

LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA Mardi Gras



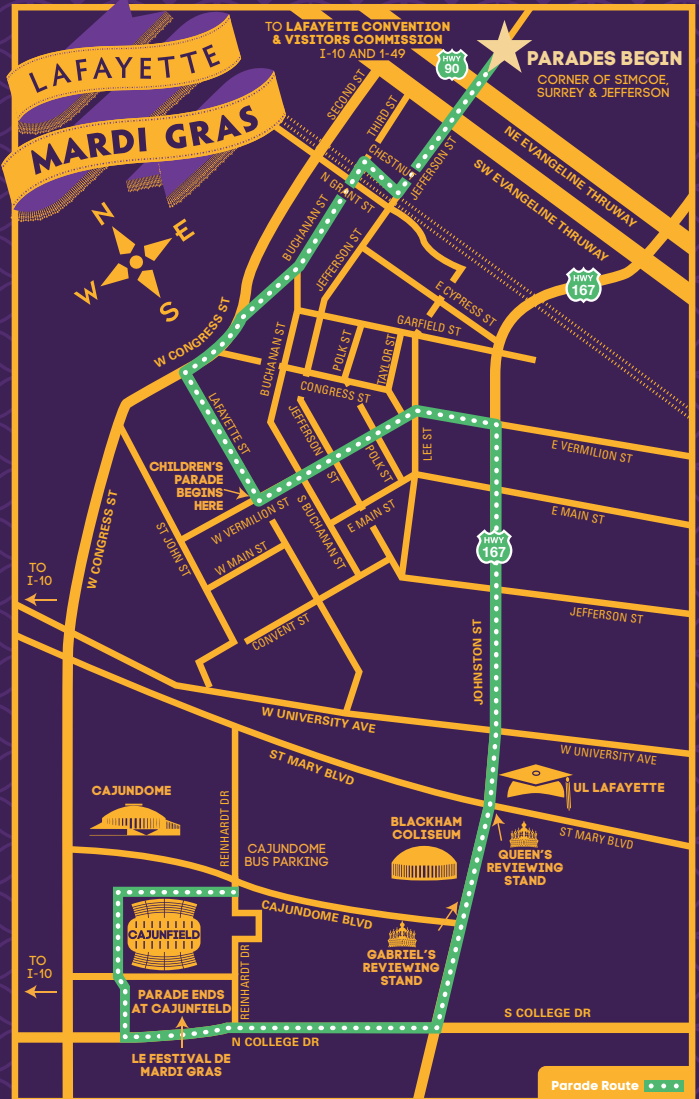
VISIT OUR INFORMATION CENTER

Intersection of I-10 & I-49
1400 N.W. Evangeline Thruway

I-10 Exit 103-A
I-49 South of I-10

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



*Schedule subject to change. For information on dining, lodging and attractions:

Lafayette

LOUISIANA

Convention and Visitors Commission

LafayetteTravel.com

HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

When is Mardi Gras?

The fluctuating date of Mardi Gras was established by the Catholic Church that designed the Gregorian calendar with a fixed date for Christmas and moveable dates for other religious holidays. Easter, which can fall on any Sunday from March 23 to April 25, is set to happen with the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox. Mardi Gras is always scheduled 46 days preceding Easter (the 40 days of Lent plus six Sundays). The carnival season officially opens on the Epiphany 12 days after Christmas and ends on Mardi Gras Day, the day before Ash Wednesday.

The Colors of Mardi Gras

In 1872, King Rex, the king of New Orleans' carnival, selected the official colors of Mardi Gras (purple, gold and green). Rex assigned a meaning to the colors in 1892 for his parade entitled Symbolism of Colors: purple represents justice, green represents faith and gold signifies power.

Mardi Gras Krewes

A Mardi Gras Krewe is the membership organization for a parade. Krewes also get together throughout the year for the Coronation Ball (where the Maids, Dukes and King are announced) and Mardi Gras Ball or Tableau (where the Krewe usually appears in their parade costumes). Undisputed as the favorite event of the Krewes is the parade itself, where riders throw trinkets to throngs of people calling, "Throw me something, mister!"

Throw Me Something Mister/Sister

"Throw Me Something Mister" (or sister) is a shout that can be heard as the parade floats roll past. Parade-goers will use any technique to get the attention of the float riders so they can go home with more "throws" than anyone else. Throws are inexpensive trinkets tossed from floats by costumed and masked krewe members. The most popular throws include doubloons (a coin-like souvenir of a carnival krewe, usually with the name and crest of the krewe on one side and its theme of the year on the other, plastic cups, Mardi Gras beads (necklaces) and even stuffed toys. The throwing of trinkets to the crowds was started in the early 1870s by the Twelfth Night Revelers and is a time-honored expectation for young and old alike.

Lafayette's Mardi Gras

The first formal Mardi Gras ball and parade in Lafayette dates back to 1869. In 1897, King Attakapas, the first Mardi Gras king, was crowned and the first organized parade was held in Lafayette. Formal Mardi Gras balls and parades after 1897 seemed to come and go until 1934 when the Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association was created. Today as in 1934, Queen Evangeline and King Gabriel, who symbolize the Acadian sweethearts separated during the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in Longfellow's Evangeline, are reunited each year at Mardi Gras to rule over the Mardi Gras festivities.

Courir de Mardi Gras

The rural Mardi Gras celebration, the Courir de Mardi Gras, dates back to the earliest days of the area's settlement and is still considered a rite of passage for many in the area. With its roots firmly in the medieval tradition of ceremonial begging, bands of masked and costumed horseback riders roam the countryside "begging" for ingredients for their communal gumbo. "Le Capitaine," a caped but unmasked captain, stops his revelers at a distance while he approaches with a white flag and asks permission for his riders to enter the owners' property. If permission is granted, the captain lowers his white flag and the riders charge towards the house. There, they dismount and proceed to dance and sing for live chickens and other donations such as rice, onions and flour to be used in the gumbo. The captain and his group of masked riders return to town in the late afternoon with their loot. The day's festivities usually end with a fais-do-do and lots of gumbo for Mardi Gras revelers.

HISTORY OF KING CAKE

The season of Carnival begins on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the day the Christ Child was visited by the three kings. And with this date comes an old Louisiana tradition – King Cakes!

The creation of "King Cakes" began in 12th century France when a cake was baked on the eve of Jan. 6 with a small token hidden inside. Whoever got the token in his or her slice became the royalty of the night.

The king cake tradition made its way to Louisiana, but like all good things we tend to keep it going as long as we can. Cakes are enjoyed on Jan. 6, usually with a small baby inside and whoever gets the token must buy the next cake and so on it goes.

Louisiana king cakes come plain, with decoration on top, or filled with wonderful things like cream cheese, fruit preserves and pecan praline or created in other unique and wonderful ways. We enjoy our King Cakes, decorated in the Carnival colors of purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power, until Ash Wednesday, the day following Mardi Gras.

Ask anyone in town who makes their favorite king cake and you'll get a dozen answers. You can find king cakes in mini marts, grocery stores and coffee shops as well as bakeries. **Visit LafayetteTravel.com/MardiGras** for more details on where to get King Cake in Lafayette.



LAFAYETTE PARISH

**Map on Back Cover*

February 3

Carencro Mardi Gras Parade

Starts at Carencro High. Ends by Carencro Community Center. 11 a.m. 337-896-4147, Carencro.org.

February 3

Krewe des Chiens Parade for Dogs

Downtown, Lafayette. 2 p.m. ParadeForDogs.org.

February 3

Krewe of Carnivale en Rio Mardi Gras Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m. 337-984-6522, RioLafayette.com.

February 4

Courir de Mardi Gras - Old-Fashion Mardi Gras Run

Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette. 337-233-4077, Vermilionville.org.

February 4

Scott Mardi Gras Parade

City of Scott. 1 p.m. 337-269-5155.

February 9

Krewe de Canailles Walking Parade

Downtown Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.

February 9-13

Le Festival de Mardi Gras a Lafayette

Cajun Field, Lafayette. Carnival rides & games, live music, food vendors, parades roll through festival grounds. Times vary. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 10

Krewe of Bonaparte Mardi Gras Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 10

Children's Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 12:30 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 10

Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade

Public Works building to Fountain View, Youngsville. 337-856-4181.

February 12

Queen Evangeline's Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 13

Mardi Gras Show at Clark Field

Clark Field Stadium, Lafayette. MardiGrasShow.com.

February 13

King Gabriel's Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 10 a.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 13

Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 1 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.



February 13

TownSquare Media Independent Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 2:30 p.m. 337-237-1500, GoMardiGras.com.

February 13

Southwest Mardi Gras Association Pageant & Ball

Heymann Performing Arts Center and Frem F. Boustany Convention Center, 1373 S College Rd., Lafayette. 337-291-5540, HeymannCenter.com.

ST. LANDRY PARISH

February 9

Downtown Opelousas Mardi Gras Celebration

Delta Grand Theatre, 120 S Market St., Opelousas. 337-948-6263, CajunTravel.com.

February 9-11

Lil Nate's L'Argent Tailride, Chicken Run & Parade

Yambilee Arena, 1939 W Landry St., Opelousas. 337-319-0639, CajunTravel.com.

February 9-13

Cajun Country Courir de Mardi Gras

Downtown Eunice - 2nd Street area. 337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com.

February 10-11

Cajun Courir de Mardi Gras Run

Saddle Tramp Club House, 1036 E Ebey St., Downtown for parades, Church Point. 877-783-2109, ChurchPointMardiGras.com.

February 11

Eunice Lil' Mardi Gras

Eunice Rec Complex, 461 Sittig St., Eunice. 337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com.

February 12

Lundi Gras Boucherie

Lakeview Park & Beach, 1717 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Eunice. 337-457-2881, CajunTravel.com.

February 13

Sunset Mardi Gras Parade

Oak Tree Park Dr., Sunset. 337-322-5374, CajunTravel.com.

February 13

Half-Fast Krewe of Frank Mardi Gras Parade

600 E Landry St., Opelousas. 337-351-6943, CajunTravel.com

IBERIA PARISH

February 2

Bayou Mardi Gras Parade, New Iberia

Family styled Mardi Gras Celebration, on the banks of the Bayou Teche on Historic Main Street New Iberia. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (337) 367-2844, BayouMardigras.com.

February 4

Krewe of Ezana Jeanerette Mardi Gras Parade

Canal, MLK & Main St, Jeanerette. 1 p.m. 337-255-9539, IberiaTravel.com.



February 11

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Children's Dance

Mon Ami, 7304 E. Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, 3 - 6 p.m., Costume judging at 4:30 p.m. Winners will be announced and will ride in the parade. Admission fee. 337-365-8655, FB.COM/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

February 9-12

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Dances - Mon Ami

7304 E. Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, Fri.-Sat. 9 p.m. - 2 a.m., Sun. 7 p.m. - midnight, Mon. 9 p.m. - 2 a.m., Costume judging at 11 p.m. Fri-Sat., and at 10 p.m. Sun-Mon. Admission fee. 337-365-8655, FB.COM/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

February 13

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Parade

Hwy 90 E at College Rd., Jeanerette. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 337-365-8185, IberiaTravel.com.

February 13

Krewe of Coteau Mardi Gras Parade

Francis Romero Memorial Park & LA 88, Coteau. 1 p.m. 337-577-5099, IberiaTravel.com.

February 13

Family Affair Mardi Gras Parade

Main St., Loreauville. 2 p.m. 337-229-6001, IberiaTravel.com

ST. MARY PARISH

February 10

Baldwin Mardi Gras Parade

A small Krewe of family and friends that parade throughout Baldwin. Music, dancers and more are part of the parade. Noon. 985-380-8224, CajunCoast.com.

February 10

Cypremort Point Boat Parade

Cypremort Point State Park, Hwy. 319. 1:00 p.m.

February 10

Krewe of Dionysius Parade, Bayou Vista

Beginning on Delmar St. at its intersection with Jupiter Rd. ending on Belleview St. 2 p.m.

February 11

Krewe of Galatea Parade, Morgan City

The parade includes 16 floats with special throws and marching bands. The parade route will begin on Second St. under the La. 182 bridge the Municipal Auditorium on Myrtle St. 2 p.m.

February 12

Krewe of Amani Parade

Begins at Patterson High School on Hwy. 182/Main St. 2 p.m.

February 13

Franklin Mardi Gras Parade, Franklin

Begins at Franklin Senior High School on Main St. 1 p.m.

ST. MARTIN PARISH

February 11

Henderson Mardi Gras Parade

12:30 p.m.

February 11

Newcomers Club Mardi Gras Festival

St. Martinville City Fairgrounds. StMartinville.org.

February 12

Rotary Club Mardi Gras Ball

Cade Community Center, 1688 Smede Hwy., St. Martinville. 337-394-2233, StMartinville.org.

ACADIA PARISH

February 13

Tee Mamou-Iota Mardi Gras Folklife Festival

Downtown, Iota. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 337-523-6557, IotaMardiGras.com.

February 13

Carnival D'Acadie (Mardi Gras)

Downtown, Crowley. Fair, live music and street dance, costume contests, parade. 337-783-0821, Crowley-LA.com.

EVANGELINE PARISH

February 13

Mamou Mardi Gras

Downtown, Mamou. 337-468-3175.

VERMILION PARISH

February 13

Krewe Chic-A-La-Pie Mardi Gras Parade

Downtown, Kaplan. 337-643-6554.

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

February 3

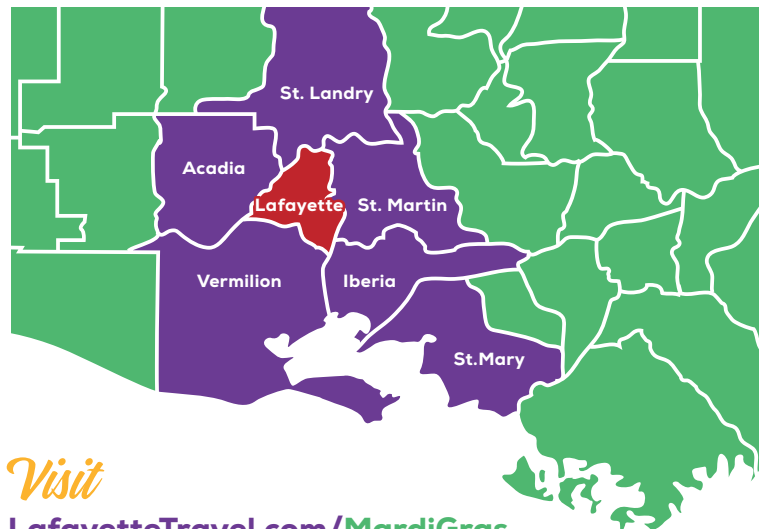
Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Parade

Lake Arthur. 337-774-3675.

February 10

Jennings Mardi Gras Festival & Parade

Founder's Park, 341 N Main St., Jennings. 337-821-5532, CityOfJennings.com/Events.



Visit

LafayetteTravel.com/MardiGras