

HISTORY OF KING CAKE

The season of Carnival begins on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the day the three kings visited the Christ Child. And with this date comes an old Louisiana tradition — King Cakes!

The creation of “King Cakes” began in 12th century France when a cake was baked on the eve of Jan. 6 with a small token hidden inside. Whoever got the token in his or her slice became the royalty of the night.

The king cake tradition made its way to Louisiana, but like all good things we tend to keep it going as long as we can. Cakes are enjoyed on Jan. 6, usually with a small baby inside and whoever gets the token must buy the next cake and so on it goes.

Louisiana king cakes come plain, with decoration on top, or filled with wonderful things like cream cheese, fruit preserves and pecan praline or created in other unique and wonderful ways. We enjoy our King Cakes, decorated in the Carnival colors of purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power, until Ash Wednesday, the day following Mardi Gras.

Ask anyone in town who makes their favorite king cake, and you'll get a dozen answers. You can find king cakes in mini-marts, grocery stores, coffee shops, as well as bakeries. [Visit LafayetteTravel.com/KingCake](http://VisitLafayetteTravel.com/KingCake) for more details on where to get King Cake in Lafayette.



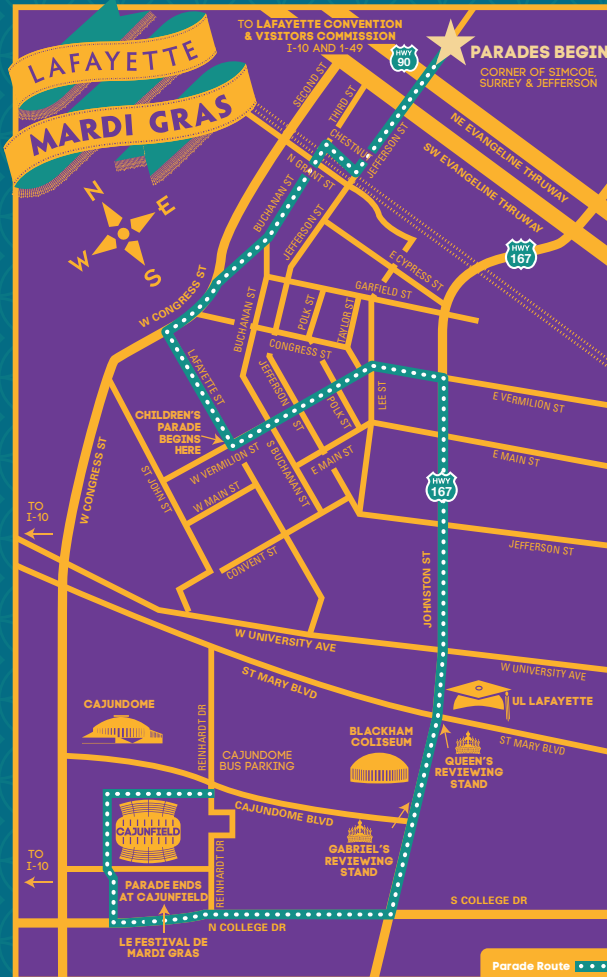
VISIT OUR INFORMATION CENTER

Intersection of I-10 & I-49 | I-10 Exit 103-A
1400 N.W. Evangeline Thruway | I-49 South of I-10

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



*Schedule subject to change. For information on dining, lodging and attractions:

Lafayette
LOUISIANA
Convention and Visitors Commission
LafayetteTravel.com

LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA MARDI GRAS 2022



HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

When is Mardi Gras?

The Catholic Church established the fluctuating date of Mardi Gras. They designed the Gregorian calendar with a fixed date for Christmas and moveable dates for other religious holidays. Easter, which can fall on any Sunday from March 23 to April 25, is set to happen with the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox. Mardi Gras is always scheduled 46 days preceding Easter (the 40 days of Lent plus six Sundays). The carnival season officially opens on the Epiphany, 12 days after Christmas, and ends on Mardi Gras Day, the day before Ash Wednesday.

The Colors of Mardi Gras

In 1872, King Rex, the king of New Orleans' carnival, selected the official colors of Mardi Gras (purple, gold, and green). Rex assigned a meaning to the colors in 1892 for his parade entitled Symbolism of Colors: purple represents justice, green represents faith, and gold signifies power.

Mardi Gras Krewes

A Mardi Gras Krewe is the membership organization for a parade. Krewes also get together throughout the year for the Coronation Ball (where the Maids, Dukes, and King are announced) and Mardi Gras Ball or Tableau (where the Krewe usually appears in their parade costumes). Undisputed as the favorite event of the Krewes is the parade itself, where riders throw trinkets to crowds of people calling, "Throw me something, mister!"

Throw Me Something Mister/Sister

"Throw Me Something Mister" (or sister) is a shout that can be heard as the parade floats roll past. Parade-goers will use any technique to get the attention of the float riders so they can go home with more "throws" than anyone else. Throws are inexpensive trinkets tossed from floats by costumed and masked krewe members. The most popular throws include doubloons (a coin-like souvenir of a carnival krewe, usually with the name and crest of the krewe on one side and its theme of the year on the other), plastic cups, Mardi Gras beads (necklaces), and even stuffed toys. The throwing of trinkets to the crowds was started in the early 1870s by the Twelfth Night Revelers and is a time-honored expectation for young and old alike.

Lafayette's Mardi Gras

The first formal Mardi Gras ball and parade in Lafayette dates back to 1869. In 1897, King Attakapas, the first Mardi Gras king, was crowned, and the first organized parade was held in Lafayette. Formal Mardi Gras balls and parades after 1897 seemed to come and go until 1934, when the Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association was created. Today as in 1934, Queen Evangeline and King Gabriel, who symbolize the Acadian sweethearts separated during the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in Longfellow's Evangeline, are reunited each year at Mardi Gras to rule over the Mardi Gras festivities.

Courir de Mardi Gras

The rural Mardi Gras celebration, the Courir de Mardi Gras, dates back to the earliest days of the area's settlement and is still considered a rite of passage for many in the area. With its roots firmly in the medieval tradition of ceremonial begging, bands of masked and costumed horseback riders roam the countryside, "begging" for ingredients for their communal gumbo. "Le Capitaine," a caped but unmasked captain, stops his revelers at a distance while he approaches with a white flag and asks permission for his riders to enter the owners' property. If permission is granted, the captain lowers his white flag, and the riders charge towards the house. There, they dismount and dance and sing for live chickens and other donations such as rice, onions, and flour to be used in the gumbo. The captain and his group of masked riders return to town late afternoon with their loot. The day's festivities usually end with a fais-do-do and lots of gumbo for Mardi Gras revelers.

LAFAYETTE PARISH *Map on Back Cover

February 18
Krewe de Canailles Walking Parade
Downtown Lafayette, 7:00 p.m. KreweDeCanailles.com.

February 19
Carencro Mardi Gras Parade
Starts at Carencro High ends by Carencro Community Center.
11 a.m. 337-288-5589, CarencroParade.com.

February 19
Krewe des Chiens
Downtown, Lafayette. 12 p.m. 337-984-6522, KreweDesChiens.org.

February 19
Krewe of Carnivale en Rio Mardi Gras Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.
info@riolafayette.com, RioLafayette.com.

February 20
Courir de Mardi Gras - Old-Fashion Mardi Gras Run
Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette.
337-233-4077, Vermilionville.org.

February 20
Scott Mardi Gras Parade
Scott. 1 p.m. 337-269-5155, ScottsBA.org/Mardi-Gras.

February 25
COVID Heroes Parade
Pontiac Point to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.,
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 25-March 1
Le Festival de Mardi Gras à Lafayette
Cajun Field, Lafayette. Carnival rides & games, live music,
food vendors, parades roll through festival grounds.
Times vary. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 26
Krewe of Bonaparte Mardi Gras Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.
800-346-1958, KreweofBonaparte.org.

February 26
Children's Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 12:30 p.m.
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

February 26
Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade
Youngsville. Public Works building to Fountain View.
337-856-4181, Youngsville.us.

February 28
Queen Evangeline's Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m.
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

March 1
Mardi Gras Show at Miami Moon
Miami Moon, Lafayette. SDFLafayette.org/Events/.

March 1
King Gabriel's Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 10 a.m.
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

March 1
Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 1 p.m.
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

March 1
Independent Parade
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 2:30 p.m.
337-233-6000, GoMardiGras.com.

March 1
Southwest Mardi Gras Association Pageant & Ball
Heymann Performing Arts Center and Frem F. Boustany Convention
Center, 1373 S College Rd., Lafayette. 337-291-5540, GoMardiGras.com.

ST. LANDRY PARISH

February 19
Imperial Mardi Gras Ball
Delta Grand Theatre, 120 S Market St., Opelousas. 7 p.m.
337-948-8004, Facebook.com/OpelousasImperialMardiGras.

February 20
Lebeau Mardi Gras Chicken Run
103 Lebeau Church Rd., Lebeau. 337-945-4238,
CajunTravel.com.

February 25 - March 1
Eunice Mardi Gras Celebration
Walnut & 2nd St., Eunice. 337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com.

February 26
Sunset Mardi Gras Parade
Oak Tree Park Dr., Sunset. 11 a.m.
337-322-5374, CajunTravel.com.

February 26
Cankton Courir de Mardi Gras
706 Main St., Cankton. 337-322-5099, Facebook.com/CCCDMG

February 27
Eunice Lil' Mardi Gras
461 Sittig St., Eunice. 337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com.

February 28
Lundi Gras Boucherie
Lakeview Park & Beach, 1717 Veterans Memorial Hwy.,
Eunice. 337-457-2881, CajunTravel.com.

March 1
Opelousas Mardi Gras Parade & Celebration
Parade runs down E Landry, turn left on Liberty and travel
back up Vine St. Opelousas. 337-948-8004, CajunTravel.com.

March 1
Courir de Mardi Gras & Chicken Run
501 Samuel Dr., Eunice. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
337-580-3365, CajunTravel.com.

IBERIA PARISH

February 5
Bayou Mardi Gras Parade
New Iberia. Family style Mardi Gras celebration,
on the banks of the Bayou Teche on Historic Main St.,
6:00-8:00 p.m. 337-367-2844, IberiaTravel.com.

February 13
Grand Marais Mardi Gras Children's Dance
Mon Ami, 7304 E Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, 2-6 p.m.,
Costume judging at 4:30 p.m. Winners will be announced
and will ride in the parade. Admission fee. 337-577-5591,
Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

February 25-28
Grand Marais Mardi Gras Dances
Mon Ami, 7304 E Hwy. 90, Jeanerette, Fri.-Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.,
Sun. 7 p.m.-12 a.m., Mon. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Costume judging at
11 p.m. Fri-Sat., and at 10 p.m. Sun-Mon. Admission fee.
337-577-5591, Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

March 1
Grand Marais Mardi Gras Parade
Hwy 90 E at College Rd., Jeanerette. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
337-577-5591, IberiaTravel.com.

March 1
Krewe of Coteau Mardi Gras Parade
Francis Romero Memorial Park & LA 88,
Coteau. 1 p.m. 337-577-5099, IberiaTravel.com.

March 1
Family Affair Mardi Gras Parade
Main St., Loreauville. 2 p.m. 337-967-4554, IberiaTravel.com.

ST. MARY PARISH

February 25
Krewe of Adonis
Morgan City. Begins on 2nd Street under the La. 182 bridge and
proceeds to Onstead Street continuing down Sixth St. to Marguerite
St., Ninth St./Hwy.70, Clothilde to onto Victor II Blvd. and ending at
the Morgan City Auditorium on Myrtle St. 7 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

February 26
Baldwin Mardi Gras Parade
Baldwin. Begins on Hwy. 182/Main St. at the Sager-Brown facility,
continues down Hwy. 182/Main St., turns left onto Martin Luther
King Blvd., turns right on Bollard St., ending at Baldwin Community
Center on Bollard St. 1 p.m. 985-380-8224, CajunCoast.com.

February 26
Cypremort Point Boat Parade
Cypremort Point State Park, Hwy. 319. 1 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

February 26
Krewe of Dionysius Parade
Berwick, the procession will line up on Gilmore Drive and turn on
John Street, Robicheaux Street, Mount Street, Gilmore Drive, right on
La. 182, Tournament Boulevard, Fairview Drive then to Pattie Drive,
where it will disband at Berwick Junior High School. CajunCoast.com.

February 27
Krewe of Galatea Parade
Morgan City. Begins on 2nd Street under the La. 182 bridge and
proceeds to Onstead Street continuing down Sixth St. to Marguerite
St., Ninth St./Hwy.70, Clothilde to onto Victor II Blvd. and ending at
the Morgan City Auditorium on Myrtle St. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

February 28
Krewe of Amani Parade
Parade begins at Patterson High School on Hwy. 182/Main St.
and continues down Hwy. 182/Main St. to Place Norman
Shopping Center. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

February 28
Krewe of Hera Parade
Begins on 2nd Street under the La. 182 bridge and proceeds to
Onstead Street continuing down Sixth St. to Marguerite St.,
Ninth St./Hwy.70, Clothilde to onto Victor II Blvd. and ending at
the Morgan City Auditorium on Myrtle St. 7 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

March 1
Franklin Mardi Gras Parade
Franklin. Begins at Franklin Senior High School on Main St., proceeds
east on Main St., making a U-turn and then continues onto Willow St.
The parade then turns right onto Third St., disbanding at the end of
Third St. 1 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

March 1
Krewe of Hephaestus Parade
Morgan City. Begins on the corner of Sixth and Sycamore St.,
proceeds on Sixth St. to Marguerite St. to Ninth St./Hwy. 70, to
Clothilde, to Victor II Blvd. and ending at the Morgan City Auditorium
on Myrtle St. 2 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

March 1
Siracusaville Parade
Siracusaville. Participants will line up on Siracusa Road at 1 p.m.
and proceed to James Street and Grace Street before ending at
the Siracusaville Recreation Center.

ST. MARTIN PARISH

February 10-12
Cornucopia Ball
Children's and teens' gala Mardi Gras. Gala with selected theme.
7-11 p.m. 337-789-3592, StMartinville.org.

February 27
Newcomers Club Mardi Gras Festival
S. New Market Street by the Evangeline Oak.
2-10 p.m. 337-380-6051, StMartinville.org.

ACADIA PARISH

JAN 15
Frog-Di Gras in Rayne
210 Frog Festival Dr, Rayne. 7-11 p.m. A Mardi Gras party
celebrating 50 years of Frog Festival; dress code is anything Mardi
Gras themed, live music, complimentary gumbo and cash bar.
Tickets available at Rayne Chamber of Commerce. 337-334-2332,
Raynechamber.net

February 19
Mermentau Cove Courir de Mardi Gras de L'anse
1174 Lafosse Rd., Morse. Traditional run down the back roads
of Mermentau Cove making several stops including private
homes and Istre Cemetery. Day ends with a fais do-do and gumbo.
337-356-6045, AcadiaTourism.org.

February 26
Church Point Children's Courir de Mardi Gras
1036 E Ebey-Saddle Tramp House, Church Point.
Begins 8:30 a.m. Downtown for parade at 12:30 p.m.
Awards at 1 p.m. 337-684-2026, AcadiaTourism.org.

February 27
Courir de Mardi Gras in Church Point
1036 E Ebey-Saddle Tramp House, Church Point.
Courir begins at 8 a.m. and ends downtown for a
parade at 1:30 p.m. 337-684-2026, AcadiaTourism.org.

March 1
Tee Mamou-lota Mardi Gras Folklife Festival
Downtown, Iota. Festivities begin at 9 a.m. with a Catholic Mass;
followed by live music, folk arts and crafts, Children's Mardi Gras,
and adult parade. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 337-523-6557, IotaMardiGras.
com.

March 1
Carnival D'Acadie (Mardi Gras)
Downtown, Crowley. Fair, live music and street dance, costume
contests, parade. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 337-783-0821, AcadiaTourism.org.

EVANGELINE PARISH

February 26
Mamou Mardi Gras
Downtown, Mamou. 337-468-3175, EvangelineChamber.com.

March 1
No Limit Riders Annual Mardi Gras Run
The riders finish up the run by riding down 6th St. where
a band will be set up at the intersection of 6th and Main St.

March 1
Mamou Mardi Gras Parade
10:00 am. The parade will start at Lyons Market located on
Poinciana Ave, and will turn off of Poinciana onto Cajun Dr.
ending at the Chevron on 6th St. around 1:30 pm.

VERMILION PARISH

March 1
Krewe Chic A La Pie Mardi Gras Parade
Downtown Kaplan. 2 p.m. 337-652-8463, MostCajun.com.

JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

JAN 29
Welsh's Mardi Gras Ball
Town of Welsh: 337-734-2231

February 5
Welsh's in Town Run and Parade
Town of Welsh: 337-734-2231

February 12
Welsh's Country Run and Parade
Town of Welsh: 337-734-2231

February 12
Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Ball
Lake Arthur. 337-774-2211.

February 19
**Lake Arthur Mardi Gras
Run & Parade**
Lake Arthur. 337-774-2211.

February 26
Elton's Mardi Gras Run.
Austin Bertrand: 337-764-1473

February 26
**Jennings Mardi Gras
Run & Parade**
337-821-5532,
CityOfJennings.com/Events.