Theatre**, at Canal and Rampart streets, sponsors a Broadway series, bringing major touring companies to the Big Easy each year. Completed in 1927, the restored opulent Italian Renaissance theater gives patrons an outdoors feeling with a ceiling of stars and clouds and a special effects machine that simulates sunrises and sunsets. Additional features include chandeliers from the Palace of Versailles and a 778-pipe organ; phone (504) 525-1052 for information or (504) 287-0351 for tickets.

Theatre 13 stages family-friendly productions at the Rivertown Theaters for the Performing Arts at 325 Minor St. in nearby Kenner; phone (504) 461-9475. Also in Jefferson Parish is the Jefferson Performing Arts Center: its two venues are at 400 Phlox St. and 6400 Airline Dr. in Metairie. Phone (504) 885-2000 and (504) 731-4700, respectively. Affiliate organizations of the **Jef**ferson Performing Arts Society present Broadway musicals, opera, ballet, orchestral concerts, choral works and children's productions at these centers and other locations.

Make time during your trip to experience all that New Orleans has to offer. The city's performing arts shows are wonderful things for couples to do, and many presentations are excellent for families. With cheap airfare and group travel rates, your whole clan comes along for the experience.

INSIDER INFO:

Go New Orleans Pass

The Go New Orleans Pass is an all-access pass that allows visitors to save on admission to some 27 top area attractions, tours and experiences. The pass saves travelers up to 50 percent off the combined admission price. Some of the available attractions include The Cabildo. Longue Vue House and Gardens, Mardi Gras World, The National WWII Museum, The New Orleans Jazz Museum, New Orleans Pharmacy Museum, Paddlewheeler Creole Queen Cruise, and Southern Food and Beverage Museum. The pass is available in two- to five-day increments. The pass becomes activated and valid for use on consecutive days from the first date of use. Passes are available online at gocity.com/new-orleans or by phone (800) 887-9103.

Note: Reservations are required or highly recommended at some attractions. Please check for updated attraction reservation information on the Go City® website.

Mardi Gras

One of the most famous street parties in the world, Mardi Gras in New Orleans has a long and colorful history. Europeans celebrated this pre-Lenten holiday in the Middle Ages, and French settlers brought the tradition of masked balls and dances to Nouvelle-Orléans. When Spain gained control of the city in 1762, it banned such revelry. The party resumed after Louisiana became an American territory.

Private social groups known as krewes plan and pay for Mardi Gras events. The Mistick Krewe of Comus launched the first organized parade in 1857. When Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff visited New Orleans in 1872, locals presented their own royalty—Rex, the King of Carnival—along with the official Mardi Gras colors of green, purple and gold. The first African American krewe, Zulu, and the first women's krewe, Iris, were founded in the early 1900s. Today, krewes must sign an affidavit agreeing not to discriminate in terms of membership, but many are still "by invitation only."

In the 2 weeks leading up to Ash Wednesday, krewes host private masked balls and some 60 parades with themed floats bearing costumed royalty. Maskers toss "throws" to the crowd—anything from beads and doubloons to stuffed animals. Of all the throws, the Zulu coconut is most prized. Mounted police and cleaning crews sweep through the streets at midnight, signaling the end of Mardi Gras. The next day, planning begins for another year.

Today, Mardi Gras is the most popular event drawing visitors to vacation in New Orleans. Plan ahead if you want to join the fun. Most hotels are booked full during this time.

Sounding like a Local

Speaking a second language doesn't always help in New Orleans, where French-sounding names have their own unique pronunciations. Here's a quick guide to the native tongue.

Cajun—a descendant of the French Acadians who fled Canada in the mid-1700s and settled in the Louisiana bayous.



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Chartres (CHAR-ters)—don't use your French accent with this street, or with Burgundy (ber-GUN-dee), Conti (KONT-eye) or Calliope (CAL-lee-ope).

Chèr—a Cajun endearment.

Creole—strictly speaking, the original French and Spanish families who formed the elite of New Orleans society, as opposed to English-speaking immigrants who came later.

Fais do-do (fay doh-doh)—a Cajun street dance that lasts all night.

Krewes—private social and civic groups that organize Mardi Gras parades.

Lagniappe (lan-yap)—an elusive term for "a little something extra," like a baker's dozen.

Laissez les bons temps rouler (LAY-zay leh bawn tawn roo-LAY)—Let the good times roll.

Pirogue (PEE-row)—a long, narrow swamp boat, originally made from a hollowed cypress log.

Neutral Ground—the grassy median separating street lanes.

Tchoupitoulas (CHOP-a-TOO-lus)—pronouncing this street is the true test of a native.

Vieux Carré (VOO cah-RAY)—the "Old Square," or the French Quarter.



Explore Things To Do, visit AAA.com/tripcanvas

The French Quarter

The French Quarter—some 90 blocks between Canal Street, Rampart Street, Esplanade Avenue and the Mississippi River—represents the original French Colonial settlement of Nouvelle Orleans. Known as the Vieux Carré (VOO cah-RAY) or "old square," the Quarter was laid out by military engineers in a simple gridiron pattern with straight, narrow streets.

In many ways the French Quarter remains the true heart of the city, not only because of its historical nature, but also because it is still very much alive. People from all walks of life reside in this historic area and guard its ironembroidered architectural treasures with fierce pride, enjoying the Quarter's endless variety with as much gusto as first-time tourists. Hurricane Katrina did little permanent damage in the Quarter, which stands on the city's highest ground and avoided flooding.

Typical of the contradictions of the Quarter is that its architecture is not French, but Spanish. Disastrous fires in 1788 and 1794 destroyed all but a handful of the original French structures. Street names have changed from French to Spanish to mainly French again; the gold and blue signs on the corner buildings indicate the street names that prevailed under earlier régime.

Legend has it that on Bourbon Street, near the demure Royal Street and its antique stores, once stood the shop Jean Lafitte and his brother Pierre operated as a clearing-house for their contraband. Marie Laveau, most powerful of a succession of voodoo queens, frequented the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France on Jackson Square and, in her waning years, the parish prison where she consoled the condemned.

Maspero's Exchange on Chartres Street was a scheming ground for filibusters. Often financed by state and local politicians, these swashbuckling adventurers launched elaborate campaigns for power and land in revolution-ripe countries that were at peace with the United States. One of the most famous was William Walker, self-styled "liberator" of Nicaragua and Honduras. As the country became more industrialized after the Civil War, the hunger for land diminished, and filibustering came to an end.

Although it is only one facet of New Orleans, the French Quarter is the city's great drawing card. Visitors throng to its restaurants and luxurious hotels. They hunt antiques on Royal Street and carouse on Bourbon Street. The Quarter contains enough of the proper and the improper, the sacred and the profane, and the conventional and the unconventional to keep any visitor happy.

BK HISTORIC HOUSE AND GARDENS is at 1113 Chartres St. Built in 1826, this Greek Revival house was the residence of Confederate General Pierre G. Beauregard 1866-68. The house and its walled garden were restored by a later resident, novelist Frances Parkinson Keyes, who lived here until her death in 1970. Lasting approximately 45 minutes, the guided tour provides views of General Beauregard's bedroom and Mrs. Keyes' apartment and study. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (504) 523-7257. GT

THE CABILDO is at 701 Chartres St., facing Jackson Square. The Spanish governor and the governing body—the "Illustrious Cabildo"—ruled from this Gilberto Guillemard-designed statehouse built between 1795 and 1799. The Louisiana Purchase transfer ceremonies were conducted here in 1803 after France ceded its vast territories in North America to the U.S.

Exhibits at the Cabildo, now a Louisiana State Museum site, portray the history and culture of Louisiana from



pre-Colonial days to the early 20th century. The Arsenal (not open to the public), an example of Greek Revivalstyle architecture built in 1839, is adjacent.

Time: Allow 2 hours, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 568-6968 or (800) 568-6968.

A CATHEDRAL-BASILICA OF SAINT LOUIS KING OF FRANCE is on Jackson Square at 615 Pere Antoine Alley. One of the oldest and most photographed churches in the country, the cathedral is a combination of three places of worship built on this site. The first church can be traced to 1727. The second was completed in 1794 as part of the beneficence of Don Andres Almonester de Roxas, who spent a substantial part of his fortune rebuilding New Orleans after the second great fire. Don Andres is among the distinguished Frenchmen and Spaniards interred in the church.

Remodeling in 1851 maintained the original Spanish facade of the church, but the current nave was rebuilt in the style seen today. St. Anthony's Garden behind the church was once part of the original vegetable garden and, contrary to legend, was never a dueling spot. The basilica remains an active force in the life of New Orleans. Phone: (504) 525-9585. **GT**

FRENCH MARKET DISTRICT is located between St. Peter and Barracks sts., from Jackson Square to The New Orleans Jazz Museum. Encompassing six blocks on the river side of the lower French Quarter and Crescent Park, a 20-acre urban linear park, this commercial hub features more than 40 retail shops, performance venues, scenic walkways, public art, restaurants and cafés, an open-air farmers and flea market, and three parking lots. Historic landmarks include Washington Artillery Park, the Joan of Arc statue at New Place de France, Dutch Alley, The Upper Pontalba apartment buildings and LaTrobe Park.

Phone: (504) 636-6400, (504) 596-3420, or (504) 589-4841 for tour information. GT TI

FRENCH QUARTER VISITOR CENTER is at 419 Decatur St. The center is one of six sites making up Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (see place listing p. 43). It interprets the city's history and multicultural heritage. Information about park sites is available at the center, which also offers ranger talks regarding local history.

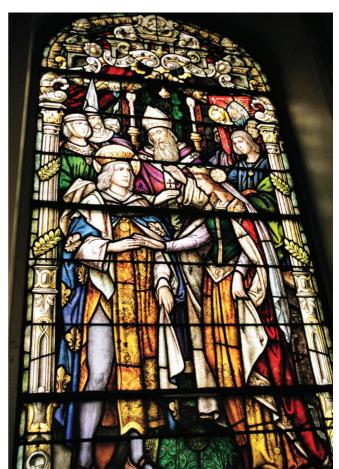
Phone: (504) 589-3882, ext. 221.

GALLIER HOUSE is at 1132 Royal St. This 1860s French Quarter residence was designed by the noted New Orleans architect James Gallier Jr. as his home and has been historically restored and refurnished to its Victorian appearance. Phone: (504) 525-5661. GT

HERMANN-GRIMA HOUSE is at 820 St. Louis St. in the French Quarter. This restored 1831 Federalist and Creole mansion includes an original open-hearth kitchen, enslaved workers' quarters, original stable and historic courtyard. Creole cooking demonstrations are given throughout the year; phone ahead to confirm schedule.

Time: Allow 45 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 525-5661. **GT**

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION is at 533 Royal St., 520 Royal St. and 410 Chartres St. The three French Quarter locations house a museum, a publisher and a research center. The Louisiana History Galleries introduce visitors to city history, while exhibits in the Williams Galleries cover regional culture. The Williams Residence, an 1889 townhouse, reflects the elegant mid-20th-century lifestyle of collection founders Gen. and Mrs.



Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France / © iStockphoto.com /



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L. Kemper Williams. The Williams Research Center features art displays and memorabilia. Self-guiding tours including a customizable app are available at the Louisiana History Galleries.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 523-4662. GT

THE NEW ORLEANS JAZZ MUSEUM is at 400 Esplanade Ave. in an 1835 structure that was a federal mint from 1838-1961. Located where the Frenchmen Street corridor for live music and the French Quarter intersect, the museum pays tribute to jazz and New Orleans music history with educational programs for all ages, interactive exhibits and research facilities as well as musical performances.

Listen to some of the top New Orleans contemporary jazz artists in the live music hall on the third floor. The advanced acoustics enhance your experience while the performance is recoded to be kept in the historical archives. Concerts, evening programs and special events also are held in the ultramodern performance venue on the third floor. The Louisiana Historical Center is on-site and regular performances are offered by the New Orleans Jazz National Historic Park rangers.

Phone: (504) 568-6993.

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK VISITOR CENTER is at 419 Decatur St. The facility features exhibits, live performances, and ranger-led talks dealing with the birth, history and preservation of New Orleans jazz music. It also serves as the information center for the park's performance theater located on the third floor of The New Orleans Jazz Museum. Brochures and audio cellphone tours describing self-guiding tours of historical jazz sites, organized by neighborhoods, are available at the visitor center.

Phone: (504) 589-4841, or (504) 613-4062 for audio tour.

NEW ORLEANS PHARMACY MUSEUM is at 514 Chartres St. Built in 1823 by Louis J. Dufilho Jr., the nation's first licensed pharmacist, this building displays exhibits focusing on the history of 19th-century pharmacies, medicine and healthcare in Louisiana. The museum also has a collection of voodoo potions and a garden of medicinal herbs. **Phone:** (504) 565-8027. **GT**

NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING is at 524 St. Louis St., between Decatur and Chartres sts. Cooking demonstrations are offered in an early 19th-century renovated molasses warehouse. Chefs teach Creole/Cajun

cuisine including dishes such as gumbo, jambalaya and pralines and flavor lessons with local history and legends. Classes include meals and recipes.

Phone: (504) 525-2665.

PRESERVATION HALL is at 726 St. Peter St. Each night one of five or six bands performs traditional New Orleans jazz at this venue that is dedicated to preserving this art in its truest form since 1961. Only a very limited number of reserved seats are available, so line up with hopefuls along St. Peter Street about an hour before the doors open. Trust us—there's never a bad show.

The "hall" is simply a dimly lit room the size of a large parlor. About three rows of low, backless wooden benches face the informal stage, which comprises the front third of the room and contains a set of drums, a piano and a few antique oak press-back chairs for musicians.

A conspicuous sign posts the suggested "tipping" price for special requests: \$5 for traditional, \$10 for other and \$20 for "When the Saints Go Marching In." Seating may be available for the first 15-20 who enter; otherwise, it's standing room only for the shoulder-to-shoulder capacity crowd of about 100. Photography and recording during performances is not permitted.

Note: At time of publication, tickets must be purchased online in advance. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (504) 522-2841.

Other Points of Interest

Other New Orleans points of interest are in the city's more or less distinct districts or neighborhoods and outlying suburbs. The part of the city known as **Downtown**, extending roughly from the river to Claiborne Avenue between Poydras and Canal streets, is the central business area. The term downtown also is a general name for that part of the city downstream from Canal Street and lakeward from the river.

The **Warehouse District** is bounded by Canal Street, St. Charles Avenue, the Pontchartrain Expressway and the river. Old storage buildings have been converted into upscale lofts, galleries and museums such as The National WW II Museum (see attraction listing p. 87) and the Ogden Museum of Southern Art (see attraction listing p. 87).

Uptown refers to areas upriver from Canal Street; the **Garden District** and the various university sections are in this locale.

More a historic than a distinct geographical area is the **Irish Channel**, in the vicinity of St. Thomas Street. Once



a brawling waterfront neighborhood, it was named for the many Irish immigrants who settled there during the 1840s.

Though all parts of the city were hit by Hurricane Katrina's hurricane-force winds and rain, it was flooding from the levee breaches that caused catastrophic damage. Beyond the high ground along the river, New Orleans' low-lying neighborhoods were hardest hit; some sections may be razed. Gentilly, a section of homes and smaller businesses, centers on Gentilly Boulevard (US 90) from the Fair Grounds Race Track to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. East New Orleans, flanked by lakes Borne and Pontchartrain, extends eastward from the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. The Lakeshore included the West End, Lake Vista and other subdivisions around the north end of City Park.

Across the river is the West Bank, comprising the suburban communities of Algiers, Gretna, Harvey, Marrero and Westwego.

AUDUBON AQUARIUM OF THE AMERICAS is on the Mississippi River at 1 Canal St. More than 3,600 specimens represent some 250 species of marine life and birds found throughout the Americas. Visitors can see sharks, stingrays, piranhas, a white alligator, black-footed African penguins, sea otters and a giant endangered green sea turtle.

Aquatic habitats include the 400,000-gallon Gulf of Mexico exhibit, the Great Maya Reef, the Amazon Rainforest and the Mississippi River. Other displays include seahorses, jellyfish, a shark and ray touchpool. Wild encounter animal programs are available by advance reservation. Adjacent to the aguarium, Woldenberg Riverfront Park is 17 acres of green space, public artwork and brick pathways along the Mississippi Riverfront. The park also is home to many annual festivals and frequent open-air concerts and cultural events.

Note: The Audubon Butterfly Garden and Insectarium expansion is ongoing; the aquarium remains open to visitors. Phone ahead. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (504) 861-2537 or (800) 774-7394.

AUDUBON PARK is bordered by St. Charles Ave., the Mississippi River, Exposition Blvd. and Walnut St. In 1884-85 the area was the scene of the World's Industrial

and Cotton Exposition, which startled the world with electric lighting indoors and out. The park has tree-shaded lagoons, gardens, jogging paths, a labyrinth, bridle paths, playgrounds, tennis courts and a golf course. Food is available Mon.-Fri. 11-3, Sat.-Sun. 10-2. Phone: (504) 861-2537 or (800) 774-7394. 📆 🔀

Audubon Zoo is at 6500 Magazine St., adjacent to Audubon Park. Encompassing 58 acres of naturalistic habitats and more than 1,700 animals representing 350 species, the zoo is home to many rare and endangered species. Exhibits include the African Savanna; Asia; Watoto Walk and Farm; World of Primates; and Reptile Encounter, home to a Komodo dragon. Mayan temples and ruins are the setting for Jaguar Jungle, where guests can see endangered anteaters, alpacas, spider monkeys and ocelots as well as a variety of bats and small nocturnal creatures in the Criaturas de la Noche Bat House.

The Louisiana Swamp Exhibit recreates the culture and wildlife of a 1930s Cajun settlement. Narrated feedings are offered daily. The Swamp Train takes passengers on a tour of the zoo. Guests may go for a whirl on the Gottesman Endangered Species Carousel or go for a dip in Cool Zoo, a splash park featuring the Gator Run Lazy River (open seasonally).

Time: Allow 3 hours minimum. Phone: (504) 861-2537 or (800) 774-7394. 📆

CITY PARK is at the n. end of Esplanade Ave. The 1,300acre municipal park is one of the largest in the country. The park contains the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park, New Orleans Botanical Garden, New Orleans Museum of Art, Storyland and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden (see attraction listings). There also are scenic lagoons; hiking and biking trails; NOLA City Bark dog park; and disc golf, golf, tennis and picnic facilities on the grounds. Pedal boats, canoes, kayaks and rowboats can be rented. See Recreation Areas Chart.

Fishing is allowed with a permit. A permit also is required for the dog park. **Phone:** (504) 483-9402.







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Carousel Gardens Amusement Park is at 7 Victory Ave. in New Orleans City Park. The small, tree-shaded amusement park, a favorite with children, is known for its 1906 carousel. Sixteen other rides include a Ferris wheel, bumper cars, Tilt-A-Whirl, a roller coaster and a train. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (504) 483-9402. (44)

New Orleans Botanical Garden is on Victory Ave. in City Park. Entry is through the Oscar J. Tolmas Building, 5 Victory Ave. Designed during the Art Deco and WPA periods, the garden is arranged in a series of rooms accented with fountains and statuary. More than 2,000 varieties of plants include azaleas, camellias, magnolias, palms and roses. The train garden showcases New Orleans neighborhoods and architectural styles on a small scale. The conservatory features a tropical rain forest and a living fossil



New Orleans Museum of Art / Courtesy of New Orleans Museum of Art

exhibit. The Helis Foundation Enrique Alférez Sculpture Garden also is on the grounds. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 483-9488.

New Orleans Museum of Art is at 1 Collins Diboll Cir. in City Park. Founded by Jamaican sugar broker Isaac Delgado in 1910, the Greek Revival building houses more than 40,000 art objects in 46 rotating galleries. The collection includes a comprehensive survey of Western and non-Western art from the pre-Christian era to the present, with an entire floor dedicated to Asian, African, Oceanic, Pre-Columbian and Native American art.

NOMA also houses a treasury of work by French artists, including Edgar Degas, Raoul Dufy, Joan Miró and Pablo Picasso. Other collections include sculpture, photography, and decorative arts.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (504) 658-4100. **TI**

Storyland is at 7 Victory Ave. in City Park. This fairy talethemed playground for children has large sculpted characters. Children love to climb on the storybook exhibits, which feature such familiar characters as Captain Hook, Pinocchio, and Jack and Jill. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (504) 483-9402.

Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden is at 1 Collins Diboll Cir. at the New Orleans Museum of Art. The landscaped, 11-acre site contains more than 90 sculptures featuring pieces by such artists as Fernando Botero, Renè Magritte, Henry Moore, Pierre Auguste Renoir, George Rickey, Yinka Shonibare and Frank Štella.

Lagoons, footbridges and meandering paths highlight the collection. Live oak trees, magnolias, azaleas, Japanese yews, windmill palms and aquatic plants such as Louisiana iris and spider lilies mingle throughout the garden. An audio tour by cellphone is available. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (504) 658-4100.

JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND **PRESERVE**—see place listing p. 43.

LONGUE VUE HOUSE AND GARDENS is off I-10 at the Metairie Rd. exit. This Country Place Era house and garden was the home of philanthropists Edgar Bloom Stern and his wife Edith, daughter of Sears magnate Julius Rosenwald. The home is designed by architects William Platt and Geoffry Platt.

The mansion—with its four facades each reflecting a different style—is furnished with 18th- and 19th-century American and English antiques. The interior decor in the home as well as the majority of the garden spaces was



grounds feature fountains, garden experiences and an interactive children's garden.

Phone: (504) 488-5488. GT

MARDI GRAS WORLD is at 1380 Port of New Orleans Pl. Blaine Kern Studios designs and builds Mardi Gras floats, props and figures. Approximately 1.5-hour guided tours are offered through a warehouse where floats are displayed and artists and sculptors may be seen working on their creations. Visitors are welcomed with Mardi Gras beads and king cake, and the tour includes a brief film about the history of Mardi Gras and float construction.

designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman. These garden spaces

are some of the last remaining of her design. The 8-acre

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (504) 361-7821.

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, 945 Magazine St. (entrance at Andrew Higgins Dr. between Camp and Magazine sts.), chronicles the war years with exhibits detailing the causes, warfare tactics, home front and the war's lasting significance. Oral histories tell some of the stories.

Permanent exhibits explain the history of the Pacific and European Theaters, the D-Day invasion of Normandy and the daily life of civilians through the exhibit—*The Arsenal of Democracy*. Items from the museum collection are displayed on a rotating basis, and special exhibits also are presented.

The museum campus includes the Solomon Victory Theater, which shows "Beyond All Boundaries," a cinematic experience featuring 4-D special effects and narration by actor Tom Hanks.

The 90-minute evening presentation *Expressions of America*, will become a permanent experience starting after Veterans Day 2022. It includes an outdoor sound and light attraction held on the Col. Battle Barksdale Parade Ground. Tickets are first-come, first-served with multiple performances during the week.

Also on on-site, BB's Stage Door Canteen is a 1940s-style live entertainment venue that features music and entertainment from that era, and the Jeri Nims Soda Shop offers 1940s-era meals. With its glass exterior walls, the John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion offers an up-close look at some of the Museum's macro-artifacts and allows visitors to learn how STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) were used to solve some of World War II's most difficult problems. Final Mission: The USS *Tang* Submarine Experience at the US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center, is an intense interactive production based on an epic WWII battle.

The stunning pavilion Campaigns of Courage houses the Road to Berlin: European Theater Galleries and the Road to Tokyo: Pacific Theater Galleries. Re-creating locations in the war's two fronts, the exhibitions feature immersive galleries for a 360-degree experience of key strategic moments.

New Orleans was chosen as the site of the museum, a Smithsonian Institution affiliate, to honor Andrew Higgins, a local boatbuilder whose amphibious landing craft was credited by Dwight Eisenhower with winning the war. A restored Higgins boat, aircraft and macro-artifact landing craft are displayed. Outside the entrance, tree-lined Founders Plaza provides visitors a place to relax.

Time: Allow 3 hours minimum. Phone: (504) 528-1944. (See ad starting on p. 88.) GT

OGDEN MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN ART is at 925 Camp St. Southern art from the 1700s to the present is represented in the collection amassed by New Orleans entrepreneur Roger Ogden. The museum displays between 300 and 400 works in 20 galleries, including paintings, photography, sculpture, ceramics, crafts and glass. Featured artists include Walter Anderson, Benny Andrews, Ida Kohlmeyer, George Ohr, Hunt Slonem and Will Henry Stevens.

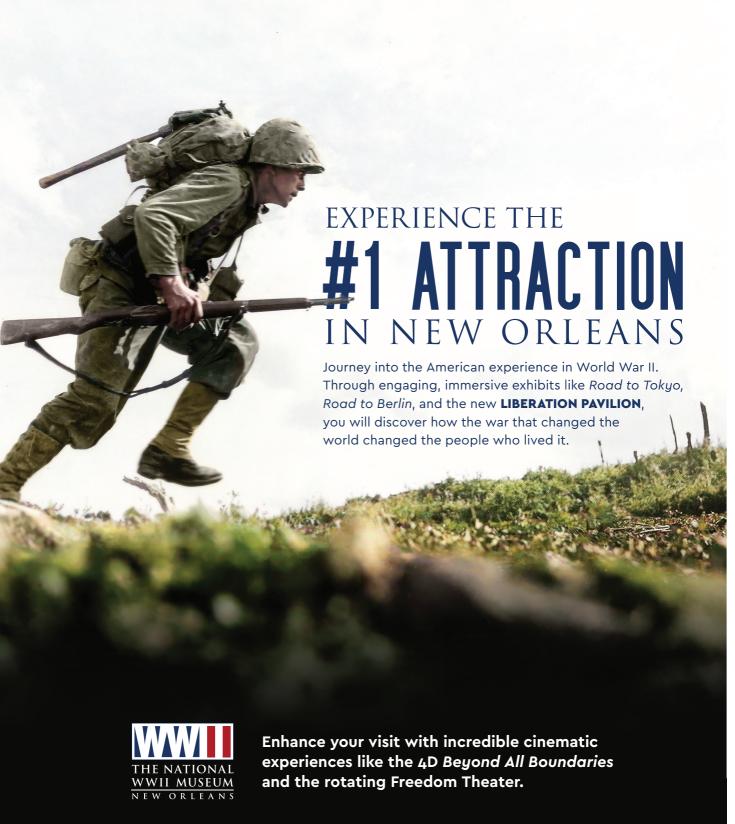
The cultural center regularly hosts a variety of educational programs, such as artist workshops and family activity days. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (504) 539-9650. **GT**

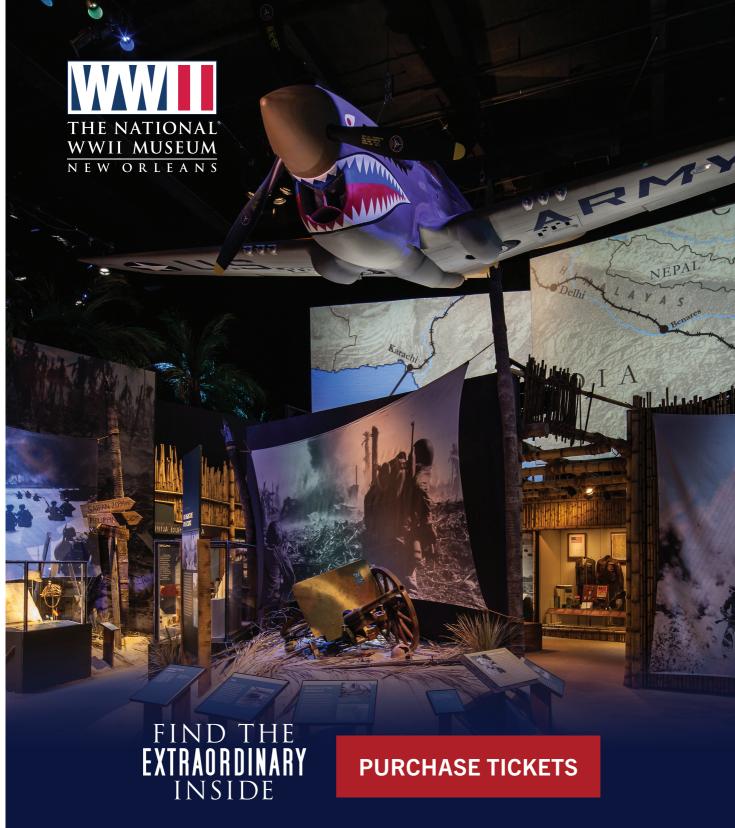
OLD CEMETERIES are in various locations throughout the city. Because water filled the graves before coffins could be lowered, tombs were built above ground. Mausoleums, 100 or more feet long and four tiers high, are of solid masonry. Most burials still are above ground, custom rather than necessity.

Dedicated to the preservation of New Orleans' historic burial sites, Save Our Cemeteries offers regular guided tours of Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 (see attraction listings) as well as seasonal tours of other historic cemeteries. **Phone:** (504) 525-3377 for Save Our Cemeteries tour information.

Cypress Grove Cemetery is at jct. City Park Ave. and Canal St. Many of the city's firemen are buried at the cemetery, which was founded in 1840. **Phone:** (504) 482-8983.

Greenwood Cemetery is at jct. City Park Ave. and Canal Blvd. Some 20,500 tombs include guild and organization mausoleums and a monument to the Confederate dead. **Phone:** (504) 482-8983.





Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 is in the Garden District at jct. Washington Ave. and Prytania St. Save Our Cemeteries tours depart from the main gate at 1400 Washington Ave. The architecture here is somewhat simpler than that of the Creole cemeteries. The pillars of early American society repose in tombs that are as graciously proportioned as the mansions they built. Save Our Cemeteries' 1.5hour tours provide cemetery history as well as insights about New Orleans settlers and city culture. Tour fees are used to preserve, protect and restore New Orleans' historic cemeteries.

Phone: (504) 525-3377 for tour information. GT

Metairie Cemetery is off I-10 at 5100 Pontchartrain Blvd. at the top of Canal St. The largest cemetery in New Orleans. Metairie is a showplace of tomb architecture. Established in 1873 on the site of an antebellum racetrack, it



Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 / © AAA / Thuyvi Gates

contains fine military memorials; the tomb of Gov. William C. Claiborne, first American governor of Louisiana; the tomb of New Orleans' first African American mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial; and graves of many leading families. Among the elaborate tombs is one built for Josie Arlington, the leading madam of Storyville. **Phone:** (504) 486-6331.

St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 is at Basin and St. Louis sts., just n. of the French Quarter. Save Our Cemeteries tours depart from the Backatown Coffee Parlour, 301 Basin St., a block from the cemetery. The oldest and best known of the city's above-ground cemeteries opened in 1789. Homer Plessy of the famous civil rights case Plessy vs. Ferguson, which was referenced in the Brown vs. Board of Education case, is interred here; voodoo queen Marie Laveau is said to rest in the Glapion family tomb; and actor Nicolas Cage has a tomb that resembles a pyramid built to eventually hold his remains.

Save Our Cemeteries' 1.5-hour day tours delve into the site's history and also provide insights about New Orleans settlers and city culture. A Tombs by Twilight tour also is offered the fourth Saturday of the month by advance reservation for adults ages 21+; phone ahead for details. Tour fees are used to preserve, protect and restore New Orleans' historic cemeteries.

Note: The cemetery is not open to the general public; all visitors must be accompanied by a registered tour guide. Phone: (504) 525-3377 for Save Our Cemeteries tour information. **GT**

St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 is on Claiborne Ave. between St. Louis and Iberville sts. Save Our Cemeteries tours depart from the Conti Street entrance. The cemetery was consecrated for burials in 1823. Phone: (504) 596-3050 for general information, or (504) 525-3377 for Save Our Cemeteries tour information. **GT**

St. Louis Cemetery No. 3 is at 3421 Esplanade Ave. near the entrance to City Park. The tombs of some of the old Creole families are found here. **Phone:** (504) 596-3050 or (504) 482-5065.

SOUTHERN FOOD AND BEVERAGE MUSEUM, 1504 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., showcases Southern cuisine. Archives, artwork and ephemera are used to reveal Southern culinary history and traditions as well as offer insights into food production. Exhibits introduce visitors to items found on local menus, including beignets, chicory coffee, po'boys and pralines. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (504) 569-0405.

Museum of the American Cocktail, in the Southern Food and Beverage Museum at 1504 Oretha Castle



Haley Blvd., has exhibits relating to the evolution and culture of alcoholic drinks as well as mixology. Memorabilia and paraphernalia include patents, photographs, juicers, strainers and whiskey bottles. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (504) 569-0405.

Sightseeing

New Orleans is a top travel destination offering many fun things to do. Take a moment and plan some sightseeing excursions so you don't miss any fabulous sights during your vacation.

Boat Tours

One of the best and easiest ways to experience the sounds, scents and strange beauty of Louisiana is by boat. Tours take passengers through swamps and bayous and past city skylines and historical areas; many tours provide information and insight into the history and ecosystem of this region. In addition to your camera, take along insect repellent. Reservations, always a good idea, can be arranged at most hotel transportation desks or at the boats; phone to confirm departure times.

CREOLE QUEEN departs from the Canal Street dock at the Riverwalk. This 800-passenger paddlewheeler offers a 3-hour jazz cruise on the Mississippi River with optional dinner. A narrated 2.5-hour historic cruise including a 1-hour Chalmette Battlefield guided tour shore excursion with optional lunch buffet also is available.

Phone: (504) 529-4567 or (800) 445-4109. GT

NEW ORLEANS STEAMBOAT COMPANY docks at the Toulouse St. Wharf at Jackson Square. Steamboat *Natchez*, the last authentic stern-wheel steamboat on the Mississippi River, features narrated 2-hour river tours of the port of New Orleans with live jazz on every cruise. Lunch and dinner jazz cruises and holiday cruises also are offered. Riverboat *City of New Orleans* offers narrated 2-hour jazz brunch cruises featuring a Mardi Gras theme and jazz dinner cruises. The brunch cruises include an optional stop at Mardi Gras World returning to Canal Street by shuttle bus.

Phone: (504) 569-1401 or (800) 233-2628. GT

Bus and Carriage Tours

Taking an organized bus tour is one of the best ways to become acquainted with New Orleans. These range from a 2-hour trip through the city to a full-day tour of the entire metropolitan area and a local plantation.

If you're looking for fun things to do with friends, some companies also conduct visits to hot spots on New Orleans' nightclub circuit. Passengers are picked up from

and returned to motels and hotels throughout the metropolitan area. Reservations are advised. Many downtown hotels have sightseeing booths, and motel managers can often provide information and reservations.

Horse-drawn carriages leave continuously from Jackson Square for narrated tours of the French Quarter. The waiting time varies; most tours require a minimum of six passengers and depart when the carriage is full.

CITY SIGHTSEEING NEW ORLEANS HOP-ON HOP-OFF departs from 18 downtown locations; tickets can be purchased on the bus or at the ticket desks at Basin St. Station (Stop 5) and 700 Decatur St. The guided tours aboard open-top, double-decker buses offer unlimited hop-on, hop-off sightseeing for up to 3 days, allowing visitors easy access to such points of interest as The National WWII Museum, Mardi Gras World and Magazine Street. Buses pass each stop every 30 minutes or less; a single loop tour lasts 2 hours. A one-day tour also is available.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (504) 207-6200 or (800) 362-1811. **GT**

THE ORIGINAL NEW ORLEANS MOVIE TOUR departs from the Canal Street Ferry landing at 2 Canal St. Van tours lasting 2 hours visit locations of movies and TV shows filmed in New Orleans, including "A Streetcar Named Desire," "The Pelican Brief," "Django Unchained," "True Blood" and "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." Guides relate details about the filming of the movies as well as city history. Passengers can view video clips of the movies on in-seat monitors as the van arrives at each location.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (225) 240-8648 for reservations.

ST. CHARLES AVENUE STREETCAR can be boarded at stops along St. Charles Ave. and from the main boarding location at jct. Carondelet and Canal sts. The oldest continuously running street railway, the streetcar is now part of the municipal transit system. The line itself was built in 1835 to connect New Orleans with the city of Carrollton; the 35 olive-green trolley cars date 1923-24.

The 13-mile line runs between Canal Street (near the French Quarter) along St. Charles Avenue to its junction with Carrollton and Claiborne avenues with stops every 2 blocks. It passes the Garden District, the campuses of Tulane and Loyola universities and Audubon Park.

When the streetcar reaches the end of the line (junction of Canal Street and St. Charles Avenue or junction of Carrollton and Claiborne avenues), passengers must exit the car, reboard and pay an additional fare for the return trip; transfers cannot be used. Streetcar fare does not include

hop on/off service; the full fare must be paid for each reboarding.

Phone: (504) 248-3900.

TOURS BY ISABELLE picks up passengers at hotels downtown and in or near the French Quarter. Nearly a dozen city, plantation, swamp and combination tours ranging from 4 to 9 hours are offered. Lunch is included on the all-day tours. One of the tours includes information about Hurricane Katrina, showing the devastation it caused as well as sites that are recovering. All tours are conducted in 13-passenger vans, and the swamp tours are on small airboats except for the Cajun Bayou tour, which uses a covered pontoon boat.

Phone: (504) 398-0365 or (877) 665-8687. GT

Food Tours

New Orleans is famous for its local restaurants. Learn how diverse cultures impacted the culinary character of the region. Sample the local fare and discover new favorite dishes from exciting places to eat.

Guided Walking Tours

Park rangers from the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve conduct 60-minute walks of the French Quarter Tues.-Sat. at 9:30. Tours depart from the French Quarter Visitor Center (see attraction listing p. 83); passes for the walks become available at 9 and are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Tours are limited to 25 people. Phone (504) 589-2636, ext. 1.

The Friends of the Cabildo, (504) 524-9118, conducts 2-hour guided tours of the French Quarter. Tours begin at the 1850 House (The Lower Pontalba Building) daily at 10:30 and 1:30. Fee \$20; \$15 (ages 65+ and students and active military with ID); free (ages 0-12 when accompanied by a family member).

Save Our Cemeteries, which helps to preserve and promote the city's historic burial sites, offers regular guided tours of Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and St. Louis Cemetery No. 2. The non-profit organization also offers tours of other area graveyards seasonally; phone (504) 525-3377 for more information.

HAUNTED HISTORY TOURS departs from various locations including Reverend Zombie's Voodoo Shop at 723 St. Peter St. Theatrical guides recount history and folklore on a variety of 2-hour walking tours that take visitors through the storied streets and alleys of New Orleans. The cemetery visited on the popular Cemetery Tour is St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. Other excursions include the Garden District History Tour, ghost tours, the Vampire

Tour, the Voodoo History Tour, the 5-in-1 Ghost & Mystery Tour and a Haunted Pub Crawl.

Phone: (504) 861-2727 or (888) 644-6787. GT

HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS TOURS departs from various locations; the Cemetery/Voodoo Tour departs from the courtyard of Café Beignet, 334-B Royal St. Various 2-hour walking tours impart the flavor of New Orleans and the French Quarter. Guides entertain and inform guests about such topics as architecture, history, celebrity homes, literature, voodoo, hauntings and music. The cemetery visited on the Cemetery/Voodoo Tour is St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, and the cemetery visited on the Garden District/Cemetery Tour is Lafayette Cemetery No. 1.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (504) 947-2120.

Self-guiding Tours

The compactness of New Orleans makes it a natural city to explore on foot. Self-guiding driving and walking tour brochures are available at the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau at 2020 St. Charles Ave.; phone (504) 566-5011 or (800) 672-6124. Notable structures include the Civil Courts Building, the State Supreme Court Building, 11-story City Hall and the New Orleans Public Library. The U.S. Custom House, 423 Canal St., was once the site of old Fort St. Louis. Built in 1848 under the guidance of Gen. Pierre G. Beauregard, it combines two revival styles—Egyptian outside and Greek inside.

The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park Visitor Center (see attraction listing p. 84) has multiple brochures organized by neighborhood about notable sites related to jazz history. Audio cellphone tours also are available. Phone (504) 589-4841, or (504) 613-4062 for the audio tour.

Remember that New Orleans is a port city with many types of people and all of the problems inherent in such urban areas. Be safe on your trip. Wandering should be tempered with the same awareness and common sense appropriate in any large city: Limit it to daylight hours and well-traveled routes, leave conspicuous wallets and handbags in your hotel safe and do not go alone.

AAA Walking Tours

The French Quarter

This walking tour begins at Jackson Square, but you can start at any point convenient to your hotel. If you enter the Quarter by car, parking is available in three lots on Decatur Street near Jax Brewery, with entrances at Conti, Toulouse and St. Peter streets.

Providing a good transportation alternative for visitors staying at hotels outside the Quarter is the air-conditioned



Riverfront Streetcar, which travels for 2 miles along the levee from Julia Street (inbound) to Esplanade (outbound) at the downriver boundary of the French Quarter. Stops include the New Orleans Convention Center, the Riverwalk, Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Jax Brewery and the French Market. Get off the trolley at Dumaine to reach Jackson Square, your starting point.

The names of sites that are printed in bold type are described in greater detail in the Attractions/The French Quarter section. Even if you do not tour a listed site, reading the listing when you reach that point should make the tour more interesting.

One really needs several days to fully explore the Quarter, although some might wager that a lifetime is not long enough to truly know this eclectic locale. If you have only a day, slip into your most comfortable walking shoes and prepare to experience the heart and soul of New Orleans. The tour takes up to 2 hours.

Known as the Place d'Armes by the French and Plaza de Armas by the Spanish, **Jackson Square** was renamed in 1848 in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson, the hero of the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. Standing near the imposing statue of Old Hickory, you are in what has been called the finest architectural setting in the United States.

On St. Peter and St. Ann streets—beyond the verdant plantings, the painting-adorned iron fence and the cheery umbrellas of the sidewalk artists-rise the stately Pontalba Buildings.

Diagonally across Chartres Street from the Pontalbas is another set of twins, The Cabildo and The Presbytère. In turn, these elegant structures frame the crown jewel of the square, the Cathedral-Basilica of Saint Louis King of France. On a sunny morning, surrounded by flowers and pigeons and lulled by the De Gaulle Fountain, you might be tempted to end your walking tour right here, before you have even begun.

Do not—there is too much to see and do. On the St. Ann side of the square in the Lower Pontalba Building is the Louisiana Tourism Office, a good place to pick up maps and brochures. If time permits, take a tour of the 1850 House (The Lower Pontalba Building) for a alimpse of what life in a middle-class Creole town house was like in the 19th century.

Cross Decatur Street and experience a New Orleans tradition, Café Du Monde. Except for facade renovations, not much has changed at this coffee stand since steaming café au lait (a blend of equal parts of chicory coffee and hot milk) and beignets (fried, confectioners' sugar-dusted doughnuts) were first served in 1862.

The café anchors the north end of the historic **French** Market, which had its origins as a Choctaw trading

ground even before the city was established by Jean-Baptiste LeMoyne in 1718. Among the Native American trade goods was a finely ground powder made from sassafras leaves—the filé (FEE-lay) sought by Creole cooks to thicken gumbo.

The market complex consists of a series of colonnaded buildings stretching along Decatur and N. Peters streets from St. Ann to Barracks streets, with gift shops, clothing stores, a candy cookery, more coffee stands and informal eateries. The sweet smell of pralines may entice you to stop and buy a snack. A small courtyard tucked behind these buildings contains several lifelike statues, including a bronze girl reclining on a fountain.

Stroll along Decatur and cross N. Peters. Note the 13foot-tall gilded statue of Joan of Arc on the Place de France, a tiny wedge of ground forming a point where N. Peters diverges from Decatur. A gift from the people of France, the Maid of Orleans stands as another reminder of the city's French connection. The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park Visitor Center at 419 Decatur St. features exhibits about America's most famous indigenous musical art form.

Stop at the corner of Ursulines Avenue and French Market Place. The last pavilions house the open-air farmers market, once a riot of color and aromas. In recent years, flea market bargains have replaced fresh produce in many stalls. Beyond the French Market on Esplanade Avenue is The New Orleans Jazz Museum. The red brick building served as the Confederacy's only mint for a few months during the Civil War and continued as a federal mint until 1909.

Turn left on Ursulines, passing the shaded seating area of Latrobe Park and crossing Decatur. This street was aptly named for the historic site beyond the high walls on your right; a guick right at Chartres brings you to old doors that open onto the courtyard of the Archbishop Antoine Blanc Memorial complex, which contains the **Old Ursu**line Convent. Constructed in 1745 during the French occupation, the convent is one of the city's oldest buildings.

At one time the convent walls surrounded all land bounded by Ursulines Avenue and Barracks, Royal and Decatur streets. Along with house museums and small hotels, this guiet, colorful residential section of the Quarter is characterized by three main types of dwellings: narrow shotgun houses, two- and three-level town houses, and Creole cottages. Streets in this area are less populated than in the busy commercial district closer to Jackson Square.

Opposite the convent is the yellow **BK Historic House** and Gardens, where Gen. Pierre G.T. Beauregard, hailed as the "Great Creole" after defending Fort Sumter at the opening of the Civil War, resided 1866-68; author Frances

Parkinson Keyes penned "Dinner at Antoine's" while living here in the late 1940s.

Three buildings away is the Soniat House, an exceptionally large town house built in 1829 by a wealthy Creole plantation owner for his family of 14. One of many quaint hotels in the Quarter, Soniat House is fronted by a fine example of mid-19th-century iron lacework. Note the *portecochere* entrance that once served as a carriageway and watch for other examples of this architectural amenity throughout the district.

Cross to the far side of Gov. Nicholls Street and turn left. From this side, you can see over the brick wall at 618-620 and into the courtyard of the Clay House, the 1828 home of statesman Henry Clay's brother, John, who was married to Mrs. Soniat's sister.

Turn left on Royal Street, the Vieux Carré's premier shopping address, especially for antiques. Facing you on the corner at 1140 Royal will be the three-story Lalaurie House. Legend has it that the mistress of this house, Delphine Lalaurie, tortured her slaves, then set fire to the building when she was discovered, escaping to Europe through the Clay garden and out the Soniat carriageway. Many locals maintain the house is haunted; it's a favorite stop on ghost tours.

At 1132 Royal is the stately **Gallier House**, residence of James Gallier Jr., the son of a prominent 19th-century New Orleans architect, who followed successfully in his father's footsteps. Gallier Sr.'s works include the handsome Greek Revival old city hall (Gallier Hall) on St. Charles Avenue facing Lafayette Square. Besides his home, the younger Gallier designed the Creole's beloved French Opera House, which occupied the corner of Bourbon and Toulouse streets until it burned in 1919.

When you reach St. Philip, turn right and walk up the block past the McDonogh School to Bourbon Street. On the northwest corner is one of the oldest surviving buildings in the French Quarter. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, now a tavern, dates to 1772. The privateer Lafitte brothers were said to run the shop as a front for their smuggling enterprises.

Turn left on Bourbon and continue along this quiet stretch—away from the bars, jazz halls and adults-only clubs—to Dumaine. Go left to return to Royal, turning left again. Some of the Quarter's most ornate ironwork adorns the small balconies and expansive galleries along this street, and the green cornstalk fence fronting a guest house at 915 Royal is a striking example. The whimsical piece of iron artistry was crafted in Philadelphia around 1834; a similar fence surrounds a Fourth Street Garden District mansion (see Garden District Walking Tour).

Retrace your steps to the corner and pause for a moment to look up the long corridor of *Rue Royale*. This is

the French Quarter of novelists, satirists and playwrights: the backdrop for Keyes' historical fiction, a setting for John Kennedy Toole's outrageous "A Confederacy of Dunces" and the inspiration for a Pulitzer Prize-winning drama by Tennessee Williams. Although Blanche DuBois' streetcar named Desire doesn't pass this way anymore (the line was removed in the late 1940s, after Williams' play was published), the Quarter's mystique, romance and allure have been preserved for future literati.

Turn left, taking a slight detour to see **Madame John's Legacy** at 632 Dumaine. The raised cottage, a rare example of French Creole design, survived a fire that destroyed most of New Orleans in 1794. It takes its name from native New Orleanian George Washington Cable's 19th-century short story "Tite Poulette," in which an heirless Creole named John bequeaths his house to a quadroon with a beautiful daughter. Cable's depictions of Creole lifestyles were disdained by the community. Moviegoers who follow author Anne Rice's vampire series may recall seeing exterior shots of this house in "Interview With the Vampire."

Return to Royal Street to continue your walking tour. In the next block between Pere Antoine's and Pirates alleys is St. Anthony's Garden. The sedate backyard of the cathedral once rang with the clashing blades of challenged Creoles. On Pirates Alley, a byway both portrayed and inhabited by Quarter artists and authors, look for Faulkner House Books at 624 Pirates Alley, a bookstore named for the building's famous 1930s resident—William Faulkner.

Get out the camera. Just past Pirates Alley on the corner at St. Peter, you will walk under the balconies of the Labranche Building, one of the Quarter's most photographed structures for its lacy acorn and oak leaf grillwork.

Turn right on St. Peter for a glimpse through gated entries of two popular nightspots, Pat O'Brien's and **Preservation Hall.** Pat O's, as the locals call it, reverberates nightly with sing-alongs in the piano bar. Next door, Preservation Hall musicians only jam evenings, usually to a packed house.

Backtrack to Royal. On the uptown riverside corner (that's the one across the street on the right side of St. Peter) is the four-story, 1811 structure conceived as the first "skyscraper." Protests that the subsoil would not support such a tall edifice halted it at three floors; the fourth was added 65 years later. The "YLM" in the ironwork is the monogram of the first owner, Yves Le Monnier. Another of Cable's Creole tales is set in this house.

The next four blocks form the main commercial area. Several fine old restaurants, a pastry shop, cool courtyard taverns, two large hotels and the greatest concentration of antique stores in the Quarter line the street. Rows of

horsehead hitching posts, art studios, galleries and gift shops add to the charm.

Amble uptown on Royal. Midway up the block is The Court of Two Sisters restaurant, occupying the 1832 building where Creole siblings sold Paris clothing and notions in the late 1880s. It has one of the Quarter's largest dining courtyards.

Continuing toward Canal Street, cross Toulouse to the 500 block of Royal, where you will pass **The Historic New Orleans Collection**, a multibuilding museum that includes the Williams Residence, the former home of collection founders Gen. and Mrs. L. Kemper Williams.

Turn right on St. Louis Street. In the middle of the block on your right is Antoine's, one of New Orleans' oldest family-operated restaurants. French-born founder Antoine Alciatore's son created the establishment's signature dish, oysters Rockefeller—so named for its rich sauce—here in the late 1800s.

Cross Bourbon and look for the **Hermann-Grima House**, built in 1831. Now the property of The Woman's Exchange (which also owns the Gallier House), it has a lovely courtyard and the only stable in the Quarter. This handsome Colonial structure exemplifies the American impact on Creole New Orleans.

Turn left at Dauphine and left again toward the river, following Conti to Bourbon Street. On the way you'll pass Broussard's, established in 1920 by Parisian-trained chef Joseph Broussard.

A quick right on Bourbon will take you to **New Orleans Musical Legends Park**, where statues in a courtyard setting honor the city's music greats. Return to Conti.

At the corner of Bourbon and Conti is the Famous Door. Jazz greats have played this stage since 1934, and a roster of the luminaries who have entered to be entertained frames the portal.

Continue on Conti and turn left at Royal. Two buildings dominate the river side of the street. The oversize 1910 Beaux Arts-style structure on the 400 block first housed district and state courts, then the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. The Louisiana Supreme Court now resides in the old Civil Courts Building. This intersection was once the city's financial hub; the grand old Bank of Louisiana building at 334 Royal now serves as the French Quarter 8th District Police Station.

On the far side of the police station on Chartres is K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen. Chef Paul Prudhomme helped make Cajun cooking a household name with the opening of his restaurant in 1979.

A right on St. Louis then a left on Chartres will take you back to the heart of the Vieux Carré, cathedral spires in view. On the way note the 1823 apothecary shop of Louis

Dufilho at 514 Chartres, home of the **New Orleans Pharmacy Museum.** The devastating 1788 fire started in the home of a Spanish official at the Toulouse Street intersection. At the corner of Chartres and St. Peter streets is Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré, an active element in the city's cultural life.

Back at Jackson Square you can enter the quadrangle from any side for a well-earned rest. But why stop now? You're in New Orleans, where excess is a lifestyle; where locals embrace an old Acadian concept called lagniappe—a reference to getting a little something extra, like a bonus. Your lagniappe is just across Decatur Street, where one more great photo opportunity awaits.

Mount the steps at Washington Artillery Park for a panorama of the historic plaza. Camera in hand, align General Jackson with the cathedral and capture a postcard-worthy image. *Click*. Now turn around and face the mighty, muddy Mississippi. With a little luck you just might get a shot of the **Steamboat** *Natchez* taking on passengers at the Toulouse Street Wharf; the stern-wheeler's melodious steam calliope puffs out tunes. *Click*. And from this wide vantage point of the river you'll see why New Orleans is called the Crescent City. *Click*.

The Garden District

The fine old homes of the Garden District, bounded by Jackson and Louisiana avenues and St. Charles Avenue and Magazine Street, preserve traces of the era of cotton and sugar empires, when grand antebellum plantations dominated the landscape. This was primarily the American section of town, named for the lush garden estates.

The district owes its luxuriant vegetation to an 1816 flood caused by the overflowing Mississippi River. Although many plantations between Carrollton and the emerging American sector were destroyed, a rich deposit of alluvial silt created a very desirable feature for future development—higher ground. In the early 1830s Jacques Livaudais sold his sugarcane plantation, which was soon subdivided, later incorporated as the city of Lafayette and subsequently annexed to New Orleans, where it became known as the Garden District.

In addition to thriving indigenous and exotic plantings and magnolia trees rivaling oaks in size, the neighborhood boasts a variety of building styles, including Gothic, Greek Revival and Renaissance. Many homes are embellished with iron lacework, a hallmark of New Orleans architecture.

The Garden District is easy to tour, but not necessarily easy to walk. Because some of the sidewalks have become warped by the roots of old oak trees, it is recommended that you wear comfortable shoes and watch your

step. Also, look out for the occasional marble carriage step near the curb in front of some residences, remnants of a bygone era.

Please keep in mind that these are private residences, closed to the public. Tours through select homes are given during the Spring Fiesta and Historic Home Tours, a 2-week celebration that usually begins in March. For information phone Spring Fiesta Headquarters, (504) 581-1367.

There are no public parking lots in the Garden District and many parking spaces on the one-way cross streets are usually occupied by residents' vehicles. Your best bet is to take the St. Charles Avenue Streetcar, which travels from Canal Street to the Garden District. After your car passes Jackson Avenue, reach up for the pull cord to signal the conductor to stop at First Street. The ride takes up to 15 minutes; the walking tour lasts about 1 hour and 30 minutes.

If you arrived here by streetcar, walk from St. Charles one block toward the river on First Street to your starting point at Prytania Street. On the left facing Prytania is the Bradish Johnson House, a Second Empire-style mansion erected in 1872 by New Orleans architect James Freret for a wealthy sugar planter. Louise S. McGehee School for girls has occupied this ornately appointed house since 1929. Like many other Garden District residences, this one is surrounded by an iron fence and shaded by large trees—in this case, mimosa, magnolia and oak. Cross Prytania for another look.

You are standing in front of Toby's Corner, 2340 Prytania St., the district's oldest house. This austere 1838 Greek Revival raised plantation features square columns rising to a Greek cornice. Note the herringbone pattern of the brick sidewalk.

Continue down First. The two-story Greek facade supported by four massive columns at 1407 forms the imposing veranda on a frame house that probably dates from the 1840s.

Cross Coliseum. Two Italianate mansions built simultaneously in 1869 by architect Samuel Jamison anchor both ends of this block. But the Morris House, 1331 First St., and the Carroll House, 1315 First St. at Chestnut, have something else in common: identical ironwork.

Leaving Carroll House, cross Chestnut. The elegant double-galleried town house framed by two curbside oak trees at 1239 First St. was originally the Brevard House, but locals know it as Rosegate, author Anne Rice's former home. A combination of Greek Revival and Italianate styles, the 1857 mansion is noted for its cast-iron adornments. Tread carefully here: The guardian oaks' gnarly roots have corrupted the sidewalk.

Walk to the end of the block. Diagonally across Camp Street is the Payne House, historically significant as the home where Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, died in 1889. A large marble slab near the curb is engraved with highlights of Davis' illustrious military and political career. The Greek Revival structure is one of the most outstanding examples of Garden District antebellum architecture.

Turn left at Camp, then go left again at Philip. As you make your way toward Chestnut, note the frame Italianate behind a large magnolia tree at 1220 Philip. Owned by sugar broker Samuel Delgado, the house was occupied at one time by his nephew Isaac, who amassed an art collection that he donated to the city in 1911. This was the foundation for the New Orleans Museum of Art, formerly Delgado Museum, located in City Park.

A few doors down on the left at 1238 Philip St., at the corner of Chestnut, is a single town house dating from 1853. The use of Doric columns on the lower veranda and composite ones on the upper balcony is characteristic of the period. The octagonal wing facing Chestnut was added around 1869, a reflection of Victorian preferences.

Continue on Philip, crossing Chestnut and Coliseum. A quaint raised American cottage stands in the middle of the block at 1433. A spacious front gallery distinguishes this from the Creole version.

Double back to Coliseum and turn right. Starting from the corner, the series of eight shotgun houses at 2301-29 Coliseum is misnamed the Seven Sisters; the origin of this moniker is dubious. Modest in scale when compared to the grandeur of their neighbors seen thus far on the tour, the single-story and camelback (having a second story atop the rear section) dwellings are believed to be early "spec" houses.

Walk down to the Third Street intersection. On your left at 1331 Third is the Musson House, built around 1853. It was the home of Creole cotton factor Michel Musson, maternal uncle of Edgar Degas, for a time. Degas' painting "A Cotton Office in New Orleans" depicts activities at his uncle's office, which he visited regularly during his 1872-73 stay at the Musson family's Esplanade Avenue home, which is where the family moved after the Civil War.

Across Coliseum facing Third is the Robinson House, one of the area's largest residences. Completed for a Virginia businessman just after the Civil War, the structure is executed in the more expansive style of the later antebellum period. The architect was Henry Howard, designer of Nottoway Plantation in White Castle and several other Garden District homes. Especially notable is the graceful curved portico.

Cross Third and continue on Coliseum. Just outside the arched gates of the 1840s Greek Revival house at 2618 Coliseum is another stately oak tree and another bumpy banquet. Careful as you head toward Fourth Street.

The gables, ironwork galleries and gingerbread trim on the chalet-style Koch mansion at 2627 Coliseum make for an interesting architectural contrast to the otherwise classic Garden District fare. The house was built 1860-70.

On the left in the next block of Coliseum, starting with 2700 and ending with 2726, are five double-galleried town houses known as Freret's Folly. The story goes that architect William A. Freret's venture was not the success he had hoped for; hence the nickname.

Now turn your attention to the agua-colored, turreted Victorian that wraps around Washington Avenue just ahead on the right. This is Commander's Palace, one of New Orleans' finest dining destinations and catalyst for the careers of popular chefs Paul Prudhomme and Emeril Lagasse. Although it is now operated by the Brennan family, this landmark restaurant dates from 1880; it was named for founder Emile Commander.

Sorry, you usually can't get in without a reservation, but with a little advance planning you can recount the highlights of your walking tour another day over lunch, a jazz brunch (Saturdays and Sundays only) or dinner. Try the bread pudding soufflé, Commander's Palace's twist on an old New Orleans favorite.

Round the corner and walk along Washington. Just across from Commander's beyond dreary brick walls is one of the "cities of the dead" that New Orleans is known for. Lafayette Cemetery No. 1 was established in 1833

when the Garden District was within the city of Lafavette. We recommend that you enter the historic cemetery with a guide.

Take a sharp right at Prytania, where you'll pass The Rink, an 1884 skating rink that now contains upscale shops. There's also a coffee shop inside. If you've already taken the French Quarter walking tour you're sure to experience déjà vu as you stroll down Prytania alongside the cornstalk-motif fence enclosing Col. Short's Villa, 1448 Fourth St. The handsome 1859 Italianate residence is another of Henry Howard's architectural legacies. A bronze plate on the fence details the seizure and occupation of the house during the Civil War.

The unique Gothic Revival house at 2605 Prytania St. has a matching guest house on the grounds. This is said to be the only residence of its type in the Garden District. Across Third and a little farther down on the right is 2504 Prytania, home of the Women's Opera Guild. This 1865 Greek Revival by William A. Freret features a later Italianate addition. Tours of the elaborately furnished house are available Mondays 10:30-4, September through May and by appointment. Tours last 45 minutes to an hour; phone (504) 899-1945 for additional information.

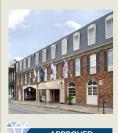
Cross Second Street and proceed to First, where you began. From this point it is only one block left to St. Charles and the streetcar. Beyond Washington is the Lower Garden District, and beyond that, Uptown, which embraces both sides of St. Charles Avenue. What began as a series of plantations between Lafavette and Carrollton is now home to several neighborhoods as well as Loyola University, Tulane University and historic Audubon Park.

FRENCH QUARTER

Hotels p. 97 • Restaurants p. 106

BEST WESTERN PLUS FRENCH QUARTER COURTYARD

BOOK NOW 504/524-3333



Hotel. Address: 920 N Rampart St 70116. Facility: 102 units. 3 stories, interior/exterior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

























THE BIENVILLE HOUSE HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/529-2345



Historic Hotel. Address: 320 Decatur St 70130. Facility: Situated in a prime location, the property is within walking distance of downtown, the French Quarter, and the riverfront. King bedded rooms feature impressive four-post beds. 80 units. 4 stories, interior/exterior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry. Affiliated with Preferred Hotels & Resorts. SAVE BIZ RIZ SOME (*)









Historic Hotel. Address: 717 Orleans St 70116. Facility: Be prepared for fun (and noise) in the evenings, as the hotel sits right in the middle of the action on Bourbon Street. The various sized rooms are appointed in classic New Orleans décor. 220 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.





























BOOK NOW 504/523-2400

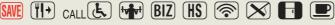


COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 910 Iberville St 70112. Facility: 230 units. 4-10 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.























CROWNE PLAZA NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QTR-ASTOR BOOK NOW 504/962-0500



Hotel. Address: 739 Canal St 70130. Facility: 693 units. 6-14 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

SAVE (T) CALL (L) (A) (HIP) (BIZ) (R) (X) (I) (II) (SOME (III)

















DAUPHINE ORLEANS HOTEL-J COLLECTION BOOK NOW 504/586-1800

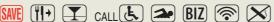


Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 415 Dauphine St 70112. Facility: This charming hotel occupies several buildings, including an 18th-century townhouse, inviting courtyards and a saltwater pool. A stay here offers a true French Quarter experience. 112 units. 1-4 stories (no elevator), interior/exterior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry.





























FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON FRENCH QUARTER BOOK NOW

504/524-7611



FOUR AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 541 Bourbon St 70130. Facility: 186 units. 5 stories, BY SHERATON interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet

laundry. SAVE



























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Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.



FRENCH MARKET INN BOOK NOW 504/561-5621



Historic Hotel. Address: 509 Decatur St 70130. Facility: In contrast to its modest exterior, the lobby of this historic site offers charming French Provincial decor. Within this nine building facility, the classic, inviting rooms vary in size and layout. 120 units. 2-4 stories, interior/exterior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and street. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: video games, safes. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry.













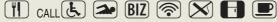


HOLIDAY INN FRENCH QUARTER CHATEAU LEMOYNE BOOK NOW 504/581-1303



Hotel. Address: 301 Dauphine St 70112. Facility: 171 units. 3-5 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor.

















HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON NEW ORLEANS FRENCH

QUARTER

BOOK NOW

504/930-4494



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 317 N Rampart St 70112.

HOTEL LE MARAIS-J COLLECTION

BOOK NOW

504/525-2300



Boutique Contemporary Hotel. Address: 717 Conti St 70130.

HOTEL MAZARIN-J COLLECTION **BOOK NOW** 504/581-7300

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 730 Bienville St 70130.



HOTEL MONTELEONE BOOK NOW 504/523-3341



Classic Historic Hotel. Address: 214 Royal St 70130. Facility: The beautifully appointed, classic hotel offers rooms that vary in size and design; some are smaller. The inviting lobby area offers guests plenty of downtime space, and the rooftop pool is a draw. 522 units. 17 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry. Affiliated with Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

































HOTEL PROVINCIAL BOOK NOW 504/581-4995



Historic Hotel. Address: 1024 Chartres St 70116. Facility: Tastefully appointed rooms are located throughout several buildings at the charming property. Many surround serene New Orleans-style courtyards. 94 units. 2-4 stories (no elevator), interior/exterior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry.













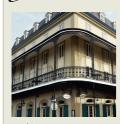








HOTEL ST. MARIE BOOK NOW 504/561-8951

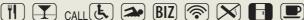


Historic Hotel. Address: 827 Toulouse St 70112. Facility: The hotel has a traditional NOLA style courtyard with lush landscaping, a pool and street side balcony rooms. Steps from Bourbon Street, the hotel provides an authentic French Quarter experience. 103 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry.



























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HYATT CENTRIC FRENCH QUARTER NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/586-0800



HYATT CENTRIC

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 800 Iberville St 70112. Facility: 254 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.























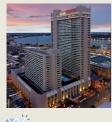








NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT BOOK NOW 504/581-1000



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 555 Canal St 70130. Facility: 1333 units. 21-41 stories, MARRIOTT interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services:

valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.



























OMNI ROYAL ORLEANS HOTEL BOOK NOW

504/529-5333



Classic Hotel. Address: 621 St Louis St 70130. Facility: For striking views of the city and river, visit the rooftop observation deck. The charming rooms vary in size, and all feature elegant French décor and modern amenities. 345 units. 7 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Dining: 3 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry. (See ad p. 103.)































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PLACE D'ARMES HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/524-4531



Historic Hotel. Address: 625 St Ann St 70116. Facility: This hotel captures the essence of the French Quarter from its location on the edge of Jackson Square. The rooms of various sizes are spread among seven buildings, some without elevator access. 85 units. 2-5 stories (no elevator), interior/exterior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry.



















PRINCE CONTI HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/529-4172



Historic Hotel. Address: 830 Conti St 70112. Facility: The exterior of the hotel features classic, 19th-century New Orleans character. Room sizes and configurations vary and all are attractively appointed. The central French Quarter location is a plus. 79 units. 3 stories, interior/exterior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Guest Services: valet laundry.























THE RITZ-CARLTON, NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/524-1331







AAA Benefit: Special member savings plus Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

THE RITZ CARLTON

Historic Hotel. Address: 921 Canal St 70112. Facility: From arrival to departure, service is a hallmark of the posh hotel. High ceilings, elegant furniture, lavish fabrics and well-appointed bathrooms in the guest rooms guarantee a luxurious stay. 528 units. 15 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants, also, M Bistro, see separate listing, entertainment. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, health club, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry, boarding pass kiosk.

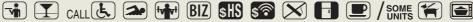






































Book and save at AAA.com/hertz





THE ROYAL SONESTA NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/586-0300





Historic Hotel. Address: 300 Bourbon St 70130. Facility: The historic property borders on iconic with its classic New Orleans architecture and central Bourbon Street location. The rooms feature luxurious décor, and some have a balcony, 483 units, 2-7 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants, also, Restaurant R'evolution, see separate listing, entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room.

































AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 100 Iberville St 70130. Facility: Each inviting room features upscale décor elements and offers great views. The bathroom has a rain shower head, a hand-held wand, and custom amenities for a relaxing, luxurious experience. 462 units. 11-29 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































WWW W NEW ORLEANS - FRENCH QUARTER

BOOK NOW 504/581-1200



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Boutique Hotel. Address: 316 Chartres St 70130. Facility: Rooms have a HOTELS contemporary, inviting style and offer adequate space for moving about. The relaxing courtyard pool and trendy lounge are appealing places to relax. 97 units. 2-5 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm.

Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































Use the free travel planning tools at AAA.com/maps





WYNDHAM NEW ORLEANS-FRENCH QUARTER BOOK NOW 504/529-7211



Hotel. Address: 124 Royal St 70130. Facility: 374 units. 20 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor.

Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

SAVE (TI+) CALL (L) (A) (+viv) (BIZ)

















WHERE TO EAT



BRENNAN'S 504/525-9711



New Creole Fine Dining. Address: 417 Royal St 70130.



M BISTRO 504/670-2828



Regional American Fine Dining. Address: 921 Canal St 70112.



RESTAURANT R'EVOLUTION 504/553-2277



New Creole Fine Dining. Address: 777 Bienville St 70130.

DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS

Hotels p. 106
 Restaurants p. 120

AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS BOURBON/FRENCH QUARTER

BOOK NOW

504/962-0700





AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 221 Carondelet St 70130. Facility: 220 units. 8 stories, interior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























THE BARNETT **BOOK NOW** 504/900-1180



Boutique Contemporary Hotel. Address: 600 Carondelet St 70130.



BEST WESTERN PLUS ST. CHRISTOPHER HOTEL BOOK NOW

504/648-0444



Hotel. Address: 114 Magazine St 70130. Facility: 108 units. 10 stories, interior corridors. Parking: street only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Guest Services: valet laundry. SAVE (1) BIZ 🛜 🔀 🗖 🖭 / SOME 😭





BLAKE HOTEL NEW ORLEANS, BW PREMIER COLLECTION

BOOK NOW

504/522-9000



Hotel. Address: 500 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: 122 units. 11 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.





















CAMBRIA HOTEL NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN WAREHOUSE

DISTRICT BOOK NOW 504/524-7770



hotels

CAMBRIA AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Boutique Hotel. Address: 632 Tchoupitoulas St 70130. Facility: The industrial architecture and décor of the hotel fits well in the warehouse district. The trendy lobby pops with thematic art and the spacious concept creates a great space for socializing, 162 units, 7 stories, interior corridors, Parking; valet only, Amenities; safes, Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN NEAR THE FRENCH BOOK NOW 504/581-9005



COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 124 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: 140 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW

504/581-1300



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

DOUBLETREE Hotel. Address: 300 Canal St 70130. Facility: 367 units, some two bedrooms. 17 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































DRURY PLAZA HOTEL-NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW

504/529-7800

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 820 Poydras St 70112.



THE ELIZA JANE, THE UNBOUND COLLECTION BY HYATT BOOK NOW

504/882-1234





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Boutique Contemporary Hotel. Address: 315 Magazine St 70130. Facility: An eclectic, trendy vibe, conducive to socialization, exudes as you enter the spacious open ground floor. Rooms vary in size and suites offer a soaking tub set in the walk-in shower. 196 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. **Parking:** valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.



































EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION

CENTER

BOOK NOW 504/525-1993



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 315 Julia St 70130.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN NEW

ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/309-0800



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Fair field Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 346 Baronne St 70112. Facility: 103 units. 7 stories. interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















HAMPTON INN & SUITES-CONVENTION CENTER BOOK NOW 504/566-9990



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1201 Convention Center Blvd 70130.



HILTON GARDEN INN FRENCH QUARTER/CBD BOOK NOW 504/324-6000



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 821 Gravier St 70112.



BOOK NOW 504/525-0044 HILTON GARDEN INN-NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 1001 S Peters St 70130.



HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE BOOK NOW 504/561-0500







Hotel. Address: 2 Poydras St 70130. Facility: Convenient to the convention center, casino, river, and French Quarter, the expansive hotel's twin towers provide great river and city views. Many rooms have been

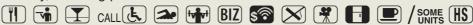
renovated, others are more modest. 1622 units. 5-29 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. **Terms:** check-in 4 pm. **Amenities:** safes. **Dining:** 3 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, tennis, health club. Guest Services: valet laundry, boarding pass kiosk.

































HILTON NEW ORLEANS ST. CHARLES AVENUE BOOK NOW 504/378-2800





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 333 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: 252 units. 19 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.























































Hotel. Address: 330 Loyola Ave 70112. Facility: 291 units. 18 stories, interior corridors.













HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN

BOOK NOW

504/524-5400



Hotel, Address: 334 O'Keefe Ave 70112.





HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ST CHARLES NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW

504/962-0900



Hotel. Address: 936 St Charles Ave 70130.



HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON NEW ORLEANS

BOOK NOW 504/581-5599

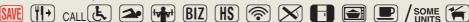


HOMEWOOD AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points SUITES when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 901 Poydras St 70112. Facility: 166 efficiencies, some two bedrooms. 12 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























HOTEL THEO, TAPESTRY COLLECTION BY HILTON

BOOK NOW

504/527-0006



COLLECTION

TAPESTRY AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

BY HILTON™

Hotel. Address: 535 Gravier St 70130. Facility: 101 units. 8 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet and street only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes.

















HYATT HOUSE NEW ORLEANS/DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 504/648-3118



house™

Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1250 Poydras St 70113. Facility: 194 units, some efficiencies. 6 stories, interior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: valet only. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.































HYATT PLACE NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER BOOK NOW 504/524-1881



HYATT PLACE. AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. Address: 881 Convention Center Blvd 70130. Location: Opposite the convention center. Facility: 172 units. 8 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary laundry.

































HYATT REGENCY NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/561-1234





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 601 Loyola Ave 70113. Facility: Next to the Superdome, the high-rise hotel features attractive decor throughout. Rooms offer a cozy vibe, and many great views can be enjoyed from the fitness center and the pool area. 1193 units. 32 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry, boarding pass kiosk.

































INTERCONTINENTAL NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/525-5566



Hotel. Address: 444 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: The upscale hotel is on the streetcar line and its downtown location is not too far from the French Quarter and other area attractions, such as the Superdome. The rooms have a luxurious vibe. 484 units, some two bedrooms and kitchens. 15 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.





















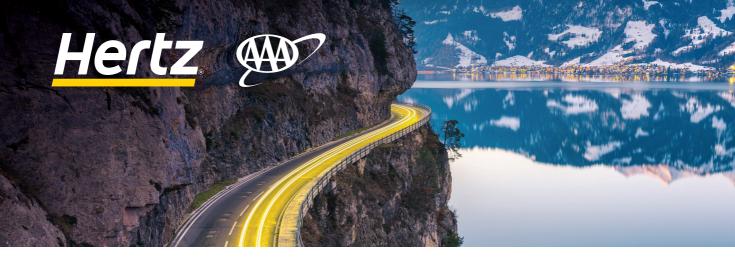






THE JUNG HOTEL AND RESIDENCES BOOK NOW 504/226-5864

FOUR DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Historic Hotel, Address: 1500 Canal St 70112.



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JW MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/525-6500





AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 614 Canal St 70130. Facility: The luxurious rooms have a welcoming, contemporary style. The corner units offer extra

space and more natural daylight. Some rooms have nice views of downtown or the French Quarter. 501 units, some two bedrooms. 30 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.





























KIMPTON HOTEL FONTENOT BOOK NOW 504/571-1818



Boutique Hotel. Address: 501 Tchoupitoulas St 70130. Facility: Located in the warehouse district, the hotel's eclectic style offers guests a taste of the Big Easy. The spacious rooms provide a bit of luxury after spending time out and about exploring the city. 235 units. 18 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 3 restaurants. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.





















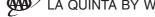












LA QUINTA BY WYNDHAM DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 504/598-9977

Hotel. Address: 301 Camp St 70130.



LE MÉRIDIEN NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/525-9444





Le MERIDIEN AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 333 Poydras St 70130. Location: Next to Harrah's Casino. Facility: The hip hotel features abundant trendy seating areas in the inviting lobby. Attractive rooms feature a minibar and an oversized television. The comprehensive fitness center is impressive. 410 units. 23 stories, interior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: valet and street only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































LE PAVILLON HOTEL **BOOK NOW** 504/581-3111



Classic Historic Hotel. Address: 833 Poydras St 70112.



LOEWS NEW ORLEANS HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/595-3300



Hotel. Address: 300 Poydras St 70130. Location: Across from Harrah's Casino; close to Riverfront/Convention Center. Facility: The various size rooms at this upscale property are all tastefully decorated with warm tones and stunning photos of local scenes. Each unit has a beverage chiller, but a refrigerator can be requested. 285 units. 21 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, exercise room.































MOXY HOTEL NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN/FRENCH QUARTER

BOOK NOW 504/525-6800



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 210 O'Keefe Ave 70112.



NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT WAREHOUSE ARTS DISTRICT BOOK NOW 504/613-2888



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 859 Convention Center Blvd 70130. MARRIOTT Location: Across from convention center. Facility: 332 units. 15 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities:

safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary and valet laundry.

































THE OLD NO. 77 HOTEL & CHANDLERY BOOK NOW

504/527-5271

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 535 Tchoupitoulas St 70130.





OMNI RIVERFRONT HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/524-8200



Hotel. Address: 701 Convention Center Blvd 70130. Facility: 202 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry. (See ad p. 117.)





























Q & C HOTEL/BAR, AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION BOOK NOW 504/587-9700



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 344 Camp St 70130.



RENAISSANCE NEW ORLEANS ARTS WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

BOOK NOW 504/613-2330



RENAISSANCE[®] HOTFLS

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 700 Tchoupitoulas St 70130. Facility: 219 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot

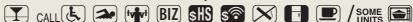
tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































RENAISSANCE NEW ORLEANS PERE MARQUETTE FRENCH QUARTER AREA

BOOK NOW 504/525-1111



RENAISSANCE **HOTELS**

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 817 Common St 70112. Facility: 275 units. 18 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services:

valet laundry.

































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THE ROOSEVELT NEW ORLEANS, A WALDORF ASTORIA

HOTEL

BOOK NOW 504/648-1200





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

WALDORF **ASTORIA**° HOTELS & RESORTS Historic Hotel. Address: 130 Roosevelt Way 70112. Facility: For over 125 years, the hotel has maintained its original extravagant design. The opulent lobby is the gateway to the luxurious guest rooms, which feature custom bedding and high-end furnishings. 504 units. 12-14 stories, interior corridors.

Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Dining: 3 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.

































SHERATON NEW ORLEANS HOTEL

BOOK NOW 504/525-2500









AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SHERATON Hotel. Address: 500 Canal St 70130. Facility: Located on the main thoroughfare at the edge of the French Quarter, the hotel has well-appointed rooms with floor-to-ceiling windows displaying panoramic views of the city and the river. 1110 units. 49 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry, boarding pass kiosk.





























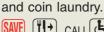


SONESTA ES SUITES NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER

BOOK NOW





















Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 345 St Joseph St 70130. Facility: 231 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 3-4 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet

















SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN/CANAL

BOOK NOW 504/702-6800



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1600 Canal St 70112.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS WAREHOUSE ARTS

BOOK NOW 504/522-3100

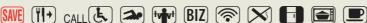


MARRIOTT

SPRINGHILL SUITES® AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 301 St Joseph St 70130. Facility: 208 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





















TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN/CANAL

BOOK NOW 504/702-6788



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1600 Canal St 70112.



THE TROUBADOUR HOTEL NEW ORLEANS, TAPESTRY COLLECTION BY

HILTON

BOOK NOW 504/518-5800



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN COLLECTION BY HILTON™

TAPESTRY AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Boutique Contemporary Hotel. Address: 1111 Gravier St 70112. Facility: Interestingly, the hotel was formerly an office building that has been transformed into a sleek hotel. Rooms have a sleek style. Rooms with a king bed have more move-about space and storage space. 184 units, some two bedrooms. 16 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.























VOCO ST. JAMES HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/304-4000



Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 330 Magazine St 70130. Facility: The 1857 landmark hotel blends 21st-century conveniences with Old World charm. Rooms feature high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows; some have iron balconies or direct access to the courtyard. 84 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet and street only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet laundry.

















SAVE (YI) 🟋 CALL(&) 🗻 🦃 🔀 🖪 🖭 / SOME 😭









Hotel. Address: 300 Gravier St 70130. Facility: Mere steps from the French Quarter and next to the casino, the captivating hotel is refined and features French-inspired décor. Rooms offer luxurious accommodations, and suites provide extra space. 314 units. 23 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. **Dining:** The Grill Room at Windsor Court, see separate listing, entertainment. **Pool:** heated outdoor. Activities: sauna, steamroom, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation. Affiliated with Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

































WHERE TO EAT



EMERIL'S 504/528-9393



Creole Fine Dining. Expert Advice: Led by renown Chefs, Emeril and EJ Lagasse, the restaurant takes the dining experience to the next level. Imaginative and memorable menu tastings are elevated with impressive textures, flavors and presentation. Patrons are in for a treat and will be mesmerized by the exhibition kitchen which is easily viewed through the floor-to-ceiling glass windows. Features: full bar. Reservations: suggested. Address: 800 Tchoupitoulas St 70130. Parking: valet and street only.



THE GRILL ROOM AT WINDSOR COURT 504/522-1994



Regional American Fine Dining. Address: 300 Gravier St 70130.



RESTAURANT AUGUST 504/299-9777



French Fine Dining. Address: 301 Tchoupitoulas St 70130.



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

NEW ORLEANS

Hotels p. 121
 Restaurants p. 127



ALDER HOTEL UPTOWN BOOK NOW 504/207-4600



Hotel. Address: 4545 Magnolia St 70115. Location: Next to Oschner Baptist Hospital. Facility: 90 units. 10 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes.

Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















INSPECTED @ CLEAN

THE BRAKEMAN HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/207-6400



Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 501 Basin St 70112. Facility: The historical décor in THREE DIAMOND the lobby is museum-like in design. Rooms are inviting with high ceilings and exposed brick accents. The bathrooms are spacious and feature rain shower heads. 18 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Bath: shower only. Parking: on-site (fee). Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. SAVE BIZ 🛜 🔀 🖃

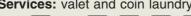


BRENT HOUSE HOTEL BOOK NOW

504/835-5411

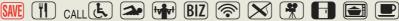


Hotel. Address: 1512 Jefferson Hwy 70121. Location: Adjacent to Ochsner Hospital. Facility: 134 units, some efficiencies. 6 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























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CANOPY BY HILTON NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 504/354-2850



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1100 Tulane Ave 70112.



COMFORT SUITES

BOOK NOW 504/244-1414





CHOICE HOTELS

AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 7051 Bullard Ave S 70128. Facility: 64 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

















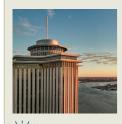








FOUR SEASONS HOTEL NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 504/434-5100



Hotel. Address: 2 Canal St 70130. Location: Waterfront. Facility: Towering above the famed city, the hotel offers amazing views of the river and surrounding area. It's steeped in history and the rooms provide quests with amenities that offer a high level of luxury. 341 units, some two bedrooms. 34 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Dining: 3 restaurants. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry.































BOOK NOW GRAND VICTORIAN BED & BREAKFAST 504/450-8524

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN

Historic Bed & Breakfast, Address: 2727 St Charles Ave 70130.



HAMPTON INN NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QUARTER MARKET

BOOK NOW

504/381-0041



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 501 Elysian Fields 70117.



HIGGINS HOTEL, OFFICIAL HOTEL OF THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM, CURIO COLLECTION BY

BOOK NOW 504/528-1941



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Boutique Hotel. Address: 1000 Magazine St 70130. Facility: The refined hotel has an impressive museum-like vibe. Rooms have an elegant style and provide cozy robes. Enjoy the well-equipped gym, several on-site restaurants, 24-hour check-in, ATM and gift shop. 230 units, some kitchens. 9 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry. (See ad starting on p. 124.)































HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BOOK NOW 504/324-4800

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 7049 Bullard Ave 70128.

HOTEL TONNELLE NEW ORLEANS, A TRIBUTE PORTFOLIO

HOTEL BOOK NOW 504/522-3650



TRIBUTE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott P O R T F O L I O Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Historic Boutique Hotel. Address: 2203 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: The historic, former apartment building is now an inviting, stylish hotel. Trendy rooms with feature walk-in showers with pebble floors. Rollaway beds are available upon request. 136 units. 9 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room.

























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RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT NEW ORLEANS FRENCH QUARTER AREA/CENTRAL BUSINESS BOOK NOW 504/522-0360 DISTRICT



Residence INI. AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 360 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: 231 kitchen units. 19 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet and street only. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.























ST CHARLES COACH HOUSE, AN ASCEND HOTEL COLLECTION

BOOK NOW 504/558-9966 MEMBER



AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2001 St Charles Ave 70130. Facility: 44 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Bath: shower only. Amenities: safes. Guest Services: valet laundry. SAVE TI CALL (BIZ)



















ST. CHARLES INN HOTEL SUPERIOR BOOK NOW

504/899-8888



Hotel. Address: 3636 St Charles Ave 70115.

exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

SONESTA ES SUITES NEW ORLEANS DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 504/533-9002



















Hotel. Address: 212 Loyola Ave 70112. Facility: 190 kitchen units, some two bedrooms. 15 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Activities:









VIRGIN HOTELS NEW ORLEANS BOOK NOW 833/791-7700



Hotel. Address: 550 Baronne St 70113. Facility: Art and décor is notable throughout the hotel, and the lobby area is a draw with cozy seating areas and a coffee outlet. Chamber-style rooms feature doors that provide privacy in the sleeping area. 238 units. 14 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet only. Amenities: safes. Dining: entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet





















WHERE TO EAT



COMMANDER'S PALACE 504/899-8221



Creole Fine Dining. Address: 1403 Washington Ave 70130.



SHAYA 504/891-4213



New Jewish Fine Dining. Address: 4213 Magazine St 70115.

OAKDALE

Hotels p. 127

BEST WESTERN OAKDALE INN BOOK NOW 318/335-3155

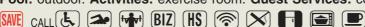


APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 2030 Hwy 165 S 71463. Facility: 56 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.















OPELOUSAS Hotels p. 128

Established as a French trading post in 1720, Opelousas takes its name from the original settlers, the Opelousas Indians. Jim Bowie, inventor of the Bowie knife, lived in Opelousas in the early 1800s and was married in the town. After a cholera epidemic killed his wife

and children, Bowie joined the fight for Texas independence and died at the Alamo in 1836.

Opelousas claims another noted person-Louis Garriques. The son of a field marshal in the court of Louis XVI. Garriques was a general in Napoleon Bonaparte's army. A shipwreck brought him to Louisiana, where he



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

128 OPELOUSAS — PLAQUEMINE, LA

was a hero in the Battle of New Orleans. Garriques became a member of the Louisiana Senate and House of Representatives. He is buried on the grounds of the St. Landry Catholic Church.

Thoroughbred races are held Wednesday through Saturday at Evangeline Downs on US 167N mid-April to late August or early September. Quarter horse racing takes place Wednesday through Saturday from late September to mid-December; phone (866) 472-2466.

Note: Policies concerning admittance of children to parimutuel betting facilities vary. Phone for information.

Opelousas Tourist Information Center: 828 E. Landry St., Opelousas, LA 70570. Phone: (337) 948-6263 or (800) 424-5442.

EVANGELINE DOWNS HOTEL, AN ASCEND COLLECTION HOTEL

MEMBER

BOOK NOW 337/407-2121



AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2235 Creswell Ln, Lot B 70570. Facility: 117 units. 4

stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Dining: 3 restaurants. Pool: heated indoor.

Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















337/948-3300



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON OPELOUSAS

BOOK NOW 337/284-3428



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1700 Commerce Blvd 70570.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES OPELOUSAS **BOOK NOW**

Hotel. Address: 5696 N I-49 Service Rd 70570.

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

PLAQUEMINE

• Hotels p. 129

The town of Plaguemine bears the name of the nearby bayou in the Atchafalaya Basin. Early French explorers found the banks of the stream lined with persimmon trees and dined with the local Native Americans on pliakmine, a bread made from the fruit of the trees.

Plaquemine Bayou, a distributary of the Mississippi River, was a navigable waterway for centuries until after the Civil War when a levee built to prevent flooding sealed off the mouth of the bayou. In 1909 the Plaquemine Locks were completed, and this shortcut from the Mississippi into the interior of Louisiana was restored. After 52 years of service the locks closed in 1961, their operations taken over by a larger set of locks upriver at Port Allen.

PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE is at 57730 Main St. The 1909 lock structure and lockhouse are preserved at this site; the lockhouse now is a museum offering exhibits and a video about the history of the lock. The site also serves as a tourist information center. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (225) 687-7158. GT

BEST WESTERN PLAQUEMINE INN BOOK NOW 225/385-4388



APPROVED INSPECTED © CLEAN Hotel. Address: 23235 Hwy 1 S 70764. Facility: 59 units. 3 stories, interior corridors.

Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

SAVE CALL (Ł) 🗻 া

















PORT ALLEN

• Hotels p. 129

Port Allen, across the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge (see place listing p. 21), was named after Henry Watkins Allen, Louisiana's last Confederate governor. A scenic portion of SR 1 extends 35 miles southeast from Port Allen to Donaldsonville and the intersection with SR 70.

In early October SugarFest is held on the grounds of the West Baton Rouge Museum. Crafts and music provide the atmosphere and visitors can take plantation house tours, sugar train rides and see a working model of a sugar mill.

West Baton Rouge Convention and Visitors Bureau: 2750 N. Westport Dr., Port Allen, LA 70767. Phone: (225) 344-2920 or (800) 654-9701.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BATON ROUGE/PORT ALLEN BOOK NOW

225/343-9967



Hotel. Address: 2860 N Westport Dr 70767.



TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT BATON ROUGE/PORT

BOOK NOW 225/387-5100



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 2665 Office Park Dr 70767.



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Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

RAYNE

Hotels p. 130



BEST WESTERN RAYNE INN BOOK NOW 337/334-0060



Hotel. Address: 1422 N Polk St 70578. Facility: 51 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

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APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN

RUSTON

Hotels p. 131

With the completion of a railroad across northern Louisiana in the mid-1880s, area merchants, farmers and cotton growers converged on a rail shipping townsite established by Robert E. Russ. Today I-20 is the primary transportation artery to points east and west of Ruston, and natural gas, oil and a respectable peach crop sustain the economy. Ruston is home to Louisiana Tech University, and Grambling State University is 5 miles west in Grambling.

The Louisiana Tech Conservatory and the John D. Griffin Horticultural Garden, US 80 and Tech Farm Road, display tropical plants; phone (318) 257-2918. The 1849 Absalom Autrey House, 15 miles north on SR 152, is a hand-hewn log dogtrot house open by appointment; phone (318) 251-0018.

Recreational opportunities are available at nearby Lake Claiborne State Park (see Recreation Areas Chart). Lincoln Parish Park (see Recreation Areas Chart), 3.5 miles north on SR 33, is known for its challenging 10-mile mountain bicycle trail, complete with jumps. Swimming, fishing, boating and camping also are available; phone (318) 251-5156.

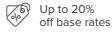
The Louisiana Peach Festival, held the fourth weekend in June, features antique cars, arts and crafts vendors, face painting, a peach baking/cooking contest, sports events, a parade and lots of music.

Ruston-Lincoln Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau: 2111 N. Trenton St., Ruston, LA 71270. Phone: (318) 255-2031 or (800) 392-9032.

LINCOLN PARISH MUSEUM is at 609 N. Vienna St. Housed in the 1886 Kidd-Davis mansion, the museum features artifacts and memorabilia from the area, toys and dolls. The second floor includes farm equipment and a Gov. Huey P. Long display as well as "talking walls" that tell the history of the parish. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (318) 251-0018. **GT**



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BEST WESTERN PLUS RUSTON BOOK NOW 318/224-7499



Hotel. Address: 1011 Willow Glen Blvd 71270. Facility: 82 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin











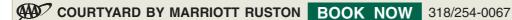












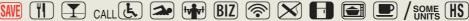


COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 1309 Maxwell Blvd 71270. Facility: 110 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT RUSTON BOOK NOW 318/251-9800



Fairfield AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott BonvoyTM points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 1707 Roberta Ave 71270. Facility: 82 units. 4 stories. interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub. exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

RUSTON SLEEP INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 318/232-1100

Hotel. Address: 106 S Service Rd E 71270.



ST. FRANCISVILLE

One of the oldest towns in Louisiana, St. Francisville was established near the site of a monastery built in 1785 on land granted to Capuchine friars by the King of Spain. The monastery was soon destroyed by fire, but the name remained.

When the United States purchased Louisiana in 1803, West Florida, a section along the Gulf Coast, was retained by Spain. The inhabitants, descendants of the original Anglo-Saxon settlers, did not want Spanish rule. They waited 7 years for the United States to decide if this region was indeed part of the Louisiana Purchase.

Finally a group of planters attacked the fort at Baton Rouge, captured the Spanish governor and set up their own republic. In 1810 St. Francisville became the capital of the Free and Independent Republic of West Florida, a small but spunky nation. After 74 days the U.S. Army marched into St. Francisville and finally claimed West Florida as part of the original Louisiana Purchase.

In March the Audubon Pilgrimage remembers John James Audubon, who painted dozens of his bird illustrations from this area. The 3-day event is a living-history interpretation of rural homestead life and includes house, plantation, garden, church and evening cemetery tours.

West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission: 11757 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville, LA 70775. Phone: (225) 635-4224 or (800) 789-4221.

Self-guiding tours: A driving/walking-tour map of St. Francisville is available from the tourist commission information center.

AUDUBON STATE HISTORIC SITE is 3 mi. e. off US 61 on SR 965. On this 100-acre woodland site is the 1806 Oakley Plantation House, where John James Audubon lived as an art teacher in 1821 while working on "Birds of America." A collection of his first-edition prints is displayed. Guided tours of the house are offered. On the grounds are a plantation barn, formal and kitchen gardens, two slave cabins, nature trails and picnic facilities.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (225) 635-3739 or (888) 677-2838. **GT**

THE MYRTLES PLANTATION is 1 mi. n. of jct. US 61 and SR 10 at 7747 US 61. During the daytime tour of the 1796 plantation, guests may view such features as Baccarat crystal chandeliers, a stained glass entrance door, gilded French furniture, Aubusson tapestries, Carrara marble mantles and a 10-acre garden with live oaks. Evening visitors are regaled with legends of apparitions during the guided mystery tour of the plantation. The reputedly haunted historical home has been the subject of

numerous paranormal investigations and has appeared on such television shows as "Ghost Hunters" and "Unsolved Mysteries."

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (225) 635-6277 or (800) 809-0565. **GT**

ROSEDOWN PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE is .25 mi. e. off US 61 to 12501 SR 10. Daniel Turnbull, a wealthy cotton planter, built the 16-room house approached by a live-oak avenue in 1835. Inspired by their honeymoon to the great gardens of Europe, including Versailles, his wife created 28 acres of formal gardens in the Louisiana wilderness. The gardens feature camellias, azaleas, medicinal herbs and century-old shrubs and trees and are dotted with Italian statuary and gazebos.

While most of the working portions of the plantation no longer exist, there are 13 historic buildings on the 371-acre site, including a doctor's office, kitchen, hothouse, milk house and barn. Guided tours offer a glimpse of 19th-century plantation life, including the lives and contributions of the plantation's enslaved workers. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (225) 635-3332.

ST. MARTINVILLE

In 1760 the first settler of the St. Martinville area purchased land along Bayou Teche from the Attakapa Indians. By 1764 a Frenchman had established an indigo plantation. After Spanish occupation in 1769 the settlement became a military post, Poste de Attakapas. St. Martinville's early Acadian settlers were joined by refugees—many with titles—driven from France when the revolution began.

Some of the French supported the new Republic of France and clashed with the Royalists when Spain returned Louisiana to France. More tension arose when Louisiana was bought by the United States. The language, customs and crafts of the French and the French Acadians have survived 2 centuries.

Legends of Evangeline, the character immortalized by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem "Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie," which was published in 1847, are frequently encountered. Longfellow's work of historical fiction—partially set in Louisiana among places like the Atchafalaya Basin and Bayou Teche—describes Evangeline's plight after she is separated from her lover, Gabriel, when the British forced the Acadians from Acadie (now Nova Scotia) in 1755.

St. Martinville citizens feel a deep connection to the tale since Longfellow refers to these nearby areas as well as "the towns of St. Maur and St. Martin" in his text. The tale resonated deeply with readers, and many have since flocked to related areas to take in the views.

The focal point of St. Martinville is the St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church (see attraction listing this page) square on Main Street. Next to the church is the 1857 Greek Revival-style Presbytère.

St. Martinville Tourist Information Center: 125 S. New Market St., P.O. Box 379, St. Martinville, LA 70582. Phone: (337) 394-2233.

EVANGELINE OAK PARK, on Bayou Teche at jct. Evangeline Blvd. and New Market St., was established sometime between 1895 and 1902. The large oak tree was named for the heroine of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's immensely popular 1847 epic poem, "Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie," which was partially set in this part of Louisiana. This scenic site is said to be the most visited spot in St. Martinville since the late 19th century. The park offers benches and includes the Acadian Memorial, African American Museum and the Museum of the Acadian Memorial (see attraction listings).

A guided tour that includes all park sites and St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church is available. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (337) 394-2233 for park information. **GT**

Acadian Memorial is at the northern end of Evangeline Oak Park at 121 S. New Market St. The story of the Acadian exile from Nova Scotia is preserved at the memorial, which documents the mid-18th-century arrival in Louisiana with a mural depicting ancestors of area Cajuns. A sound system allows you to hear narrators describing some of the settlers' stories. Acadian family names, taken from ships' manifests or regional civil records, are displayed on bronze plagues arranged by arrival year. A research center and meditation garden also are included.

A guided tour that includes all Evangeline Oak Park sites and St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church is available. Phone: (337) 394-2258. GT

African American Museum is at 125 S. New Market St. in the St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center. The museum is part of Evangeline Oak Park. Exhibits such as a 26-foot mural, interactive displays and oral history videos chronicle the history of African Americans in Louisiana. A guided tour that includes all Evangeline Oak Park sites and St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church is available.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (337) 394-2273. **GT**

Museum of the Acadian Memorial is at 125 S. New Market St. in the St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center. The memorial is part of Evangeline Oak Park and remembers the Acadian deportees who settled in the state. A guided tour that includes all Evangeline Oak Park sites and St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church is available. Phone: (337) 394-2258. GT

LONGFELLOW-EVANGELINE STATE HISTORIC SITE is at 1200 N. Main St. The 157-acre site bor-SITE is at 1200 N. Main St. The 157-acre site borders Bayou Teche in a region settled by Acadians from Nova Scotia. The plantation home, Maison Olivier, was built around 1815 of cypress; brick; and bousillage, a mix of mud and moss packed between beams. Guided tours are offered of the house, where exhibits depict Creole plantation life. The visitor center offers exhibits and a 12minute introductory film about the history of the area.

Surrounding the house is a landscape of fruit, nut and shade trees and vegetable and herb gardens. An outdoor kitchen, storehouse and a reproduction of an Acadian cabin also are on the grounds. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (337) 394-3754 or (888) 677-2900. (GT)

ST. MARTIN DE TOURS CATHOLIC CHURCH is at 133 S. Main St. One of the oldest churches in the state, it was established in 1765 by a group of Acadian exiles. The present edifice, dedicated in 1844, has a replica of the Grotto of Lourdes constructed in the late 1870s by Pierre Martinet, a freed slave. Jean Francois Mouchet's painting of St. Martin of Tours hangs above the main altar. The white marble baptismal font was believed to have been a gift from Louis XVI.

A bronze statue of Evangeline, the heroine of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie," stands in the churchyard. Actress Dolores del Rio donated the statue after starring in the 1929 silent film "Evangeline," which was shot in the area. Phone: (337) 394-6021.

SCOTT

Hotels p. 134



COMFORT INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 337/706-8128







Hotel. Address: 1636 Saint Mary St 70583. Facility: 67 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



























HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES SCOTT/LAFAYETTE

BOOK NOW 337/232-6845



Hotel. Address: 736 I-10 S Frontage Rd 70583.

SHREVEPORT

• Hotels p. 136

Before Capt. Henry Miller Shreve arrived in northwest Louisiana in 1833, it was possible to walk across the Red River without getting wet. Shreve spent more than 5 years clearing the Great Raft—a logiam that choked the river for 180 miles. The bustling frontier settlement on the river at Bennett and Cane's Bluff benefited immensely from the opening of the channel. When incorporated in 1839, the town honored Shreve by taking his name.

Cotton was king in northwest Louisiana, and Shreveport became the hub of its domain. Shreveport remained in Confederate hands throughout the war and was therefore spared destruction. The steamboat commerce that had built the town succumbed to competition from the railroads, but Shreveport weathered the transition smoothly.

In 1906 the first of several oil strikes in the region was made, and Shreveport's economic course was set. Besides being a major producer of oil and gas, the state's third largest city is developing a broad industrial base. Cotton remains important but is no longer the commercial mainstay it once was.

Although Shreveport, with its distinctly Texan affinities, differs in flavor from cities in southern Louisiana, the desire to balance progress with preservation is equally strong. The restored Strand Theatre, downtown on Louisiana Avenue, opened in 1925 and presents a wide variety of performing arts.

Nearby Cross Lake is a major recreation area (see Recreation Areas Chart). A beautiful drive along the south shore of the lake leads to Ford Park. Other areas within the city offering a variety of recreational pursuits include C. Bickham Dixon Park in southeast Shreveport and the Clyde Fant Parkway beside the Red River.

Several major events take place in Shreveport. They kick off with Holiday in Dixie, a celebration of spring and the Louisiana Purchase, which lasts from mid- to late April and features arts and crafts, carnival rides and dozens of activities. In May, Festival Plaza hosts Mudbug Madness, which celebrates Cajun heritage with crawfish (mudbug) dishes, dance contests, zydeco music and a 5K run. The Red River Revel Arts Festival, an 8-day open-air festival of the visual and performing arts, is held in early October, and late October to early November (except Mondays and Tuesdays) is the time for the State Fair of Louisiana. The fairgrounds hosts a range of activities and exhibits, including carnival rides and games, livestock competitions, a cooking contest and a zoo. Beginning in late November and running through late December, Christmas in Roseland brightens up the Gardens of the American Rose Center (see attraction listing p. 135) with millions of holiday lights. The Camping World Independence Bowl football game at Independence Stadium takes place in December.

Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau: 629 Spring St., Shreveport, LA 71101. Phone: (318) 222-9391 or (800) 551-8682.



Self-guiding tours: A brochure detailing a walking tour of the city's historical sites is available at the convention and tourist bureau.

INSIDER INFO:

Audubon Golf Trail

Louisiana's legacy as the Sportsman's Paradise is reflected in the Audubon Golf Trail, a network of 12 world-class golf courses across the state. Each public course is a registered member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which promotes ecological land management and the conservation of natural resources.

The trail honors naturalist and artist John James Audubon, who painted many of his bird studies in Louisiana. Member courses, committed to the preservation of wildlife habitat, provide holes that combine challenge with natural beauty.

The members of the Audubon Golf Trail are The Atchafalaya in Patterson, (985) 395-4653; Audubon Park in New Orleans, (504) 212-5290; Black Bear in Delhi, (318) 878-2162; Carter Plantation in Springfield, (225) 294-7555; Cypress Bend Resort in Many, (877) 519-1500; Gray Plantation in Lake Charles, (337) 562-1663; The Island in Plaquemine, (225) 685-0808; Oak Wing Golf Club in Alexandria, (318) 561-0260; Olde Oaks Golf Club in Shreveport-Bossier City, (318) 742-0333; Tamahka Trails Golf Club in Marksville, (318) 240-6300; TPC of Louisiana at Fairfield in New Orleans, (504) 436-8721; and The Wetlands in Lafayette, (337) 291-7151.

Each course is open year-round. Fees range \$50-\$200 for 18 holes, including cart rental. Reservations may be requested up to a year in advance; a non-refundable fee per player may be charged.

For further information, to verify rates or to reserve a tee time, phone (866) 248-4652.

GARDENS OF THE AMERICAN ROSE CENTER is off I-20 exit 5W, then n. to 8877 Jefferson Paige Rd. Pathways weave through the 118-acre research facility of the American Rose Society, where roses bloom from April through October. Dedicated in 1974, the site features more than 65 individual rose gardens and 20,000 rose bushes, along with a variety of plants, sculptures, fountains and a reflection pool. A self-guiding cellphone tour is offered.

Phone: (318) 938-5402 or (800) 637-6534.

LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM is at 3015 Greenwood Rd. The museum houses murals and displays

about Louisiana history, agriculture, industry, natural resources, wildlife and recreation. An exceptionally large and detailed relief map of the state is recessed in the rotunda floor. Around the rotunda are 22 dioramas depicting post-Depression economic activities, while four exterior frescoes illustrate Louisiana's 1930s labor force. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (318) 632-2020.

THE R.W. NORTON ART GALLERY, 4747 Creswell Ave., opened in 1966 and displays European and American paintings, sculpture and decorative arts. Galleries are devoted to Flemish tapestries from the late 16th century, works by Auguste Rodin, rare books, antique dolls, Wedgwood pottery and silver pieces by Paul Revere. Other permanent exhibits contain works by Frederic Remington and Charles Russell.

The art gallery's 40 landscaped acres feature more than 15,000 plants, most notably a collection of approximately 100 native and hybrid varieties of azalea, which typically bloom in late March or early April. Sitting benches are conveniently scattered throughout the peaceful gardens, which also contain eight sculptures, waterfalls and ornamental ponds. Guided tours are available by appointment (minimum 10 people).

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (318) 865-4201. **GT**

SCI-PORT DISCOVERY CENTER is downtown on the riverfront between Lake and Crockett sts. at 820 Clyde Fant Pkwy. The center features more than 290 hands-on exhibits. Eight permanent galleries explore technology, engineering, mathematics and science in everyday life. The center also houses The Dayna and Ronald L. Sawyer Space Dome Planetarium and Louisiana's IMAX Dome Theatre (see attraction listings). The Power of Play Children's Museum is a hands-on interactive area where children ages 8 and under solve problems in themed play areas.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (318) 424-3466 or (877) 724-7678.

The Dayna and Ronald L. Sawyer Space Dome Planetarium is in Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center, downtown on the riverfront between Lake and Crockett sts. at 820 Clyde Fant Pkwy. Space Dome shows and interactive exhibits engage participants in exploration of the universe. Guests can take a constellation challenge, simulate activity at the International Space Station or program laser images on the dome ceiling to see what the sky looked like on their birth date. Films and live demonstrations also are offered.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (318) 424-3466 or (877) 724-7678.

136 SHREVEPORT, LA

Louisiana's IMAX Dome Theatre is in Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center, downtown on the riverfront between Lake and Crockett sts. at 820 Clyde Fant Pkwy. A variety of large-format films are featured on a 60-foot dome screen. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (318) 424-3466 or (877) 724-7678.

SPLASH KINGDOM WATERPARK SHREVEPORT is off I-20W exit 8, following signs to 7670 W, 70th St. The water park includes two kid's areas, a large activity pool, a lazy river, a wave pool and more than a dozen waterslides. Cabana rentals, a volleyball court, lockers, showers and picnic facilities are available. Phone: (318) 938-5475.

SPRING STREET HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 525 Spring St., features rotating exhibits about local history that change every 3 or 4 months. The museum is housed in the former Tally's Bank building, which was built in the 1860s and features cast-iron grillwork on the second floor balcony. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (318) 424-0964.

WALTER B. JACOBS MEMORIAL NATURE PARK is at 8012 Blanchard-Furrh Rd. More than 160 acres of wilderness are maintained as a preserve for bird-watching, hiking, nature walks, photography and picnicking. Five nature trails, ranging from a quarter-mile to 2.5 miles, allow visitors to explore gently rolling hills replete with wildlife and native trees. An interpretive building provides exhibits and classroom facilities for special programs. Naturalists are on-site to answer questions. Time: Allow 1 hour



BALLY'S SHREVEPORT CASINO & HOTEL BOOK NOW 318/220-0711



Hotel. Address: 451 Clyde Fant Pkwy 71101. Location: Waterfront. Facility: Far from typical, standard rooms have ample space to move about or lounge in a luxurious seating. Bathrooms feature luxurious soaking tubs and a separate walk-in shower stall. 403 units. 4-18 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 4 restaurants, nightclub, entertainment. Activities: exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.



























COMFORT SUITES

BOOK NOW 318/364-8801





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 6715 Financial Cir 71129. Facility: 77 units, some two bedrooms. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.































DEL-MAR AIRPORT INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 318/635-2005



Hotel. Address: 4927 Monkhouse Dr 71109. Facility: 74 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry. SAVE CALL (BIZ HS) (BIZ HS)

























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SAVE Hotel. Address: 5226 Monkhouse Dr 71109.



HILTON GARDEN INN SHREVEPORT BOOK NOW 318/686-0148



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 5971 Financial Plaza 71129.



HILTON SHREVEPORT BOOK NOW

318/698-0900





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 104 Market St 71101. Facility: 311 units. 12 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest

Services: valet laundry, area transportation.





























INSPECTED @ CLEAN

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES SHREVEPORT DOWNTOWN

BOOK NOW

318/585-1000

Hotel. Address: 201 Lake St 71101. THREE DIAMOND



HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON - SHREVEPORT BOOK NOW 318/549-2000



BY HILTON

HOMEWOOD AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points SUITES when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 5485 Financial Plaza 71129. Facility: 123 efficiencies. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: picnic facilities, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, area transportation.





























LA QUINTA INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM SHREVEPORT

BOOK NOW

318/671-1100



Hotel. Address: 6700 Financial Cir 71129.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT SHREVEPORT-AIRPORT BOOK NOW

318/635-8000



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SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 4910 W Monkhouse Dr 71109.



SLEEP INN & SUITES I-20 SHREVEPORT

BOOK NOW

318/841-4404



Hotel. Address: 6720 Klug Pines Rd 71129.



WINGATE BY WYNDHAM SHREVEPORT AIRPORT

BOOK NOW



Hotel. Address: 6245 Westport Ave 71129. Facility: 105 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet laundry, area transportation.

























SLIDELL

- Hotels p. 139
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

Slidell is the industrial center of St. Tammany Parish. Brick and tile manufacturers, sawmills, creosoting plants and shipyards contribute to the city's economy.

The area around Slidell is known for water sports, hunting and other outdoor activities. At Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, about 7 miles northeast of Slidell, adventurers may go boating, camping, canoeing and fishing in its 34,896 acres while observing wildlife, including deer, turkeys, bald and golden eagles, swallowtail kites and osprevs.

Visitors may engage in bicycling, horseback riding, inline skating, running and walking at Tammany Trace, a 31-mile-long rails-to-trails path on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain that treads its way from Slidell to Covington.

East St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce: 1808 Front St., Slidell, LA 70458. Phone: (985) 643-5678.

Shopping: Fremaux Town Center, 1808 Shortcut Hwy./US 190, counts Dick's Sporting Goods, Dillard's and Kohl's among its 60 stores and eateries.

CAJUN ENCOUNTERS TOURS departs from 55345 US 90E. Tours are guided by a native who imparts detailed information about swamp wildlife. Passengers view the bayou and its environs, including a Cajun village, from small boats that seat up to 22 people. Other tours also are available.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (504) 834-1770 or (866) 928-6877. GT





APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 120 Taos St 70458. Facility: 63 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





















Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 100 Holiday Blvd 70460.



COMFORT INN & SUITES SLIDELL

BOOK NOW

985/326-8888





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 126 Taos St 70458. Facility: 75 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



























HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BOOK NOW 985/888-1990



Contemporary Hotel. Address: 1255 Frontage Rd 70460.



HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON **BOOK NOW** 985/726-7291



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE) Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 175 Holiday Blvd 70460.



SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT SLIDELL BOOK NOW 985/214-8800



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2214 Ruth Garrett Way 70458.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT SLIDELL BOOK NOW

985/641-2060



SUITES®—

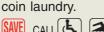
TOWNEPLACE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

MARRIOTT

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 1840 Lindberg Dr 70458. Facility: 92 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and



























WINGATE INN & SUITES BY WYNDHAM

BOOK NOW

985/288-4950



Hotel. Address: 1752 Gause Blvd E 70461.

SULPHUR

Hotels p. 141

In 1867, a geologist discovered that the area now known as the city of Sulphur had rich deposits of (you guessed it!) sulphur. Mines operated in the area until the early 1920s. The Brimstone Museum/Henning Cultural Center offers an exhibit highlighting the community's bygone sulphur industry. In October, Sulphur attracts nearly 100,000 visitors with its old-timey Cal-Cam Fair, which features live entertainment, livestock competitions, a carnival and more.



BEST WESTERN PLUS EXECUTIVE HOTEL & SUITES BOOK NOW 337/625-9000



Hotel, Address: 1200 Pintail St 70665. Facility: 67 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary and valet laundry.



























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON SULPHUR/LAKE CHARLES AREA BOOK NOW 337/527-0000



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 210 Henning Dr 70663.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES, SULPHUR/LAKE CHARLES

BOOK NOW

337/625-2500

Hotel, Address: 102 Mallard St 70665.



LA QUINTA INN SULPHUR BOOK NOW

337/419-0405



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Hotel, Address: 400 Arena Bd 70665.

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THIBODAUX

• Hotels p. 142

Thibodaux (TIB-o-dough) is a sugar belt town on Bayou Lafourche. The oil and gas industry is important, but agriculture is the town's economic mainstay, with sugarcane the principal crop. Thibodaux has its own Mardi Gras, complete with carnival balls and parades.

St. John's Episcopal Church on Jackson Street dates from 1844. It was the church of the Confederacy's "Fighting Bishop," Leonidas Polk, founder of Lafourche Parish. Across the bayou is Rienzi, a plantation built in 1796 by order of the Queen of Spain; she intended to use it as a sanctuary in the event that Napoleon Bonaparte defeated Spain. Rienzi is not open to the public.

Thibodaux Chamber of Commerce: 318 E. Bayou Rd., Thibodaux, LA 70301. **Phone:** (985) 446-1187.

Self-guiding tours: A walking tour brochure detailing points of interest in the city is available from the chamber of commerce.

WETLANDS ACADIAN CULTURAL CENTER is at 314 St. Mary St. Part of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (see place listing p. 43), the center traces the history and culture of the Cajuns from the 1600s to the present. Boat tours narrated by park rangers take visitors down Bayou Lafourche en route to Madewood Plantation House in nearby Napoleonville or E.D. White Historic Site.

Craft demonstrations, changing art exhibits and video and film presentations also are offered. The Cajun Music Jam features the music that made the area famous. Guided walking tours of downtown Thibodaux explore the local architecture and cultural landscapes of rural Cajun Country; phone ahead for schedule.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (985) 448-1375. $\boxed{\text{GT}}$



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HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON THIBODAUX BOOK NOW 985/446-0900

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 826 N Canal Blvd (Hwy 20) 70301.

VACHERIE

- Hotels p. 143 Restaurants p. 143
- Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

Vacherie, meaning "place where cows are kept," is one of many old settlements along the River Road that mainly offers to visitors remnants of the plantation era. Therein lies its appeal. Before the Civil War, more than half of the millionaires in the country lived along the Mississippi River corridor in southeastern Louisiana, their fortunes linked to the fertile land.

Some of the South's most elegant restored plantation homes as well as slave cabins in various states of preservation and an occasional abandoned sugarcane field line both sides of the river between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, juxtaposed in some areas against petrochemical and industrial plants.

Held in early December, the Oak Alley Plantation Christmas Bonfire Party celebrates the holiday with food, dancing and a bonfire on the levee (see attraction listing).

LAURA: A CREOLE PLANTATION is off I-10 exit 194, 5 mi. s. on SR 641 to Veterans Memorial Bridge, then 4 mi. w. to 2247 SR 18. The 1805 main

house and original outbuildings of this sugarcane plantation provide the setting for true accounts about four generations of both free and enslaved members of one Louisiana Creole family, based on the memoirs of the original owner's great-granddaughter, Laura Locoul. The Br'er Rabbit tales, which originated in West Africa, were recorded at Laura and neighboring plantations in the 1870s. Guided tours are offered in English and French.

Tours begin with a discussion of Creole and plantation history in front of the main house and include a tour of the slave cabins. Rubber-soled flat shoes are recommended. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (225) 265-7690 or (888) 799-7690. **GT**

OAK ALLEY PLANTATION is 3 mi. w. off SR 20 to 3645 SR 18. The Greek Revival mansion was named for the two rows of live oaks, planted in the early 1700s, that form a quarter-mile alley from the Mississippi River to the house. Built 1837-39, Oak Alley has been restored and decorated with period furniture and is a National Historic Landmark dedicated to preserving and interpreting the history its inhabitants left behind.

From its 28 oaks and open spaces, to the many hidden nooks and crannies, Oak Alley's landscape tells the story



of a plantation in its evolution. Guests can stroll the grounds on a self-quiding tour. Among the points of interest are a blacksmith shop housing the plantation's original forge; a reconstructed slave quarters featuring six cabins and an exhibit about Oak Alley's former slave community; and the Stewart family graveyard and gardens. Staffed most days, the Civil War Interpretive Exhibit consists of a commanding officer's tent and an interactive video kiosk.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (225) 265-2151. GT) (II)

ST. JOSEPH PLANTATION is off I-10 exit 194, 5 mi. s. on SR 641 to Veterans Memorial Bridge, then 7 mi. w. to 3535 SR 18. Built circa 1830 and family-owned since 1877, this working sugarcane plantation includes the Creole manor house, a detached kitchen, slave cabins and other dependencies. A square baby grand piano and an 1840 Melodeon organ are among the period furnishings. Renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson was born on the property in 1838, at which time it was known as Priestly Plantation.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum, Phone: (225) 265-4078. **GT** = **T**=

OAK ALLEY PLANTATION RESTAURANT & INN BOOK NOW 225/265-2487



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Historic Bed & Breakfast. Address: 3645 Hwy 18 70090. Facility: Southern hospitality shines bright at these cottages, which offer comfortable accommodations in the shadow of a restored plantation homestead. Its remote location offers a serene and tranquil setting. 9 cottages, some two bedrooms and kitchens. 1 story, exterior corridors. Dining: 2 restaurants, also, Oak Alley Plantation Restaurant, see separate listing.





















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144 VILLE PLATTE — WEST MONROE, LA

VILLE PLATTE

Hotels p. 144



BOOK NOW 337/360-9961



Hotel. Address: 1919 E Main St (Hwy 167) 70586. Facility: 30 units. 2 stories (no elevator), interior corridors. Pool: outdoor.





















WEST MONROE

INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotels p. 145

D'Arbonne National Wildlife Refuge lies north of town and just west of SR 143, which offers multiple entrance points. The main activities at this 17,000-acre site on Bayou D'Arbonne are fishing and hunting. There are trails and an observation tower and local wildlife includes alligators, deer, wading birds and waterfowl. For more information phone (318) 726-4222.

Restoration Park, 700 Downing Pines Rd., is a wetland environment with ponds and dams-both the beaver and man-made varieties—and a walking trail with some interpretive information and several observation platforms. At 150-acre Kiroli Park, 820 Kiroli Rd., amenities include a covered bridge, a dog park, elevated walkways, fishing ponds, gardens, an observation tower, picnic shelters, playgrounds and trails. For more information about either park, phone (318) 396-4016.

Cheniere Lake Park, 104 Cheniere Lake Rd., has multiple boat ramps leading into 3,000-acre Cheniere Lake, where fishing is permitted by boat and along the bank. Boat/canoe trails have been created among the cypress and tupelo gum trees sprouting up from the lake, and you may see alligators, beavers, birds, otters and turtles. Playgrounds and picnic pavilions are available, and duck hunting is permitted; phone (318) 387-2383.

Lazarre Park, at the junction of Hamilton and Thompson streets, offers a boat ramp into the Ouachita River, which separates West Monroe from Monroe (see place listing p. 57). Fishing is permitted, and the park also has two 18hole disc golf courses; phone (318) 396-4016.

While visitors are certainly attracted to West Monroe's outdoor recreation opportunities, the town has also become a popular vacation destination thanks to the success of the "Duck Dynasty" TV series. The stars of A&E's scripted reality show, the Robertsons, live and work in West Monroe, which is the headquarters for Duck Commander, the family's multimillion-dollar duck call company.

Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau: 601 Constitution Dr., West Monroe, LA 71292. **Phone:** (318) 387-5691 or (800) 843-1872.

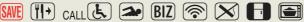
Shopping: Antique Alley comprises the 100-300 block of Trenton Street in the Cottonport Historic Cultural District. There are almost two dozen antique shops and malls as well as about 20 boutiques, and most occupy historic buildings. Fans of A&E's "Duck Dynasty" show will want to stop in at the Duck Commander Store, 117 Kings Ln., to browse the selection of duck calls and, of course, souvenirs plastered with the bearded likenesses of good ol' boys-turned-national celebs Phil, Si, Jase, Willie and Jep.



BEST WESTERN WEST MONROE INN BOOK NOW 318/322-9922

Motel. Address: 405 Thomas Rd 71292. Facility: 52 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: coin laundry.





















BOOK NOW

318/450-3715





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 149 Well Rd 71291. Facility: 52 units, some kitchens. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT WEST MONROE BOOK NOW



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 606 Mane St 71292. Facility: 84 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and

coin laundry. SAVE



















HAMPTON INN BY HILTON WEST MONROE BOOK NOW 318/938-2800

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking

SAVE Hotel. Address: 601 Mane St 71292.



THREE DIAMOND

INSPECTED @ CLEAN®

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON WEST MONROE BOOK NOW 318/322-8000

AAA/CAA rates! INSPECTED @ CLEAN®

[SAVE] Extended Stay Contemporary Hotel. Address: 500 Mane St 71292.



146 WESTWEGO — ZACHARY, LA

WESTWEGO

• Part of New Orleans area— see map p. 63

Westwego was founded in 1870 by the Texas and Pacific Railroad, which was compensated by the state to build a westward railroad. Travelers heard rail workers vell "West we go!" as trains departed, which, according to legend, is how the town got its unusual name. The town's chief industries are marine-based, including fisheries and boat- and shipbuilding. Recreational activities can be enjoyed at Bayou Segnette State Park off US 90 (see Recreation Areas Chart).

WHITE CASTLE

Not a trace is left of the plantation house for which White Castle is named. The gabled 19th-century manor fell victim to the whims of the mighty Mississippi. The encroaching river forced owners to move the house four times, and each time a section of the building was lost. The "castle" was ultimately reduced to two cottages: today all that remains is its name. A scenic stretch of SR 1 passes through White Castle, intersecting SR 404.

NOTTOWAY PLANTATION is at 31025 SR 1. Nottoway was considered one of the wonders of the antebellum South. John Hampden Randolph, a wealthy sugarcane planter, commissioned New Orleans architect Henry Howard to design and build the most palatial home on the Mississippi for his wife and 11 children. When completed in 1859. Nottoway, the center of a self-sufficient 7,000-acre plantation, was the largest house in Louisiana at 53,000 square feet.

The three-story, 64-room mansion, a blend of Greek Revival and Italianate styles, offered such conveniences as gas lamps, indoor bathrooms, an Italian marble fireplace, intricate hand-carved molding, massive columns and an intercom system that employed silver call bells in every room—all unusual and advanced amenities for the 19th century.

Spared from destruction during the Civil War, Nottoway has been restored and furnished in period. Its 200 windows command views of the river, lawns and old live oaks. Visitors may explore the residence on a 45-minute tour led by a costumed guide or via a self-paced, self-guiding audio tour that is available in English, French or German.

Note: Mansion tour is not recommended for those with physical impairments. Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (225) 545-2730 or (866) 527-6884. GT (II)

ZACHARY Hotels p. 146



BEST WESTERN ZACHARY INN BOOK NOW 225/658-2550



Hotel. Address: 4030 Hwy 19 70791. Facility: 58 units. 2 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

BOOK NOW 225/654-1402



Hotel. **Address:** 4047 Hwy 19 70791.



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Natchez Trace Parkway / © iStockphoto.com / JPaulMoore

A warm welcome awaits you in Mississippi, whether you're exploring the ancient Natchez Trace, frolicking on the Gulf Coast's sugar-white sand or touring a magnificent antebellum mansion.

You can venture back 10,000 years on the scenic Natchez Trace Parkway, a path originally used by buffalo and early natives. Beginning at Natchez, the 444-mile road makes a northeasterly diagonal to the Alabama state line.

You'll find echoes of a Southern legacy in the fertile Mississippi Delta, a lush, green region that cultivated not only catfish and cotton, but also a distinctive, folksy music—the Delta blues.

Mississippi's eclectic mix of culture and heritage is also reflected in its landscape. White-pillared mansions tell a story of prosperity brought about by cotton and river commerce, while Civil War monuments, battlefields and cemeteries recall the ravages of war.

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Union forces eventually triumphed during the siege of Vicksburg. Taking control of the Mississippi River effectively sliced the Confederacy in two, but the price of winning was a devastating loss of life on both sides.

Battle scars are still visible within Vicksburg National Military Park, where a national cemetery is the final resting place for nearly 17,000 Civil War soldiers and neatly ordered rows of grave markers stretch toward the horizon.

Good Facts to Know 1	IOU
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Jackpot!

Fortunately, winning in Mississippi now is no longer a harrowing endeavor. Yesteryear's soldiers have been replaced by armies of gamblers. Glitzy Vegas-style casinos have popped up like neon-lit wildflowers in Vicksburg, Gulfport-Biloxi and the Tunica-Robinsonville area.

You'll also find restaurants, golf courses and shows ranging from small-time lounge acts to big-name celebrities. If lady luck turns her back on you, head to a casino theater and odds are good you'll be treated to a taste of the blues.

Near Tunica is Clarksdale, once home to blues legends W.C. Handy, Muddy Waters, John Lee Hooker and Ma Rainey. Music lovers still gather in juke joints to savor those Delta blues. Without the blues, there would be no rock 'n' roll, and without Mississippi, there would be no King of Rock 'n' Roll. Elvis Presley was born in a small shotgun house in Tupelo now visited by adoring fans. Music is celebrated in style at several museums across the state.

This Old House

Preserving historic homes is a constant struggle, but Natchez and Biloxi are winning the battle. During its antebellum heyday, Natchez's well-heeled merchants



and planters built palatial homes that today exemplify the town's victory over time. The white marble mantles, gold-leaf mirrors and antique rosewood furnishings of Stanton Hall still flaunt its 19th-century extravagance.

Even once-defeated Vicksburg has won its latter-day fight against decay, showing off pre-Civil War houses like trophies on a shelf. And during annual pilgrimages, these homes are opened to the public-proof that Mississippians are willing to share their winnings.

Recreation

The outdoors beckons you in Mississippi. Lakes, rivers and offshore waters, lush green forests and tranquil back roads offer diversions difficult to resist. Thanks to the Magnolia State's mild climate, these temptations can be enjoyed year-round.

Fishing is taken very seriously by Mississippians. And no wonder. With access to freshwater and saltwater fishing spots along miles of lakes, bayous, streams, rivers and marshes, there's always an opportunity for anglers.

The excitement of deep-sea fishing draws fishermen hoping for a trophy-size catch. Mississippi Sound and Gulf of Mexico waters teem with amberjack, flounder, grouper, mackerel, red snapper and trout. Fishing charters are easy to arrange; just check the harbors and marinas along the coast, particularly in Biloxi and Gulfport.

If you prefer freshwater fishing, more than 150 species can be found in Mississippi's inland waterways. And if a native offers to share the location of his favorite fishin' hole, now that's true Southern hospitality.

Crappie are biting at Ross Barnett Reservoir northeast of Jackson and at lakes Arkabutla, Enid, Grenada and Sardis in northern Mississippi. If Sardis is your destination, you can also boat, swim and water ski at nearby John W. Kyle State Park. Locals say the bass are best at Lake Prentiss Walker, southwest of Mize. But if it's catfish you're after, head to Lake Tom Bailey east of Meridian and the Big Black, Mississippi, Noxubee and Pearl rivers.

If your travels take you to the coast, Gulf Islands National Seashore is good for beachcombing. Cruise over to Ship Island by excursion boat from Gulfport. Take along plenty of sunscreen and a picnic lunch and spend a day swimming, shelling and birding.

Mississippi is a hunting paradise. Forests, fields and wetlands are well populated with deer and wild turkeys. Those in the know say the counties bordering the Mississippi River are the best places to find deer, and the state's location on the Mississippi flyway makes migratory ducks and geese fair game, especially in the fertile Delta region.

History and the beauty of nature draw fans of bicycling, hiking and horseback riding to the Natchez Trace. Lined with dogwoods, magnolias and mossdraped cypresses, the trace is similar to a guiet country road and invites slow, leisurely travel.

A trek on the Black Creek Trail, which runs along the creek between Fairley Bridge and Big Creek landings, will introduce you to the piney woods of southeastern Mississippi. A welcome respite might include a float trip on scenic Black Creek, a stream with sandbars perfect for picnicking and camping.

Vicksburg National Military Park / © iStockphoto.com / woodStockimages



GOOD FACTS TO KNOW

ABOUT THE STATE

POPULATION: 2,961,279.

AREA: 47,689 square miles; ranks 32nd.

CAPITAL: Jackson.

HIGHEST POINT: 806 ft., Woodall Mountain. LOWEST POINT: Sea level, Gulf of Mexico.

TIME ZONE(S): Central.

GAMBLING

MINIMUM AGE FOR GAMBLING: 21.

REGULATIONS

TEEN DRIVING LAWS: Driving is not permitted Sun.-Thurs. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. and Fri.-Sat. 11:30 p.m.-6 a.m. unless supervised by a licensed driver age 21 or older. The minimum age for an unrestricted driver's license is 16 years and 6 months. Phone (601) 987-1212 for more information about Mississippi driver's license regulations.

SEAT BELT/CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS: Seat belts are required for all passengers. A child restraint system is required for children under age 4. Children ages 4-7 and less than 4'9" tall or weighing less than 65 lbs. must be in a booster seat. AAA recommends the use of seat belts and appropriate child restraints for the driver and all passengers.

CELLPHONE RESTRICTIONS: Text messaging is prohibited for all drivers.

HELMETS FOR MOTORCYCLISTS: Required for all riders. **RADAR DETECTORS:** Permitted for non-commercial vehicles.

MOVE OVER LAW: Driver is required to slow down and vacate the lane nearest stopped police, fire and rescue vehicles using audible or flashing signals. Law also requires drivers to use lanes further away from stopped repair vehicles, including tow trucks. Additionally, utility vehicles, municipal vehicles and road maintenance vehicles are included in the law.

FIREARMS LAWS: Vary by state or county. Contact the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, 1900 E. Woodrow Wilson Ave., Jackson, MS 39216; phone (601) 987-1268.

HOLIDAYS

HOLIDAYS: New Year's Day, Jan. 1 ● Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Robert E. Lee's Birthday, Jan. (3rd Mon.) • Washington's Birthday/Presidents Day, Feb. (3rd Mon.) • Confederate Memorial Day, Apr. (last Mon.) • Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis' Birthday, May (last Mon.) ● July 4 ● Labor Day, Sept. (1st Mon.) ● Veterans Day, Nov. 11 ● Thanksgiving, Nov. (4th Thurs.) • Christmas, Dec. 25.

MONEY

TAXES: Mississippi's statewide sales tax is 7 percent. Localities may impose taxes on lodgings and restaurants.

VISITOR INFORMATION

INFORMATION CENTERS: State welcome centers are in Greenville on US 82 at Reed Road • US 78 at Tremont nando on I-55S • Natchez off US 65 at 640 S. Canal St. Picayune on I-59N ● Moss Point on I-10W exit 75 ● Toomsuba on I-20/I-59W • Vicksburg on I-20 at 4210 Washington St. • Corinth, just s. of jct. US 45 and US 72 • Lula, at jct. US 49 and US 61 • Pearlington, w. of Waveland at ict. I-10 and SR 607 • Woodville, 853 US 61S. The centers are open daily 8-5.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

Mississippi Development Authority 501 N. West St., Suite 601 Jackson, MS 39201 (601) 359-3349

NATIONAL FOREST INFORMATION:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service 6425 Lakeover Rd., Suite A Jackson, MS 39213 (601) 965-1600

FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS:

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks 1505 Eastover Dr. Jackson, MS 39211 (601) 432-2400 (800) 467-2757 (state park reservations)

RECREATION INFORMATION:

Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks 1505 Eastover Dr. Jackson, MS 39211 (601) 432-2400 (800) 467-2757 (state park reservations)



Mississippi

Orientation



Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities.



Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds

CAMPING
PICNICKING
HIKING TRAILS
BOATING
BOAT RAMP
BOAT RENTAL
FISHING
SWIMMING
PET FRIENDLY
BICYCLE TRAILS
NATURE PROGRAMS
VISITOR CENTER
LODGE/CABINS
FOOD SERVICE

NATIONAL FORESTS	(See	pla	ce i	listir	igs.))							
Bienville 179,402 acres. Central Mississippi. Horse trail.													
Delta 59,553 acres. West-central Mississippi. ATV and horse trail.													
De Soto 500,487 acres. Southeastern Mississippi. Horse rental.													
Holly Springs 154,654 acres. North-central Mississippi.													
Homochitto 188,994 acres. Southwestern corner of Mississippi.													
Tombigbee 66,576 acres. East-central Mississippi. Horse trail.													
NATIONAL SEASHORES (See place listings.)													
Gulf Islands 137,991 acres. Southern Mississippi.													
ARMY CORPS OF	EN	GIN	EEI	RS									
Arkabutla Lake 12,730 acres 15 mi. w. of Hernando off SR 304. Sailing, water skiing.													
Blue Bluff 55 acres 1 mi. n. of Aberdeen off US 45. Water skiing; playground.													
Dewayne Hayes (Columbus Lake) 6 acres 6 mi. n.e. of Columbus off SR 373. Splash pad.													
Enid Lake 15,500 acres 12 mi. s. of Batesville on I-55. Tennis, water skiing; horse trail, playground.													
Grenada Lake 35,820 acres 3 mi. n.e. of Grenada. Tennis, water skiing; fitness trail, playground.													



off SR 492. Playground.

Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Jamie Whitten Historical Center and Park 12 acres 2 mi. n. of Fulton off SR 78. Historical center.														
Okatibbee Lake 3,800 acres 7 mi. n.w. of Meridian off SR 19. Water skiing; waterslide.														
Old Bridge Beach (Bay Springs Lake) 12 acres 20 mi. e. of Booneville off SR 4.														
Piney Grove 25 acres 15 mi. e. of Booneville, then s. off SR 30 on Bay Springs Lake. Water skiing; playground.														
Sardis Lake and Dam 32,100 acres 5 mi. e. off I-55 at Sardis. Birding, water skiing; fitness trail.														
Waverly Ferry Park On Columbus Lake, off SR 50. Historic railroad bridge, playground.														
West Dam Site (Bay Springs Lake) 23 acres 20 mi. e. of Booneville off SR 4. Playground.														
STAT	ſΕ													
Buccaneer 398 acres off US 90 at Waveland. Playground.														
Clarkco 815 acres 5 mi. n. of Quitman on US 45. Disc golf (nine holes), tennis, water skiing; playground, splash pad.														
George Payne Cossar 982 acres 5 mi. n.e. of Oakland on SR 32. Disc golf (18 holes), water skiing; birding trail, miniature golf (18 holes), playground.														
Golden Memorial 107 acres 5 mi. e. of Walnut Grove														

ATURE PROGRAMS **Recreation Areas Chart /ISITOR CENTER SICYCLE TRAILS** ODGE/CABINS **=00D SERVICE IIKING TRAILS ET FRIENDLY 30AT RENTAL** Shaded columns below indicate available **30AT RAMP** PICNICKING SWIMMING services and activities. CAMPING SOATING -ISHING Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds Great River Road 731 acres off SR 1 near Rosedale. Disc golf (18 holes); ball field, playground. Holmes County 436 acres 4 mi. s. of Durant off I-55 exit 150. Birding trail, playground. Hugh White 1,256 acres 5 mi. e. of Grenada off SR 8. Golf (18 holes), water skiing; birding trail, playground. John W. Kyle 740 acres 9 mi. e. of Sardis on SR 315. Golf (18 holes); birding trail, playground. J.P. Coleman 637 acres 13 mi. n. of luka off SR 25. Water skiing; birding trail, playground. Lake Lincoln 550 acres 6 mi. e. of Wesson. Disc golf (18 holes), water skiing; birding trail, nature trails, pavilion, playground. Lake Lowndes 750 acres 6 mi. s.e. of Columbus off SR 69. Disc golf (18 holes), tennis, water skiing; ball fields, horse trail, indoor gym/volleyball court, playground. Lefleur's Bluff 310 acres off I-55 n. at E. Lakeland exit in Jackson. Boating (electric motors only), disc golf (18 holes), golf (nine holes); birding trail, driving range, playground. Legion 420 acres on old SR 25 in Louisville. Playground. **Leroy Percy** 2,371 acres 6 mi. w. of Hollandale on SR 12. Disc golf (18 holes); observation tower, play-

ground, playing field.



playground.

Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Natchez 3,411 acres 10 mi. n. of Natchez off US 61. Disc golf (nine holes); birding trail, horse trail, nature trails, playground.														
Paul B. Johnson 744 acres 15 mi. s. of Hattiesburg off US 49. Disc golf (23-basket), water skiing; playground, splash pad.														
Percy Quin 1,700 acres 5 mi. s.w. of McComb off I-55. Golf (18 holes), tennis, water skiing; birding trail, playground.														
Roosevelt 540 acres off I-20 exit 25. Disc golf (18 holes), tennis, water skiing; playground.														
Shepard 306 acres 3 mi. w. of Pascagoula off US 90. Disc golf (18 holes); playground.														
Tishomingo 1,340 acres 2 mi. e. of Tishomingo off SR 25. Disc golf (18 holes); birding trail, canoe trips, playground.														
Tombigbee 602 acres 6 mi. s.e. of Tupelo off SR 6. Disc golf (36 holes); ball field, birding trail, playground.														
Trace 1,980 acres 10 mi. e. of Pontotoc off SR 6. Disc golf (18 holes), water skiing; birding trail, horse trail, playground.														
Wall Doxey 749 acres 7 mi. s. of Holly Springs off SR 7. Disc golf (18 holes); ball field, birding trail, playground.														
ОТНЕ	ER													
Archusa Creek Water Park 1,000 acres 1 mi. e. of Quitman on SR 18. Disc golf, water skiing; ball field,														



Olive off US 49.

Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Atwood Water Park 78 acres 2 mi. e. of Monticello off US 84. Tennis; pavilion.														
Big Creek Water Park 800 acres 10 mi. w. of Laurel off US 84.														
Bogue Chitto Water Park 230 acres 12 mi. e. of McComb on US 98. Canoe and tube rentals, pavilion, playground.														
Burnside Lake Park 115 acres 2 mi. n.e. of Philadelphia on SR 15. Ball fields, pavilion, playground.														
Chewalla Lake 260 acres 7 mi. e. of Holly Springs off SR 4 on FR 611. Playground.														
Choctaw Lake 100 acres 2 mi. s. of Ackerman off SR 15.														
Clear Springs 13 acres 7 mi. w. of Meadville off US 84/98 on FR 104.														
Coal Bluff Park 60 acres 10 mi. n.e. of Sandhill. Tennis, water skiing.														
Columbia Water Park 60 acres 2 mi. n. of Columbia off SR 35. Pavilion, playground.														
Crossroads Water Park 50 acres e. of Bogalusa on SR 26 at Crossroads.														
Davis Lake 200 acres 13 mi. n.e. of Houston off SR 15. Bird-watching.														
D'Lo Water Park 74 acres 2 mi. n. of Mendenhall off old US 49. Mapped float trips; pavilion, playground.														
Dry Creek Water Park 800 acres 5 mi. w. of Mount														



Boating (trolling speed only).

Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Flint Creek Water Park 1,900 acres 1 mi. e. of Wiggins on SR 29. Water skiing; waterslides.														
Grand Gulf Military Park 400 acres 7 mi. n.w. of Port Gibson on SR 462.														
Holmes Water Park 43 acres off SR 27 in Tylertown on Magee's Creek. Ball fields, pavilion, playground.														
Kemper County Lake 652 acres 3 mi. n.w. of DeKalb off SR 397. Water skiing.														
Lake Bogue Homa 1,200 acres 6 mi. e. of Laurel on US 84. Water skiing.														
Lake Bolivar 512 acres 15 mi. s. of Rosedale off SR 1.														
Lake Claude Bennett 71 acres 20 mi. e. of Bay Springs off SR 18.														
Lake Columbia and Lake Bill Waller 90 and 200 acres 12 mi. s.e. of Columbia in the Marion County Management Area.														
Lake Jeff Davis 164 acres 3 mi. s. of Prentiss on SR 42.														
Lake Lamar Bruce 330 acres 1.5 mi. n.e. of Saltillo.														
Lake Mary Crawford 135 acres 5 mi. w. of Monticello on US 84.														
Lake Mike Conner 88 acres 8 mi. w. of Collins off US 84.														
Lake Monroe 111 acres n. of Aberdeen off US 45. Boating (trolling speed only)														

ATURE PROGRAMS **Recreation Areas Chart /ISITOR CENTER SICYCLE TRAILS** ODGE/CABINS **=00D SERVICE** HIKING TRAILS PET FRIENDLY **BOAT RENTAL** Shaded columns below indicate available **BOAT RAMP** PICNICKING SWIMMING services and activities. CAMPING BOATING -ISHING Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds Lake Perry 125 acres 3 mi. w. of Beaumont. Boating (trolling speed only). Lake Tom Bailey 234 acres 8 mi. e. of Meridian on Lake Walthall 62 acres 8 mi. s.e. of Tylertown. Leake County Water Park 100 acres 16 mi. n.e. of Sandhill off SR 25. Little Black Creek Water Park 1.100 acres 5 mi. n.w. of Lumberton on Old Purvis-Lumberton Hwy. Luxapalila Creek 334 acres 5 mi. s.e. of Columbus off SR 69. Marathon Lake 70 acres 12 mi. s.e. of Forest off SR 501 on FR 506. Maynor Creek Water Park 1,000 acres 4 mi. w. of Waynesboro on US 84W. Water skiing. McLeod Park 328 acres off Texas Flat Rd. in Kiln. Ball field, pavilion, playground. Merit Water Park 25 acres 3 mi. s. of Mendenhall via SR 43. Waterfall. Neshoba County Lake 225 acres 8 mi. s.e. of Philadelphia. Okatibbee Water Park 360 acres 7 mi. n.w. of Meridian off SR 19. Water skiing; waterslides. Oktibbeha County Lake 479 acres 9 mi. w. of Stark-

ville on US 82, then 2 mi. n. on a county road.



vune on SR 43. Pavilion.

Recreation Areas Chart Shaded columns below indicate available services and activities. Find thousands of places to camp at AAA.com/campgrounds	CAMPING	PICNICKING	HIKING TRAILS	BOATING	BOAT RAMP	BOAT RENTAL	FISHING	SWIMMING	PET FRIENDLY	BICYCLE TRAILS	NATURE PROGRAMS	VISITOR CENTER	LODGE/CABINS	FOOD SERVICE
Pelahatchie Lake 25 mi. e. of Jackson off I-20 on SR 43.														
Prentiss Walker Lake 87 acres 4 mi. s.w. of Mize off SR 35.														
Ross Barnett Reservoir 30,000 acres 7 mi. n. of Jackson on I-55, then 3 mi. e. on Natchez Trace Pkwy. Disc golf (18 holes), water skiing.														
Simpson County Lake 94 acres 5 mi. n. of Magee on US 49.														
Tippah County Lake 165 acres 2.5 mi. n. of Ripley on SR 15, then 2.5 mi. w. on a paved road.														
Town Creek 27 acres 8 mi. w. of Columbus off SR 50. Playground.														
Turkey Creek Water Park 600 acres 5 mi. s.w. of Decatur off SR 15. Water skiing; playground.														
Turkey Fork Lake 250 acres 25 mi. e. of Richton via SRs 42 and 63.														
Walker's Bridge Water Park 5 acres 3 mi. w. of Tylertown off SR 48. Pavilion.														
Walkiah Bluff Water Park 18 acres 4 mi. w. of Pica-														

160 BATESVILLE — BAY ST. LOUIS, MS

BATESVILLE

Hotels p. 160



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BATESVILLE BOOK NOW 662/578-5555



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 103 Lakewood Dr 38606.

HOLIDAY INN

BOOK NOW

662/563-1234

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 210 Power Dr 38606.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW 662/360-0000



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 443 Covenant Dr 38606.

BAY ST. LOUIS Hotels p. 160

Until Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on Aug. 29, 2005, Bay St. Louis was a community of streets lined with Victorian houses, a place where visitors browsed art and antiques shops in a picturesque setting along the Bay of St. Louis. The powerful hurricane's storm surge damaged or destroyed more than 60 percent of the city's structures, and more than 90 percent in the neighboring town of Waveland.

But Bay St. Louis' lively arts colony and Old Town shopping areas both rebounded. One building that survived is the dignified Hancock County Court House, 152 Main St. More than a century old, it is the jewel of the city's historic district, an area filled with stately homes, charming cottages and a variety of shops and eateries.

Self-guiding tours: A brochure that outlines a 1.5-mile walking/biking tour of the historic district can be obtained at Hancock County Tourism, 1928 Depot Way; phone (800) 466-9048.

INFINITY SCIENCE CENTER is off I-10 exit 2 (south) next to the Mississippi Welcome Center located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The non-profit science center serves as the official Visitor Center for the NASA John C. Stennis Space Center and covers more than 50 years of space exploration history, including a full-size model of the International Space Station Destiny module. Other exhibits include a Hurricane Prediction Lab. Carnivorous Plants Conservatory, the Apollo 4 command module and a newly redesigned XSPHEREience theater...

An outdoor exhibit includes rocket engines, a tsunami buoy and a weather collection buoy as well as the first stage of the Apollo 19 Saturn V rocket. The Earth Gallery depicts the planet in terms of a life support system and has exhibits covering deep ocean exploration and watersheds. A 7-mile nature trail can be explored by foot or by tram and a Biome Boardwalk features observation decks to view wildlife. **Time:** Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (228) 533-9025.

HOLLYWOOD CASINO & GOLF RESORT

BOOK NOW

228/467-9257

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Resort Hotel. Address: 711 Hollywood Blvd 39520.

BIENVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 340 ft. at the creek bottoms to 570 ft.

In central Mississippi, Bienville's 179,402 acres of pine and hardwood forest were once the depleted holdings of four large lumber companies. Bienville Pines Scenic Area, a mile south of the community of Forest on SR 501, features a nature trail in a stand of virgin pine. Shockaloe National Recreation Trail, 5 miles west of Forest on US 80, offers 23 miles of hiking and horseback riding trails. Other recreational activities possible within the forest include camping, fishing, hunting and swimming.

For further information contact the Forest Supervisor, Bienville National Forest, Route 2, 3473 SR 35S, Forest, MS 39074; phone (601) 469-3811. The Ranger's District office is on the west side of SR 35, about 1.5 miles south of I-20. See Recreation Areas Chart.

BILOXI

• Hotels p. 162 • Restaurants p. 168

Before Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, Biloxi's modern history fell into two categories: B.C. and A.C. In the 1960s, Biloxi was *the* place on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to party, play and honeymoon. That was B.C. (Before Camille.) The Category 5 killer hurricane hit town in 1969 with winds that gusted up to 210 mph and a 20-foot-high wall of water that destroyed homes and businesses, leaving the lives and livelihoods of thousands in shambles.

Resilient Biloxi, however, would not be denied its former glory. By the 1990s, when casino gambling became legal in Mississippi, contemporary glitz and the long-shot promise of instant wealth had given a shot in the arm to this genteel old city. One by one a string of gaudy but declining hotels and motels occupying prime waterfront property gave way to a new cash cow, this one in the form of dockside casinos and Las Vegas-style resorts. Neon signs illuminated Casino Row (Beach Boulevard) like lighthouse beacons, luring high rollers in for a good time and embodying a beach town's reinvention. Enter the A.C. (After Casinos) era.

The record 2005 hurricane season again badly damaged much of Biloxi. A 28-foot storm surge from Hurricane Katrina—reportedly the highest in the coast's recorded history—pushed casino barges onshore and washed away nearly every building in its path up to half a mile inland, while gutting lower floors of the few structures able to withstand the water's might. But by 2007, for the

second time, the casino industry played a significant role in the city's rise from the economic ashes. The **WE Hard Rock Cafe**, next to its namesake Hotel & Casino, opened that year, bringing the world famous brand to the city's shores. Today, Biloxi boasts eight casinos in town and others in nearby cities.

These days, casinos and affiliated resorts offer visitors a lot of bang for their buck. Gaming establishments run the gamut from serviceable backwater barges with standard table games and slot machines to mega complexes that offer multistory luxury hotels, theaters, casinos, shops, spas, restaurants and golf courses.

Katrina decimated many of the lovely beachfront homes that survived Hurricane Camille. Nowhere on the Mississippi Gulf Coast was the juxtaposition of new and old more striking than in the antebellum residences that once lined Beach Boulevard between Gulfport and Biloxi. Beauvoir, the historic home of Jefferson Davis, is where the former President of the Confederate States of America wrote his memoirs. Although the Jefferson Davis Presidential Library lost many exhibits to Hurricane Katrina, restoration of the exhibit gallery and museum was completed in 2014.

But even the wrath of hurricanes can't take away the area's No. 1 natural attraction—its beaches. Against a ritzy, man-made backdrop, stretches of white sand and the blue-green waters of the Gulf of Mexico still hold their own, offering both recreational opportunities and serene beauty.

The highly anticipated Margaritaville Resort opened in 2016. Features include dining, shopping and a family entertainment center with a rock climbing wall, zipline coasters, bowling and a water playground.

Running along Beach Boulevard, Caillavet Street and Bayview Avenue, the Casino Hopper Trolley provides access to many city attractions; phone (228) 896-8080 for schedule and fares.

Biloxi Visitors Center: 1050 Beach Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39530. **Phone:** (228) 374-3105 or (800) 245-6943.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau: 2350 Beach Blvd., Suite A, Biloxi, MS 39531. Phone: (228) 896-6699 or (888) 467-4853.

Self-guiding tours: Pamphlets describing the Historic Heart of Biloxi Walking Tour, which highlights such sites as the 1840 Scherer House and the 1847 Magnolia Hotel, and the City of Biloxi Heritage Driving Tour are available at the visitor center and the convention and visitors bureau.

BEAUVOIR—THE JEFFERSON DAVIS HOME AND PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY is off I-110; take US 90 (Beach Blvd.) 5.5 mi. w. to 2244 Beach Blvd. This 1852 estate was the last home of Jefferson Davis, West Point graduate, Mississippi State Senator, Congressman, Secretary of War and the only President of the Confederate States of America. The Davis family sold the estate in 1902 to the Mississippi division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans with the stipulation that it be used both as a memorial to Jefferson Davis and a home for Confederate Veterans, wives and widows.

The estate has been meticulously restored to its former grandeur after being almost completely destroyed in 2005 by Hurricane Katrina. The Louisiana single-story summer cottage is situated on 52 picturesque acres; furnishings are mostly original pieces. The extravagant interior looks much as it did when the Davis family lived in the house.

The Jefferson Davis Presidential Library features a research library, a museum and a gallery housing rotating exhibits. The Jefferson Davis Soldiers' Home Cemetery on the grounds contains the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Confederate States of America; the grave of Jefferson Davis' father, Samuel Emory Davis; and the graves of 780 Confederate Veterans, wives and widows.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (228) 388-4400. GT 7

BILOXI SHRIMPING TRIP, LLC departs from the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor at 693 Beach Blvd, A 70-minute sightseeing trip gives passengers a look at the variety of marine life caught on a shrimping expedition in the calm, protected waters between Deer Island and the Biloxi shoreline. Once aboard the Sailfish, a guide sets the net out with an explanation of how it operates. When the net is retrieved about 20 minutes later, all the species caught are identified. Fishing excursions also are offered.

Phone: (228) 392-8645.

OHR-O'KEEFE MUSEUM OF ART is at 386 Beach Blvd. Designed by acclaimed architect Frank Gehry, OOMA displays works by George E. Ohr (1857-1918), the selfproclaimed "Mad Potter of Biloxi." Ohr's flamboyant personality expresses itself through these innovative ceramic pieces. In addition to Ohr's work, rotating exhibitions at this Smithsonian-affiliated museum spotlight innovative regional, national and international artists.

Phone: (228) 374-5547. **GT**

GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS

- Golden Nugget Casino is 1.5 mi. e. of I-110 on US 90 at 151 Beach Blvd. Phone: (228) 435-5400 or (800) 777-7568.
- Harrah's Gulf Coast is at 280 Beach Blvd. Phone: (228) 436-2946 or (800) 946-2946. 🔁
- IP Casino Resort Spa is at 850 Bayview Ave. Phone: (228) 436-3000 or (888) 946-2847. (See ad starting on p. 166.) 🔁
- Palace Casino Resort is at 154 Howard Ave. Phone: (228) 432-8888 or (800) 725-2239. (See ad p. 2.)



228/386-7111





MGM RESORTS

Hotel. Address: 875 Beach Blvd 39530. Facility: The elegantly appointed accommodations include 95 luxury suites that offer either

Gulf coast or garden views. Rooms are quite spacious, many feature a separate shower and tub for added convenience. 1739 units, some two bedrooms. 29 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Amenities: safes. Dining: 6 restaurants, also, Jia, see separate listing, entertainment. **Pool:** heated outdoor. **Activities:** sauna, hot tub, steamroom, game room, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry. Affiliated with MGM Resorts International.

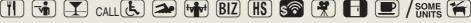


































BEST WESTERN OAK MANOR BOOK NOW 228/435-4331



Hotel. Address: 886 Beach Blvd 39530. Facility: 116 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. SAVE

















DOUBLETREE BY HILTON BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/546-3100



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 940 Beach Blvd 39530.



GOLDEN NUGGET BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/435-5400



Hotel. Address: 151 Beach Blvd 39530. Facility: Along with the multiple levels of gaming at the casino, the hotel offers additional options such as two pools, a spa, multiple dining venues and nightly entertainment. Time to relax and indulge, 707 units, some two bedrooms. 12 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee). Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 5 restaurants, entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, cabanas, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry. CALL (BIZ)



HAMPTON INN BILOXI BEACH BOOK NOW

228/435-9010



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 1138 Beach Blvd 39530.



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HARD ROCK HOTEL & CASINO BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/374-7625



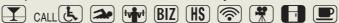
Hotel. Address: 777 Beach Blvd 39530. Location: Oceanfront. Facility: As you arrive, look for the huge 10-story guitar which is an iconic landmark that lets you know you've reached your destination. Some rooms have a table and bar stools, some have extra seating, 479 units, 12 stories, interior corridors, Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 6 restaurants, also, Hard Rock Cafe, see separate listing, nightclub, entertainment. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, beach on-site, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.



























HILTON GARDEN INN BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/325-2900



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 648 Beach Blvd 39530.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BILOXI BEACH

BOOK NOW

228/436-0201



Hotel. Address: 1686 Beach Blvd 39531.



HYATT PLACE BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/206-0950



HYATT PLACE. AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hvatt Place/Hvatt House with their World of Hvatt membership!

Hotel. Address: 1150 Beach Blvd 39530. Facility: 114 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.







LET'S GET SOCIAL

Connect with AAA for the latest updates.













Contemporary Hotel. Address: 850 Bayview Ave 39530. Facility: The impressive high-rise building houses a casino, multiple shops, a concert venue and rooms offering quests a comfortable place to rest after a full day of activity. 1088 units. 32 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site (fee) and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 6 restaurants, also, thirty-two, Tien, see separate listings, nightclub. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, game room, exercise room, spa. (See ad starting on p. 166.)





































MARGARITAVILLE RESORT BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/271-6377

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Resort Hotel. Address: 195 Beach Blvd 39530.

PALACE CASINO RESORT HOTEL BOOK NOW 228/432-8888



Hotel. Address: 158 Howard Ave 39530. Facility: Tucked away on the back bay, the luxury hotel features stylish and spacious rooms. The bustling, smoke-free casino is in a separate wing and maintains the serenity of the resort. 234 units. 11 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 5 restaurants. Pool: outdoor. Activities: marina, bicycles, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry. (See ad p. 2.)



























FOUR DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

SOUTH BEACH BILOXI HOTEL & SUITES BOOK NOW 228/388-2627



Hotel. Address: 1735 Beach Blvd 39531. Location: Oceanfront. Facility: 99 units, some two bedrooms and kitchens. 9 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: beach on-site, exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary laundry. SAVE T CALL (L) (A) (HS) (R)



FROM FOUR DIAMOND DINING TO FIVE-ALARM JACKPOTS, THE EXCITEMENT IS HOT AT IP!

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Relax in refined rooms. Experience spectacular entertainment and exhilarating gaming. Savor cuisine for every palate. And the service? Truly impeccable. IP, the beauty of Biloxi's sparkling Back Bay, is **Where You Want To Be.**

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 One AAA Four Diamond Venue &
 One AAA Three Diamond Venue
- 70,000 SQ FT Casino

- Senses Spa & Salon
- World Class Entertainment
- Winner of AAA Four Dlamond Award
- Golf Packages Available
- IP Sportsbook Presented by FanDuel



Welcome To Where You Want To Be!

BOOK NOW

For the most up-to-date information on our gaming excitement, Follow us on: $\mathbf{f} \odot$







WHERE TO EAT





SAVE American Casual Dining. Address: 777 Beach Blvd 39530.





Asian Fine Dining. Address: 875 Beach Blvd 39530.



THIRTY-TWO 228/436-3000



Steak Seafood Fine Dining. **Address:** 850 Bayview Ave 39530. *(See ad starting on p. 166.)*





Asian Fine Dining. **Expert Advice:** The uniquely shaped restaurant features alcoves and private dining rooms which are perfect for creating an intimate dining experience. Contemporary décor consisting of clear and textured colored glass, stainless steel, dark stained wood and stone are blended to create a sophisticated ambience. The eclectic variety of Asian cuisine includes Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese dishes such as teppanyaki, shabu-shabu, dim sum and sushi. **Features:** full bar. **Reservations:** suggested. **Address:** 850 Bayview Ave 39530. **Parking:** on-site and valet. *(See ad starting on p. 166.)*

BRICES CROSS ROADS NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD SITE

Six miles west of Baldwyn on SR 370, 1-acre Brices Cross Roads National Battlefield Site is a memorial to the Civil War battle fought on June 10, 1864. An additional seven sites on 1,400 acres further interpret the battle. Despite superiority in numbers, Union troops under Gen. Samuel D. Sturgis were forced to retreat at the end of the all-day encounter. The Confederate force led by Gen. Nathan B. Forrest captured all Federal supplies, 18 pieces of artillery, arms and ammunition.

Granite markers along SR 370 beginning 1.5 miles east of the site show the progress of the battle, and a 1-mile

walking trail with interpretive signs traverses it. An adjoining cemetery contains the graves of 97 Confederate soldiers.

The Mississippi Final Stands Interpretive Center is at 607 Grisham St., near the junction of SR 370 and US 45. The center offers Civil War exhibits and a timeline, a 22-minute video, a battlefield model and a flag memorial. A narrated driving tour of the site is available on tape or CD.

Site open daily dawn-dusk. Interpretive center open Tues.-Sat. 9-5. Closed major holidays. Site free. Interpretive center \$5; \$2 (ages 0-12). Phone (662) 365-3969 or (662) 523-5982.

BROOKHAVEN

Hotels p. 169



HAMPTON INN BROOKHAVEN BOOK NOW 601/823-3800



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1213 Hampton Dr 39601.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BROOKHAVEN BOOK NOW 601/990-2360

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED 🎯 CLEAN Hotel. Address: 1212 Brookway Blvd 39601.

CANTON

Hotels p. 169

Canton Convention and Visitors Bureau: 147 N. Union St., Canton, MS 39046. **Phone:** (601) 859-1307 or (800) 844-3369.

CANTON MOVIE MUSEUMS are at 200 W. Center St. Canton's well-preserved Courthouse Square historic district has been used as a setting for films, documentaries and TV commercials. The museums house props and sets from films shot on location and includes items from "A Time to Kill," "O Brother, Where Art Thou," "My Dog Skip" and PBS Masterpiece Theatre's adaptation of Eudora Welty's "The Ponder Heart."

Note: Tickets must be purchased at the Canton Welcome Center on the west side of the square. Phone ahead to schedule tour (by appointment only during museum renovation). Phone: (601) 859-1307 or (800) 844-3369. GT

CANTON MULTICULTURAL CENTER & MUSEUM is at 200 W. Center St. The museum describes the cultural heritage and contributions of Canton residents and features a permanent exhibit recounting the Civil Rights Movement. Visitors can choose among several videotaped interviews of citizens describing their experiences in Canton. A special exhibit highlights the life of Sister Thea Bowman, an African American Franciscan nun who was raised in Canton and became a teacher, lecturer, gospel singer and evangelist. Note: Tickets must be purchased at the Canton Welcome Center on the west side of the square. Phone: (601) 859-1307 or (800) 844-3369. GT



BEST WESTERN CANTON INN BOOK NOW 601/859-8600



Hotel. Address: 137 Soldier Colony Rd 39046. Facility: 48 units. 2 stories (no elevator), interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON CANTON BOOK NOW 601/859-8700



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 133 Soldier Colony Rd 39046.

CLARKSDALE

Hotels p. 170

Clarksdale/Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce: 1540 DeSoto Ave., P.O. Box 160, Clarksdale, MS 38614. Phone: (662) 627-7337.

DELTA BLUES MUSEUM is in the renovated freight depot at 1 Blues Alley. Visitors to the state's oldest music museum (established in 1979) can explore the meaning,

value and perspective of the unique American art form known as the blues. Stage outfits, art, photography and musical instruments-including harmonicas played by Sonny Boy Williamson II and one of B.B. King's "Lucille" guitars—help tell the story of the Delta blues and its vast influence on today's music. The remains of Muddy Waters' childhood home is a focal point of the museum's 7,300-square-foot addition. The Delta Blues Museum Stage is a venue for several local music festivals. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (662) 627-6820.



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW

662/621-1717



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 15000 New Africa Rd 38614.

CLEVELAND

Hotels p. 170

This Mississippi Delta cotton farming community has grown up into a town with a renewed tourism economy, fueled in part by the just-opened GRAMMY® Museum Mississippi and a thriving dining, shopping, cultural and music scene. You can't really separate the cotton that was produced at Dockery Farms from the music that was created there; in fact, some say, it was the birthplace of the blues, where musician Charley Patton created the Delta blues. You'll find one of many Mississippi Blues Trail Markers across the state there.

While you're in town, be sure to check out the impressive collection of railroad memorabilia and O-Gauge model train set at the Martin & Sue King Railroad Heritage Museum at 115 S. Bayou Ave.; phone (662) 843-3377.

South Court Street comes alive in April for the Crosstie Arts & Jazz Festival, with a juried fine arts show, live entertainment, great food and road races.

Cleveland Tourism Office: 600 Third St., Cleveland MS 38732. Phone: (662) 843-2712.

GRAMMY® MUSEUM MISSISSIPPI is at 800 W. Sunflower Rd. The 28,000-square-foot museum offers dozens of interactive and informative exhibits tracing the origins of American music back to where it began. The attractions tell the story of blues, jazz, country, rock, gospel, classical, Latin and pop. Engaging films and exhibits also offer insight into the musicians and behind-the-scenes professionals who make the music. It is the only GRAMMY® museum outside of Los Angeles. The museum has a partnership with the Cleveland Music Foundation. Phone: (662) 441-0100.

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON CLEVELAND BOOK NOW 662/846-2915



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 912 N Davis Ave 38732.





INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 808 N Davis Ave 38732.

CLINTON

• Hotels p. 171

Clinton Visitor Center: 1300 Pinehaven Rd., Clinton, MS

39056. Phone: (601) 924-2221.





AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 105 Hampstead Blvd 39056.





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 5007 Hampstead Blvd 39056.

COLUMBUS

• Hotels p. 172

Columbus was spared the Civil War destruction suffered by many other towns; although it housed a Confederate arsenal and briefly became the state capital in 1863, it was never attacked by Union forces. Both Confederate and Union soldiers who died in the 1862 Battle of Shiloh are buried in Friendship Cemetery, 14th Avenue and Fourth Street. On Apr. 25, 1866, war widows noticed the forgotten graves of the Union soldiers. The women, joined by their friends and families, decided to decorate the graves of soldiers on both sides. This impartial gesture of compassion later evolved into the observance of Memorial Day.

In 1911 Thomas Lanier Williams was born in Columbus. Better known as Tennessee Williams, his dramatic characterizations of the South made him one of America's leading playwrights. The gingerbread-adorned house at 300 Main St., where Williams lived until the age of 5, is now a Mississippi state visitor information center; phone (662) 328-0222.

The country's first state-supported college for women, the Mississippi University for Women, was founded in Columbus in 1884. Tours of the campus are available; phone (662) 329-7106. Columbus Air Force Base, north of the city on SR 373, is one of three pilot-training bases in the United States.

Many antebellum mansions and gardens are open to the public in April during the Spring Pilgrimage. Costumed hostesses welcome guests and recount 19th-century history. The Columbus Cultural Heritage Foundation offers other tours throughout the year; phone (800) 920-3533 or (622) 329-3533. In early May downtown Columbus hosts the 2-day Market Street Festival, which features arts and crafts, children's activities and musical performances.

The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway offers excellent fishing and boating opportunities as well as recreational and camping areas. Camping, fishing, boating and tennis also can be enjoyed at Lake Lowndes State Park (see Recreation Areas Chart).

Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau: 117 3rd St. S., P.O. Box 789, Columbus, MS 39703. Phone: (662) 329-1191 or (800) 920-3533.

Self-guiding tours: Pamphlets and information are available at the Tennessee Williams Home/Welcome Center at 300 Main St.; phone (662) 328-0222 or (855) 254-2895.



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.



COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT COLUMBUS BOOK NOW 662/245-1540



COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 1995 6th St N 39701. Facility: 110 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.



























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT COLUMBUS BOOK NOW 662/241-1990



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2011 6th St N 39701.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES COLUMBUS

BOOK NOW 662/245-1085



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1915 6th St N 39701.



HYATT PLACE COLUMBUS BOOK NOW 662/370-1800



HYATT PLACE AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. Address: 101 Hospital Dr 39705. Facility: 99 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























LA QUINTA INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 662/240-2454



Hotel. Address: 1200 Hwy 45 N 39705.



Hotel. Address: 1210 US 45 N 39705.

CORINTH

Hotels p. 173

During the Civil War, Corinth was occupied by both Union and Confederate troops. In October 1862 forces clashed in the Battle of Corinth, one of the war's more intense engagements. Some historians consider it to have been the bloodiest battle in the Western Hemisphere, Battery Robinett, 501 W. Linden St., is a reconstruction of the part of the Federal inner line of defense that was the most contested position during the battle.

Corinth National Cemetery, a segment of the Corinth Civil War Battlefield, is the final resting place for more than 5,600 soldiers. Historic buildings dating from before and after the war line city streets.

Corinth Area Convention & Visitors Bureau: 215 N. Fillmore St., Corinth, MS 38834, Phone: (662) 287-8300.

Self-guiding tours: A self-guiding Civil War driving tour map and CD is available from the visitors bureau.

CORINTH CIVIL WAR INTERPRETIVE CENTER

is at 501 W. Linden St. at Battery Robinett. This site, which is a unit of the Shiloh National Military Park in Mississippi and Tennessee, chronicles the Battle of Corinth and its significance in Civil War history. Exhibits and multimedia presentations examine topics such as slavery, the military importance of railroads, earthwork battlefield fortifications and the Reconstruction era. An outdoor water sculpture chronicles events in U.S. history between 1770 and 1870. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (662) 287-9273.

CROSSROADS MUSEUM is at Wick and Fillmore sts. Civil War objects, Chickasaw artifacts, a Coca-Cola historical exhibit and other exhibits relating to Corinth's history are displayed. A research library also is on the premises. Guided tours are available by appointment. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (662) 287-3120.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES

BOOK NOW 662/287-1407



Hotel. Address: 2106 Hwy 72 W 38834.

DELTA NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 85 ft. south of Dummyline Road to 100 ft. at the north end of the forest.

In west-central Mississippi, Delta National Forest covers 59,553 acres of hardwood bottomlands. It lies within the most productive hardwood region in North America.

For further information contact the District Manager, Delta National Forest, 68 Frontage Rd., Rolling Fork, MS 39159; phone (662) 873-6256. See Recreation Areas Chart.

DE SOTO NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 140 ft. to 370 ft.

In southeastern Mississippi, De Soto National Forest covers 500,487 acres from Laurel to the Gulf of Mexico near Biloxi. Two wilderness areas, the Black Creek and the Leaf, are within the largely pine forest.

A 33-mile float trip on National Scenic River-designated Black Creek can begin from several landing sites. Outdoor enthusiasts take advantage of more than 100 miles of hiking, ATV, horse and bicycle trails and almost a dozen recreational sites; most are classified as primitive, although some have water and restrooms. The Turkey Fork site at Chickasawhay is developed and includes electricity.



174 DE SOTO NF — D'IBERVILLE, MS

For further information contact the Chickasawhay Ranger District, De Soto National Forest, 968 SR 15 S., Laurel, MS 39443; phone (601) 428-0594. The address for the De Soto Ranger District is 654 W. Frontage Rd., Wiggins, MS 39577; phone (601) 528-6160. See Recreation Areas Chart.

D'IBERVILLE

Hotels p. 174



COMFORT INN & SUITES BOOK NOW

228/396-0036





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 12009 Indian River Rd 39540. Facility: 101 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary laundry.

























COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT BILOXI NORTH/D'IBERVILLE BOOK NOW 228/392-1200



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 11471 Cinema Dr 39540.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES D'LBERVILLE BILOXI BOOK NOW 228/392-0210



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 3828 Promenade Pkwy 39540.



HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON BILOXI NORTH/D'IBERVILLE BOOK NOW 228/392-6265



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 3810 Promenade Pkwy 39540.



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FLOWOOD Hotels p. 175



BEST WESTERN PLUS FLOWOOD INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 601/420-4944



Hotel, Address: 1004 Top St 39232, Facility: 69 units, 4 stories, interior corridors, Pool: indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

(H) CALL (L) (A) (HS)

















COMFORT SUITES AIRPORT BOOK NOW

601/709-4900





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 121 Hospitality Dr 39232. Facility: 70 units. 4 stories, interior corridors, Pool: outdoor, Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON JACKSON-FLOWOOD AIRPORT AREA

BOOK NOW 601/709-5200



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 115 Hospitality Dr 39232.

HILTON GARDEN INN JACKSON/FLOWOOD **BOOK NOW** 601/487-0800



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 118 Laurel Park Cove 39232.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES JACKSON - FLOWOOD

BOOK NOW 601/992-7773

Hotel. Address: 112 Ridge Way 39232.



HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW 601/909-4000



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 105 Hospitality Dr 39232.

SHERATON FLOWOOD THE REFUGE HOTEL AND CONFERENCE

CENTER

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601/936-4550



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2200 Refuge Blvd 39232.



STAYBRIDGE SUITES BOOK NOW

601/952-3234



Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 2620 Lakeland Dr 39232.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT FLOWOOD BOOK NOW

601/882-9800



SUITES®-

TOWNEPLACE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

MARRIOTT

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 160 E Metro Pkwy 39232. Facility: 96 units, some efficiencies and kitchens. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool:

outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

GREENVILLE • Hotels p. 177

One of the Mississippi River's largest ports, Greenville was once in constant danger of being washed away. In 1927 the town was submerged for 70 days. The problem was solved in 1935 by the construction of levees, which forced the river 6 miles to the west and created Lake Ferguson. The levees also provide locations for riverboat gambling casinos.

Greenville natives include such noteworthy literary and artistic figures as poet William Alexander Percy; novelists Ellen Douglas, Shelby Foote and Walker Percy; Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hodding Carter: and Muppets creator Jim Henson. During his childhood in nearby Leland, Henson played along the shores of Deer Creek, experiences that led to the creation of one of his most celebrated puppets, Kermit the Frog. The Washington County Tourist Center/Leland Chamber of Commerce, east on US 82/US 278 to 415 S.E. Deer Creek Dr., houses Birthplace of the Frog: An Exhibit of Jim Henson's Delta Boyhood, which features photographs of a youthful Henson, selected works and Muppet memorabilia.

On the west side of town at US 82 and Reed Road is the Mississippi Welcome Center of Greenville, also known as the "River Road Queen." The structure was built to look like a 19th-century stern-wheeler for an exhibit at the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition; phone (662) 332-2378.

Walking tour maps of the city are available at the visitors bureau.

Greenville/Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau: 216 S. Walnut St., Greenville, MS 38701. Phone: (662) 334-2711 or (800) 467-3582.



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW

662/335-7515



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1155 VFW Rd 38701.



HARLOW'S CASINO RESORT & SPA

BOOK NOW

662/335-9797



Hotel. Address: 4280 Harlow's Blvd 38701.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES GREENVILLE

BOOK NOW

662/332-5800

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 3090 Hwy 82 E 38701.



TRU BY HILTON GREENVILLE MS

BOOK NOW 662/378-2525



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking **AAA/CAA** rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 600 Rayner Rd 38701.

GREENWOOD

Hotels p. 178 Restaurants p. 178

Benefiting from the natural resources of the Yazoo River and fertile river delta soil, Greenwood is one of the largest cotton markets in the United States. Harvest season activities are at their peak from August through December.

The city gained greater notoriety in 2011 when the film The Help was filmed there. Visitors can now take a selfguided tour of some of the locations used in the movie. Pick up a map at the visitors bureau.

Greenwood Convention and Visitors Bureau: 111 E. Market St., Greenwood, MS 38930. Phone: (662) 453-9197 or (800) 748-9064.

MUSEUM OF THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA is .5 mi. w. of the Yazoo River Bridge at 1608 US 82W bypass. Displays relate to the history of cotton production and the inhabitants of the Mississippi River Delta. Included are pre-Columbian pottery, a mastodon skeleton, a collection of Mississippi artworks, and geological and military history exhibits. Local Native American artifacts include photographs of and objects belonging to Greenwood Leflore, the last chief of the Choctaw.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (662) 453-0925.



THE ALLUVIAN HOTEL BOOK NOW 662/453-2114



Boutique Hotel. Address: 318 Howard St 38930. Facility: A delicious Southern breakfast, contemporary rooms and access to celebrity talent at the Viking Cooking School are just a few of the draws of this Delta treasure. Some quest rooms feature fireplaces. 50 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet and street only. Amenities: safes. Dining: Giardina's Restaurant, see separate listing. Activities: exercise room, spa. Guest **Services:** valet laundry, area transportation.

























BOOK NOW

662/453-6565

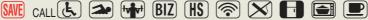




AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 2008 Hwy 82 W 38930. Facility: 65 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW 662/455-7985



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1815 Hwy 82 W 38930.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES

BOOK NOW

662/455-1885

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

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Hotel. Address: 401 Clements St 38930.



SURESTAY PLUS HOTEL BY BEST WESTERN GREENWOOD

BOOK NOW

662/455-5777

Hotel. Address: 635 Hwy 82 W 38930.

WHERE TO EAT



GIARDINA'S RESTAURANT 662/455-4227



Regional Italian Fine Dining. Address: 314 Howard St 38930.



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

GRENADA

• Hotels p. 179

Grenada was formed when two rival towns, Pittsburgh and Tullahoma, were united in a symbolic wedding ceremony on July 4, 1836. The union was prompted by the wedding of a Tullahoma bride and a Pittsburgh groom.

Grenada Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Commission: 95 S.W. Frontage Rd., P.O. Box 628, Grenada, MS 38902. Phone: (662) 226-2571 or (800) 373-2571.

Self-guiding tours: Brochures detailing driving and walking tours are available from the chamber of commerce and tourism commission.

GRENADA LAKE VISITOR CENTER is off I-55 exit 206, then 4 mi. e. on SR 8 to 2151 Scenic Loop 333 at the

beginning of Grenada Lake Dam. The center provides information about Grenada Lake (see Recreation Areas Chart) and the dam. An 18-minute, multimedia presentation tells about its construction. Exhibits focus on the region's Native American, Civil War and natural history.

The nearby Lost Bluff Hiking Trail leads hikers through 2.2 miles of hardwood forests with steep hills and valleys and the remains of a Civil War redoubt. The trail is for the physically fit and is in an area where harvesting of the hardwoods is not allowed. There are four walking trails near the dam including a 1-mile fitness trail.

There's a scenic view of the lake from a balcony, and fishing, boating and other water-related recreational activities can be enjoyed.

Allow 30 minutes minimum for the visitor center. Phone: (662) 226-1679.

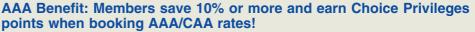


COMFORT INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 662/227-8444









Hotel. Address: 255 SW Frontage Rd 38901. Facility: 80 units, some kitchens. 3 stories, interior corridors. **Pool:** heated indoor. **Activities:** exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



















ECONO LODGE

BOOK NOW

662/226-1683



Hotel. Address: 1552 Sunset Dr 38901.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW 662/226-1886



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1545 Jameson Dr 38901.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BOOK NOW

662/229-9595

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 1540 Sunset Dr 38901.

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

Stretching 160 miles from Fort Walton Beach, Fla., to Gulfport, Gulf Islands National Seashore covers 137,991 acres, more than 80 percent of which are underwater. The Mississippi section comprises five barrier islands—East Ship, West Ship, Horn, Cat and Petit Bois—that extend from Gulfport to Pascagoula, as well as the Davis Bayou Area, on the mainland near Ocean Springs.

The long, narrow islands, which lie about 10 miles offshore, are moving slowly but inexorably westward each year as the forces of wind and waves that created them transfer sand from eastern tips to western ends. Dunes dotted with sea oats, salt grass and pennywort line their shores, and there are extensive marsh areas with lagoons. Inland vegetation includes bush goldenrod, live oak, palmetto, prickly pear and slash pine.

The islands are designated wilderness areas; the resident wildlife includes snakes, alligators, raccoons and rabbits. Terns, herons and egrets are among the more than 300 species of birds that have been documented. Horn, Petit Bois, Cat and East Ship islands are open to wilderness camping and are accessible by private or licensed charter boat.

The Davis Bayou Area is entered off US 90 east of Ocean Springs. It contains the Mississippi District Seashore headquarters, the William M. Colmer Visitor Center and such recreational facilities as a boat launch, a fishing pier, a nature trail, boardwalks and the 51-site Davis Bayou Campground. Seasonal ranger programs take place on weekends. The visitor center is open daily 8:30-4:30. Closed Jan. 1 and Christmas. Phone (228) 875-9057. The chamber of commerce in Ocean Springs can provide information about guided kayaking tours; phone (228) 875-4424.

For further information, contact the Superintendent, Gulf Islands National Seashore, 3500 Park Rd., Ocean Springs, MS 39564; phone (228) 875-9057. See Recreation Areas Chart.

SHIP ISLAND is accessible from Gulfport via Ship Island Excursions ferries. The island was a staging ground for the British during the War of 1812 and for Union troops in 1862 prior to Adm. David Farragut's successful expedition against New Orleans. Fort Massachusetts dates from 1859; it is one of many 19th-century coastal defense forts. A ranger station, covered picnic pavilions, a visitor center, a boardwalk and a pier are on West Ship Island.

Note: Trees are few and far between and there is limited shade; bring sunblock and a hat. The beach and boardwalk can become quite hot during the summer, so adequate footwear is recommended. Beach chair and

umbrella rentals are available. Facilities on the island include restrooms and showers.

Time: Allow 6 hours, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (228) 864-1014, or (866) 466-7386 for ferry information. T

GULFPORT

• Hotels p. 181

Gulfport has been rebuilding and redefining itself ever since the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Many buildings in the historic downtown area have been restored to their original appearance. Repairs and upgrades brought traffic back to the port, and a planned expansion includes widening and deepening the channel to double its size.

Seven miles of beaches between Pass Christian and Biloxi offer unobstructed views of the sparkling Gulf of Mexico, and ample parking bays along Beach Boulevard provide plenty of opportunities to pull over and enjoy sand, surf and rentals of everything from water tricycles to jet skis. In early July the Mississippi Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo transforms the harbor into a sea of trophy-seeking sport-fishing enthusiasts. This 4-day competition for bragging rights and prizes draws anglers to Gulfport like sharks to chum.

Ship Island Excursions ferries passengers to historic Ship Island, one of several offshore barrier islands within Gulf Islands National Seashore, for swimming, shelling, body surfing or just soaking up some sun. National Park Service rangers give tours of Fort Massachusetts, a pre-Civil War fortification on the island.

Shopping: Gulfport Premium Outlets, 10000 Factory Shops Blvd., offers nearly 70 outlet stores open Mon.-Sat. 10-9, Sun. 11-6.

LYNN MEADOWS DISCOVERY CENTER is 3.4 mi. e. on US 90 (Beach Blvd./Beach Dr.) from jct. US 49, then .1 mi. n. to 246 Dolan Ave. Housed in a renovated 1915 elementary school, this museum educates youngsters via a number of diverse interactive settings. Kids can sort through seafood and vegetables at a grocery store; operate a crane at The Port; check in at the Dolan Avenue Depot and role play in a train dining car; predict and test hypotheses when they turn knobs to change airflow which makes scarves fly through the Amazing Airways tubes; and learn about construction basics at Kid's Street, a mini cul-de-sac with four scaled-down houses.

Highlights of the 7.5-acre, oak-shaded grounds include Bear Creek's cabin and wooden train; the Tree House Village, which offers structures that can be climbed by visitors of any age; and On the Green offering outdoor fun with a beautiful view overlooking the Gulf of Mexico. A variety of special events, theater presentations and workshops are offered throughout the year. Phone: (228) 897-6039.

MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM is at 2100 E Beach Blvd. The 5.8-acre campus provides a alimbse into Blvd. The 5.8-acre campus provides a glimpse into the waters of the brown, blue, and beyond with over 200 species of animals. With both indoor and outdoor habitats, the aguarium offers everything from sharks and rays in a touch pool to the oceanic joys of the Aquatic Wonders exhibit. Phone: (228) 241-1300.

is at 2100 E Beach Blvd. The 5.8-acre campus provides a glimpse into the waters of the brown, blue, and beyond with over 200 species of animals. With both indoor and outdoor habitats, the aquarium offers everything from sharks and rays in a touch pool to the oceanic joys of the Aquatic Wonders exhibit. Phone: (228) 241-1300. GT (II) GT (II)

SHIP ISLAND—see Gulf Islands National Seashore p. 180.





Hotel. Address: 9475 Hwy 49 39503. Facility: 178 units. 2 stories, exterior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: hot tub, exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

































AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 9121 Hwy 49 39503. Facility: 87 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



















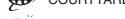












COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT GULFPORT BEACHFRONT BOOK NOW



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 1600 E Beach Blvd 39501.

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 15580 Daniel Blvd 39503.

THREE DIAMOND

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HILTON GARDEN INN GULFPORT AIRPORT **BOOK NOW** 228/863-4996 AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking

SAVE Hotel. Address: 14108 Airport Rd 39503.

HOLIDAY INN GULFPORT/AIRPORT **BOOK NOW** 228/679-1700

AAA/CAA rates!

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Hotel. Address: 9515 Hwy 49 39503.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON GULFPORT I-10 BOOK NOW 228/357-9684

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Extended Stay Contemporary Hotel. Address: 15600 Daniel Blvd 39503.

QUALITY INN GULFPORT **BOOK NOW** 228/868-3300

APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Motel. Address: 9445 Hwy 49 39503.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT GULFPORT-BILOXI AIRPORT **BOOK NOW**

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 14100 Airport Rd 39503.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT GULFPORT I-10 BOOK NOW

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 15610 Daniel Blvd 39503.

HATTIESBURG

Hotels p. 183

Capt. William H. Hardy, a pioneer lumberman and engineer, founded Hattiesburg in 1882, naming the town after his wife. Architecturally well preserved, Hattiesburg has a historic, art-centric downtown and is also home to the University of Southern Mississippi and William Carey University.

Hiking, biking and inline skating can be enjoyed along the Longleaf Trace Trail, accessible via Fourth Street near the USM campus. The 41-mile trail constructed along a former railroad right-of-way stretches from Hattiesburg to Prentiss. A 26-mile path paralleling the main paved trail between the towns of Carson and Epley is used by horseback riders.

Visit Hattiesburg—Hattiesburg Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1 Convention Center Plaza, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. **Phone:** (601) 296-7475 or (800) 638-6877.

Self-guiding tours: The Freedom Summer Trail selfguiding driving tour highlights 15 Hattiesburg sites related to the Civil Rights Movement and the Freedom Summer of 1964, a campaign aimed at registering African American voters in Mississippi. Contact the convention and visitors bureau to obtain brochures describing the Freedom Summer Trail as well as other driving and walking tours.

AFRICAN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM is at 305 E. 6th St. The museum, located inside one of America's only remaining African American United Service Organizations (USO) Clubs, contains hundreds of artifacts, displays and photographs documenting 150 years of African American military history. Highlights in the landmark building begin with the Buffalo Soldiers of the post-Civil War era and travel through such modern-day conflicts as Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 450-1942. (GT)

MISSISSIPPI ARMED FORCES MUSEUM is off US 49, 4.2 mi. s. of jct. US 98, then 1.5 mi. e. on US 49, 4.2 mi. s. of jct. US 98, then 1.5 mi. e. on South Gate Rd. to Bldg. 850. Exhibits chronicle America's participation in major wars and other historically significant conflicts. Located at Camp Shelby, one of the largest National Guard training sites in the country, the museum features more than 17,000 pieces of military memorabilia. including uniforms, vehicles and weapons. Interactive exhibits in themed galleries focus on advances in technology and weaponry, solider training at Camp Shelby and the U.S. military's role in such operations as disaster relief and the war on terrorism.

The Trench Experience employs effects and lighting to acquaint visitors with the sights, smells and sounds of trench warfare, which took place primarily during World War I. The World War II gallery charts the evolution of Camp Shelby, founded in 1917, and the development of the nuclear weapon.

The site's archives and library contain some 6,500 materials imparting U.S. military history, including documents about World War II German prisoner-of-war camps in Mississippi.

A display on the museum courtyard's tower highlights Mississippians who have been awarded the Medal of Honor and an indoor exhibit presents the names of state natives who have received the Purple Heart.

Note: All adult visitors may be asked to show a photo ID in order to gain admittance to Camp Shelby. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 558-2757.

BEST WESTERN PREMIER UNIVERSITY INN BOOK NOW 601/909-6658



Hotel. Address: 132 Plaza Dr 39402. Facility: 75 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes, Pool: outdoor, Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: coin laundry. CALL (L) (A) (BIZ) (R) (X) (D) (D)





















CANDLEWOOD SUITES BOOK NOW 601/264-9666



Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 9 Gateway Dr 39402.



COMFORT SUITES BOOK NOW 601/261-5555





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 122 Plaza Dr 39402. Facility: 68 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.























COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HATTIESBURG BOOK NOW

601/268-3050



COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 119 Grand Dr 39401. Location: Near The Grand 18 Theatre. Facility: 84 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Parking: winter plug-ins. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.

























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT HATTIESBURG **BOOK NOW** 601/296-7777



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 173 Thornhill Dr 39401.



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON HATTIESBURG **BOOK NOW** 601/268-0606



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 120 Plaza Dr 39402.



⁷ HOLIDAY INN HATTIESBURG-NORTH

BOOK NOW

601/990-9340



Hotel. Address: 6553 US Hwv 49 39401.



HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON HATTIESBURG BOOK NOW 601/261-3800



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 116 Plaza Dr 39402.



HOTEL INDIGO HATTIESBURG BOOK NOW 601/264-7709



Hotel. Address: 103 S 30th Ave 39401.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES HATTIESBURG - I-59

BOOK NOW

769/223-6000

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 109 Lundy Ln 39402.



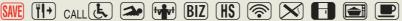
RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT HATTIESBURG BOOK NOW 601/264-9202



Residence INI. AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 116 Grand Dr 39401. Location: Near The Grand 18 Theatre. Facility: 84 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



























▲ For getaways off the beaten path, visit AAA.com/campgrounds or AAA.com/maps for thousands of places to camp.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT HATTIESBURG BOOK NOW 601/582-2030



THREE DIAMOND **INSPECTED @ CLEAN**

SUITES"-MARRIOTT

TOWNEPLACE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

> Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 235 Thornhill Dr 39402. Facility: 94 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 3 stories, interior

corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest

Services: coin laundry.





















HERNANDO

Hotels p. 186



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BOOK NOW

662/449-7737



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2675 McIngvale Rd 38632.

HOLLY SPRINGS

Holly Springs was established during the great antebellum cotton boom. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant set up a supply depot here in 1862 before moving his Union forces to Vicksburg. The town was recaptured by Confederate General Earl Van Dorn, who took about 1,500 Union prisoners and destroyed Grant's supplies; by war's end it had endured a total of 62 Union raids.

Holly Springs is the birthplace of artist Kate Freeman Clark, who showed enough talent at 16 to be sent to the New York School of Art. Clark signed her works "Freeman Clark" so no one would know they were painted by a woman. She returned to Holly Springs in 1923 after her mother died, leaving more than 1,200 paintings in storage in New York. After Clark's death in 1957, the Kate Freeman Clark Art Gallery was built to house her works.

During the 3-day Holly Springs Pilgrimage in mid-April, the Kate Freeman Clark Art Gallery, Ida B. Wells-Barnett Museum and Marshall County Historical Museum are all open for free tours. Several churches and Hillcrest Cemetery, where Clark and more than a dozen Confederate generals are interred, can also be toured. Also open to the public during the pilgrimage are several historic

19th-century houses. Other activities include carriage rides and arts and crafts exhibits.

Same-day cemetery and home tour tickets can be purchased at the Marshall County Library, 109 E. Gholson Ave.; phone (662) 252-2515 or (888) 687-4765 for tour schedules and additional information. To purchase tour tickets in advance, phone (662) 252-2365.

In mid-September, the Hummingbird Migration Celebration at the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center (see attraction listing) celebrates the life and annual migration from Canada of the ruby-throated hummingbird; thousands of hummingbirds stop for nourishment at the center's feeders and flower gardens before continuing on to Central America for the winter. Visitors can observe hummingbirds as they are caught, banded and then released for tracking purposes. Garden tours, wagon rides, nature walks and wildlife demonstrations are among the activities offered.

Holly Springs Tourism and Recreation Bureau: 148 E. College Ave., Holly Springs, MS 38635. Phone: (662) 252-2515 or (888) 687-4765.

Self-guiding tours: The Holly Springs Historic Square district encompasses nearly 100 19th-century buildings.



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

including many historic houses. For free walking and driving tour maps contact the tourism and recreation bureau or the Holly Springs Chamber of Commerce, 148 E. College Ave.

MARSHALL COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM is at 220 E. College Ave. The museum houses exhibits about Marshall County history, Civil War artifacts from the Union raids on Holly Springs, a military uniform collection, a recreated doctor's office, women's clothing from the 1840s, antique furniture, a taxidermy exhibit and displays of tools and machinery. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (662) 252-3669.

STRAWBERRY PLAINS AUDUBON CENTER is 3.2 mi. n. on SR 311 from jct. SR 178/SR 7, then .3 mi. n.e. to 285 Plains Rd. It features more than 2,500 acres of natural and preserved environment comprising creeks, fields, gardens and 14 miles of nature trails. Visitors can tour the Davis House, a restored antebellum mansion inhabited while Strawberry Plains served as a cotton farm from the 1830s through the 1950s. Educational programs and hikes allow visitors to learn about the site's ecology, birds and wildlife.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (662) 252-1155. -

HOLLY SPRINGS NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 400 ft. to 600 ft.

In north-central Mississippi extending to the Tennessee border, Holly Springs National Forest covers 154,654 acres. The Puskus Lake Hiking Trail is an environmental learning trail with interpretive signs.

Chewalla Lake Hiking Trail offers nearly 4.5 miles of primitive and fairly difficult hiking. The trail takes a southern route from the recreation area and circles the lake to a point on the northeast side, where it terminates at Johnston Mill Pond. Camping, bass fishing (state license required) and picnic areas are available at 260acre Chewalla Lake. Within the forest are more than 40 man-made lakes.

For further information contact the Forest Supervisor, Holly Springs National Forest, 1000 Front St., Oxford, MS 38655; phone (662) 236-6550. See Recreation Areas Chart.

HOMOCHITTO NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 175 ft. on the Homochitto River to 460 ft. on the ridges at the northern edge of the forest.

Homochitto National Forest covers 188,994 acres in Mississippi's southwestern corner, lying mostly within the Homochitto River watershed. Twenty-five miles of hiking trails meander through the Clear Springs recreational area. Other popular activities are camping, boating, swimming and hunting.

For further information contact the Forest Supervisor, Homochitto National Forest, 1200 US 84E, Meadville, MS 39653; phone (601) 384-5876. See Recreation Areas Chart.

HORN LAKE

Hotels p. 187

BEST WESTERN PLUS GOODMAN INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 662/510-6999

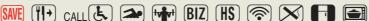


THREE DIAMOND

Hotel. Address: 6910 Windchase Dr 38637. Facility: 70 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

























COMFORT INN

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662/349-3493





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Hotel. **Address:** 801 Desoto Cove 38637. **Facility:** 49 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. **Amenities:** *Some:* safes. **Pool:** outdoor. **Activities:** exercise room. **Guest Services:** coin laundry.























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Hotel. Address: 7150 Sutton Pl 38637.



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662/349-6622



Hotel. Address: 735 Goodman Rd W 38637.



LA QUINTA INN & SUITES HORN LAKE SOUTHAVEN

BOOK NOW

662/510-6500



Hotel. Address: 721 Southwest Dr 38637.

INDIANOLA

• Hotels p. 188

B.B. KING MUSEUM AND DELTA INTERPRETIVE CENTER is .3 mi. n. on B.B. King Rd., then .2 mi. w. to 400 Second St. It pays homage to legendary bluesman and songwriter B.B. King, born in 1925 in nearby Berclair, and to the Delta blues culture and music he and other contemporaries were instrumental in creating. The museum stands at the site of the renovated 1910 brick cotton gin where King once worked. Interactive exhibits detail his childhood and early career performing in Memphis and on the so-called "Chitlin' Circuit," a string

of African American nightclubs throughout the southeastern United States.

After an introductory film, exhibition galleries are visited in chronological order, beginning with the 1930s. On display is King's celebrated guitar, Lucille, which played a pivotal role in the creation of such classics as "The Thrill Is Gone." You can learn how to "play like B.B." via the interactive Guitar Studio with King serving as the guide. Also featured are vintage vinyl records; original recording contracts signed by musicians; King memorabilia and his home recording studio; photographs including another king, Elvis Presley; and live performance footage of greats like bandleader/songwriter Cab Calloway.

Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (662) 887-9539.



SUPER 8

BOOK NOW

662/887-7477

APPROVED

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Hotel. Address: 601 Hwy 82 W 38751.

JACKSON Hotels p. 190

Jackson, the state capital and Mississippi's largest city, was once a trading post called LeFleur's Bluff. Many Virginians and Carolinians passed through the area as they followed the Old Natchez Trace toward the American Southwest. Named in honor of Andrew Jackson, the city earned the rueful nickname Chimneyville when Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman burned it in July 1863. The Confederate trenches can still be seen in Battlefield Park.

On Capitol Street overlooking the downtown business district is the 1841 Greek Revival Governor's Mansion. Free guided tours are given Tues.-Fri. at 9:30, 10, 10:30 and 11. The mansion may be closed for state events; phone (601) 359-6421 to confirm accessibility.

Several esteemed American writers have ties to Jackson. Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Eudora Welty was a lifelong resident; her home is open to the public (see attraction listing). Willie Morris, author of "My Dog Skip," was born here in 1934, and African American writer Richard Wright attended classes in the mid-1920s at the Smith Robertson School, now a city museum and cultural

A more recent local success was the best-selling novel "The Help." Author Kathryn Stockett was born and raised in Jackson, the story was set in Jackson and the hit 2011 film was filmed both here and in Greenwood.

Adjoining museums opened in 2017 in honor of the state's Bicentennial: The Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History.

Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau: 111 E. Capitol St., Suite 102, P.O. Box 1450, Jackson, MS 39201/39215. **Phone:** (601) 960-1891 or (800) 354-7695.

Self-guiding tours: Brochures describing tours of Jackson's historic neighborhoods and key sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement are available at the convention and visitors bureau.

Shopping: Dillard's, JCPenney and more than 100 specialty stores are at Northpark Mall, 1200 E. County Line Rd. Highland Village, 4500 I-55N, exit 100, features more than 40 specialty shops and eateries.

EUDORA WELTY HOUSE AND GARDEN is at 1119 Pinehurst St. The celebrated author lived in this two-story, Tudor Revival-style house from the time it was built in 1925 until her death in 2001. Welty left her home and extensive library in addition to correspondence, manuscripts and photographs to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Visitors also will see many furnishings donated by her family including artwork, gifts from friends,

mementos Welty collected during her extensive travels. and the desk at which she wrote many of her internationally acclaimed essays, novels and short stories as well as her memoir. The house is open for guided tours only.

Outside, Welty's garden looks much as it did when she and her mother tended it in during the 1920s, '30s and '40s. Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 353-7762.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF MUSLIM CULTURES is in the Mississippi Arts Center at 201 E. Pascagoula St. Artifacts, historical documents and other exhibits educate visitors about the Islamic culture. Guided tours are available by appointment. **Phone:** (601) 960-0440.

MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY MUSEUM/NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AVIA-TION MUSEUM is .2 mi. e. of I-55 exit 98B, following signs, at 1150 Lakeland Dr./SR 15 (next to Smith-Wills Stadium). Four exhibit areas at this 39-acre complex trace technological and economic events that changed American life. They span three eras of transportation and tell the story of Mississippi's farmers and lumbermen through such items as presses, experimental cotton pickers, log wagons, steel-wheeled tractors and 19thcentury cotton gins. The National Agricultural Aviation Museum and Hall of Fame displays crop-dusting aircraft and equipment.

The main house, smokehouse, chicken house and 11 other buildings comprising the Fortenberry-Parkman Farm illustrate 1920s farm life. A crossroads town with a general store, filling station, doctor's office, sawmill, church and school is representative of that decade. There also are three model railroad displays. Native trees and plants are identified along a wooded nature walk.

Note: A fire at the site damaged the children's barnyard, veterinary infirmary and maintenance shop, but those areas are under repair. The rest of the museum is operational. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (601) 432-4500.

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART is at 380 S. Lamar St. Established more than a century ago, this museum's permanent collection comprises more than 5,000 works of art, making it one of the state's largest. Highlights include African American folk art, photographs and works by Mississippi natives Walter Anderson, William Hollingsworth, Marie Hull, Eudora Welty and Karl Wolfe. Traveling exhibitions are presented regularly. The Art Garden is a 1.2acre green space featuring outdoor installations.

Food is available Tues.-Fri. 11-2. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. **Phone:** (601) 960-1515 or (866) 843-9278. GT (II)

MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE is at 2148 Riverside Dr. in LeFleur's Bluff State Park. The museum contains ecological exhibits, mounted wildlife specimens and a technical library. Graphic and interactive displays offer detailed views of the environment. Exhibits focus on plants, animals, fossils, insects, natural habitats, and extinct and endangered species native to Mississippi. A 100,000-gallon, 20-aquarium system contains 200 species of native fish, reptiles and amphibians. Alligators and turtles live in "The Swamp," a greenhouse with a garden and aquarium.

Audiovisual programs about nature are presented in a large theater; 2.5 miles of interpretive trails are on the 300-acre grounds. Hands-on educational programs are offered. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 576-6000.

MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM is at 1152 Lakeland Dr., .3 mi. e. of I-55 exit 98B and next to Smith-Wills Stadium. It features artifacts and interactive displays honoring prominent Mississippi sports personalities. Archival footage, exhibits and interviews pay tribute to such athletes as major league baseball pitcher and Wiggins native Jerome Hanna "Dizzy" Dean, who won 30 games in 1934 and another 28 in 1935, and 2003 inductee Jackie Slater, the Jackson native whose entire 20-year career in the NFL was spent with the Rams organization.

A section dedicated entirely to Dean features his 1934 World Series championship ring, personal items donated by his family, newsreel clips and one of his uniforms. The self-guided tour begins with a theater presentation highlighting the obstacles several athletes overcame on their way to success. Displays in the Olympic Room document the achievements and medal wins of state Olympians, while the Lightspace Playfloor offers interactive games for all ages. In the Hall of Fame Stadium visitors can try their hand at football, basketball, baseball and more.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 982-8264 or (800) 280-3263.

THE OAKS HOUSE MUSEUM is at 823 N. Jefferson St. The Greek Revival-style cottage, also known as Boyd House, was built around 1853 for a middle-class family and is one of the few buildings that survived the burning of Jackson during the Civil War. Three generations of the

Boyd family—including James Hervey Boyd, a four-term Jackson mayor—lived in the house over the course of more than a century.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 353-9339. \boxed{GT}

OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM is off I-55 exit 96A, .6 mi. w. on High St., then .4 mi. s. to 100 S. State St. The 1839, Greek Revival-style capitol building, which served as the seat of Mississippi government until 1903, features a 94-foot-high domed rotunda and contains the governor's office and state House and Senate chambers.

Displays focus on regional history, state constitutions and the building's functions and architectural history. The Hall of Fame recognizes achievements and contributions of noteworthy Mississippians. Multimedia exhibits and presentations allow visitors to listen in on speeches given by members of the state legislature. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 576-6920.

RUSSELL C. DAVIS PLANETARIUM/RONALD MCNAIR SPACE THEATER is at 201 E. Pascagoula St. The complex offers programs that examine aspects of astronomy, science, travel and the arts. Digital sky shows are shown on a 60-foot-wide dome screen in the McNair Space Theater.

Note: The complex is closed for renovations until further notice; phone ahead for updates. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 960-1550 or (601) 960-1552.

SMITH ROBERTSON MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER is at 528 Bloom St. Housed in Jackson's first public school building for African Americans, the museum features historical and cultural exhibits. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 960-1457.

STATE CAPITOL is on the grounds bordered by High, Mississippi, President and West sts. This dignified Beaux Arts-style structure, built 1901-03, houses the executive and legislative branches of state government. The Hall of Governors is lined with portraits. Visitors can view public areas on their own or take a guided tour. The Mississippi State Legislature meets each year for a 90-day session, beginning the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January, except during the first year of the new term, when it meets for 125 days. The Capitol is open on holidays during session. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (601) 359-3114.





Hotel. Address: 5709 I-55 North 39206.



FAIRVIEW INN BOOK NOW 601/948-3429



Historic Bed & Breakfast, Address: 734 Fairview St 39202.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON JACKSON

DOWNTOWN-COLISEUM BOOK NOW 601/352-1700



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 320 Greymont Ave 39202.



HILTON GARDEN INN JACKSON DOWNTOWN BOOK NOW 601/353-5464



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SAVE Historic Hotel. Address: 235 W Capitol St 39201.



HILTON JACKSON BOOK NOW

601/957-2800





AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 1001 E County Line Rd 39211. Facility: 276 units. 14 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room.























HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES-JACKSON

DOWNTOWN-COLISEUM BOOK NOW 601/948-4466



Hotel. Address: 310 Greymont Ave 39202.



OLD CAPITOL INN BOOK NOW 601/359-9000



Boutique Hotel. Address: 226 N State St 39201.

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT JACKSON THE DISTRICT AT

BOOK NOW 601/362-8003



Residence INI. AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Contemporary Hotel. Address: 1248 Eastover Dr 39211. Facility: 95 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.



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AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Contemporary Hotel. Address: 407 S Congress St 39201. Facility: Enjoy the convenience of being within walking distance of performance venues, museums and government agencies. Relax on the comfortable chaise lounge chairs offered in rooms with king beds. 203 units. 10 stories, interior corridors. Parking: valet and street only. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: sauna, hot tub, steamroom, exercise room, spa. Guest Services: valet laundry.

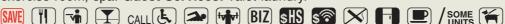
































LAUREL

• Hotels p. 193

Established as a lumber camp on the Southern Railroad, Laurel began to prosper in the 1890s with the arrival of lumber companies from Iowa. These companies encouraged employees to build houses and churches and to remain when timber production ended. This oil field supply center also is headquarters for the Masonite Corp.

Jones County Chamber of Commerce: 153 Base Dr., P.O. Box 527, Laurel, MS 39441. Phone: (601) 428-0574 or (800) 392-9629.

LANDRUM'S HOMESTEAD & VILLAGE is at 1356 Hwy. 15 South. This re-created 19th-century village features more than 85 buildings, including a chapel, waterwheel, gristmill, blacksmith shop, schoolhouse and log cabin. The village stands on 30 landscaped acres with pecan trees and a stream, and visitors can pan for gems or test their aim at a laser shooting gallery. There also is a forestry exhibit about the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Special events are offered throughout the year. Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 649-2546. ----

LAUREN ROGERS MUSEUM OF ART is at 565 N. Fifth Ave. (at Seventh St.). Exhibits emphasizing 18th- and 19th-century European art and American art from the 19th century to the present include works by Mary Cassatt, Winslow Homer, Elizabeth Catlett and Fairfield Porter. The museum also has a display of British Georgian silver, baskets from Native American cultures, and 18th- and 19th-century Japanese Ukiyo-e woodblock prints. Traveling exhibits and an art history library complement the permanent collections.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 649-6374.





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THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1509 Jefferson St 39440.

BOOK NOW HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES 601/425-1804

Hotel. Address: 2008 Jefferson St 39440.

LONG BEACH

Hotels p. 193

THE INN AT LONG BEACH BOOK NOW 228/864-5440

Hotel. Address: 300 W Beach Blvd 39560.

MADISON

Hotels p. 193

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT JACKSON MADISON BOOK NOW 601/605-8810



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED 🔗 CLEAN COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 601 Baptist Dr 39110. Facility: 125 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor, Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: valet and coin laundry. boarding pass kiosk.







AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 320 New Mannsdale Rd 39110.

MAGEE

Hotels p. 194



BEST WESTERN PLUS MAGEE INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 601/867-3535



Hotel. Address: 401 8th Ave SW 39111. Facility: 54 units, some two bedrooms. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.























HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

BOOK NOW 601/849-6977

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 1591 Simpson Hwy 49 39111.

MCCOMB

Hotels p. 194



HAMPTON INN & SUITES MCCOMB BOOK NOW 601/249-4116



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 109 Manisha Dr 39648.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS BOOK NOW 601/684-5200



Hotel. Address: 105 Holiday Ln 39648.

MERIDIAN

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In the early 1830s a wealthy plantation owner began offering free land to settlers he thought would make good neighbors. Plans were made to have the state's two major railroads intersect on the plantation, which was subsequently sold to two railroad developers. A town was incorporated in 1860 by the developers and named Meridian, which they thought meant "junction."

A division headquarters for the Confederate Army during the Civil War, Meridian was leveled in 1864 when approximately 10,000 Union troops blazed through. Manufacturing, trade, timber and cattle industries were later established, despite such setbacks as a yellow fever epidemic in 1878 and a hurricane in 1906.

The MSU Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts, 2200 5th St., features the Grand Opera House of Mississippi, a 1,000-seat theater built in 1890. The ornate



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

venue closed in 1927 and remained closed for decades, its lavish interior woodwork, wall coverings and fixtures left intact for later restoration. The beautifully renovated facility is operated by Mississippi State University and presents a varied schedule of music and dance performances; phone (601) 696-2200 for the box office.

The Hamasa Shrine Temple Theater, 2320 8th St., is a Moorish Revival-style building designed by architect Emile Weil in the mid-1920s. Adding additional visual appeal in Meridian's historic downtown area are more than 100 colorful carousel horses created by local and regional artists.

Jimmie Rodgers, also known as "The Singing Brakeman," was born in Meridian on Sept. 8, 1897. Held in May, the Jimmie Rodgers Memorial Festival honors the passing of the "Father of Country Music." Rodgers is buried in Oak Grove Cemetery on Oak Grove Drive. Rose Hill Cemetery on 40th Avenue is the burial place of Emil and Kelly Mitchell, early 20th-century King and Queen of the Gypsies in the United States.

Meridian/Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau: 212 Constitution Ave., Meridian, MS 39302. Phone: (601) 482-8001 or (888) 868-7720.

Shopping: Uptown Meridian on Bonita Lakes Circle has 80 stores, including Belk and Dillard's.

JIMMIE RODGERS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM is off I-20 exit 153, then 2 mi. n.w. following signs to 1725

Jimmie Rodgers Dr. in Highland Park. Exhibits include this hometown legend's guitar, personal items, home furnishings, concert costumes, sheet music and correspondence. Railroad equipment used by Rodgers also is displayed. Videos feature live performance footage and interviews with individuals Rodgers influenced. A quilt autographed by 191 country music stars also is displayed.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 485-1808, or (601) 482-8001 (Meridian/Lauderdale County Tourism Bureau).

MERIDIAN MUSEUM OF ART is at 628 25th Ave. at 7th St. Five galleries of rotating exhibits and collections include 18th- and 19th-century English portraits, 20th-century and contemporary American photographs, sculptures and decorative artworks. Educational programs are offered. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 693-1501.

MERREHOPE AND F.W. WILLIAMS HOUSES are at 905 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Dr. The original 1858 Merrehope mansion, the back section of the present building, was one of six buildings left standing after Sherman's troops destroyed Meridian in 1864. Expanded in 1868, the 20-room Greek Revival house has a front door framed by etched ruby glass. The Queen Anne-style Williams House features leaded, beveled stained-glass windows and gingerbread trim. Both houses are furnished in period.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 483-8439.

DRURY INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 601/483-5570

THREE DIAMOND
INSPECTED & CLEAN**

Hotel. Address: 112 Hwy 11 & 80 N 39301.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT MERIDIAN BOOK NOW 601/453-3851



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 148 Hwy 11 & 80 39301.

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON MERIDIAN, MS BOOK NOW 601/483-3000



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 103 US Hwy 11 & 80 39301.

HILTON GARDEN INN MERIDIAN BOOK NOW 601/485-3506



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BOOK NOW 601/207-8700

SAVE Hotel. Address: 109 US Hwy 11 & 80 39301.

THE THREEFOOT HOTEL MERIDIAN, A TRIBUTE PORTFOLIO HOTEL THREE DIAMOND

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 601 22nd Ave 39301.

TRU BY HILTON MERIDIAN, MS BOOK NOW 601/531-4100



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 519 Azalea Dr 39301.

MOSS POINT

Hotels p. 196







Hotel. Address: 4830 Amoco Dr 39563. Facility: 78 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor.





BOOK NOW 228/246-0777 HAMPTON INN BY HILTON-MOSS POINT



INSPECTED @ CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 6730 Hwy 63 N 39563.



Hotel. Address: 4800 Amoco Dr 39563. THREE DIAMOND

NATCHEZ

Hotels p. 199

French colonizer Jean Baptiste le Moyne established Fort Rosalie in 1716 at the site of present-day Natchez (NATCH-ez). The town's heyday came in the 19th century, when cotton growing was a leading industry and Natchez was an important river port. Fortunes were made, and vast plantations with magnificent houses reflected the prosperity of the period. Many of these houses are open to the public during the spring and autumn Natchez Pilgrimage.

After the Civil War Natchez languished until the discovery of oil and the coming of industry. Approximately 500 antebellum houses and other buildings from the golden era survived; most are within an area bounded by Broadway, Washington, Union and High streets.

Other points of interest include the 1822 Greek Revival Trinity Episcopal Church, 305 S. Commerce St., which has two stained-glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany. The Federal-style First Presbyterian Church at S. Pearl and State streets was built 1828-29. The Gothic Revival St. Mary's Catholic Church, 107 S. Union St., dates from 1841 and was the first cathedral built in Mississippi. North of the city via US 61 is the Natchez Trace Parkway (see place listing p. 202).

Dunleith, 84 Homochitto St., is an 1856 Greek Revival mansion that contains 19th-century furnishings, French Zuber wallpaper and carpets made by V'soske of Puerto Rico. On the grounds of the 40-acre estate are a carriage house, dairy barn and poultry house. Tours are limited to bed-and-breakfast and restaurant guests; phone (601) 446-8500 or (800) 433-2445.

The area known as Natchez Under-the-Hill, on Silver Street overlooking the Mississippi River, was once a lair for gamblers, thieves and riverboat roughnecks. The settlement was built at the base of a steep slope, and caves were dug into the bluff to hide stolen goods. These hideaways caused landslides in the already erosion-prone area. Although eventually abandoned after a series of natural disasters, some of the original buildings have been restored.

Natchez is noted for its yearly pilgrimages: a chance to tour the homes and enjoy the area's unique culture. Antebellum houses are open for the Spring Pilgrimage, which is held from early March to early April. The Fall Pilgrimage takes place late Sept. through early Oct.

Spring Pilgrimage events include the Historic Natchez Tableaux, a performance given Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and the humorous "Southern Exposure," a satire of the pilgrimage, on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Southern Road to Freedom, a musical history of the African American experience in Natchez, is presented Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights. The American Indian Fair is another Spring Pilgrimage event. A carriage ride is a leisurely way to sightsee.

"The Grass Harp" by Truman Capote and the Voices of Hope Singers are included in the Fall Pilgrimage, which also features craft fairs and regional food and music. Other fall events are the Great Mississippi River Balloon Race and the Angels on the Bluff Cemetery Tour.

Both pilgrimages can be experienced as part of an organized tour program. To tour all of the houses, which can only be visited according to a specific schedule, 4 days are required for the Spring Pilgrimage and 3 days for the Fall Pilgrimage. Natchez Pilgrimage Tours (see attraction listing) provides information and tickets. Transportation for the spring and fall tours also is available at an additional cost. For more details phone (601) 446-6631 or (800) 647-6742.

Natchez Visitors Bureau: 640 S. Canal St., Box C, Natchez, MS 39120. Phone: (601) 446-6345 or (800) 647-6724.

Self-guiding tours: A brochure that outlines a walking tour of historic sites and Antique Row on Franklin and Main streets is available at the visitors bureau.

AUBURN is in Duncan Park at 400 Duncan Ave. This 1812 Federal and Georgian-style redbrick mansion, with white Corinthian columns supporting a portico, was one of the most elaborate houses of its time. A freestanding spiral stairway accentuates the interior, which has undergone careful restoration. The two-story house is furnished with period antiques and reproductions. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (601) 442-5981.

THE HOUSE ON ELLICOTT'S HILL is at 211 N. Canal St. (at Jefferson St.). Built in 1798 on the site where Maj. Andrew Ellicott raised the American flag in defiance of Spain in 1797, the house is furnished in period and includes an attached kitchen. The architectural features of this Western frontier dwelling show a West Indies influence. The house can be visited by guided tour only. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 442-2011 or (601) 443-9065.

LONGWOOD is at 140 Lower Woodville Rd. Reputedly the largest octagonal house in the country, this brick residence—topped by a large, onion-shaped dome—was built in 1858 for Dr. Haller Nutt. Due to a lack of skilled labor, only the basement (where the family lived) was completed; the rest of the interior was never finished. The living guarters are furnished with heirlooms.

198 NATCHEZ, MS

The house can be visited by guided tour only. **Phone:** (601) 442-5193 or (601) 445-6106.

MAGNOLIA HALL is 1 mi. w. on Main St., .2 mi. s.w. on S. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St., .3 mi. n.w. on Washington St., then just n. to 215 S. Pearl St. This two-story Greek Revival mansion, built in 1858 by local merchant and planter Thomas Henderson, was the last to be constructed in Natchez prior to the Civil War. A stately white portico featuring a gallery on each level adorns the exterior entrance. Inside, the first floor is decorated with antiques, and a costume museum and antique doll collection are among the exhibits upstairs.

The house can be visited by guided tour only. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 442-6672 or (601) 443-9065.

MONMOUTH is at 1358 John A. Quitman Blvd. Gen. John Quitman, a Mexican War hero, Mississippi governor and U.S. Congressman, bought this mansion in 1826. The 1818 home stands on 26 landscaped acres and is furnished with period and original Quitman pieces. Now a small luxury hotel with gardens, the house can be visited by guided tour only. **Phone:** (601) 442-5852 or (800) 828-4531. **GT**

NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK is 1 mi. w. of US 61 at 1 Melrose-Montebello Pkwy. Created in 1988, this park is composed of three parts: the 80-acre Melrose Estate, the William Johnson House and the 18th-century, French-built Fort Rosalie archaeological site. **Phone:** (601) 446-5790.

Melrose Estate is at 1 Melrose-Montebello Pkwy, within Natchez National Historical Park. A blend of Greek Revival and Georgian architecture, the house was completed in 1845 and is surrounded by outbuildings, slave quarters and gardens. The house, accessible only by guided tour, contains hand-carved early Victorian furniture, Italian marble fireplaces and two rare, painted English floor cloths.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 446-5790.

The William Johnson House is at 210 State St., within Natchez National Historical Park. The restored 1840s home belonged to William Johnson, a freed slave and prosperous businessman whose 14-volume diary

chronicles 16 years of his life in antebellum Natchez. Johnson himself eventually owned several slaves. The house includes an exhibit gallery and furnished rooms where the Johnson family lived. **Time:** Allow 1 hour minimum. **Phone:** (601) 445-5345.

NATCHEZ PILGRIMAGE TOURS depart from 640 S. Canal St. Tickets are available for pilgrimage tours and individual or combination tours of 10 19th-century antebellum houses: Auburn, The House on Ellicott's Hill, Linden, Longwood, Magnolia Hall, Melrose, Monmouth, Rosalie, Stanton Hall and The Towers. The welcome center is a year-round tour information and planning center for area attractions.

Phone: (601) 446-6631 or (800) 647-6742.

ROSALIE is at 100 Orleans St. This large, brick Federalstyle mansion was built around 1820 near the former site of the French Fort Rosalie. The house served as a local headquarters for the Union Army during the Civil War and contains its original 1850s furniture. Surrounding the mansion are the 4-acre, formal Rosalie Historic Gardens, which back up to a 6-acre meadow overlooking the Mississippi River.

The house can be visited by guided tour only. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (601) 446-5676 or (601) 445-4555. **GT**

STANTON HALL is at 401 High St. (at Pearl St.). Built around 1857 and taking up an entire city block, the house is one of America's largest antebellum mansions. Stanton Hall is furnished with Natchez antiques, art objects and many original pieces owned by the Stanton family. The house can be visited by guided tour only. **Time:** Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (601) 446-6631, (601) 442-6282 or (800) 647-6742.

THE TOWERS, 801 Myrtle Ave., was constructed in 1798 and expanded in 1826 and again in 1858. The home is filled with antique furniture, as well as collections of Moser and Vaseline glass, beaded and mesh purses, watch fobs, and crowns and tiaras. During the winter holiday season, elaborate Christmas decorations featuring vintage 19th- and 20th-century costume jewelry are on display.

Time: Allow 1 hour, 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (601) 446-6890 or (800) 647-6742.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW 601/446-6770



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 627 S Canal St 39120.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES NATCHEZ-SOUTH

BOOK NOW

601/442-4462

Hotel, Address: 639 S Canal St 39120.



LINDEN HISTORIC BED AND BREAKFAST BOOK NOW 769/355-2127

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

Historic Bed & Breakfast. Address: 1 Conner Cir 39120.

MAGNOLIA BLUFFS CASINO HOTEL, BW SIGNATURE

COLLECTION BOOK NOW 601/861-4600



Hotel. Address: 645 S Canal St 39120. Facility: 140 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: Some: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: complimentary laundry.



























MONMOUTH HISTORIC INN & GARDENS BOOK NOW 601/442-5852



Historic Country Inn. Address: 1358 John A Quitman Blvd 39120. Location: Located in a historic residential district. Facility: The sprawling 26-acre property near historic downtown features a grand antebellum mansion with extensive gardens, including herb and rose gardens, and a vine-covered arbor with statues. 29 units, some two bedrooms. 1-2 stories (no elevator), interior/exterior corridors. **Terms:** age restrictions may apply. Activities: fishing, massage.















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202 NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY — OCEAN SPRINGS, MS

NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY

The Natchez Trace Parkway angles southwest to northeast for 444 miles across Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee. The road commemorates the Old Natchez Trace, which began as a Native American footpath leading between the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations. Later this path became a postal road and pioneer trail. Then known variously as Nashville Road, Natchez Road and Chickasaw Road, it was instrumental in linking the lower Mississippi and southern Ohio river valleys. The parkway extends from Natchez to just south of Nashville.

Wayside exhibits, self-quiding nature trails and interpretive signs highlight locations that tell the history of the parkway. Emerald Mound, said to be the second largest ceremonial mound in the country, is 11 miles northeast of Natchez, on a road about a mile off the parkway at Milepost 10.3. The visitor center in Tupelo, at Milepost 266, shows a 15-minute video and has displays about the Natchez Trace. It is open daily, 8-5. Closed Christmas. There are picnic areas at various points along the route.

For further information contact the Supervisor, Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680 Natchez Trace Pkwy., Tupelo, MS 38804; phone (800) 305-7417.

Note: Points of interest along the parkway are listed in Milepost order from south to north. Because it is often difficult to reach rangers at the individual sites, the most helpful phone numbers are the two listed above.

CHICKASAW VILLAGE SITE is n.w. of Tupelo, Miss., between I-22/US 78 and West Main Street at Milepost 261.8. The area was the location of a fortified Chickasaw Indian village. Foundation markers and interpretive panels explain the site. An exhibit shelter and audio station tell the story of the Chickasaw; a nature trail identifies some of the plants they used for food and medicine. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (800) 305-7417.

MOUNT LOCUST is 15 mi. n.e. of Natchez, Miss., at Milepost 15.5. Built in 1779, the inn was a popular stop for travelers on the Natchez Trace in the mid-1800s. It now contains historical exhibits. Rangers give informative talks regarding Mount Locust, the Old Trace and its modern counterpart, the Natchez Trace Parkway. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (800) 305-7417.

NEW ALBANY Hotels p. 202

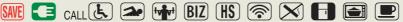


BEST WESTERN NEW ALBANY BOOK NOW 662/598-0123

Hotel. Address: 400 Hwy 30 W 38652. Facility: 61 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





























OCEAN SPRINGS

Hotels p. 203

The first permanent European settlement in the Mississippi Valley was established in the Ocean Springs area in 1699. The community was christened Ocean Springs in 1854 by a physician who established a sanitarium in town; he took advantage of the same purported health-giving spring waters that the Native Americans used for medicinal purposes.

The town's historic churches are worth a look. The wood-shingled, 1892 St. John's Episcopal Church at Porter and Rayburn avenues was designed by American architect Louis Sullivan; it sustained relatively minor damage from Hurricane Katrina.

The Davis Bayou Area of Gulf Islands National Seashore (see place listing p. 180), just east of town off US 90, offers a variety of recreational activities. In addition to the William M. Colmer Visitor Center, Davis Bayou offers



Please refer to pages 8-9 for Inspected Clean details.

a boat launch, fishing pier, nature trail, campground and weekend ranger programs. The visitor center is open daily 8:30-4:30. Closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Phone: (228) 875-9057.

Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce Main Street Tourism Bureau: 1000 Washington Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Phone: (228) 875-4424.

Self-guiding tours: Brochures and walking maps at the chamber of commerce provide information about local shopping and dining and the Live Oaks Bicycle Route.

Shopping: Shearwater Pottery, 102 Shearwater Dr., was established here in 1928 by Peter Anderson and continues as a family enterprise. Eleven of the pottery's 15 buildings were destroyed or damaged beyond repair by Hurricane Katrina, but a smaller-scale production facility reopened at the original location; phone (228) 875-7320.

Many shops and galleries in the historic downtown area feature the works of Ocean Springs artists, artisans and crafters. The Art House, 921 Cash Alley, is a co-op art gallery featuring outdoor sculpture, handmade jewelry and very cool "floor murals," rugs painted directly on the gallery's wooden plank floors; it's worth stopping here just to see them.

And if all that window shopping works up an appetite, stop at the Tato-nut Donut Shop, 1114 Government St., and refuel with a homemade doughnut or pastry and a specialty coffee concoction. This popular spot has been family owned and operated since 1960.

BEST WESTERN CYPRESS CREEK BOOK NOW

228/875-7111

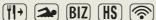


Hotel. Address: 7921 Lamar Poole Rd 39532. Facility: 90 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















INSPECTED @ CLEAN

COMFORT SUITES BILOXI/OCEAN SPRINGS BOOK NOW

228/872-1600





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Hotel. Address: 14001 Big Ridge Rd 39532. Facility: 63 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.

























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON BILOXI/OCEAN SPRINGS BOOK NOW 228/872-6370



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 13921 Big Ridge Rd 39532.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BILOXI-OCEAN SPRINGS, AN IHG

HOTEL

BOOK NOW

228/872-7255

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 7301 Washington Ave 39564.

OLIVE BRANCH

Hotels p. 204

A fast-growing suburb of Memphis, Olive Branch borders the Mississippi-Tennessee state line and offers convenient access to Memphis International Airport. The city's charming Old Towne area near Pigeon Roost and Goodman roads features antique stores and gift shops and hosts a series of festivals and concerts throughout the year.



BEST WESTERN PLUS DESOTO BOOK NOW 662/932-7110



Hotel. Address: 7904 Craft-Goodman Frontage Rd 38654. Facility: 87 units. 4 stories, interior corridors, Pool: heated indoor, Activities: exercise room, Guest Services: coin

















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BEST WESTERN PLUS OLIVE BRANCH HOTEL & SUITES BOOK NOW

662/892-2680



Hotel. Address: 10915 Business Center Dr 38654. Facility: 66 units, some efficiencies. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.































CANDLEWOOD SUITES BOOK NOW 662/890-7491



Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 7448 Craft Goodman Rd 38654.



COMFORT INN & SUITES BOOK NOW

662/932-8437

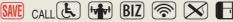




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Hotel. Address: 6860 Goodman Rd 38654. Facility: 56 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





















COMFORT SUITES OLIVE BRANCH WEST BOOK NOW

662/892-4445





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 6921 Parkwood Dr 38654. Facility: 74 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT MEMPHIS OLIVE

BRANCH

BOOK NOW 662/892-4469



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 7044 Hacks Cross Rd 38654.



HILTON GARDEN INN OLIVE BRANCH BOOK NOW

662/932-7100

662/893-8700



THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED & CLEAN AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SWE Hotel. Address: 7890 Craft-Goodman Frontage Rd 38654.



BOOK NOW HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES

Hotel. Address: 8900 Expressway Dr 38654.



MAGNOLIA INN & SUITES BOOK NOW 662/895-4545

APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 6935 S Hamilton Cir 38654.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT BOOK NOW

662/772-7101



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 7840 Craft-Goodman Frontage Rd 38654.

OXFORD

• Hotels p. 206

Oxford was built on land purchased in 1836 from a Chickasaw woman named Ho-kah. The town's founders chose the name Oxford in hopes of getting the state university established in town. The plan worked: The University of Mississippi, or Ole Miss, opened its doors in 1848. When the Civil War broke out, students fought under the name University Greys.

On the University of Mississippi campus is the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. Housed in the 1848 Barnard Observatory building, it offers changing exhibits of Southern literature, art and photography. The Ole Miss Blues Archive, a collection of blues music and memorabilia, is next door in Farley Hall.

Antebellum houses grace the town where writer William Cuthbert Faulkner resided most of his life. Renamed Jefferson, it provided the backdrop for many of his novels. Best-selling author John Grisham, who grew up in Southaven, graduated from Ole Miss law school in 1981.

Movie buffs and filmmakers come together each February for a celebration of cinema during the five-day Oxford Film Festival.

In late April, Courthouse Square is the site of the Oxford Double Decker Arts Festival, which draws throngs of revelers with live music, arts and crafts exhibits and culinary treats. Adding to the excitement is a 10k run.

Visit Oxford Visitors Center: 1013 Jackson Ave., Oxford, MS 38655. Phone: (662) 234-4680 or (800) 758-9177.

Self-guiding tours: Information about driving and walking tours can be obtained at the visitors center, 415 S. Lamar Blvd. (open Mon.-Fri. 8-5), and next door on the Square at Skipwith Cottage (open Sat. 10-4, Sun. 1-4). Phone (662) 234-4680 or (662) 232-2419, respectively.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND HISTORIC HOUSES are 5 blks. e. of the University of Mississippi campus on University Ave. at Fifth St. The University of Mississippi Museum's world-class collection spans objects from Greek and Roman antiquity to such 20th-century masters as Georgia O'Keeffe, and also features the outstanding regional collections of Theora Hamblett and Folk Art from the American South. Educational programs are aimed at all ages. The museum complex includes Rowan Oak and the Walton-Young Historic House, once home to critic and satirist Stark Young.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (662) 915-7073. GT

HAMPTON INN BY HILTON OXFORD-WEST

BOOK NOW 662/232-2442



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 110 Heritage Dr 38655.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES

BOOK NOW

662/236-2500



Hotel. Address: 112 Heritage Dr 38655.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON OXFORD BOOK NOW 662/238-3400



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 101 S Lamar Ct 38655.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT OXFORD BOOK NOW 662/238-3522



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 105 Ed Perry Blvd 38655.

PASCAGOULA

Pascagoula is the birthplace of singer/songwriter and chief Parrothead Jimmy Buffett. Although Buffett's lyrics more often rhapsodize about the Florida Keys, this Gulf of Mexico town has a similar beach vibe. Not surprisingly, the area offers good freshwater and saltwater fishing year-round.

The Pascagoula River is called the Singing River because of the occasional eerie sound that is best heard on still evenings in late summer and autumn. Legend claims it is the death chant of a Pascagoula tribe that committed mass suicide in the river's waters rather than submit to defeat at the hands of the Biloxi Indians.

Jackson County Chamber of Commerce: 720 Krebs Ave., P.O. Box 480, Pascagoula, MS 39568-0480. Phone: (228) 762-3391.

LAPOINTE-KREBS HOUSE (THE OLD SPANISH FORT)

is n. off US 90; take Pascagoula St. to Lake Ave., following signs. Although not originally Spanish, nor a fort, this 1757 building is believed to be the oldest structure confirmed by science in the Mississippi Valley. The adjacent museum houses Native American, colonial and 19thcentury artifacts as well as historic images and documents. The grounds and a cemetery overlook Krebs Lake. **Phone:** (228) 471-5126.

PEARL

Hotels p. 207

CANDLEWOOD SUITES BOOK NOW 601/936-3442



Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 632 S Pearson Rd 39208.



COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON, JACKSON-AIRPORT BOOK NOW 601/420-2244







AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 3051 White Blvd 39208. Facility: 60 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: indoor. Guest Services: coin laundry.























COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT JACKSON AIRPORT/PEARL

BOOK NOW



COURTYARD AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel, Address: 415 Riverwind Dr 39208, Facility: 105 units, 4 stories, interior corridors, Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry, boarding pass kiosk.



























FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT PEARL BOOK NOW

601/936-3434



Fairfield*

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 407 Riverwind Dr 39208. Facility: 77 units. 3 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





























HAMPTON INN BY HILTON-AIRPORT BOOK NOW 601/932-7676



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 1234 Phillips St 39208.



HILTON GARDEN INN JACKSON/PEARL BOOK NOW

601/933-1174



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 438 Riverwind Dr 39208.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BOOK NOW 601/936-7005

THREE DIAMOND
INSPECTED & CLEAN*

Hotel. Address: 100 Riverwind Dr E 39208.

HOLIDAY INN TRUSTMARK PARK HOTEL BOOK NOW 601/939-5238

THREE DIAMOND
INSPECTED & CLEAN**

Hotel. Address: 110 Bass Pro Dr 39208.

RES

RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT JACKSON AIRPORT, PEARL BOOK NOW 601/345-4242



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 108 Riverwind Dr 39208.

PHILADELPHIA

• Hotels p. 209

—

GOLDEN MOON HOTEL & CASINO BOOK NOW

601/663-0066

 Hotel. **Address:** 13541 Hwy 16 W 39350.



SILVER STAR HOTEL & CASINO BOOK NOW 601/663-0066

THREE DIAMOND
INSPECTED & CLEAN*

THREE DIAMOND

INSPECTED

CLEAN

Hotel. Address: 13540 Hwy 16 W 39350.

PICAYUNE

• Hotels p. 209

Picayune was named by Eliza Jane Poitevent Nicholson, who owned and edited a New Orleans newspaper that sold for a picayune, a half dime. Portraits and

antiques formerly owned by a wealthy local family are displayed in the Margaret Reed Crosby Memorial Library at 900 Goodyear Blvd.; phone (601)798-5081.

Greater Picayune Area Chamber of Commerce: 201 US 11N, P.O. Box 448, Picayune, MS 39466. Phone: (601) 798-3122.



HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES BOOK NOW 601/749-2626

Hotel. Address: 1001 Dauphin St 39466.



210 PORT GIBSON — RIDGELAND, MS

PORT GIBSON

Port Gibson was spared destruction when Gen. Ulysses S. Grant marched toward Vicksburg in 1863; legend has it that Grant thought the town tucked into the curve of Bayou Pierre was a setting too beautiful to burn. St. Joseph Catholic Church, 909 Church St., completed in 1851, is a fine example of the Gothic Revival style. The altarpiece, a copy of Peter Paul Rubens' "The Crucifixion," was the work of noted portraitist Thomas Healy. The Communion rail and seven walnut panels were carved by 17-year-old Daniel Foley, son of the St. Louis contractor who built the church.

Port Gibson/Claiborne County Chamber of Commerce Tourist Information Center: 1601 Church St., P.O. Box 491, Port Gibson, MS 39150. Phone: (601) 437-4351.

Self-quiding tours: Three self-guiding tours of the Port Gibson area, designated by color-coded interpretive markers, cover Civil War battlefields, the Grand Gulf area and the ruins of Windsor, in nearby Lorman (see place listing). Brochures are available at the tourist information center at 1601 Church St.

GRAND GULF MILITARY PARK is 7 mi. n.w. across the Bayou Pierre Bridge. The site of the shelling of Confederate forts Cobun and Wade by Union ironclad gunboats, the 400-acre park contains the forts, a cemetery, an observation tower and several restored buildings. A museum in the visitor center displays photographs, scale models and items commemorating local history. See Recreation Areas Chart.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 437-5911.

RICHLAND

Hotels p. 210



APPROVED INSPECTED @ CLEAN Motel. Address: 101 Roland Dr 39218.



• Hotels p. 210

THE BILL WALLER CRAFT CENTER, 950 Rice Rd., is the home of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. On display are the creations of more than 400 artisans. Temporary exhibitions are featured regularly, while the permanent collection of crafts includes several Mississippi Choctaw baskets. Demonstrations and workshops also are offered. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (601) 856-7546.





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Hotel. Address: 221 Township Ave 39157. Facility: 132 units. 5 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Activities: exercise room. Guest

Services: valet laundry.





AC HOTEL BY MARRIOTT JACKSON RIDGELAND BOOK NOW 601/605-1101







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DRURY INN & SUITES RIDGELAND-JACKSON BOOK NOW 601/956-6100

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN Hotel. Address: 610 E County Line Rd 39157.

BOOK NOW 601/607-7112 EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON JACKSON-NORTH/RIDGELAND



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 200 Township Pl 39157.

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON JACKSON/RIDGELAND BOOK NOW 601/898-2222



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 526 Evergreen St 39157.

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON **BOOK NOW** 601/899-8611



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 853 Centre St 39157.

HYATT PLACE JACKSON/RIDGELAND BOOK NOW

601/898-8815



HYATT PLACE AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn World of Hyatt points when booking AAA/CAA rates! Members also receive free breakfast at Hyatt Place/Hyatt House with their World of Hyatt membership!

Hotel. Address: 1016 Highland Colony Pkwy 39157. Location: Next to upscale shopping/ dining complex. Facility: 126 units. 6 stories, interior corridors. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Pool: indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.































BOOK NOW RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT JACKSON RIDGELAND 601/206-7755



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 855 Centre St 39157.

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT JACKSON RIDGELAND/THE TOWNSHIP AT COLONY

BOOK NOW 601/898-3747



AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Contemporary Hotel. Address: 121 Southtowne Ave 39157.

STAYBRIDGE SUITES JACKSON

BOOK NOW

601/206-9190

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED & CLEAN Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 801 Ridgewood Rd 39157.

TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT JACKSON RIDGELAND/THE TOWNSHIP AT COLONY BOOK NOW 601/898-9880

SUITES®—

TOWNEPLACE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

MARRIOTT

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 310 Southlake Ave 39157. Facility: 94 units, some two bedrooms, efficiencies and kitchens. 3 stories, interior

corridors. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.



























WINGATE BY WYNDHAM-JACKSON/RIDGELAND BOOK NOW 601/977-6111



Hotel. Address: 6485 I-55 N 39157. Facility: 111 units, some two bedrooms. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.













FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT TUPELO BOOK NOW 662/680-6798











SALTILLO Hotels p. 213

THREE DIAMOND

INSPECTED @ CLEAN

AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy™ points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel, Address: 3070 Tom Watson Dr 38866.



214 SOUTHAVEN, MS

SOUTHAVEN

Hotels p. 214

The third largest city in Mississippi, Southaven is a Memphis suburb just inside the Mississippi state line and only a couple miles from Memphis International Airport. Southaven was the boyhood home of best-selling author John Grisham, whose legal thrillers are often set in the area.

Shopping: Southaven Towne Center, at Airways Boulevard and Marathon Way, features more than 40 retail stores in an open-air mall setting. Tanger Outlets, 5205 Airways Blvd., has more than 60 outlet shops, including Banana Republic Factory Store, Fossil, LOFT Outlet, Michael Kors and Tommy Hilfiger.

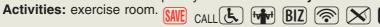


AVID HOTEL MEMPHIS SOUTHAVEN

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Hotel. Address: 6863 Hospitality Ln 38671. Facility: 92 units. 3 stories, interior corridors.













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SAVE Hotel. Address: 7149 Sleepy Hollow Dr 38671.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES BY MARRIOTT SOUTHAVEN



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Hotel. Address: 7237 Southcrest Pkwy 38671.

HOLIDAY INN SOUTHAVEN BOOK NOW 662/349-0444

Hotel. Address: 280 Marathon Way 38671.

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN

HOME2 SUITES BY HILTON MEMPHIS-SOUTHAVEN

BOOK NOW

THREE DIAMOND INSPECTED @ CLEAN AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 6750 Southcrest Pkwy 38671.

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW

662/349-0501



HOMEWOOD AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points SUITES when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 135 Homewood Dr 38671. Facility: 99 efficiencies, some two bedrooms. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

(tvitvit) (BIZ) (HS)



RESIDENCE INN BY MARRIOTT MEMPHIS SOUTHAVEN BOOK NOW 662/996-1500



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SAVE) Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 7165 Sleepy Hollow Dr 38671.



TOWNEPLACE SUITES BY MARRIOTT MEMPHIS SOUTHAVEN

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TOWNEPLACE AAA Benefit: Members save 5% or more and earn Marriott Bonvoy[™] points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

> Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 7191 Sleepy Hollow Dr 38671. Facility: 112 efficiencies. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated outdoor.

Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.





















STARKVILLE

Hotels p. 217

Starkville is home to Mississippi State University, the largest university in the state. Founded in 1878 as a landgrant college after passage of the Morrill Act, which provided for establishment of colleges that promoted practical professions, MSU has an enrollment of approximately 20,000 students and occupies more than 4,200 acres of wood and pasture lands.

The Starkville Convention & Visitors Bureau has information about tours of the historic Cotton, Greensboro. Nash Street and Overstreet residential districts; for more information phone (662) 323-3322.



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SAVE Hotel, Address: 100 Mercantile St 39759.



HAMPTON INN BY HILTON STARKVILLE

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SAVE Hotel. **Address:** 700 Hwy 12 E 39759.



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662/615-9664



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 975 Hwy 12 E 39759.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

BOOK NOW

662/324-0076

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Hotel. Address: 110-B Hwy 12 W 39759.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES STARKVILLE AT MSU BOOK NOW

662/270-4100



Hotel. Address: 982 Hwy 12 E 39759.

TOMBIGBEE NATIONAL FOREST

Elevations in the forest range from 400 ft. to 700 ft.

In east-central Mississippi, Tombigbee National Forest gets its name (pronounced tom-BECK-bee) from a Choctaw word meaning "coffin makers." The 66,576-acre forest consists mainly of pine and hardwood trees. Several developed sites offer recreational facilities.

For further information contact the Forest Supervisor, Tombigbee National Forest, P.O. Box 912, Ackerman, MS 39735; phone (662) 285-3264. See Recreation Areas Chart.

TUNICA

Tunica was a cotton-producing center for more than a century, but when casinos opened on the banks of the Mississippi River in 1992 in nearby Tunica Resorts, much of the area's main tourism moved there.

Veteran's Memorial Park, downtown at the south end of Main street, commemorates soldiers in all branches of military service and salutes those who gave their lives in past wars and the 9/11 attack. A circular terrace in the middle of the park features a bronze statue of three soldiers, and benches scattered throughout the landscaped park invite guiet reflection. Recreational opportunities in the surrounding area include golf, tennis, fishing, hunting and water sports.

Shopping: Specialty, boutique and antique shops are along Main Street in downtown Tunica.

TUNICA MUSEUM is 2 mi. n. on US 61, across from the Paul Battle Jr. Arena & Exposition Center at One Museum Blvd. Exhibits trace county history from Native American habitation and European exploration to contemporary times. These include early settlement, the Civil War, Reconstruction, sharecropping, desegregation and the struggles of the civil rights era, as well as the arrival of the casinos.

Interpretive trails wind through the adjacent 15-acre Walter D. and Dorothy K. Wills Nature Conservancy. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (662) 363-6631.

TUNICA RESORTS

• Hotels p. 219 • Restaurants p. 219

Tunica Resorts, still known locally by some as Robinsonville, is in extreme northwestern Mississippi, nestled along the Mississippi River.

The town's economy changed in the early 1990s from a farming economy to that fueled largely by the roll of dice and pull of slot machines, as the town now plays host to eight casinos, several of which have hotels. The town name stuck largely for marketing purposes—tying it to better-known Tunica was better for business.

Gateway to the Blues Visitor Center: 13625 US 61N. Tunica Resorts, MS 38664. Phone: (662) 363-3800 or (888) 488-6422.

Shopping: Casino Outlets Tunica Resorts, on US 61 at Harrahs Parkway S., has more than 20 stores, including Carter's Childrenswear, Lane Bryant and Reebok.

TUNICA RIVERPARK is 10 mi. n. on US 61, 1.8 mi. w. on SR 304 (Casino Strip Resort Blvd.), n. on Fitzgeralds Blvd. and then w. on RiverPark Dr., following signs. This 168-acre complex on the banks of the Mississippi comprises a grouping of river-related activities—nature trails along the riverfront, a river overlook, and a museum and interpretive center dedicated to the river and its history.

Phone: (662) 357-0050 or (866) 517-4837. GT

Tunica RiverPark Museum & Interpretive Center is in Tunica RiverPark next to Fitz Casino; go 10 mi. n. on US 61, 1.8 mi. w. on SR 304 (Casino Strip Resort Blvd.), n. on Fitzgeralds Blvd. and then w. to One RiverPark Dr. In a strikingly contemporary building across a Mississippi River levee, the museum depicts river history, ecology and the economic impact the waterway has had on the area. Aquariums feature examples of native river species. and interactive exhibits include a simulated diving bell. An ecology trail and an outdoor observation deck with rocking chairs are relaxing ways to view the mighty Mississippi. Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (662) 357-0050 or (866) 517-4837.

GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS

- Resorts Casino is at 1100 Casino Strip Resort Blvd. **Phone:** (662) 363-7777 or (866) 797-7111.
- Sam's Town Tunica is at 1477 Casino Strip Resort Blvd. in Sam's Town Hotel. Phone: (662) 363-0711 or (800) 456-0711.







Hotel. Address: 1010 Casino Center Dr 38664. Facility: This sophisticated hotel features tastefully done rooms and an inviting

pool area. Some rooms provide a river view. 1133 units. 32 stories, interior corridors. Parking: on-site and valet. Terms: check-in 4 pm. Amenities: safes. Dining: 2 restaurants, also, Chicago Steak House, see separate listing. Activities: exercise room, spa. Affiliated with MGM Resorts International.























WHERE TO EAT

CHICAGO STEAK HOUSE 662/357-1225



Steak Seafood Fine Dining. Address: 1010 Casino Center Dr 38664.

TUPELO

• Hotels p. 220

The area around Tupelo was once the homeland of the Chickasaw Indians. Hernando de Soto and company made camp with the tribe in 1540 but were driven out after a few months. During the 1736 Battle of Ackia the French Army tried to rout the Chickasaw but was forced instead to retreat, thus crippling French efforts to dominate the region. More than a century later blood was again shed during a fierce and strategic Civil War battle.

The city was established as a railroad town and named for the tupelo gum trees early settlers used as timber to construct houses. Celebrated native son Elvis Presley, the King of Rock 'n' Roll, was born in Tupelo on Jan. 8, 1935. The Natchez Trace Parkway (see place listing p. 202) passes through the city on its way to Nashville.

Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau: 399 E. Main St., P.O. Drawer 47, Tupelo, MS 38802. **Phone:** (662) 841-6521 or (800) 533-0611.

Self-guiding tours: The Elvis Presley Driving Tour includes local sites that figured prominently in the entertainer's early years, including the hardware store where he bought his first guitar and a drive-in restaurant the young Presley frequented with friends. Maps and brochures are available from the visitors bureau.

Shopping: The Mall at Barnes Crossing, US 78 and US 45, has Belk, JCPenney and nearly 100 specialty stores.

ELVIS PRESLEY BIRTHPLACE is off US 78 (Veteran's Blvd. exit), following signs to 306 Elvis Presley Dr. Standing at the site is the two-room, white frame house where Presley was born. A museum contains personal possessions and Presley memorabilia. A new 126-seat theater with a full stage and state-of-the-art projection hosts concerts and other events. The surrounding 15-acre Elvis Presley Park includes Presley's boyhood church, a meditation chapel, landscaped walkways, a memorial fountain and granite markers that denote events from his early years in Tupelo. A life-size bronze statue depicts the entertainer as a hometown boy.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (662) 841-1245.

TUPELO AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM is at 1 Otis Blvd. More than 100 antique and classic automobiles, approximately 10 for each decade covered, are on display at this

220 TUPELO, MS

120,000-square-foot museum. Arranged in chronological order, they begin with an 1886 Benz. Rare and vintage vehicles include Duesenbergs, a 1948 Tucker, a Hispano Suiza, all the classic American cars from the 50s to the

80s and several celebrity cars, including the 1976 Lincoln Mark IV purchased by Elvis Presley. Time: Allow 2 hours minimum. Phone: (662) 842-4242.



BEST WESTERN PLUS TUPELO INN & SUITES BOOK NOW

662/847-0300



Hotel. Address: 3158 N Gloster St 38804. Location: Located near Mall at Barnes Crossing. Facility: 72 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.









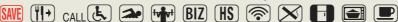














CANDLEWOOD SUITES TUPELO NORTH BOOK NOW

662/553-4649



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Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 979 N Gloster St 38804.



COMFORT INN BOOK NOW

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Hotel. Address: 1532 McCullough Blvd 38804. Facility: 58 units. 2 stories (no elevator), interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





















COMFORT SUITES NORTH TUPELO BOOK NOW 662/432-1550





AAA Benefit: Members save 10% or more and earn Choice Privileges points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

Hotel. Address: 1064 Carter Cove 38804. Facility: 75 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Amenities: safes. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.























COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT TUPELO BOOK NOW 662/841-9960

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 1320 N Gloster St 38804.

HAMPTON INN & SUITES TUPELO/BARNES CROSSING BOOK NOW 662/821-0317

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SAVE Hotel. Address: 1116 Carter Cove 38804.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS TUPELO BOOK NOW 662/620-8184

THREE DIAMOND Hotel. Address: 1612 McClure Cove 38804.

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL & SUITES TUPELO NORTH BOOK NOW 662/269-0096

THREE DIAMOND Hotel. Address: 923 N Gloster St 38804.

HOTEL TUPELO, A WYNDHAM HOTEL BOOK NOW 662/362-6200

THREE DIAMOND Hotel. Address: 314 E Main St 38804.

LA QUINTA INN & SUITES TUPELO BOOK NOW 662/847-8000

THREE DIAMOND Hotel. Address: 1013 N Gloster St 38804.

SPARK BY HILTON TUPELO BOOK NOW 662/680-8887

AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 186 Stone Creek Blvd 38804.

Dreaming of s'mores and starry nights? AAA.com/campgrounds

VICKSBURG

• Hotels p. 223

Although the ships docking here today are riverboat casinos, Vicksburg's location on the Mississippi River was of such strategic importance during the Civil War that the city was called the Gibraltar of the Confederacy. In 1863, after a 47-day siege pitting Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and Adm. David Dixon Porter against the Confederate forces of Gen. John Pemberton, the city surrendered. Vicksburg National Military Park (see place listing p. 224) outlines the positions of both armies.

Many of Vicksburg's 19th-century houses and buildings are open to the public for tours. Historical theater is presented by the Vicksburg Theatre Guild. The melodrama "Gold in the Hills" is performed Friday and Saturday evenings in April and July at the Parkside Playhouse on Frontage Road/Confederate Avenue; (601) 636-0471.

A fun family downtown destination is Catfish Row Children's Art Park, where kids can learn about Mississippi River history and the paddle wheelers that once traveled its waters. The park on Levee Street has a splash fountain, children's art, play areas and gardens. It's open daily 9 to sunset.

Nearby, a floodwall on Levee Street became the canvas for artist Robert Dafford and his 32 Vicksburg Riverfront Murals. For more history, visit the Lower Mississippi River Museum, (601) 638-9900.

The city's public transit system, NRoute, uses Trolley Express in the historic districts and to take visitors to nearby outlet shopping; (601) 636-1053 for times and route information.

Vicksburg Visitors Center: 52 Old Highway 27, Vicksburg, MS 39183. **Phone:** (601) 636-9421 or (800) 221-3536.

Self-guiding tours: Most of Vicksburg's antebellum and late 19th-century buildings are downtown; some are open to the public. Pick up maps and brochures detailing tours at the visitor center. Additional information is available at the state visitor center at I-20 and Washington Street; phone (601) 638-4269.

Shopping: Vicksburg Mall, 3505 Pemberton Square Blvd., features Belk and Dillard's. The Outlets at Vicksburg, 4000 S. Frontage Rd., offers 20 discount retailers. Downtown's Washington Street is a great place to poke around for antiques.

ANCHUCA MANSION is .4 mi. n.e. off I-20 exit 1C (Halls Ferry Rd.), 1.5 mi. n. to Cherry St., 1.2 mi. n. to jct. First East St., then just e. to 1010 First East St. Constructed in

1830 by local politician J.W. Mauldin, this Greek Revival home later was the residence of Joseph Emory Davis, brother of Confederate president Jefferson Davis, until his death in 1870. In January 1869 Davis visited his brother and delivered one of his final public addresses from the dwelling's front balcony.

A 5-minute orientation video is shown. Visitors can explore the landscaped gardens and brick courtyards on the estate grounds. The mansion's living areas are decorated with late 18th and mid-19th century antiques. Food is available Sun. 11-2 (also Mon.-Sat. 5:30-9 p.m.). Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 661-0111 or (888) 686-0111.

CEDAR GROVE is at 2200 Oak St. The mansion, built on the banks of the Mississippi River between 1840 and 1852, was damaged by shells from Union gunboats during the siege of Vicksburg; a cannonball remains lodged in a parlor wall. The house has a collection of period antiques and original furnishings, including a hidden safe and a Regina music box. The formally landscaped grounds feature gazebos, fountains and courtyards.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. **Phone:** (601) 636-1000 or (800) 862-1300.

DUFF GREEN MANSION is at 1114 First East St. Built in 1856 by Duff Green, a wealthy merchant, the mansion was used as both a Confederate and Union hospital during the siege of Vicksburg. During one of five attacks on the house, Mary Green gave birth to a son in a nearby shelter and named him Siege. The restored Palladian mansion, now a bed and breakfast, is furnished with antiques, including a chandelier from 1799.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 636-6968. $\overline{\text{GT}}$

MCRAVEN is at 1445 Harrison St. Built in three sections, the house includes the original 1797 brick structure, the 1836 American Empire section and the 1849 Greek Revival segment. The furnishings include antique tools, period art, period weaponry and Civil War items. The house has a reputation for being filled with ghosts; haunted evening tours are offered in addition to daytime history tours. Phone: (601) 501-1336. GT

OLD COURT HOUSE MUSEUM 1008 Cherry St., at the jct. of Cherry, Jackson, Monroe and Grove sts. The structure was built between 1858-60 by enslaved African Americans. Thirty-foot columns support porticos on each of the building's four sides. A restored courtroom contains original iron steps and banisters. Southern antebellum artifacts are displayed, and a research library is available for

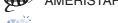
visitor use. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 636-0741.

OLD DEPOT MUSEUM is at 1010 Levee St. Paintings, reference materials, maps, model ships and other items pertain to the ground and naval history of the Civil War. A diorama with 2,300 miniature soldiers depicts the 47-day Siege of Vicksburg. There is also a 30-minute film, "The Vanishing Glory," about the military operation. Other displays include N-scale, HO-scale and O-gauge model railroads.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 638-6500.

GAMBLING ESTABLISHMENTS

• Lady Luck Casino is at 1380 Warrenton Rd. Phone: (601) 636-7575 or (800) 503-3777.



AMERISTAR CASINO HOTEL BOOK NOW 601/638-1000



Contemporary Hotel. Address: 4155 Washington St 39180.



ANCHUCA HISTORIC MANSION & INN BOOK NOW

601/661-0111



Country Inn. Address: 1010 1st East St 39183.





Motel. Address: 2445 N Frontage Rd 39180. Location: Located in a commercial area. Facility: 63 units. 2 stories (no elevator), exterior corridors. Pool: heated indoor.

Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.



























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Hotel. Address: 100 Berryman Rd 39180. Facility: 66 units. 4 stories, interior corridors. Pool: heated indoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: valet and coin laundry.

























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SAVE Hotel. Address: 1 Underwood Dr 39180.



HAMPTON INN & SUITES BY HILTON BOOK NOW 601/636-6100



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 3330 Clay St 39183.



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SAVE Extended Stay Hotel. Address: 40 Maxwell Dr 39180.



THE INN AT CEDAR GROVE BOOK NOW 601/636-1000



Historic Country Inn. Address: 2200 Oak St 39180.



VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Entered via 1-20 exit 4B, then .2 mi. w. on Clay St./US 80, Vicksburg National Military Park adjoins Vicksburg on two sides and covers more than 1,700 acres. The military operations of the Vicksburg siege in 1863 can be visualized and understood by following a 16-mile driving tour marked by signs. Union and Confederate avenues parallel actual battle lines.

Forts, trenches and artillery positions, visible both within and outside the park boundaries, are re-created on actual sites. The original Federal siege line and the Confederate defense perimeter were destroyed shortly after the capture of Vicksburg.

More than 1,300 memorials, monuments, statues, tablets, bronze portraits and markers honor the officers and enlisted men who participated in the Vicksburg campaign.

The park drive-through gates open daily at 8 a.m. and close at 5 during Standard Time and at 7 during most of Daylight Saving Time. The park is closed Jan. 1, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

PARK TOURS are available through licensed guides who ride along in visitors' private vehicles. Reservations are recommended for the 2-hour tours. For self-guiding tours, various CDs, including the TravelBrains Vicksburg Field Guide, are available for purchase at the national park visitor center. For information phone (601) 636-0583.

ADMISSION is \$20 per private vehicle, \$15 for motorcycles and \$10 for bicycles and pedestrians and is valid for 7 days. Licensed guide service is \$50 per private vehicle. CD tours are \$14.95-\$29.95. An audio cell phone tour is available at (601) 262-2100. Admission may vary during special events.

USS CAIRO MUSEUM is opposite the national cemetery entrance at Milepost 7.8 in Vicksburg National Military Park. Displays include items recovered from the Union ironclad USS Cairo, which was sunk in the Yazoo River north of Vicksburg in 1862. The vessel is believed to have been the first sunk by an electrically detonated mine. A 6-minute audiovisual program recounts the salvage of the gunboat, which has been restored and is next to the museum.

Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 636-2199. 🕌

VICKSBURG NATIONAL CEMETERY is at the northern end of Vicksburg National Military Park at Tour Stop 8 and can be entered via Connecting and Union aves. Within its 116 acres are the graves of nearly 17,000 Civil War Union soldiers and more than 1,200 veterans of later wars. Some 5,000 Confederate dead were buried in the "Soldier's Rest" plot in Vicksburg's city cemetery, Cedar Hill Cemetery. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 636-2199.

VISITOR CENTER is at the entrance to Vicksburg National Military Park at 3201 Clay St. A 20-minute film presents an introduction to the Vicksburg campaign. Exhibits illustrate the effects of the siege upon soldiers and civilians. Time: Allow 30 minutes minimum. Phone: (601) 636-0583.

WEST POINT

• Hotels p. 225

WAVERLEY MANSION is 9 mi. e. on SR 50, then 1 mi. s to 1852 Waverley Mansion Rd. This 1852 house has four self-supporting curved stairways that connect cantilevered balconies within an octagonal cupola. Some of the furnishings date back to antebellum days. The grounds feature pathways winding through a 17-acre landscaped garden. Phone: (662) 494-1399. GT



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SAVE Hotel. Address: 1281 Hwy 45 Alternate S 39773.

WIGGINS

Hotels p. 225



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AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 1121 Frontage Rd E 39577.

WINONA

Hotels p. 225

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS SUITES WINONA NORTH MISSISSIPPI

BOOK NOW

662/283-9992

Hotel. Address: 413 SE Frontage Rd 38967.

WOODVILLE

Settled in the 18th century, Woodville was incorporated into the Mississippi Territory in 1811. Overlooking the Mississippi River from a high hill 19 miles west is the town of Fort Adams. A fort built there in 1799 was the setting for Edward Everett Hale's 1863 novel "The Man Without a Country."

The Woodville Deer and Wildlife Festival, held the second Saturday in October, celebrates the town's cultural and artistic heritage. Local artisans demonstrate crafts like wooden spoon carving and pine needle basket making. The Wild Game Cook-off spotlights creative ways of preparing duck, alligator, venison and wild hog, and area musicians offer a menu of blues, rock and gospel. The festivities take place at downtown's Courthouse Square. Admission is \$5; free (ages 0-4). For additional information phone (601) 888-3998.

Self-quiding tours: Many of Woodville's antebellum houses and churches are open to the public. A brochure that outlines a walking tour and lists historic structures is available from the Woodville Civic Club, P.O. Box 1055, Woodville, MS 39669; phone (601) 888-3998. The brochure also is available at the Mississippi State Welcome Center, 853 US 61S; phone (601) 888-4463.

ROSEMONT is 1 mi. e. of US 61 on SR 24. In 1810 the plantation became the family home of 2-year-old Jefferson Davis, later president of the Confederate States of America. Originally called Poplar Grove, the cottage was renamed for the rose garden planted by Davis' mother. Guided tours lasting 45 minutes include audio narratives about the statesman's life and the history of the house, which contains many original furnishings. The surrounding landscaped grounds feature seasonally blooming roses and contain the Davis family cemetery.

Time: Allow 1 hour minimum. Phone: (601) 888-6809.

YAZOO CITY

Hotels p. 226







Hotel. Address: 286 Wyeth Ln 39194. Location: Located behind BP gas station. Facility: 31 units. 2 stories (no elevator), interior corridors. Pool: outdoor. Activities: exercise room. Guest Services: coin laundry.





















HAMPTON INN YAZOO CITY BOOK NOW 662/746-3333



AAA Benefit: Members save up to 10% and earn Honors points when booking AAA/CAA rates!

SAVE Hotel. Address: 2161 Grand Ave 39194.



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Smoke-free premises

In select cities only:

fyi Indicates the property has not been inspected, but is included as an "information only" service.

SERVICES

Airport transportation

Pet friendly (Call for restrictions/fees.)

Restaurant on premises

Restaurant off premises

Room service for 2 or more meals

Full bar

Child care

BIZ Business center

Accessible features (Call property for available services and amenities.)

AMENITIES

Full-service casino

🚁 Pool

Health club or exercise room on premises

HS High-speed Internet service

High-speed Internet service (Call property for fees.)

Wireless Internet service

Wireless Internet service (Call property for fees.)

No wireless Internet service

Pay movies

Refrigerator

Microwave

Coffeemaker

M No air conditioning

No TV

No telephones

SAFETY FEATURES

No sprinklers

No smoke detectors

DINING

Designated smoking section

B Breakfast

L Lunch

D Dinner

(24) Open 24 hours

LATE Open after 11 p.m.

ATTRACTIONS

GT Guided Tours available

Camping facilities

Recreational activities

Picnicking allowed

Designates an attraction of exceptional interest and quality. AAA GEM — a Great Experience for Members®.