

Day One

Something for Everyone

(Self-guided or a step-on tour guide can be arranged for motor coach groups)

Enjoy gaming and the great outdoors, culinary delights and Cajun & Zydeco tunes. It's good company and quiet reflections, historical sites and luxurious accommodations. It's a tropical climate and Southern hospitality all right here in Southwest Louisiana.

(BREAKFAST): HISTORIC DISTRICT

Enjoy breakfast at your [hotel](#) or at one of our many restaurants that feature the essence of southern Louisiana. Start the day by touring the Historic Charpentier District, and see such sites as Old Central School, built in 1912, or the intricate Immaculate Conception Cathedral, both created by noted New Orleans architects Favrot and Livaudais. Central School is now a cornerstone in the [Historic District](#), housing the Mardi Gras Museum, a six-room museum that boasts the largest [Mardi Gras](#) costume display in the world. Enjoy a visit at the 1911 City Hall & Cultural Center that features rotating visual arts and culture exhibits, presentations and festivals. You can also explore one of more than 100 cemeteries throughout Southwest Louisiana including the Bilbo Cemetery in downtown Lake Charles that has been maintained for over 200 years.

(LUNCH): CREOLE NATURE TRAIL ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

Lunch can be an easy decision in Lake Charles, whether you're in the mood for seafood, pasta or just some good soul food. Your day will continue west to the Sulphur area where you will not want to miss the Brimstone Historical Society Museum in the old Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, with the Henning Cultural Center next door, featuring historical and cultural exhibits. Continue your tour with Louisiana's Outback, the [Creole Nature Trail All-American Road](#). Along this distinctive natural corridor, you will have the opportunity to experience world-famous wildlife habitats and estuaries. Before you hit the road, stop by [Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point](#) to learn more about the journey and the attractions along the way.

(DINNER): CASINO GAMING

Now that you have had a full day of touring, let your group sample some of Louisiana's best cuisine at one of our diverse dining options. You may choose a restaurant with more of a local flavor, or simply dine at one of the casino complexes. Each casino is home to a multitude of restaurants - sure to fit your budget and your group's appetite. After enjoying a great meal, let the nightlife begin at one of our Las Vegas style casino complexes. Southwest Louisiana is home to four [casinos](#): L'Auberge Casino Resort, Golden Nugget Lake Charles, located next to the L'Auberge property, the Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel and Delta Downs Racetrack Casino & Hotel.

Day Two

Promenade through History

(Self-guided or a step-on tour guide can be arranged for motor coach groups, contact at bottom.)

The romantic history of Lake Charles, involving tales of pirates and buried treasure, begins with the arrival of the first French settlers in the 1760s. The lumber boom, fueled by vast woodlands in the area, was responsible for the rapid growth of the city in the early years, and also for the extensive use of the solid pine and cypress in the construction of the homes in historic downtown Lake Charles.

(BREAKFAST): SHELL BEACH DRIVE MANSIONS & MORE

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel or at one of our restaurants, then get ready to stroll down history lane as we take you back to what is known as historic Lake Charles. You can begin with a scenic tour that includes picturesque mansions along Shell Beach drive, Margaret Place and the newly revitalized downtown. Enjoy an extensive historical collection and fine art gallery at the Imperial Calcasieu Museum. Shading the site is the magnificent 300-year old Sallier Oak.

1911 HISTORIC CITY HALL / HISTORIC CEMETERIES

Throughout the tour, you will see such sites as 1911 Historic City Hall. This center features rotating visual arts and cultural exhibits, presentations and festivals. Explore one of the more than 100 cemeteries throughout Southwest Louisiana and learn about the area's rich and diverse history. From rural graveyards in prairies and forest to urban cemeteries, these burial grounds are as unique as the rest of the region. Several sites, such as Bilbo Cemetery in Lake Charles, have been maintained for more than 200 years.

(LUNCH): CENTRAL SCHOOL & THE MARDI GRAS MUSEUM

Take a break and enjoy lunch in a quaint café, rich with culture and personality. Then tour the Historic Charpentier District (Charpentier - is French for carpenter). This is a perfect time for the tour guide to give the group an overview of what the historic area has to offer. Enjoy the afternoon touring old Central School. Restored as an Arts and Humanities Center, the former schoolhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One of the many tenants is the Mardi Gras Museum, which stages the largest display of Mardi Gras costumes in the world. At the [Mardi Gras Museum](#), the CVB can arrange a welcome by the Mardi Gras Revelers, a Mardi Gras costume demonstration, a King Cakes tasting and demonstration as to how the sweet cakes are made.

(DINNER): TOPPING OFF THE NIGHT WITH WORLD-FAMOUS CUISINE

Finish the evening with a dinner at one of our downtown restaurants highlighting the unique cuisine here in Southwest Louisiana with a welcome by the local chef to give the group that personal touch.

Other Options:

Historic Churches

The CVB can also arrange tours in four of the historical churches in downtown Lake Charles to include, Temple Sinai, Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Church of the Good Shepherd and First United Methodist Church.

DeQuincy Railroad Museum

DeQuincy has a colorful history as a railroad town. The DeQuincy Railroad Museum is located at the original train depot built in 1895 at the intersection of two major railroads. A 1913 steam locomotive, passenger car, a caboose and other railroad artifacts are on display.