



LAFAYETTE

— LOUISIANA —

LafayetteTravel.com/Media



Photos by Denny Culbert, Paul Kieu, and LafayetteTravel.



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DISTANCES - FEEDER CITIES

Alexandria	89 mi. / 143 km
Atlanta	580 mi. / 933 km
Baton Rouge	59 mi. / 98 km
Dallas	391 mi. / 629 km
Houma	102 mi. / 164 km
Lake Charles	75 mi. / 121 km
Memphis	438 mi. / 705 km
Monroe	184 mi. / 296 km
Morgan City	68 mi. / 109 km
Natchez	134 mi. / 216 km
New Orleans (via I-10)	135 mi. / 217 km
New Orleans (via Hwy.90)	153 mi. / 246 km
Shreveport	212 mi. / 341 km
Houston	217 mi. / 349 km



What's New!

- **Louisiana Civil Rights Trail:** The ninth marker along the Louisiana Civil Rights trail was recently unveiled on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus. This marker honors four Black students who successfully sued in federal court during the civil rights movement after being denied admission to the university.
- **Downtown Lafayette All-Inclusive Park:** New inclusive and accessible park for all children that includes equipment from Berliner Seilabrik, a Germany-based manufacturer of playgrounds worldwide.
- **Outdoor Adventure Kids:** A program divided into 10 events throughout the year introducing families to different areas of ecology in Louisiana nature with various trips like canoeing, kayaking, camping, and hiking.

Up & Coming

- **Lafayette Set to Boost Sports Tourism with New State-of-the-Art Indoor Facility:** The proposed multi-purpose sports center will feature a minimum of eight basketball courts and 16 volleyball courts. Its versatile design will also accommodate pickleball, wrestling, and other sporting events.
- **One of the oldest buildings in Lafayette could become a music museum by 2025:** The 10,000-square-foot, two-story historic building will undergo a series of renovations and will showcase the music and sounds of local musicians. There will be permanent exhibitions, as well as some that rotate. In addition to exhibits, the museum will have gathering spaces to celebrate the region's culture.
- **United Airlines Expands Service at Lafayette Regional Airport with Two New Daily Flights to Houston:** The new flights will take off from LFT at 5:20 a.m. and 2 p.m., respectively, providing greater flexibility and options for travelers heading to Houston or connecting to other destinations via United's extensive network.



New Restaurants

- **Gather:** Counter-service concept, featuring a diverse breakfast & lunch menu inspired by a variety of cuisines ranging from Korean, Southwest, Mexican, American, and more.
- **Five Mile Eatery, Market & Co-Op:** New community-centered breakfast and lunch spot offering fresh farm products in their locally curated retail space and seasonally evolving menu.
- **Coffeeweed Cottage:** Dog-friendly, a community-bridging place designed to inspire gathering in an eclectic setting revolving around many of our favorite things in life, like plants, books, home decor, coffee, and good conversation.
- **Park Bistro:** New neighborhood restaurant serving up new American cuisine near the campus of UL Lafayette, offering fresh dishes like Panko Crusted Shrimp Burger, Ricotta Gnocchi, and much more!
- **Parc de Oaks:** New family-owned & operated food truck park will feature a permanent bar that will offer a wide selection of local beer and a rotating selection of ciders, wines, and cocktails.



- **Gator Cove:** Home to Wildcat Brothers Rum Distillery and offering live music, tastings, events, and more.
- **Topgolf:** Enjoy climate-controlled hitting bays for year-round comfort with HDTVs in every bay and throughout our sports bar and restaurant. Using our complimentary clubs or your own, take aim at the giant outfield targets and our high-tech balls will score themselves.
- **Dave & Busters:** National chain offering arcade games, tabletop air hockey, ping pong, billiards as well as food and drink.



- **Boutique hotel in the works for north Lafayette:** The 83-room La' Creole Luxury Boutique Hotel, complete with a full-service restaurant, will sit off West Willow Street right across from the Clifton Chenier Center across from the upcoming Zydeco Hall of Fame.
- **Lafayette slam poets bringing new festival to Lafayette in 2025:** Southern Fried Poetry Slam, an annual spoken word competition that rotates between cities in the southeastern United States, came to Louisiana in 2003 and 2013, but has never ventured beyond New Orleans. That will change in 2025 after local poet Alex "PoeticSoul" Johnson pitched Lafayette to host the arts festival.
- **Paul A. Doerle, Sr. Farmers Market Pavilion at Moncus Park:** The new 3,000-square-foot covered ADA-accessible farmers market pavilion, designed by Lake | Flato, a well-known architectural firm that's big on innovation and sustainability, will feature an open-air design with restrooms, operable panels to open or close the space, a rain garden, a bosque tree courtyard, and a back porch overlooking the front 50 acres of Moncus Park.



- **Antique Alley:** A Jazz & Blues Bistro & Lounge featuring guest chefs with specially curated menus, offering a diverse and ever-changing dining experience.
- **Lucia:** At the heart of Lucia's philosophy lies a commitment to traditional, time-honored baking techniques. The bakery's signature offerings initially featured brioche-stuffed donuts, affectionately known as bombolonis, and grew to an array of laminated pastries on its rotational menu.
- **Randol's:** The longtime owner of Randol's Restaurant & Seafood Processing in Lafayette has purchased the Mulate's/Pont Breaux with plans to re-open Randol's.
- **Parish Biscuit Co.:** Biscuit-centered menu with many instant favorites like avocado toast, fried green tomatoes, eggs benedict, ahi tuna tacos, pineapple & mango chicken breast, and plenty of spiked drinks.
- **Adopted Dog Brewery:** A creation from the owners of Tchoup's Midcity Smokehouse, the brewery's experience will be approachable for all, with something for everyone, even the non-beer drinkers.

Festivals



- **Mardi Gras:** Celebrate Cajun Country Mardi Gras with a traditional Courir de Mardi Gras, parades, Mardi Gras Indians, king cake, or Mardi Gras balls.
- **Festival International de Louisiane:** The largest non-ticketed outdoor Francophone festival in the country, with hundreds of performing and visual artists from 15 countries on seven stages for five days of world music.
- **Festivals Acadiens et Creole:** Since 1974, this free festival has offered three days of nonstop music, dancing, food as well as crafts, and a genuine Cajun and Creole experience like no other.
- **Boudin Cook-Off & Bacon Festival:** First dreamt up by University of Louisiana at Lafayette history professor Robert Carriker, Lafayette's Boudin Cook-Off showcases the talents of boudin makers from across the state.
- **Gulf Brew:** Acadiana's largest craft beer festival with over 200 beers from distributors and local homebrewers paired with live music, good food, and great company, all benefitting the Acadiana Center for the Arts.
- **Blackpot Festival & Cook-Off:** A unique festival celebrating Cajun culture and cooking with two days of great music, dancing, food, camping, and jamming.
- **Cajun & Creole Christmas:** Cajun & Creole Country is transformed into a family-friendly winter wonderland throughout November and December with light shows, parades, performances, Papa Noel, and much more.



Food Trails

- **Cajun Boudin Trail:** With over 50 stops throughout the city and beyond, this trail puts you in the driver's seat when it comes to discovering the best boudin and other regional specialty items.
- **Plate Lunch Paradise:** This trail lets you sample over 50 of the area's iconic plate lunches that consist of meat, gravy-covered starch, a pair of vegetable sides, and a simple piece of bread.
- **Crawfish:** Sample over 70 boiled crawfish restaurants serving up this seasonable crustacean or try the many variations like crawfish étouffée at Lafayette's local restaurants.
- **Gumbo:** From chicken and sausage to seafood and everything in between, there's a gumbo for everyone in Lafayette, with over 30 restaurants serving up this culinary staple.
- **Po'boys:** Buttery, toasted French bread stuffed with fried shrimp, crawfish, oysters, and catfish, the po'boy has many variations, including pulled pork, roast beef, fried chicken, and Vietnamese bánh mì.



Trails



- **Cajun Country Dancehalls:** Equal parts bar, performance hall, and community center, the traditional dancehall provides a space for much-needed recreation and dancing.
- **Ancient Oaks Tour:** Live oaks are history, heritage, and heirlooms all rolled into one in South Louisiana. Today, more than a thousand ancient oaks are located in the Lafayette area.
- **Historic Lafayette:** Lafayette has a living and vibrant history that is evident whether you're grabbing a bite to eat, visiting a gallery or museum, or dancing to Cajun or Zydeco music at a local dancehall.
- **Public Art:** The vibrancy of the Hub City can be felt through its public art. Some are relatively new, in progress, or have withstood the test of time for nearly 40 years, from murals to sculptures and everything in between.

Trip Ideas

- **Foodie's Guide to Lafayette:** It's hard to go wrong in Lafayette when you're looking for great food. The biggest challenge is working out what not to eat. Leave the hard work to us with this comprehensive guide to the city's best culinary delights.
- **Two-Step Your Way Through Acadiana:** If you're an experienced dancer or want to learn the basic two-step, Lafayette has a dance floor just for you.
- **Lafayette en francais:** Lafayette is known as the heart of French Louisiana, and rightfully so, with over 140 area restaurants, attractions, and accommodations that speak French along with many monthly French tables.
- **Hub City Day Trips:** We're known as "The Hub City" because of our proximity to smaller towns where a large portion of our rich culture lives, making it well worth the trip.
- **Cajun Food Tours:** Learn about the rich cultural history on this three-hour tasting tour with frequent stops along the way while getting a dose of Cajun hospitality on their cozy tour bus. Full-day tours are available as well.

Adventure

- **Outdoor Adventure Guide:** Lafayette is known for its swampland dotted with moss-draped cypress trees teeming with wildlife making it the perfect destination for bird watching, paddling, fishing, camping, biking, and numerous other outdoor activities.
- **Vermilion Voyage:** An all-inclusive three-day, 50-mile, overnight paddle down the Bayou Vermilion with cultural and culinary stops along the way.
- **Cycle Zydeco:** A four-day festival on wheels, this casual bike tour across South Louisiana includes great food, live music, and the most beautiful backroads Louisiana has to offer.
- **Zydeco Marathon:** Featuring a full marathon, half marathon, relay option, and kid's 1-mile and 5K, this event combines the spirit of competition with the unique joie de vivre of Cajun Culture.

