

WELCOME



Welcome to Louisiana! I hope you enjoy your trip. Many people have worked hard to make this a very memorable vacation for you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask one of us.

Your booklet contains the daily schedule. After each day's schedule, there is a pocket containing brochures about the places we will visit this week.

At the very back of the folder are some extra brochures and information about the Baton Rouge area. You may wish to visit one of these places during the second week you are here.

Gonzales Committee for Cultural Affairs
Karen Hatcher, President
John Hebert, Secretary
Ann LeBlanc, Treasurer

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 2011



CRYSTAL RICE HERITAGE FARM:

This family farm was founded in 1890 by Salmon “Sol” Lusk Wright.

Tour 1: A rice farm since 1890, Crawfish was added to the crop rotation in 1995. Rice and crawfish now intermingle in harmony to produce a unique crop rotation like no other in the world. Crawfish and rice both require a lot of water. In hot weather, the crawfish burrow in the ground.

Tour 2: The Acadian Cottage was built in 1848 by Oliveir Blanchet III and known as the Blanchet - Romero home. It was purchased by the Wright family in 1964 from Mr. George Scranton. The Acadian Cottage was then moved approximately 50 miles from Youngsville, Louisiana to it's present location Crowley, Louisiana. It was immediately restored and opened to the public as the Blue Rose Museum in honor of Sol Wright in 1965.

Today the Blue Rose Museum holds many worldly collectibles ranging from fine china, silver, and crystals, to furniture and Acadian / Creole history. Being made of Louisiana cypress & bouislage it is a two story home with a total of 10 different sections, which makes this little Acadian Cottage a place of many surprises and fun.

Tour 3: What separates the men from the boys is their toys. Salmon made model boats and cars and then began collecting and building the big ones. Some of the cars in the garage were family cars, while other were collected. The cars in this museum date back to 1934!

VIVIAN ALEXANDER GALLERY & MUSEUM:

This little gallery makes elegant evening purses, using fine silver, gemstones, and translucent enamel. The first purses made by Alexander were created with an ostrich egg shell, much as native Africans have made canteens for centuries. These first creations led him to produce sculptures along the lines of the famous Fabergé Imperial Russian Easter Eggs. Alexander's work attracted the attention of the Forbes family. For seven years he worked with the Forbes Museum curator to master the ancient art of enameling and the use of guilloché on precious metals. His enameling work was noted by Christopher Forbes to be the best in the United States.



AVERY ISLAND:

Long before its namesake Avery family settled there in the 1830s, American Indians discovered that Avery Island's verdant flora covered a precious natural resource—a massive salt dome. There the Indians boiled the Island's briny spring water to extract salt, which they traded to other tribes as far away as central Texas, Arkansas, and Ohio.



THE BUDDHA'S PAVILION

Not only a garden with a diverse collection of plants and flowers, Jungle Gardens is also a bird sanctuary. Enjoy the beauty of the gardens and experience the most famous of all of Louisiana's hot sauces, the Tabasco!

BOUTIN'S RESTAURANT:

Choose your meal from the meal selection page in this booklet. Boutin's has a large oak dance floor and live Cajun music! Boutin's Restaurant, boasts a large oak dance floor, big-screen tv in the bar and murals by Robert Harris and Vincent Darby, which enhance the culinary and musical immersion into Cajun culture. One wall-to-wall mural documents Cajun history and home life, and a mounted book exhibit invites patrons to share the Cajun experience. Boutin's is perfect for a family outing and is especially nice for out-of-town visitors who want to capture some Cajun flair.



SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2011

This is a “free day” with your host family.

JAMBALAYA FESTIVAL:

Gonzales is known as the “Jambalaya Capital of the World”. Your host family will bring you to the Jambalaya Festival, where you can watch the cooks compete for the championship title. The mayor will be happy to introduce you from the stage. Please be sure to go by the *EATEL* TV booth. Ms. Jenny Herroman would like to interview you for a television program.

The festival features World Champion Jambalaya served daily, live music and entertainment, carnival rides, cooking contests, a variety of food and so much fun it takes four days to get it all in.



What is Jambalaya? Similar in many ways to Spanish paella, the term "jambalaya" is derived from the Spanish jamon for ham. It's pronounced "jahm-buh-LIE-uh" or "jum-buh-LIE-uh". Jambalaya found its way into Creole cookery in the late 1700's where it soon took on the flavor of added local ingredients.

OTHER THINGS:

Please enjoy Gonzales and its surrounding areas.

Tanger Mall is a tax-free shopping center for visitors. You will need your passport to shop there. You will also enjoy Cabela's. Cabela's is a sporting goods store and makes the best fudge in its shop upstairs.

The Mall of Louisiana is a typical city shopping center located in Baton Rouge. The Mall of Louisiana is a 1.6 million square foot, two-level enclosed super regional mall and includes an outdoor lifestyle center, a power center and a Rave movie theater. The Mall of Louisiana has over 175 retailers offering upscale and unique shopping selections.

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2011

WORLD WAR II MUSEUM:

See history come to life and experience interactive displays concerning World War II. This is a very moving experience. The National World War II Museum is a living museum. It honors the generation that won the war by enlightening today's generation about its own potential. The Museum is dedicated to the premise that these lessons are just as valuable today as they were over sixty-five years ago.



MARDI GRAS WORLD:



Mardi Gras is a very big event in southern Louisiana. See what it is all about. Mardi Gras World is a world of wonders, created for you by the people who bring Mardi Gras to life every year—the artists of Blaine Kern Studios.

The colors, the lights, the music, the joie de vivre. It's all here in one magical place where you can peek behind the curtain and see Mardi Gras in the making. You haven't truly experienced Carnival until you've explored Mardi Gras World.

THE COURT OF TWO SISTERS:



Two sisters, Emma and Bertha Camors, born 1858 and 1860 respectively, belonged to a proud and aristocratic Creole family. Their "rabais", or notions, outfitted many of the city's finest women with formal gowns, lace and perfumes imported from Paris. Marriage, reversals of fortune, widowhood - nothing could separate the sisters. Indeed, as the Picayune was to report, the sisters died within two months of each other in the winter of 1944. This restaurant will have a buffet of over 80 items. We will be able to listen to a jazz ensemble as we eat.

Jazz Brunch Buffet (French)

Pour de nombreux voyageurs, une visite à la Nouvelle-Orléans serait incomplète sans un arrêt au célèbre restaurant " Court of Two Sisters ". Nous vous proposons un superbe Jazz Buffet Brunch, véritable cocktail de tout ce que la Nouvelle-Orléans a de meilleur à offrir: une élégante cour intérieure, un grand choix de spécialités culinaires créoles et Cajuns et la musique de notre trio de jazz.

Notre somptueux Brunch Buffet est composé de mets chauds et froids. Puisque nous n'utilisons que les ingrédients les plus frais, les sélections proposées peuvent changer au fil des saisons. Cependant, nos plats chauds consistent habituellement en : Jambalaya à la créole, Étouffée de Crevettes épicée, Canard à l'Orange, Gombo au Poulet et à l'Andouille, Bœuf tendre et Dinde rôtis, omelettes sur commande et Œufs Benedict.

Le buffet froid consiste en une sélection originale de crevettes et d'écrevisses bouillies, salades de fruits de mer, pâtes et fruits frais. Nous proposons également de délicieux desserts allant de la Galette des Rois et du riche Pudding de Pain, jusqu'à la tarte à la noix de pécan et aux crêpes suzettes.

Notre restaurant avec sa cour chargée d'histoire, évocatrice du vieux pays, est un havre de détente qui se prête à la dégustation de nos alléchantes sélections. Entouré de fontaines au murmure tranquille, de plantes en fleurs, bercé par les mélodies de notre trio de Jazz, vous vous rendrez compte que c'est cette Nouvelle-Orléans là que vous êtes venu découvrir.

FRENCH MARKET:

For over 200 years, the historic French Market has been an enduring symbol of pride and progress for the people of New Orleans. While the Market has existed on the same site since 1791, each new decade and governing flag has brought dramatic changes to the Market and helped to secure its special place in the hearts of the people of New Orleans.

What began as a Native American trading post on the banks of the mighty, muddy Mississippi River on the site chosen for the City by the French, has become a cultural, commercial and entertainment treasure which the Crescent City proudly shares with the world.

Lots of shopping opportunities! Enjoy looking around.

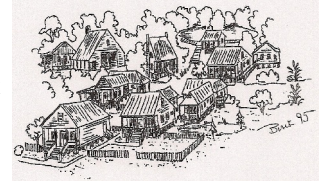


MONDAY, MAY 30, 2011

This is an American holiday - Memorial Day. We remember and honor those who have died for our freedom. All government offices, schools, banks, etc., will be closed. Shopping centers will not.

CAJUN VILLAGE:

Enjoy beignets & coffee. There are little cottages that contain an art gallery, an antique shop, and souvenir shop. Alligators are in the swamp behind the buildings and are fed each Sunday at 4:00 pm.



If your interests are antiques and collectibles, then you'll want to visit Cajun Village Antiques. At Louisiana Pottery, you'll find beautiful handmade pottery created by talented Louisiana artisans. Village Gifts and Décor is a one stop shop for Fleur-de-lis home décor and accessories. If you collect souvenirs, The Cajun Shop, with any and all things Louisiana, is an adventure waiting to happen. There is an on-site candle factory, called Boniblu Candles. From Casa de Sue Winery, comes Louisiana Wines, made from grapes grown right here in Louisiana. They are the only off-site wine tasting room in Louisiana.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM:



With over 300 years of history, the legacy and importance of Africans in America to the growth of the South, the United States and the world is evident through the collection and exhibits of rare artifacts found at the museum.

ASCENSION CATHOLIC CHURCH:



Founded by order of King Charles III of Spain in 1772, it has remained the center of faith for Christians here under the flags of Spain, France, Territory of Louisiana, the Confederate States of America, and the United States of America. No one knows exactly when the first small chapel was constructed, however, the Acadians began to settle the area in 1758, and records indicate that the Spanish militia began construction on a small mission chapel for the settlement on September 10, 1770, on property that remains designated as church property today. It was served by a missionary priest who traveled by boat up and down the River.

CABAHANOSSE:

This Bed & Breakfast is home to four elegant suites and welcomes families, friends and travelers as a peaceful getaway under 100 year-old live oak trees, just a short walk from many fine restaurants, historic sites, churches and museums.

Cabahanosse Antiques & Gifts Shop is an eclectic collection of shops featuring eighteen different vendors with displays overflowing with glassware, linens, home and garden decor, jewelry and clothing, baby and children's gifts, books and cookbooks, collectibles and of course antiques.



THE CABIN RESTAURANT:

As one looks around upon entering, The Cabin gives off an aura of authenticity and realism.



The original cypress roof is still visible from inside, and even the spider webs of 100 years ago are still clinging to the ceiling. The walls are papered with ancient newspaper, fixed to the wall with a mixture of flour and water. This was the way the slaves insulated the walls of the original slave dwelling. Antique farm implements and tools of years gone by are displayed for you to see.

BOCAGE PLANTATION:

Considered the best and most original interpretation of American Greek Revival architecture in the nation, Bocage is a historic treasure not to be missed. Steeped in history with ties to Christopher Columbus and the early colonization of America, the magnificent mansion was designed by famous architect James Dakin and built in 1837. (The original 1801 Creole cottage on the site burned.)



RIVER REGION ART ASSOCIATION:

The art association has graciously invited us to their gallery for wine and viewing their members' art pieces. Several of their members went to Meylan in 2010. Afterwards, they have prepared a typical "all-American cook-out" at the home of one of their members. Summertime in the United States is not complete without a outside cook-out. Sometimes, the neighbors get together and other times families get together. Food typically associated with the United States will be served: Grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, apple pie & homemade ice cream. A special thanks to **Sally McConnell** for opening up her home to us.



TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2011

MEET BATON ROUGE MAYOR “KIP” HOLDEN:



Mayor-President
Melvin "Kip" Holden

Baton Rouge is the home of two great universities, a world-class biomedical research facility and a downtown that is coming alive with the opening of two museums, as well as, new and creative residential and office developments.

Mayor Holden has graciously extended an invitation to our French guests to enjoy a day in Baton Rouge.

OLD STATE CAPITOL:

September 21, 1847, was the historic day that the City of Baton Rouge donated to the state of Louisiana a \$20,000 parcel of land for a state capitol building, taking the seat of the capitol away from the City of New Orleans. The land donated by the city for the capitol building stands high atop a Baton Rouge bluff facing the Mississippi River, a site that some believe was once marked by the red pole, or "le baton rouge," which French explorers claimed designated a Native American council meeting site.



LUNCH AT PARRAIN’S:



Parrain’s Seafood opened in September 2001 with a commitment to bring the freshest and highest quality seafood in town. They have mouth-watering selections that are featured daily on our extensive menu. They offer daily specials for lunch and dinner as well as select brunch items on Sundays. The menu includes delicious items that are prepared fresh to order. Parrain’s is proud to serve you only Gulf Coast seafood.

NEW STATE CAPITOL:

The legislature is in session. You will be able to observe laws being made and you will meet some of the politicians.

The present state capitol building of Louisiana, located in Baton Rouge, will forever be entwined with the political career of Huey Pierce Long. It was Long's idea for the state to construct a new building for the statehouse in 1928 when he was running for Governor of the State of Louisiana.



The Louisiana Capitol, a 34-story, 450-foot Alabama limestone-clad skyscraper, is an excellent example of a greatly simplified classicism with Art Deco details that were in vogue for monumental buildings in the late 1920s. Only two other state capitols had been built with this design and its 34-story frame is to date unrivaled by any other building in Louisiana.

BANQUET AT THE HOUMAS HOUSE:

You are invited to enjoy the beautiful gardens at the Houmas House beginning at 6:00. The banquet will begin promptly at 7:00 in the Neptune Building.

The first owners of the plantation were the indigenous Houmas Indians, who were given a land grant to occupy the fertile plain between the Mississippi and Lake Maurepas to the north.

The Houmas sold the land to Maurice Conway and Alexander Latil in the mid 1700's. The original French Provincial house that Latil erected on the property in is situated directly behind the Mansion, adjoined by a carriageway to the grand home described during its antebellum heyday as "The Sugar Palace." The original home was later used as living quarters for the staff that served the great house.



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2011

DOWN DE BAYOU DAY:

We appreciate **Eve Mire** and members of the Gonzales Boat Club providing party boats and lunch for us. We will explore the rivers & bayous. You are welcome to wear your bathing suits. Lunch will be served outside ~ a traditional Louisiana favorite ~ *Cochon de lait* is one of Acadiana's most famous and most delectable dishes -- marinated, pit-roasted young suckling pig, sliced thin and served with gravy, on a plate or on a po-boy. The mere aroma of this dish is enough to make your knees buckle.



CRAWFISH BOIL:



We will end the day with another typical food event, although it is most particular to the state of Louisiana ... a crawfish boil ... We thank **Carolyn Bowman** for hosting this at her home. She will provide fishing poles for all those who would like to go fishing in the pond by her house. You are also welcome to bring your bathing suits to this event. The Bowmans have a swimming pool.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2011

We certainly hope you have enjoyed your stay with us. Today is a free day for you to enjoy with your host family. Your packet contains many ideas of things you can do. Your host family is happy to assist you with your plans. To those who are leaving today and tomorrow, "Bon Voyage". We have enjoyed being with you this week. To those who are staying a little while longer, we hope you enjoy your remaining days and wish you a safe trip home.

Many people have worked hard to make your stay comfortable. Thanks to the host families, Ronnie Comeaux, Drena Ourso, John Hebert, Eve Mire, Karen Hatcher, Donna Braud, Sally McConnell, Carolyn Bowman, Delisa & Souleyman Ba, and Ann LeBlanc, who paid the bills!