

# WELCOME TO



We are very happy to have you come and visit our city. We hope you enjoy the program we have prepared for you. If you need anything to make your stay more comfortable, please let your host family know. The officers of the Gonzales Committee on Cultural Affairs are also at your service.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2017

We welcome you to the City of Gonzales. Our city hall building flooded in August, 2016. Twenty of the parishes (provinces) of Louisiana had significant flood damage. Rainfall rates of up to 2-3 inches (5.1-7.6 cm) an hour were reported in the most deluged areas. Totals exceeded nearly 2 feet (61 cm) in some areas as a result of the system remaining stationary. Accumulations peaked at 31.39 inches (797 mm) in Watson, just northeast of Baton Rouge. All of that water flowed down to Ascension Parish.

Many people have still not been able to complete the repairs to their homes.

Mayor Barney Arceneaux and the entire city council join us in welcoming you to our city.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2017

What was life like in Louisiana 100 years ago? We'll find out at the **Rural Life Museum**. This museum is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of materials from the 1700-1800s. Louisiana has natives of French, Spanish, Native American, German, African, Acadian, and Anglo American heritage. The Rural Life Museum commemorates the contributions made by these cultural groups through interpretive programs and events throughout the year. The main portion of the museum is divided into three areas.



1. The Working Plantation illustrates the life of working people on a 19th-century plantation, with a main focus on the lives of enslaved persons.
2. The Southern part of the outdoor museum highlights the contributions of mainly American settlers to Louisiana in the northern and central part of the state in the 19th century.
3. The Acadian or Cajun portion of the outdoor museum consists of two Acadian style homes.

The law makers of Louisiana are in session right now at the **Louisiana State Capital**. We will be able to briefly look into the meeting room and take the elevator up to the top of the capital building. There is a good view of the city and the activities along the Mississippi River from the top of the capitol. We will also have an aerial view of Louisiana State University.



Weather permitting, we will enjoy a picnic lunch at the **Jambalaya Park** in Gonzales. This park is close to city hall. The park and playground are open to the public and boasts of an Olympic size swimming pool. A beautiful open theater area and a gazebo are also



located in the park. There will be time to walk over to the **Veterans Memorial Park**, where those who fought in every war the United States has engaged in are remembered.



France is known for its spectacular wine. We invite you to taste some wine created and bottled right here in Gonzales at the **Dubois Winery**. Mr. Dubois retired from working at the Shell Chemical refinery. He purchased a house once owned by the “Gonzales” family (founders of the city) and has restored it. He uses the many fruit trees and vines on the property to make wine.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2017

Your two-hour cruise from the heart of the French Quarter shows you why the city was founded on the beautiful crescent of the lower Mississippi River. Let us show you New Orleans, one of the world's most active ports, as it can best be seen from the river aboard **The Creole Queen**.



We will enjoy lunch at **Muriel's**. Muriel's opened its doors on March 10, 2001 after an extensive restoration of the building to its former glory of the mid-1800's.

Before we travel back to Gonzales for dinner with host families, we will visit the **Voodoo Museum**. The New Orleans Historic Voodoo Museum was founded in 1972 by Charles Massicot Gandolfo. He was raised on family stories of his great-great-great grandmother, an escaped slave from Haiti who was a Voodoo Queen, during a time in New Orleans when potions were still sold at local pharmacies.



SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2017

Today will be a relaxing day in New Orleans. We will meet at 9:30 for breakfast at Karen's house. Americans like a big breakfast! Unfortunately, with modern schedules, it is difficult to enjoy a big breakfast every day. We will prepare some favorite Louisiana breakfast foods.



We will travel to the **Rose Tree Glass Blowing Gallery** where we can watch artisans create beautiful pieces out of glass. There will be some free time for discount shopping and lunch before we go to the **World War II Museum**. The US and France share a sad history in this war. We will have an opportunity to visit the art exhibition at **Harrah's**.



For a moment, we'll stop being tourists and enjoy the evening as the native New Orleanseans do, on **Frenchmen Street**. Enjoy shopping, listening to music and having dinner with your host family. Frenchmen Street is a New Orleans live music and entertainment district in the Marigny neighborhood at the edge of the French Quarter. The street's music venues feature the best live music New Orleans



has to offer. You can find restaurants, bars, shops, and galleries all within a 3 block area.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 2017

Easter Sunday is an important day for most people in south Louisiana. This is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and, for Catholics, marks the end of the of the lenten season. Traditionally, we in south Louisiana, attend church in the morning, and celebrate the day with family and friends. Please enjoy the day and relax with your host family.

### MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

Today is a full day. We will travel to **Avery Island** and tour the factory that produces the #1 hot sauce in the world. Avery Island is a salt dome best known as the source of Tabasco sauce. The self-guided, 10-stop TABASCO Tour will take you through the TABASCO Museum, the greenhouse, the barrel warehouse and the factory building. Connected with Avery Island is **Jungle Gardens**. There will be photo opportunities in the gardens.



Lunch will be on location and then we will travel to the **Atchafalaya Basin** for a swamp tour. The water is shallow, so we will go out on air boats. Our guide will show us alligators and other wild life. Bring your camera!

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017



Let's feed some animals at the **Global Wildlife Center!** Enjoy a one and a half hour guided Safari Wagon tour over 900 acres of beautiful Louisiana countryside complete with 12 ponds and a lake. We'll see bison, giraffes, zebras, camels, elands, and much more! The animals roam free - It's Africa, in Louisiana!

After feeding the animals, it will be time to feed ourselves. We'll go to **Chimes**, where we will eat overlooking the water.



From canoes to pirogues, from bateaux to steamboats, Louisiana's unique maritime history and culture has it all. Native Americans, European explorers, and early settlers depended upon Louisiana's

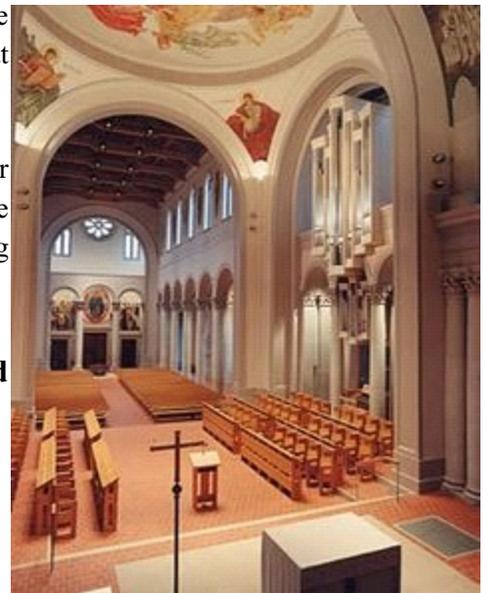


extensive bayous, rivers, and lakes as the pathways of survival, linking the interior with the sea. These waterways represented the connections among people, the connections of life. "Bringing Louisiana's Maritime History to Life," is the driving mission of the **Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum**. We hope to have a presentation by a boat builder.

**St. Joseph's Abbey** is well known for its woodworks, soaps, and honey. We will join the monks for their evening

vespers.

To finish the day, we will go to an "all American" diner, **Steak and Shake** before we head back to Gonzales!



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017



**Houmas House** is beautiful any time of the year, but especially in the spring time! Houmas House Plantation and Gardens allows visitors to experience the life of a wealthy Sugar Baron in the 1800s. Tour the historic mansion and explore 38 acres of lush gardens or relax with a refreshing mint julep and enjoy the breeze off the nearby Mississippi River.

When the tragedy of 9/11 hit, the **Gonzales Fire Department** sent a fire truck to New York City to assist in the recovery efforts. Today, the fire department headquarters in Gonzales houses memorabilia from 9/11, including the fire truck we sent. Both France and the US have experienced terrorism on its soil. We will pause to remember those who have been victims of these attacks.

You cannot leave Gonzales without eating some Jambalaya! The **Jambalaya Association** will provide lunch for us and the **Gonzales Boat Club** will have boats to take us down the bayou. Enjoy some leisure time before our farewell banquet tonight at **Mike Anderson's**.



THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017

We hope you have enjoyed your stay with us. Bon Voyage!