



## Midwest Travel Journalists Association Fall Conference Post-Tour

October 15-17, 2017

(updated 8/9/17)

#visitlakecharles

#VISITLAKECHARLES

### Contact Information:

**Amanda Reeves**, public relations manager

Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana

Convention & Visitors Bureau

337-502-4354 (office)

337-309-9237 (cell) areeves@visitlakecharles.org

**Will Precht**, media relations manager

Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau

1205 N. Lakeshore Dr.

Lake Charles, LA 70601

337-436-9588 (office), 337-513-2981 (cell)

wprecht@visitlakecharles.org

### Host Hotel:

**L'Auberge Casino Resort**

777 Avenue L'Auberge

Lake Charles, LA 70601

**Contact:** Kerry Andersen, Director of Public Relations

337-395-7777 (hotel) or 337-292-0725 (Kerry's cell)

www.mylauberge.com @LAubergeLC

kandersen@pnkmail.com

*Inspired by the Texas Hill Country, L'Auberge provides the ultimate in hospitality and dining experiences, plus non-stop Vegas-style gaming action with approximately 1,600 slots and 70 table games. L'Auberge features a 26-story hotel with 1,000 spacious rooms and suites, Contraband Bayou Golf Club, eight innovative restaurants, a world class spa, The Shops at L'Auberge and top name entertainment.*



### **Transportation:**

Coastal Crew Change

Driver- Denney Bertrand, 337-370-8953

### **Sunday, October 15**

- 9 a.m. Amanda Reeves and Will Precht arrive at The Double Tree to pick up writers and depart for Lake Charles
- 10:30 a.m. Fam arrives at **Blue Dog Café** to enjoy brunch and live music  
*The Blue Dog Cafe is a famous restaurant serving Cajun cuisine, Louisiana fusion, steaks and seafood amidst a private collection of artworks by renowned artist [George Rodrigue](#) the creator of the iconic Blue Dog). They also serve an award-winning brunch menu every Sunday, complete with live music and mimosas.*  
**609 Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA 70601, 337-491-8880**  
[www.bluedogcafe.com](http://www.bluedogcafe.com)
- 11:45 a.m. Fam departs for historic tour of the Fam arrives at Central School to **Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu**.  
*This six-room museum has the largest costume display in the world. The rooms display the history of the festival, the Captains' Den, costume design, king cakes and the marvel of 12<sup>th</sup> Night. Also featured is a Mardi Gras parade display, including a parade float that you can climb board.*  
**809 Kirby St. Lake Charles, La.70601**
- Noon Fam arrives at **Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu**.
- 12:45 p.m. Depart for a tour of **Charpentier Historic District** with local historian Adley Cormier.  
*Visitors can enjoy a step back in time with one of the finest collections of Victorian architecture in the state, dating from the late 1800s. Since there were no architects in evidence here until the early 1900s, the structures reflect the individual characteristic of the carpenters (charpentiers in French) and builders. Download our new app by searching "Historic Lake Charles" in the Apple app store or Android Market.*



## **Sunday, October 15 (cont'd)**

- 1:40 p.m. Depart for **Pops and Rockets** to enjoy local gourmet ice pops. *We've spent countless hours in our pop lab to bring you over 40 great flavors. Each pop is inspired by the epic 80's tunes!*  
**844 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA 70601**
- 1:45 p.m. Arrive at **Pops and Rockets** to sample gourmet ice pops and ice cream.
- 2:15 p.m. Depart for check in at **L'Auberge Casino Resort**.  
*Inspired by the Texas Hill Country, L'Auberge provides the ultimate in hospitality and dining experiences, plus non-stop Vegas-style gaming action with approximately 1,600 slots and 70 table games. L'Auberge features a 26-story hotel with 1,000 spacious rooms and suites, Contraband Bayou Golf Club, eight innovative restaurants, a world class spa, The Shops at L'Auberge and top name entertainment.*  
**777 Avenue L'Auberge  
Lake Charles, LA 70601**
- 2:30 p.m. Writers check in to room and enjoy downtime or explore the resort on your own.
- 5:30 p.m. Writers meet Amanda Reeves and Will Precht in the hotel lobby to depart for dinner at **Rikenjaks Brewing Company**  
*Originally founded in 1992, Rikenjaks offers patrons outdoor patio dining, as well as indoor dining, a full bar and a great tasting selection of beer. The patio features games like Giant Jenga and Cornhole. Rikenjaks proudly serves Old Hardhead, an original brew unchanged since first being served in 1992, while bringing a new flavor to the table with Contraband Brown Ale. Both brews are easy-drinking and complement the warm summer weather in Southwest Louisiana.*  
**3716 Ryan St.  
Lake Charles, LA 70601  
(337) 602-6635  
[www.rikenjaks.com](http://www.rikenjaks.com)**
- 6 p.m. Arrive at Rikenjaks to enjoy dinner and live music.
- 8 p.m. Depart for host hotel to enjoy late-night gaming and entertainment options



## **Monday, October 16 (cont'd)**

8 a.m. Writers meet Will and Amanda in the hotel lobby to depart for breakfast **Claim Jumper at Golden Nugget**

*Inspired by California's Gold Rush history, Claim Jumper puts a modern twist on traditional American cuisine. Known for their wide selection of fresh options, tasty selections include burgers, sandwiches, fresh baked pot pie, specialty salads, pasta, baby back pork ribs, fish, Certified Angus Beef®, USDA Choice steaks and more.*

**Breakfast:**

*Inspired by California's Gold Rush history, Claim Jumper puts a modern twist on traditional American cuisine. Known for their wide selection of fresh options, their legendary breakfast is impressive and includes tasty selections such as breakfast tacos, eggs benedict, omelets, French toast and more.*

9:15 a.m. Load bus to depart for Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point

9:35 a.m. Fam arrives at **Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point**

*This facility features interactive displays and colorful dioramas, including exhibits on marshes, swamps, prairies, Gulf wildlife, Creole and Cajun cooking and Zydeco and Cajun music. You'll enjoy up-close views of bayous and marshes, smell the mouth-watering aromas of Cajun cooking, and "play along" with a Zydeco band.*

**2740 Ruth St. Sulphur 70665, [www.creolenaturetrail.org](http://www.creolenaturetrail.org)**

10:00 am Depart for a stop along the Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail

10:05 am Arrive at **Lebleu's Landing** to see boudin being made.

*This family owned Cajun restaurant offers a Louisiana gift shop and the meat market prepares Cajun favorites with a window for visitors to view boudin being made. Boudin is a Cajun rice sausage popular in southern Louisiana. It is made with ground pork, liver, rice, parsley, onions, salt, black pepper, red pepper, and other seasonings that vary from cook to cook. The sausage can be steamed or smoked, much to the delight of many residents.*

**202 Henning Drive, Sulphur, LA 70663; 337-528-6900**

**[www.lebleuslanding.com](http://www.lebleuslanding.com) Facebook: Lebleus Landing**

10:30 a.m. Fam departs for **Brimstone Museum**

*The museum is housed in the Old Southern Pacific Railway Depot. It was established to commemorate the development of the Frasch process of*



*mining sulfur at the turn of the century. Visit the Henning Cultural Center next door for rotating exhibits.*

**900 S Huntington Street  
Sulphur, LA 70663  
337-527-0357**

### **Monday, October 16 (cont'd)**

- 10:35 a.m. Arrive at Brimstone museum for a tour.
- 11:15 a.m. Fam loads bus to depart for lunch at **Seafood Palace**
- 11:35 a.m. Arrive at **Seafood Palace**  
*At this down home Cajun restaurant, you can enjoy boudin balls, gumbo, seafood-filled pistolettes, fried shrimp or fish. Plus, enjoy blue crab!*  
**2218 Enterprise Blvd.  
Lake Charles, LA  
(337) 433-9293  
Contact: David Papania  
Facebook.com/seafoodpalace**
- 12:45 p.m. Depart for the **Creole Nature Trail All-American Road** for a Grosse Savanne Eco Tour  
*One of only 43 All-American Roads in the United States, world-class bird and alligator populations make this byway a natural wonder while top-notch fishing, hunting, crabbing, boating, nature photography and other outdoor opportunities distinguish the byway as a recreational paradise. Free tour app, search "Creole" in your app store.*  
**[www.creolenaturetrail.org](http://www.creolenaturetrail.org), #CreoleNatureTrl**
- 1:15 p.m. Arrive at **Grosse Savanne Eco-Tours**  
*On our 50,000 acres of private lands guests will have access to several bird rookeries, miles of agricultural field roads and levees, and private marshes on a 2 hour boat tour. All of these areas abound with numerous migratory and residential bird species, along with various small mammals, reptiles, insects, flowering plants, and numerous plant communities.*  
**358 Chalkley Rd.  
Bell City, LA 70630  
[www.grossesavanneeco-tours.com](http://www.grossesavanneeco-tours.com); @gsecotours  
Bobby Jorden, 337-962-0034**



## Monday, October 16 (cont'd)

- 2:30 p.m. Fam loads bus and departs for **Pintail Wildlife Drive**
- 2:40 p.m. Arrive for a tour of **Pintail Wildlife Drive**  
*This 3 mile self-driving tour located just south of Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge headquarters is a great spot for seeing alligators. It also has a half-mile (loop) accessible boardwalk that provides an excellent view into the marsh.*
- 3:30 p.m. Depart for host hotel
- 4 p.m. Arrive at host hotel to refresh before dinner.
- 6 p.m. Writers meet Amanda and Will in hotel lobby to walk to dinner
- 6:05 p.m. Fam enjoys a cocktail and grilled oyster demonstration on the patio at **Jack Daniel's Bar & Grill** with Chef Lyle Broussard
- 6:30 p.m. Enjoy dinner inside **Jack Daniel's Bar & Grill**  
*Jack Daniel's Bar & Grill serves up savory food and tasty entertainment. The restaurant features over 25 beers on tap from around the world and more than 35 TVs, an array of BBQ selections and "off-the-grill" entrees made with Jack's own sauces and glazes.*  
**777 Avenue L'Auberge**  
**Lake Charles, LA 70601**  
**337-395-7777**  
[www.lakecharles.com](http://www.lakecharles.com)  
[@LAubergeLC](https://twitter.com/LAubergeLC)

## Sunday, October 17 (cont'd)

Airport departures



**LAKE CHARLES**  
SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

facebook.com/LakeCharlesCVB

@GoLakeCharlesPR

[www.visitlakecharles.org](http://www.visitlakecharles.org)

#VISITLAKECHARLES