

# 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](https://LafayetteTravel.com/KingCake) for more details on where to get King Cake in Lafayette.



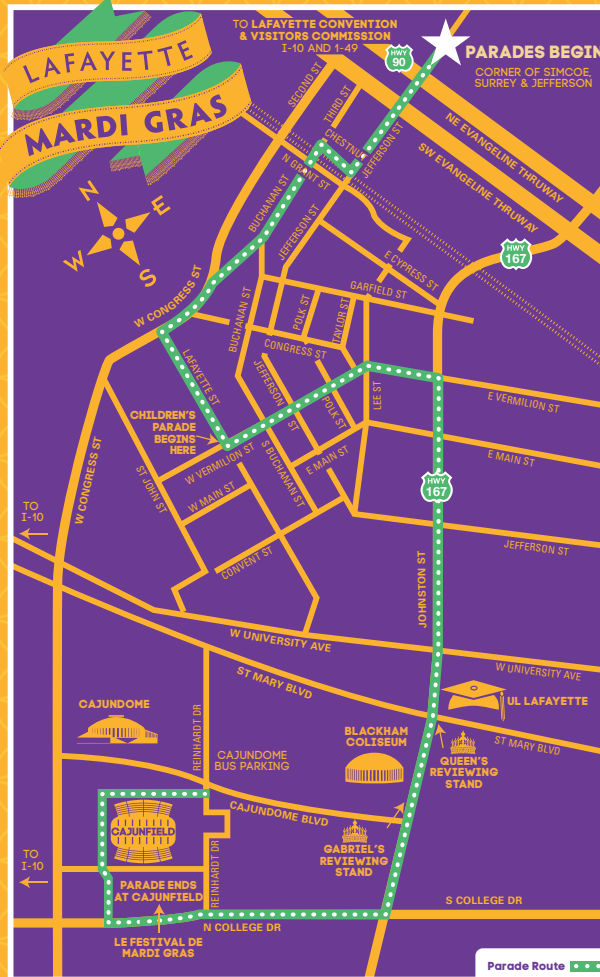
## VISIT OUR INFORMATION CENTER

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](https://LafayetteTravel.com)



# 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*  
**FEB 10**  
**Krewe de Canailles Walking Parade.**  
Downtown Lafayette, 7:00 p.m. KreweDeCanailles.com.

**FEB 11**  
**Carencro Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Starts at Carencro High ends by Carencro Community Center. 10 a.m. CarencroParade.com.

**FEB 11**  
**Krewe des Chiens.**  
Downtown, Lafayette. 12 p.m. KreweDesChiens.org.

**FEB 11**  
**Krewe of Carnivale en Rio Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m. RioLafayette.com.

**FEB 12**  
**Courir de Mardi Gras - Old-Fashion Mardi Gras Run.**  
Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette. 337-233-4077, Vermilionville.org.

**FEB 12**  
**Scott Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Scott. 1 p.m. ScottsBA.org/Mardi-Gras.

**FEB 17-21**  
**Le Festival de Mardi Gras à Lafayette.**  
Cajun Field, Lafayette. Carnival rides & games, live music, food vendors, and parades roll through the festival grounds. Times vary. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 17**  
**“Kick-Off” Parade.**  
Pontiac Point to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m., 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 18**  
**Krewe of Bonaparte Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m. 800-346-1958, KreweofBonaparte.org.

**FEB 18**  
**Children's Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 12:30 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 18**  
**Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Youngsville. Public Works building to Fountain View. 11:00 a.m. Youngsville.us.

**FEB 20**  
**Queen Evangeline's Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Mardi Gras Show at Miami Moon.**  
Miami Moon, Lafayette. SDFLafayette.org/Events/.

**FEB 21**  
**King Gabriel's Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 10 a.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 1 p.m. 800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Independent Parade.**  
Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 2:30 p.m. GoMardiGras.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Southwest Mardi Gras Association Pageant & Ball.**  
Heymann Performing Arts Center and Frem F. Boustany Convention Center, 1373 S College Rd., Lafayette. GoMardiGras.com.

# ST. LANDRY PARISH

**FEB 11**  
**Imperial Mardi Gras Ball.**  
Delta Grand Theatre, 120 S Market St., Opelousas. 7 p.m. Facebook.com/OpelousasImperialMardiGras.

**FEB 12**  
**Lebeau Mardi Gras Chicken Run.**  
103 Lebeau Church Rd., Lebeau. CajunTravel.com.

**FEB 17 - 21**  
**Eunice Mardi Gras Celebration.**  
Walnut & 2nd St., Eunice. CajunTravel.com.

**FEB 18**  
**Sunset Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Oak Tree Park Dr., Sunset. 11 a.m. CajunTravel.com.

**FEB 18**  
**Cankton Courir de Mardi Gras.**  
706 Main St., Cankton. Facebook.com/CCCDMG

**FEB 19**  
**Eunice Lil' Mardi Gras.**  
461 Sittig St., Eunice. CajunTravel.com.

**FEB 20**  
**Lundi Gras Boucherie.**  
Lakeview Park & Beach, 1717 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Eunice. CajunTravel.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Opelousas Mardi Gras Parade & Celebration.**  
Parade runs down E Landry, turn left on Liberty and travel back up Vine St., Opelousas. CajunTravel.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Courir de Mardi Gras & Chicken Run.**  
501 Samuel Dr., Eunice. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. CajunTravel.com

# IBERIA PARISH

**FEB 4**  
**Bayou Mardi Gras Parade.**  
New Iberia. Family-styled Mardi Gras celebration, on the banks of the Bayou Teche on Historic Main St., 6-8 p.m. IberiaTravel.com.

**FEB 12**  
**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. Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

**FEB 17-20**  
**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. Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

**FEB 19**  
**Grand Marais Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Hwy 90 E at College Rd., Grand Mary. 2-4 p.m. 337-577-5591, IberiaTravel.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Krewe of Coteau Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Francis Romero Memorial Park & LA 88, Coteau. 1 p.m. IberiaTravel.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Family Affair Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Main St., Loreauville. 2 p.m. IberiaTravel.com.

# ST. MARY PARISH

**FEB 17**  
**Krewe of Adonis.**  
Morgan City. Begins on 2nd St. under the La. 182 bridge and proceeds to Onstead St., 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.

**FEB 18**  
**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. CajunCoast.com.

**FEB 18**  
**Cypremort Point Boat Parade.**  
Cypremort Point State Park. Hwy. 319. 1 p.m. CajunCoast.com.

**FEB 18**  
**Krewe of Dionysius Parade.**  
Berwick. The procession will line up on Gilmore Dr. and turn on John St., Robicheaux St., Mount St., Gilmore Dr., right on La. 182, Tournament Boulevard, Fairview Dr. then to Pattie Dr., where it will disband at Berwick Junior High School. CajunCoast.com.

**FEB 19**  
**Krewe of Galatea Parade.**  
Morgan City. Begins on 2nd St. under the La. 182 bridge and proceeds to Onstead St. 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.

**FEB 20**  
**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.

**Feb 20**  
**Krewe of Hera Parade.**  
Begins on 2nd St. under the La. 182 bridge and proceeds to Onstead St. 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.

**FEB 21**  
**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.

**FEB 21**  
**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.

**FEB 21**  
**Siracusaville Parade.**  
Siracusaville. Participants will line up on Siracusa Road at 1 p.m. and proceed to James St. and Grace St. before ending at the Siracusaville Recreation Center.

# ST. MARTIN PARISH

**FEB 19**  
**Newcomers Club Mardi Gras Festival.**  
S. New Market St. by the Evangeline Oak. 2-10 p.m. StMartinville.org

# ACADIA PARISH

**FEB 11**  
**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. AcadiaTourism.org.

**FEB 18**  
**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. AcadiaTourism.org.

**FEB 19**  
**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. AcadiaTourism.org.

**FEB 21**  
**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. IotaMardiGras.com.

**FEB 21**  
**Carnival D'Acadie (Mardi Gras).**  
Downtown, Crowley. Fair, live music and street dance, costume contests, parade. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. AcadiaTourism.org.

# EVANGELINE PARISH

**FEB 18**  
**Mamou Mardi Gras.**  
Downtown, Mamou. EvangelineChamber.com.

**FEB 21**  
**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.

**FEB 21**  
**Mamou Mardi Gras Parade.**  
10 a.m. 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 p.m.

# VERMILION PARISH

**FEB 21**  
**Krewe Chic A La Pie Mardi Gras Parade.**  
Downtown Kaplan. 2 p.m. MostCajun.com.

# JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

**JAN 28**  
**Welsh's In Town Run and Parade.**  
Town of Welsh. 337-734-2231.

**FEB 4**  
**Welsh's Country Run and Parade.**  
Town of Welsh. 337-734-2231.

**FEB 4**  
**Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Ball.**  
Lake Arthur. 337-774-2211.

**FEB 11**  
**Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Run & Parade.**  
Lake Arthur. 337-774-2211.

**FEB 18**  
**Elton's Mardi Gras Run.**  
337-764-1473.

**FEB 18**  
**Jennings Mardi Gras Run & Parade.**  
CityOfJennings.com/Events.