



Lake Charles Pre Tour for Mardi Gras Fanatics

February 4-6

**Space is limited and reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis.*

Max: 15 writers. Tour is subject to change.

Updated 8/31/15

Activity Level: Easy Active.

This tour will require walking at an easy pace, riding on a parade float, and standing for several hours.

Thursday, February 4

- 6:30 p.m. Writers arrive throughout the day and meet at the Golden Nugget Front Desk to depart for dinner at **121 Artisan Bistro**.
121 Artisan Bistro offers pizza, pasta & fresh salads served in comfy bistro surroundings.
121 Artisan Bistro
121 Dr. Michael DeBakey Dr.
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-310-7499
www.facebook.com/121artisanbistro
- 8:30 p.m. Writers depart for after dinner cocktails at **The Heist**.
Enjoy a glass of wine, signature cocktails, and small plates at The Heist; a unique and swanky wine bar located inside an old vault in Downtown Lake Charles.
Heist
700 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-433-9199
www.facebook.com/heistwinebar
heistwinebar@yahoo.com
- 9:30 p.m. Writers depart for the **Golden Nugget Lake Charles** for their overnight stay.
Golden Nugget Lake Charles
2550 Golden Nugget Blvd
Lake Charles, LA 70601
www.facebook.com/GoldenNuggetLC
www.goldennuggetlc.com
Twitter, Instagram: @GoldenNuggetLC

Friday, February 5

- 8:00 a.m. Start the morning off right with **breakfast at Claim Jumper at Golden Nugget.**
Guaranteed to have something delicious for everyone. Famous for food crafted with the best ingredients and an atmosphere that makes you feel right at home, Claim Jumper offers an experience sure to satisfy everyone.
- 9:40 a.m. **Depart the host hotel to experience the art, culture, and history of Southwest Louisiana.**
The romantic history of Lake Charles, involving tales of pirates and buried treasure, began with the arrival of the first French settlers in the 1760s. The lumber boom, fueled by the vast woodlands in the area, led to the rapid growth of the city, and the extensive use of solid pine and cypress in the construction of the homes in the historic downtown district. Enjoy a step back in time with a visit to local museums and historic tour.
- 10:00 a.m. Arrive at **1911 Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center.**
The beautiful historic building features three floors of gallery space, a clock tower, and a landscaped brick courtyard.
1911 Historic City Hall Arts & Cultural Center
1001 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-491-9159
www.cityoflakecharles.com
- 10:45 a.m. **Carriage Ride Tour of Charpentier Historic District**
*Visitors can enjoy a step back in time with one of the finest collections of Victorian architecture in the state, dating from the late 1800s. Since there were no architects in evidence here until the early 1900s, the structures reflect the individual characteristics of the carpenters (charpentiers in French) and builders. **Download our free app by searching "Historic Lake Charles" in the Apple app store or Android Market.***
- 11:45 a.m. Depart for tour of the **Imperial Calcasieu Museum.**
Check out this great museum that chronicles the history of the region known as Imperial Calcasieu. View artifacts from the area as well as the stately 375+ year old Sallier Oak.
Imperial Calcasieu Museum
204 W. Sallier Street
Lake Charles, LA 70604
337-439-3797
www.imperialcalcasieumuseum.org
www.facebook.com/imperialcalcasieumuseum
- 12:45 p.m. **Lunch at Pujo St. Café**
Enjoy tasty Cajun and Creole dishes freshly prepared at Pujo St. Café. This local favorite located in Historic Downtown Lake Charles where the building's history is as rich as the food served.
- Pujo Street Café**

901 Ryan Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-439-2054
info@pujostreet.com
www.pujostreet.com
Facebook: Pujo Street Café

2:15 p.m. Explore **Candice Alexander's Art Studio**, a local artist known for her fleur-de-lis artwork.

Alexander Art Studio
900 Ryan St., #102
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-433-2299

3 p.m. **Shopping excursion at Crave & Haven in the Cottage Shops Cultural District.**
Browse these local shops to sample balsamic vinegars and olive oils or to enjoy home furnishings and gift items. Mardi Gras krewe members find gift items, or in Louisiana for Mardi Gras we call them "favors," they'll buy for the kings, queens and friends at the ball. The Cultural District was founded in 2009 to revitalize the area and promote arts and tourism.

Crave Gourmet Baskets & Gifts
2801 Ryan Street #100
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-421-0040
www.cravegiftbaskets.com
www.facebook.com/CraveLakeCharles

Haven Home Furnishings
2801 Ryan Street #400
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-433-2001
www.homefurnishinglakecharles.com
www.facebook.com/ShopHavenHome

4:15 p.m. Depart for the **Acadian Coffee Roasters** for a tour and warm cup of coffee that is roasted locally.
Micro Roaster offering 100% Organic, Fair Trade Organic and Rain Forest Alliance Coffees. Enjoy top grade beans from around the world that will make this coffee experience one to keep you coming back.

Acadian Coffee Roasters
2908 Hodges Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
318-677-9050
www.acadiancoffee.com
Facebook: Acadian Coffee Roasters - 100% Organic

5:15 p.m. **Paint the town PURPLE, GREEN, and GOLD in the Merchants' Parade!**

Ride aboard the CVB's alligator float in the Merchant's Parade amongst local business leaders and social organizations.

- 9:00 p.m. **Dinner at Seafood Palace.**
At this down home Cajun restaurant, you can enjoy boudin balls, gumbo, seafood-filled pistolettes, fried shrimp or fish. Plus, enjoy blue crab!
2218 Enterprise Blvd. Lake Charles, LA
(337) 433-9293 Contact: David Papania Facebook.com/seafoodpalace

Saturday, February 6

- Morning **Enjoy a delicious breakfast at the Golden Nugget Buffet.** *Please use your voucher.*
- 10:45 a.m. Depart for the **Cajun Extravaganza Gumbo Cook-off.**
You will not want to miss this taste-from-every-pot event or the live, hot Southern and Cajun music that comes along with it. Enjoy the smells of simmering roux and the sounds of revelry of more than 50 krewes and teams, all competing to win the "spirit stick" for the best wild game, seafood, or chicken and sausage gumbo.
Lake Charles Civic Center
900 Lakeshore Drive
Lake Charles, LA 70601
- 12:45 p.m. Meet the bus behind the Exhibition Hall near the lake to depart for a visit to Sulphur to tour the **Brimstone Museum and Henning Cultural Center.**
The museum is housed in the Old Southern Pacific Railway Depot. It was established to commemorate the development of the Frasch process of mining sulfur at the turn of the century. Visit the Henning Cultural Center next door for rotating exhibits.
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| Brimstone Museum
900 S Huntington Street
Sulphur, LA 70663
337-527-0357
www.brimstonemuseum.org
www.facebook.com/BrimstoneHS | Henning Cultural Center
923 Ruth Street
Sulphur, LA 70663
337-527-0357
www.brimstonemuseum.org
Facebook: Henning Cultural Center |
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- 1:45 p.m. Depart for a stop along the **Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail at Sausage Link/LeBleu's Landing for a tasting.**
This family owned Cajun restaurant offers a Louisiana gift shop and the meat market prepares Cajun favorites with a window for visitors to view boudin being made. Boudin is a Cajun rice sausage popular in southern Louisiana. It is made with ground pork, liver, rice, parsley, onions, salt, black pepper, red pepper, and other seasonings that vary from cook to cook. The sausage can be steamed or smoked, much to the delight of many residents.
LeBleu's Landing & Sausage Link
202 Henning Drive
Sulphur, LA 70663
337-528-6900

www.lebleuslanding.com

Facebook: Lebleus Landing

- 3:00 p.m. **Mystikal Krewe of Barkus Parade**
View the fantastically disguised canines parade in full Mardi Gras attire, all vying for the title of "Mystikal Dog."
Lake Charles Civic Center
900 Lakeshore Drive
Lake Charles, LA 70601
- 3:30 p.m. **Zydeco Dance at the Civic Center Amphitheater**
Enjoy the free, community Zydeco dance where a live band plays Mambo and Zydeco that is sure to get the crowd on their feet dancing and celebrating.
- 4:45 p.m. Board the bus and head back to the **Golden Nugget** to refresh.
- 6:30 p.m. **SATW Mardi Gras Opening Reception** at Golden Nugget in the Willowick Room overlooking the beautiful Calcasieu River.
Dine on delicious Cajun cuisine and get your toes tapping' to the beats of Roddie Romero & the Hub City All-Stars!