



Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras, in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun and Creole Country, is the family-friendly way to have fun. Enjoy nine parades, a festival with live music, fairground rides, and the traditional courir de Mardi Gras. There's something for everyone in your krewe.

February 26-29, 2028
February 9-13, 2029
March 1-5, 2030

LafayetteTravel.com/VIP-Mardi-Gras



Festival International

Each year hundreds of artists from 15 countries take over the streets of Downtown Lafayette, celebrating the connection between our area and the Francophone world. Five days to dance, eat, and shop at Festival International.

Held annually on the last Wednesday through Sunday in April

LafayetteTravel.com/FestivalInternational



Festivals Acadiens et Créoles

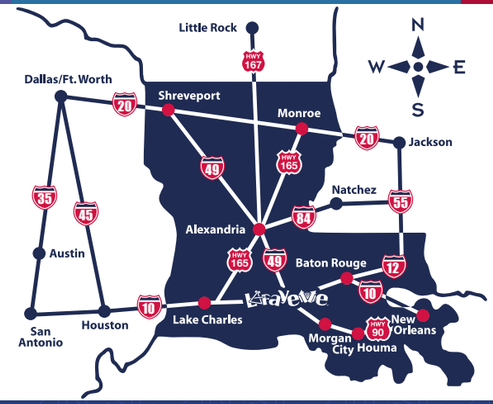
Kick-up some dirt on the dance floor where live Cajun & Zydeco music take center stage all weekend long in celebration of our French roots. Taste the delicious traditional eats and discover heritage craftsmanship while dancing your way across six stages.

Held annually the second full weekend in October

LafayetteTravel.com/FestivalAcadiens

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



LAFAYETTE
LOUISIANA
Seasoned to Celebrate
LafayetteTravel.com/Seasoned

Photos by Denny Culbert, Jason Cohen, Jamie O'Rillion, Mike Roebuck, and Lance LeBlanc. 2026/10



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FEATURED

FRIENDLIEST CITIES IN THE SOUTH
Southern Living

- **Alliance Francais:** *French interactive experience for small groups.*
- **Bonaparte Float Barn:** *Group tours featuring Mardi Gras Floats, Hands-On Experiences, and History of Mardi Gras.*
- **Bougie Bar:** *Make Candles & Room Spray. Drink Wine. Get Bougie. Welcome to Louisiana's candle-making store.*
- **Louisiana Orphan Train Museum:** *Tells the history of the orphan train riders who came to the area from The New York Foundling Hospital from 1854-1929.*
- **Martin Accordions:** *Group attraction showcasing accordion manufacturing, music demonstration, and storytelling.*
- **Painted Bayou:** *Local Pottery, stain glass classes for groups & individuals with great shopping.*
- **Rouler Bike Tours:** *Experience South Louisiana's joie de vivre from a fresh perspective – history, art, music, and nature at a crossroads of cultures. *French tours available.*
- **Scrappie Studio:** *Community through art offering unique classes including Mardi Gras Mask Making.*

COMING IN 2028:

- **Hotel Lafayette:** *83 room Independent Downtown Boutique Property*
- **Louisiana Music Museum**: *Interactive Museum with a focus on all styles of Louisiana Music.*



OUTDOOR

BEST PLACES TO LIVE FOR FAMILIES
Fortune Well

- **Swamp Tours - Group:** *Atchafalaya Basin Landing, McGee's Swamp Tours, Champagne's, Cajun Country Swamp Tours.*
- **Airboat Tours:** *Atchafalaya Basin Landing, McGee's Swamp Tours*
- **Canoe/Kayak Swamp Tours:** *Acadiana Adventure Guides, Duc In Altum Kayaking, McGee's Swamp Tours, Pack & Paddle, Wanderlust Rentals.*
- **Crawfish Haven:** *Crawfish farm tours, crawfish boils, and Cajun cooking classes.*
- **Small Boat Swamp Tours:** *Cajun Customized Excursions, Cajun Country Swamp Tours, Champagne's.*
- **Birding/Photography:** *McGee's Swamp Tours*
- **French/Spanish Swamp Tours:** *Cajun Customized Tours, Acadiana Adventure Guides, Atchafalaya Basin Landing.*
- **Jungle Gardens:** *Avery Island's 170-acre Jungle Gardens featuring marshes, bayous, native wildlife, and "Bird City."*
- **Moncus Park with Farmers & Artisans Market:** *Largest green space in Lafayette with outdoor amphitheater and Saturday Farmers Market with a live Cajun jam.*
- **Rip Van Winkle Gardens:** *Explore lush gardens atop a salt dome overlooking scenic Lake Peigneur. Discover Rip's Rookery, the Joseph Jefferson Mansion, and Café Jefferson.*



DOWNTOWN

BEST SMALL CITY FOR A WEEKEND GETAWAY
AAA Southern Traveler Magazine

- **ArtWalk:** *Second Saturday of every month, each museum, gallery, or studio hosts their own unique event, featuring local artists & performers.*
- **Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe:** *The last retail Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe in the world located in Lafayette, Louisiana where you can get a taste of ice cream done the "Old Fashioned Way".*
- **Children's Museum of Acadiana:** *Hands-on interactive exhibits, projects, and programs.*
- **Lafayette Science Museum & Planetarium:** *STEM Museum, exhibits, & Digital Planetarium.*
- **San Souci Gallery:** *Louisiana Crafts Guild Artists featuring their works of jewelry, glass, fiber, ceramics, woodworking, painting, photography and more.*
- **St. John's Cathedral:** *1916 Dutch Romanesque landmark is on the National Registry of Historic Properties. Tour the Cathedral, cemetery & 500-year-old Live Oak.*
- **Explore:** *Downtown Lafayette provides rich and unique experiences for groups and individuals. Whether your interest is to visit, shop, dine, or play Downtown has something for everyone from galleries to restaurants and everything in between. Come be the "Y" in Lafayette.*
- **Best Damn Cajun Tour:** *Downtown Lafayette walking tours & guided custom day tours.*
- **Acadiana Center for the Arts:** *Fine arts, touring exhibits, and theater.*





MUSIC

ONE OF AMERICA'S BEST MUSIC TOWNS
Oakland Tribune

FOR A WEEKLY CURATED PLAYLIST VISIT
LafayetteWeekly.com

GROUP EXPERIENCES:

- **SoKo Music:** *Award-winning musicians Yvette Landry & Jourdan Thibodeaux bring Cajun culture to life with performances of Cajun, Creole, Juré, and Swamp Pop. Tours offered in English and French.*
- **Sola Violins:** *Handmade Violin/Fiddles, Repairs, Building & Performances.*
- **LA Danser:** *Learn how to dance the Louisiana way with Cajun & Zydeco dance lessons. *Can host at local restaurants.*
- **Martin Accordions:** *Group attraction showcasing accordion manufacturing, music demonstration, and storytelling.*
- **Zydeco A-Z:** *Learn about zydeco music's Creole roots, rhythm and blues roots, and the instruments that make the genre truly unique with Grammy winning Chubby Carrier!*

FAIS DO DO RESTAURANTS:

- **Buck & Johnny's:** *Zydeco Breakfast Saturdays.*
- **Boutin's:** *Live music available for groups.*
- **Prejean's Restaurant:** *Live Cajun music on Tuesdays and Fridays.*
- **Randol's Restaurant:** *Live music every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.*
- **Naq's-N-Duson:** *Live music Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.*
- **Whiskey & Vine:** *Live Jazz music Tuesday-Sunday, traditional Southern cuisine and expansive cocktail menu.*

VENUES:

- **Blue Moon Saloon:** *Hostel & Live music venue Wednesday-Sunday*
- **Hideaway Hall:** *Recently remodeled historic building turned dancehall offering a great space with a stage for live music, a walk-up bar, and recessed seating nooks for visiting.*
- **Cypress Cove Landing:** *Swamp Deck Dances on Saturdays & Sundays.*



LAFAYETTE'S AN AFFORDABLE DISCOVERY
Lonely Planet

FOOD

ONE OF FIVE "BEST FOOD CITY IN THE U.S."
Escapism

TOURS:

- **TABASCO® Factory:** *Featuring Processing, Bottling, Museum & TABASCO® Country Store.*
- **Cajun Boudin Trail:** *The Cajun Boudin Trail puts you in the driver's seat when it comes to discovering Louisiana's best boudin.*
- **Konriko Rice Mill:** *Oldest Operating Rice Mill in the U.S.*
- **Cajun Food Tours:** *All-Day Cajun Experience Tour, Walking Food Tours, and Bites & Sites Tour with History and Local Flavor.*

COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS:

- **1868 at TABASCO®**
- **Ruffino's on the River**
- **Vermilionville**
- **Acadian Superette**

LOCAL BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES:

- **Adopted Dog Brewery**
- **Bayou Teche Brewing**
- **Wildcat Brothers at Gator Cove:** *Sugarcane Rum*

FOOD TRAILS:

- **Po-boy Trail**
- **Cajun Boudin Trail**
- **Plate Lunch Paradise**
- **Crawfish**
- **Gumbo**

EatLafayette.com: *The best source for locally owned restaurants in Lafayette Parish.*



CULTURE

TOP 100 "BEST CITY TO RAISE A FAMILY" IN THE U.S.
Stacker

- **French Tables:** *Speak Cajun French with locals from around Acadiana.*
- **Hilliard University Art Museum:** *An education-oriented museum that serves as a center for interdisciplinary learning, offering exhibitions and programs that serve Louisiana's diverse cultural and educational needs.*
- **Lafayette Museum**: *1800s historic home with period furnishings, memorabilia, and Mardi Gras costume display.*
- **LARC's Acadian Village:** *Museum of authentic Acadian homes, guided group tours, and Christmas season light event Noël Acadien au Village.*Christmas groups beginning in November!*
- **Shadows-on-the-Teche:** *National Trust Historic Site and authentically restored to tell the story of life on a 19th century sugar plantation.*
- **St. Martinville:** *Evangeline-Longfellow State Park, St. Martin de Tours Church, Acadian Memorial, and Evangeline Oak.*
- **Vermilionville:** *Cajun, Creole and Native American living history museum, restaurant, cooking school, boat tours, watershed exhibit, dance lessons & live music on weekends.*
- **Maison Freetown Museum:** *A cultural museum focused on Lafayette's African American history to various civic entities.*
- **VaCajun:** *Specializing in Mardi Gras Costume designing, embroidery, vinyl, sublimation, rhinestone and screen printing.*