

South Louisiana Loop Tour Arriving Dallas/ DFW Airport

Sample FIT Itinerary & Options

Louisiana's convention bureaus look forward to working with you to customize an itinerary that suits your clientele. This sample itinerary is intended to provide options for a fly/drive loop tour through Louisiana.

Presented by Visit Lake Charles. Contact: Kaitlyn Gallegos, kgallegos@visitlakecharles.org



Arrive Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport

Dallas - Fort Worth, Texas

Enjoy a **Dallas City Tour** featuring Fair-Park, JFK Memorial, World Trade Center and Dealy Plaza Downtown Dallas. Visit the **Sixth Floor Museum at Dealy Plaza**, which contains a historical exhibition dealing with the life, times, death and legacy of John F. Kennedy with a focus on the impact of his death on the nation and the world. Later visit the **Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District**, an important livestock center constructed in 1887 after the railroad arrived in Fort Worth. Later, enjoy dinner at Billy Bob's Texas, a former cattle barn now called "The World's Largest Honky Tonk".

Dallas to Shreveport, Louisiana

Visit the new **George W. Bush Presidential Library & Museum** near the SMU Campus. The library museum tells the story of an extraordinary time in our nation's history and features exhibits and artifacts related to his residency including a full-sized Oval Office.

Later in the day travel east on Interstate 20 to Shreveport, Louisiana

Shreveport, Louisiana

Barksdale Global Power Museum. Take a historic journey from World War I to present. Features uniforms, dioramas, a barracks exhibit dating back to World War II. Twenty-five aircraft and vehicles are on display. 88 Barksdale, AFB, LA|318-456-4171 | www.barksdaleglobalpowermuseum.com

Lunch and Shopping at the Louisiana Boardwalk. The Red River is the picturesque setting for Bossier City's unique shopping and entertainment destination, The Outlets at Louisiana Boardwalk. While visiting The Outlets at Louisiana Boardwalk, visitors can experience shopping, dining, site-seeing and fun with a scavenger hunt. 540 Boardwalk Blvd, Bossier, LA|318-752-1455 | www.louisianaboardwalk.com

Visit Great Raft Brewing Company - Shreveport's first local brewery since the Prohibition era (1920), Great Raft Brewing is a brewery and tasting rooms serving up flagship beers. 1251 Dalzell St, Shreveport, LA|318-734-9881 | www.greatraftbrewing.com

Holy Trinity. The oldest church in Shreveport. Romanesque revival design with main altar of Italian marble gives feeling of European cathedrals. More than 60 stained glass windows. National Register of Historic Places. 315 Marshall St., Shreveport, LA |318-221-5990 | www.holytrinity-shreveport.com

R.W. Norton Art Gallery. The museum of American and European art spanning four centuries, spotlights the Southwest's largest permanent collection of the American Western art by Frederic Remington & Charles Russell. 4747 Creswell Ave, LA|318-865-4201 | www.rwnaf.org

Ralph and Kacoos. Enjoy a variety of Cajun cuisines. Gulf coast seafood, shrimp, crab, crawfish platters, charbroiled fish and steaks. 1700 Old Minden Rd # 141, Shreveport, 318-747-6660, www.ralphandkacoos.com

Natchitoches, Louisiana

Head south on Interstate 49. Make a stop in Natchitoches, Louisiana for world-famous meat pies at [Lasyone's](#).

Walking tour of Historic District - Downtown Natchitoches. Walking tours given by Cane River National Heritage Area available Tuesday - Saturday, call for tour times 318.352.8072.

Now that you know the lay of the land, enjoy unique shopping in downtown Natchitoches

Lunch at Mariner's Restaurant – Overlooking beautiful Sibley Lake Mariner's Restaurant specializes in Creole, fresh Seafood and Certified Angus Beef. 5948 Highway One Bypass, Natchitoches

Melrose Plantation - National Historic Landmark. Built c. 1796. Includes Yucca House, African House, Big House. Home of famous primitive artist Clementine Hunter. Open Tuesday – Sunday. (318) 379-0055.

Lafayette, Louisiana

Continue south on Interstate 10

Experience the "joie de vivre" (joy for living) of the Cajun & Creole people of South Louisiana as you dine on delicious Cajun food and dance to the wonderful tunes of a local Cajun band at **Prejean's**, **Randol's** or **Pont Breaux** Cajun Restaurants.

Enjoy a swamp tour adventure into the interior of one of America's greatest river swamps, the *Atchafalaya Basin*

or at beautiful **Lake Martin**. Get ready for an adventure through moss-draped trees, where you will experience lush vegetation, birds and alligators. Young and not-so young will enjoy these tours through one of the most unique places on earth.

Learn about the Acadians “Cajuns” and Creole cultures at our historic villages **Acadian Village** or **Vermilionville** or several other culture rich stops like the **Jean Lafitte Acadiana Cultural Center** or the home of Evangeline- **St. Martinville**.

Live like a local...experience why Lafayette was voted “**Tastiest Town of the South**” by Southern Living & “Best Food City in USA for Small Towns” by Rand McNally & USA Today. Taste boudin and cracklins on the Cajun Boudin Trail or adventure Downtown Lafayette for a wide variety of unique and local food.

Houma/Thibodaux, Louisiana

Take Louisiana Highway 90 south to Houma/Thibodaux. On the way experience:

The **TABASCO®** Factory & Country Store located on beautiful Avery Island is one of the most visited attractions in Cajun Country. See where the famous hot sauce is bottled and labeled, visit the museum and choose from a multitude of TABASCO® retail products and sample many of the many food products.

Continue south to Houma:

Swamp Tour - Venture into Houma’s swamps and wetlands, the natural environment of exotic birds, brilliant flora, nutrias, deer, wildcats, black bears, otters, and a wide assortment of reptiles, including the ancient and ferocious kings of the swamp –alligators!

Greenwood Gator Farm - Visit an alligator farm and processing plant and learn all about alligators up close... and we mean, REAL CLOSE! Not only will you see these large reptilian monsters, you’ll actually be able to hold live baby alligators and may even see them hatch from eggs!

Southdown Plantation and **Ardoyne Plantation** – Houma is fortunate to have two plantation homes on Cajun folklife. Southdown includes a fascinating Mardi Gras exhibit as well as an exhibit celebrating the importance of the Houmas Indians. Ardoyne is a rare example of Victorian Gothic architecture.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve, Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center, 314 St. Mary Street (LA Hwy. 1), Thibodaux, LA, 985-448-1375 Learn the story of the Acadians who settled along the bayous, in the swamps and wetlands of southeastern Louisiana through indoor exhibits and an outdoor boardwalk along Bayou Lafourche. Park rangers are on hand to answer questions.

New Orleans, Louisiana

Take Interstate 49 East to Interstate 10 east

Experience **Jackson Square**, the **St. Louis Cathedral** and the **French Market**. Snack on beignets and café au lait at **Café Du Monde**.

Walk over to the **French Quarter** to see the incredible blend of architectures, shop at boutiques and art galleries and enjoy a spectacular meal at one of the many local restaurants in the quarter.

Dinner/Jazz Cruise - Experience an amazing meal while cruising the Mississippi River and listening to live music.

[National World War I Museum & Memorial](#) - Steeped in history, the National World War I Museum and Memorial is America’s only museum dedicated to sharing the stories of the Great War through the eyes of those who lived it. Interactive displays, thought-provoking films and eyewitness testimonies help guide visitors through one of the largest collections of WWI artifacts in the world.

Day trip to New Orleans Plantation Country

Oak Alley Plantation, 3645 Hwy 18, Vacherie, LA 70090, (225) 265-2151. Begin your journey back in time as you tour the lush grounds and mansion of, Oak Alley. At this iconic setting renowned for its quarter mile alley of 300 year old live oaks, a timeless story of romance, wealth, greed and tragedy unfolds. After, enjoy a southern Louisiana-style lunch at Oak Alley Restaurant, housed in a 19th century cottage.

Laura Plantation, 2247 Hwy 18, Vacherie, LA 70090, (225) 265-7690. Tour and hear stories based upon 5000 pages of documents and personal memoirs of life on the 1805 Creole Plantation. Here, two centuries of stories about the daily plantation life of Creole owners, women, slaves, and children come alive. Learn more about the Creole families who lived charmed and tragic lives apart from mainstream America for over 200 years.

Houmas House Plantation & Gardens, 40136 LA 942, Darrow, LA 70525, (225) 473-9380. Explore the exotic gardens, rare art, lavish furnishings and fine dining of this Grand Sugar Palace. Enjoy dinner in the tradition of Old Louisiana Dining. Executive Chef, Jeremy Langlois has created menus that will delight and please the finest of guests, and present you with an experience rivaling those of the great Sugar Barons of the 1800's, Latil's Landing or The Carriage House.

New Orleans to Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Take Interstate 10 west

On your way into Baton Rouge, don't miss **Tanger Shopping Outlet**. Over 50 designer and manufacturer outlet stores and restaurants are featured in this popular outlet mall. **Cabela's**, the "World's Foremost Outfitter" of hunting, fishing and outdoor gear, is adjacent to Tanger. Once you arrive in Baton Rouge, head to the **Mall of Louisiana**, Baton Rouge's 1.6 million square foot enclosed mall. After that, visit **Perkins Rowe**, a unique residential and shopping village. Louisiana Tax Free Shopping provides refunds of state sales tax. Louisiana also has six refund centers (one located in Mall of Louisiana), making it easy for international visitors to get cash refunds on the spot.

tangeroutlet.com

malloflouisiana.com

perkinsroweshops.com

Rural Life Museum Visit the renovated Rural Life Museum at Burden Museum and Gardens to get a feel for working plantation life at one of the top ten outdoor museums in the US!

Louisiana's Old State Capitol Visit Louisiana's Old State Capitol, where you'll experience a mesmerizing presentation of the Capitol's history told by the building's very own ghost, Sarah Morgan.

Capitol Park Museum Tour the Capitol Park Museum, a Louisiana State Museum highlighting the state's history and lively culture. Be sure to walk through the "Dance Hall" to hear a variety of Louisiana's musicians. Also, check out the Mardi Gras exhibit, a two-story shrimp boat, and some of Governor Long's famous speeches.

Louisiana's State Capitol Learn just how powerful Governor Huey Long became when you walk through the "New" State Capitol, which he designed and was later assassinated in while walking out of a meeting. Be sure to visit the Observation Deck on the 27th floor to see a bird's-eye view of Baton Rouge.

Tin Roof Brewery Finish off your day with a tour of Tin Roof Brewery, a new locally owned and operated brewery near downtown Baton Rouge. Tour Tin Roof to see how these small business owners keep up with the rest of the brewing world. Tastings of their delicious, Southern-inspired, handcrafted brews available!

Baton Rouge to Lake Charles, Louisiana

As you are traveling Interstate 10 westbound from Baton Rouge, here are a couple of great stops along the way to Lake Charles:

Atchafalaya Basin Welcome Center, located off Interstate 10 at exit 121. In addition to restroom facilities and fresh coffee, this first-class facility offers historical information within the walls of this beautifully designed Acadian-style cottage and museum.

Distillery tour and tasting at [Louisiana Spirits](#), home of Bayou Rum, 20909 South I-10 Frontage Rd, Lacassine, LA, (337) 588-5800

Bayou® Rum is distilled from locally grown sugarcane in southern Louisiana, USA. Our signature “sugarhouse” recipe uses a blend of 100% natural, unrefined Louisiana sugarcane and molasses. Every batch of Bayou Rum is copper pot-distilled and bottled by hand. Tours, tastings and a great gift shop.

In Lake Charles, Louisiana:

[Historic Charpentier District](#)

On the National Register of Historic Places, the Charpentier Historic District covers 40 blocks of downtown Lake Charles. Homes dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s primarily designed and built by carpenter architects. Free tour app, in multiple languages, available – search “Lake Charles Historic”

Experience the state-of-the-art [Crying Eagle Brewing](#) constructed from the ground up to produce great craft beer and be a place to enjoy it. Features a custom 30-barrel brewhouse for our large distributed brews while the “Brewer’s Playground” pilot system is for taproom-exclusive brews along with a taproom with plenty of comfortable indoor seating. Or, step outside to the beer garden to relax and enjoy Louisiana’s beautiful outdoors while playing a game of washers or bean bag toss. Hungry? Enjoy a hand-rolled artisan pizza or sandwich. 1165 E. McNeese St., Lake Charles, (337) 990-4871

[Creole Nature Trail All-American Road](#), 337-436-9588

One of only designated 43 All-American Roads in the entire United States, the Creole Nature Trail is a journey into an untamed wilderness. Right from the vehicle you will see alligators, multiple birds and waterfowl (over 400 species spotted each year) and other marsh wildlife...all in their natural habitat. Several over water boardwalks also provide opportunities where you can stretch your legs and as well as get up close and personal with your nature. Free self-guided tour app (download and then just use your gps location to auto play content) in English, German, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese and Japanese, just search “Creole.” Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at the new Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point—a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana’s unique culture, 2740 Ruth St., Sulphur, LA 70665, 337-502-4358

[Casino gaming](#): The South’s Premier Gaming Resort Destination, Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana boasts four casino resorts offering Las Vegas-style gaming with ALL the amenities!

[L’Auberge Casino Resort](#), 777 Avenue L’Auberge, Lake Charles, LA

Spend an afternoon and call it a vacation. Play a hand of blackjack, followed by a round of golf. This 26-story casino resort has 1,000 casually elegant rooms with 147 luxury suites, 70,000 sq. ft. of non-stop Vegas style gaming with 80 table games and approximately 1,600 slot machines and a 2,100 square-foot Poker Room. Contraband Bayou Golf Club, an 18-hole championship Tom Fazio course. Six innovative restaurants, world class spa and pools with lazy river, The Shops at L’Auberge and top name entertainment.

[Golden Nugget Lake Charles](#), 2550 Golden Nugget Blvd., Lake Charles, LA

Featuring 1,040 luxury hotel rooms and suites; an 18-hole championship golf course; extensive retail options; an 18,000 square-foot ballroom; 30,000 square feet of meeting space; a one-of-a-kind pool; private beach front and marina; and seven of Landry’s signature restaurants. An innovative casino floor featuring 70 table games, a state-of-the-art poker room, and 1,600 of the world’s newest slot machines.

[Delta Downs Racetrack Casino Hotel](#), 2727 Delta Downs Drive, Vinton, LA

Fast-pace casino action with over fifteen hundred of the hottest slots offering Texas-sized aisles and high ceilings. Live races or races from the best tracks year 'round in our multi-track, state-of-the-art Off-Track Betting Parlor, with a non-smoking room and private betting carrels. Delta Downs features the adrenaline-pumping excitement of slot jackpots...the heart pounding thrill of horseracing action...a luxurious hotel, food court with five restaurants, Triple Crown Buffet, Lookout Restaurant, a high-tech lounge, arcade and more.

Houston, Texas

Continue west on Interstate 10

[**NASA Space Center Houston**](#) Amazing museum of space artifacts and exhibits, space attractions and your gateway to tour NASA Johnson Space Center. Be inspired by the wonders of space exploration and go behind the scenes of America's exciting space program. For a truly unique experience, visit any Friday and have lunch with an Astronaut (reservations required.)

[**Houston Museum District**](#) 19 incredible museums, all in 4 walkable zones! From art to health to natural sciences and much more the Houston Museum District is an amazing way to spend a day (or two) and be stimulated to learn.

[**Downtown Theater District**](#) Downtown's premier theater venues, Alley Theatre, Jones Hall and Wortham Theater Center, all sit within a block from one another with the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts located just a hop, skip and a jump away. Downtown destinations Bayou Place, Sundance Cinemas and family favorite Downtown Aquarium are also located within just a few blocks of the major theaters and many dining destinations abound leaving you confident you won't miss the curtain call.

Waco, Texas

Take Interstate 45 north to Texas Highway 84 west

[**Magnolia Market**](#) - find some of the great decorative items featured on the HGTV show "Fixer Upper." In addition, visitors can play games on the lawn, grab a bite to eat in the food truck park, have a tasty cupcake at Silos Bakery Co., or take a stroll through the garden and shop at Magnolia Seed & Supply.

[**Balcones Distillery**](#) - Come behold the beautiful copper pot stills from Scotland, see our grain silos and fermenters, and explore the award-winning flavors of Balcones Texas whisky in a fun and educational experience that walks you through the whisky making process from grain to glass.

Return to Dallas to depart for home *(via Interstate 35 north)*