

STAYING IN STYLE

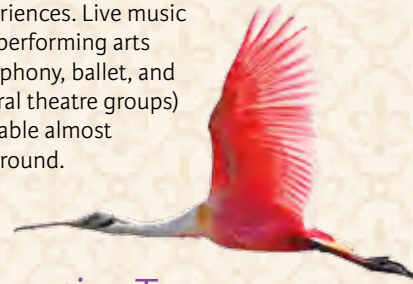
Whether you prefer a luxurious casino resort, adventures in the great outdoors in a campground or RV park or the comforts of home in our traditional Southwest Louisiana accommodations, you are sure to find what you need with over 5,800 hotel rooms and a host of camping options.

COMPLIMENTARY SERVICES

- Customized itineraries and planning
- Accommodations assistance
- Escorted site inspections & FAM trips
- Assistance with group-friendly restaurants and attractions
- Receptive tour operator & step on guide options
- Gumbaux Gator appearance
- Pictures, videos & promotional materials

LAGNIAPPE

Numerous art galleries, antique shops and one-of-a-kind boutiques offer unique shopping experiences. Live music and performing arts (symphony, ballet, and several theatre groups) available almost year round.



Receptive Tour Operators:

Gulf South Travel Services
www.gsts-travel.com

Rey Royal Excursions
www.reyroyal.com

TourMappers
www.tourmappers.com



Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau

1205 North Lakeshore Drive
Lake Charles, LA 70601, USA



Cities & Mileage

Alexandria, LA	102 miles » 1.75 hrs	Lafayette, LA	75 miles » 1.0 hrs
Austin, TX	304 miles » 4.5 hrs	Little Rock, AR	400 miles » 6.0 hrs
Baton Rouge, LA	122 miles » 2.0 hrs	Natchez, MS	172 miles » 3.0 hrs
Biloxi, MS	272 miles » 4.0 hrs	New Orleans, LA	218 miles » 3.0 hrs
Dallas, TX	339 miles » 5.0 hrs	San Antonio, TX	339 miles » 5.0 hrs
Houston, TX	140 miles » 2.0 hrs	Shreveport, LA	185 miles » 3.5 hrs
Jackson, MS	300 miles » 4.5 hrs		

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

LAKE CHARLES

INSPIRING



LAKE CHARLES EVENTS APP (Free)
Conveniently reference events, live music, festivals and more while in Southwest Louisiana.



LAKE CHARLES HISTORIC TOUR APP (Free)
Experience the Charpentier Historic District, with a choice of a 30 minute tour, 1 hour tour or Calcasieu Ghost Tour.
**Available in multiple languages.*



CREOLE NATURE TRAIL ALL-AMERICAN ROAD APP (Free)
Showcasing adventures to be had in the great outdoors and details on flora and fauna found along the trail.
**Available in multiple languages.*

LAKE CHARLES
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

(337) 436-9588 Local | (800) 456-7952 USA | www.VisitLakeCharles.org



LAKE CHARLES
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

LAKE CHARLES | SULPHUR | WESTLAKE | DEQUINCY | VINTON | IOWA



LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA

Gaming, the Great Outdoors and So Much More!

The South's premiere casino gaming destination, Lake Charles also has an incredibly diverse offering of culture, world-famous food, festivals, the great outdoors and historic attractions. And, Lake Charles is easily accessible via I-10 and is only 2.5 hours east of Houston, TX and 3.5 hours west of New Orleans, LA. Motorcoach or fly/drive, Lake Charles is a must in your Louisiana itinerary!



CASINO GAMING

In Lake Charles you will experience Las Vegas-style gaming in a sub-tropical resort atmosphere. Four world-class casino resorts offer slots, table games and horse racing along with luxurious accommodations, savory dining options, retail shopping and much more!

- Golden Nugget Lake Charles
- L'Auberge Casino Resort Lake Charles
- Isle of Capri Casino Hotel Lake Charles
- Delta Downs Racetrack Casino & Hotel

CREOLE NATURE TRAIL ADVENTURE POINT

Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at the Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point in Sulphur—a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana's unique culture. Through imaginative, hands-on displays sure to inspire, you can learn the best places to spot alligators and migrating songbirds, take a peek at wildlife found in bayous and marshes, smell mouthwatering aromas of Cajun/Creole cooking, and “play along” with a Cajun and Zydeco band.



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CREOLE NATURE TRAIL ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

Return to the glory days of driving and exploration in Louisiana's Outback. Motorcycle, car, bus or RV, the nearly 200-mile Creole Nature Trail All-American Road is your back road to discovery! Let our sales department customize a route to meet your group's preferences and timing.

As you travel have your camera ready to capture up-close wildlife shots as well as stunning scenery right from the vehicle. Feeling a little more adventurous? Explore several walkways right into the marsh or collect a wide variety of sea shells along more than 26 miles of natural Gulf of Mexico beaches.

American alligators can readily be seen lounging on land or drifting along in a canal. With a population greater than 10,000, alligators outnumber people along the Creole Nature Trail!

Located on the Central and Mississippi Flyways, over 400 different bird species are sited each year along the Creole Nature Trail including neo-tropical songbirds, shorebirds, waterfowl and butterflies.

Fishing opportunities in Louisiana's Outback are almost too numerous to count and available nearly year round. Choose between freshwater, brackish or saltwater fishing. Fish from a boat, pier or the shore. And from May through September, try your hand at catching delicious Louisiana blue crabs.



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CELEBRATIONS

The Festival Capital of Louisiana, Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana boasts over 75 fairs, festivals and events each year. Family-friendly celebrations of our food, music and history abound. Here are just a few.

- Louisiana Fur & Wildlife Festival - January
- Martin Luther King Festival - January
- Southwest Louisiana District Livestock Show & Rodeo - January
- Mardi Gras Season: January 6-February 9, 2016; January 6-February 28, 2017; January 6-February 13, 2018
- Black Heritage Festival - March
- Iowa Rabbit Festival - March
- Louisiana Railroad Days Festival - April
- Westlake Family Fun and Food Festival - April
- Palm Sunday Tour of Homes - April
- Spring Art Walk - April
- Contraband Days Pirate Festival - first two weeks of May
- Starks Mayhaw Festival - May
- Downtown at Sundown - May
- Juneteenth Festival - June
- Red, White, Blue & You - July
- Cajun French Music and Food Festival - July
- Lake Charles Symphony Pops - July
- Marshland Festival - July
- Calca Chew Food Festival - September
- Boo Zoo's Labor Day Festival - September
- Gallery Promenade - September
- Cal-Cam Fair - October
- Town of Vinton Heritage Festival - October
- Arts Fest - October
- Rouge et Blanc - October
- Veterans Day Avenue of Flags & Parade - November
- Mistletoe & Moss Holiday Market - November
- Christmas Under the Oaks - December
- Southwest Louisiana Christmas Lighting Festival - December

HISTORY & CULTURE

Not part of the original Louisiana Purchase, Southwest Louisiana was a “no man's land” creating a unique past that is still very much in evidence today in area museums and historic districts. This led to a culture that loves to gather and celebrate. Lake Charles invites all ages to join the parade and revel in the pageantry, from Twelfth Night through Mardi Gras day, at the second largest Mardi Gras in Louisiana or at the Mardi Gras Museum year-round.



- Historic Charpentier District: 40 block National Register District of exquisite Victorian architecture
- Imperial Calcasieu Museum: Historical depiction of life in the Old Imperial Calcasieu region
- Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu: Largest collection of Mardi Gras costumes in the world
- Historic Church Tour: Temple Sinai (c 1903), Immaculate Conception Cathedral (c 1912)
- Brimstone Museum Complex: History of the sulfur mines and the Frasch method of mining
- DeQuincy Railroad Museum: 1913 steam locomotive and other railroad memorabilia
- USS Orleck Naval Museum: Historic naval museum on a DD886 World War II destroyer

FOODIES

Eating and drinking are definitely a favorite pastime in Southwest Louisiana. Of course, we have some of the most flavorful cuisines and freshest ingredients right here in our backyard. Local restaurants offer a huge variety of cuisine including, of course, Cajun and seafood (usually fresh from our Gulf waters.) Other must tastes are: Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail-The ultimate Louisiana finger food, boudin is a savory mix of pork, rice and various seasonings stuffed into a casing. Each boudin master (more than 20!) has his own secret recipe and traditions so taste them all. Louisiana Spirits-Largest private distillery in the U.S. offers tours, a rum tasting bar and gift shop.



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