

← 2018 →

*Shreveport-Bossier*

★ LOUISIANA ★

**FESTIVALS**

**& ANNUAL**

**EVENTS**



SPRING & SUMMER EDITION

**1-800-551-8682**

**WWW.SBFUNGUIDE.COM**

# Shreveport-Bossier FESTIVALS & ANNUAL EVENTS

## TURN UP THE HEAT

*Spring & Summer 2018*

Shreveport-Bossier's culture and Southern charm will be on display during this spring and summer's hottest festivities. Visitors can scarf down some crawfish, dance to zydeco, hop in a hot air balloon, and pass a good time in so many other ways. Families, foodies, music lovers, and adventure enthusiasts can all find something to celebrate this season in Shreveport-Bossier.



Information in this guide is carefully compiled to ensure maximum accuracy. The Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau, its staff and agents cannot and do not guarantee the accuracy of all information furnished to them nor the complete absence of errors or omissions. All rights are reserved, including the right to reprint this book, or portions thereof, in any form. Events are subject to change.

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**Blog:** [www.20x49.com](http://www.20x49.com)

**Trip Planning:**  
[www.Shreveport-Bossier.org](http://www.Shreveport-Bossier.org)



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THE PLACE

**TO PARTY**

The sister cities love to party! Shreveport-Bossier is a mixture of spicy Cajun attitude and wide-open Texas spirit. Shreveport-Bossier is home to a year-round calendar of more than 60 festivals and annual events celebrating everything from jazz music and art to crawfish and beer.

# WHAT'S

# NEW?

# 2018

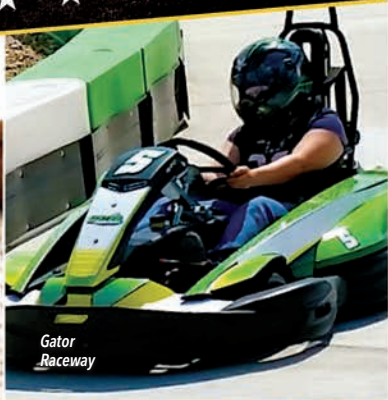


by Chris Jay,  
20x49.com Blogger

There's more to do than ever before in Shreveport-Bossier. With new shops, restaurants and attractions opening on a regular basis, we've hand-picked a few of our favorite new additions. For a complete list of things to do in Shreveport-Bossier, visit [www.Shreveport-Bossier.org](http://www.Shreveport-Bossier.org).



Whisk  
Dessert Bar



Gator  
Raceway



Shreveport  
Aquarium

## EAST BANK DISTRICT & PLAZA

**630 Barksdale Blvd., Bossier City**

>> *Opened November 2017*

Shreveport-Bossier's newest gathering place is a walkable strip of historic downtown Bossier City that is home to Flying Heart Brewing and Pub, Bossier Arts Council's East Bank Theatre, and more – all within easy walking distance of Horseshoe Casino & Hotel and the Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets.

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## SHREVEPORT AQUARIUM

**601 Clyde Fant Pkwy., Shreveport**

>> *Opened November 2017*

At Shreveport Aquarium, families can explore an underwater world that is home to more than 3,000 animals including sharks, rays, sea jellies, octopuses, and more.

[www.shreveportaquarium.com](http://www.shreveportaquarium.com)

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## GATOR RACEWAY

**at Gators and Friends Adventure Park, 11441 Hwy. 80, Greenwood**

>> *Opened September 2017*

Gator Raceway is a high-performance go-kart track featuring karts that can travel at speeds up to 40 miles per hour. The racetrack's wide lanes and tight curves make for a pulse-pounding experience that is recommended for older children and adults. A two-seater cart is available for younger children accompanied by a parent or guardian.

[www.gatorraceway.com](http://www.gatorraceway.com)

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## WHISK DESSERT BAR

**724 Azalea Dr., Shreveport**

>> *Opened September 2017*

This dessert bar features inspired classics and modern twists on classic techniques inspired by Chef Blake Jackson's travels through France. From seasonal gourmet cookies to dulce de leche chocolate tarts and house-made gelato, Whisk Dessert Bar is an exciting addition to Shreveport-Bossier's emerging culinary scene.

[www.facebook.com/whiskshv](https://www.facebook.com/whiskshv)

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## SHREVEPORT DOG PARK

**857 E. Stoner Ave., Shreveport**

>> *Opened July 2017*

Traveling with a four-legged family member? Dogs can run wild at Shreveport's new riverfront dog park located at the Stoner Avenue Boat Launch. The scenic, four-acre park is open seven days a week during daylight hours and includes restrooms, ample parking and seating.

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

# MARCH 2018

## Events

MARCH  
13-  
17

### 318 RESTAURANT WEEK

*Various Shreveport-Bossier restaurants*

Dine at participating local restaurants with special prices ranging from \$10-\$20. In addition, several restaurants will be offering an elevated dining experience led by a local, celebrated foodie each night of 318 Restaurant Week. Share your Shreveport-Bossier dining experiences using the hashtag #Eat318.

318-222-9391 | [www.318restaurantweek.com](http://www.318restaurantweek.com)

MARCH  
17

### LOUISIANA REDBUD FESTIVAL SBAA

*Vivian Town Square, 100 N.W. Front St., Vivian*

Families looking for fun should check out Louisiana Redbud Festival's all-day events including music on the square, a parade, food, and arts and crafts booths. Admission is free.

318-426-6457 | [www.laredbud.com](http://www.laredbud.com)

MARCH  
17

### CHIMPANZEE DISCOVERY DAYS SBAA

*Chimp Haven, 13600 Chimpanzee Pl., Keithville*

Chimpanzee Discovery Days gives visitors the chance to observe rescued chimpanzees in their natural, forested habitats. Tickets are \$5-\$10. *Additional dates include April 21, May 19, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17.*

318-925-9575 | [www.chimphaven.org](http://www.chimphaven.org)

MARCH  
17

### CHIMP CHAT & CHEW SBAA

*Chimp Haven, 13600 Chimpanzee Pl., Keithville*

Experience a more intimate view of Chimp Haven. Tour behind the scenes, enjoy a catered lunch, chat with the staff, and take a much deeper look at the rescued chimpanzees. Tickets are \$25-\$50. *Additional dates include April 21, May 19, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, and Nov. 17.*

318-925-9575 | [www.chimphaven.org](http://www.chimphaven.org)



318 Restaurant Week

MARCH  
**17**

## **PATTY IN THE PLAZA**

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Patty in the Plaza. Enjoy green beer, food, games, live music, and more. There will also be a race where participants can run through downtown Shreveport with their drink of choice in hand. Tickets are \$5-\$15.

**318-688-1130** | [www.mykisscountry937.com](http://www.mykisscountry937.com)

MARCH  
**24**

## **BOSSIER CITY MAKERS' FAIR**

*Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets,  
540 Boardwalk Blvd., Bossier City*

This event features food trucks, live music, family fun, and over 80 makers and artisans selling hand-made crafts. Admission is free.

[www.bossiercitymakersfair.com](http://www.bossiercitymakersfair.com)

MARCH  
**24**

## **ASEANA SPRING FESTIVAL**

*Asian Gardens of Shreveport,  
Milam Street at Texas Avenue, Shreveport*

Learn about a variety of Asian cultures through food, art, dance, games, and martial arts at ASEANA Spring Festival. Sample authentic cuisine from Vietnamese noodle soups to Philippino-style whole hog barbeque. Admission is free.

**318-401-8078**

MARCH  
**24**

## **BATTLE OF THE GUMBO GLADIATORS** SBA

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

Teams of Gumbo Gladiators from near and far will battle for the title of the Ultimate Gumbo Gladiator. Gumbo categories include seafood, chicken and sausage, and lagniappe. Admission is free.

**318-425-4413** | [www.gumbogladiators.com](http://www.gumbogladiators.com)

# APRIL 2018 Events

APRIL  
7

## CORK - A RED RIVER REVEL WINE EVENT SBAA

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of wine tasting at Cork - A Red River Revel Wine Event. Taste more than 80 wines from around the world, enjoy great jazz entertainment and sample food from local restaurants. Tickets are \$85.

**318-424-4000** | [www.corkwinefestival.com](http://www.corkwinefestival.com)

APRIL  
13-  
14

## 45TH ANNUAL STREET ROD REUNION

*Boomtown Casino and Hotel,  
300 Riverside Dr., Bossier City*

View stunning, vintage street rods, hot rods, custom cars, and trucks that are 30 years and older. There will be food, music, entertainment, auction, and more. Admission is free.

**318-655-5838** | [www.redriverstreetrods.com](http://www.redriverstreetrods.com)

APRIL  
13-  
22

## HOLIDAY IN DIXIE

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

One of the oldest festivals in the South, Holiday in Dixie celebrates the beginning of spring and the Louisiana Purchase. This event includes a 10-day carnival, parade, treasure hunt, live music, and family fun. Admission is free.

**318-865-5555** | [www.arklatexambassadors.com](http://www.arklatexambassadors.com)



*Cork - A Red River  
Revel Wine Event*





APRIL  
**21**

## SPRING BLOOM AT AMERICAN ROSE CENTER SBA

*American Rose Center,  
8877 Jefferson Paige Rd., Shreveport*

Each April, the American Rose Center celebrates the blooming season with activities and a seminar on growing roses.

**318-938-5402** | [www.rose.org](http://www.rose.org)

APRIL  
**23-  
29**

## ARTBREAK

*Shreveport Convention Center,  
400 Caddo St., Shreveport*

As the largest children's festival in the state, Artbreak features a weekend of music, theater, food, a 5K race, and hands-on artwork of Caddo and Bossier Parish students. Admission is free.

**318-673-6500** | [www.artbreaksb.com](http://www.artbreaksb.com)

APRIL  
**27-  
29**

## RED RIVER RPG CON

*Clarion Hotel Shreveport Airport,  
5555 Financial Plz., Shreveport*

At this convention for role playing games, participants can play Dungeons and Dragons, Pathfinder, Dungeon Crawl Classics, X-Crawl, and more. Tickets are \$20-\$50.

**318-688-3000** | [www.shreveportrpgcon.com](http://www.shreveportrpgcon.com)

Spring  
Bloom at  
American  
Rose Center





Ark-La-Tex Ambassadors BBQ Cook-Off

APRIL  
**28**

## ARK-LA-TEX AMBASSADORS BBQ COOK-OFF

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

The Ark-La-Tex Ambassadors BBQ Cook-Off attracts top barbecue teams from across the South. Barbecue lovers can sample ribs, brisket, sausage, and more while enjoying live music and family activities. Tickets are \$10.

**318-865-5555** | [www.arklatexambassadors.com](http://www.arklatexambassadors.com)

- ★ The official mascot of the **ARK-LA-TEX AMBASSADORS BBQ COOK-OFF**
- ★ is **Eric the Pink Pig**, a 20-foot-tall inflatable pig that welcomes
- ★ barbecue lovers to the festival. Proceeds from the event go towards
- ★ the **Ark-La-Tex Ambassadors' College Scholarship Essay Contest**.

APRIL  
**28**

## ARTINI SBAA

*Louisiana State Exhibit Museum,  
3015 Greenwood Rd., Shreveport*

Shake in a little imagination, stir in a lot of creativity, and mix in some friendly competition. Presented by the Bossier Arts Council, ARTini is live music, visual art, signature martinis, and socializing served with a twist.

**318-741-8310** | [www.bossierarts.org](http://www.bossierarts.org)



ARTini

# MAY 2018 *Events*

MAY  
5

## SHREVEPORT DERBY DAY SBA

*R. W. Norton Art Gallery,  
4747 Creswell Ave., Shreveport*

Enjoy live music, lawn games, food, a raffle, a "best-dressed" contest, an open bar serving traditional Kentucky Derby cocktails, and more.

[www.derbydayshreveport.com](http://www.derbydayshreveport.com)

MAY  
5

## GUSHER DAYS FESTIVAL SBA

*Earl G. Williamson Park, Hwy. 1, Oil City*

Gusher Days Festival celebrates the north Caddo Parish oil industry with an archery tournament, fishing tournament, music, food, and entertainment. Admission is free.

**318-470-3446** | [www.gusherdaysfestival.com](http://www.gusherdaysfestival.com)

★ The annual **GUSHER DAYS FESTIVAL** in Oil City commemorates the  
 ★ city's unique place in the history of oil and gas exploration. Caddo  
 ★ Lake in Oil City was the site of the world's first over-water oil  
 ★ well, the **Ferry Lake No. 1**, which was erected in 1911 by the Gulf  
 ★ Refining Co.



MAY  
7-  
12

## POKE SALAD FESTIVAL

*Between Darby Avenue and Pinehill Road  
off Hwy. 1, Blanchard*

The Poke Salad Festival kicks off with a \$1,500 treasure hunt and includes a pet parade, food, children's activities, and live entertainment. The weekend finishes with a parade. Admission is free.

**318-309-2647**

MAY  
12-  
13

## LE TOUR DES JARDINS

*Various locations in Shreveport*

Enjoy a garden bazaar and garden tour of private home gardens in the Shreveport-Bossier area sponsored by the Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners. Tickets are \$10-\$15.

**318-698-0010** | [www.nwlamg.weebly.com](http://www.nwlamg.weebly.com)



Bear's Fest

MAY  
**19**

## BEAR'S FEST

***Bear's on Fairfield, 1401 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport***

Enjoy a night of live music at this popular bar that features food vendors and a wide range of music genres such as indie rock, hip-hop, songwriters, and more.

**318-606-4267 | [www.facebook.com/bearzfairfield](http://www.facebook.com/bearzfairfield)**

MAY  
**24-27**

## MUDBUG MADNESS FESTIVAL

***Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport***

Come enjoy Cajun and Creole cuisine at Mudbug Madness Festival. This is the premier crawfish festival in the South and features non-stop live Cajun and zydeco music, activities for children, and delicious food. This festival is a Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 event and American Bus Association Top 100 event. Admission is \$5.

**318-226-5641 | [www.mudbugmadness.com](http://www.mudbugmadness.com)**

- ★ **MUDBUG MADNESS FESTIVAL** attracts as many as **56,000 people per**
- ★ **day** to downtown Shreveport to eat spicy boiled crawfish and dance
- ★ to Cajun and zydeco music. All of that dancing can work up an
- ★ appetite - on average, the festival serves about **80,000 pounds of**
- ★ **boiled crawfish** over the course of four days.

Mudbug Madness Festival



# JUNE 2018 *Events*

JUNE  
**15-17**

## LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL FESTIVAL SBAA

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

A weekend-long celebration of African American culture, the Let The Good Times Roll Festival features performances by top names in soul, gospel, hip-hop, and R&B. The festival was named a Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 Event because of its great music lineup, food and art booths. Admission is \$10.

**318-470-3890** | [www.rhoomega.com](http://www.rhoomega.com)

JUNE  
**16**

## CROSS LAKE FLOATILLA

*5315 S. Lakeshore Dr., Shreveport*

Float on a boat or in a tube all day on Cross Lake. This annual float festival features food, music, games, decorated boat parade, poker run, and lots of other fun.

**318-572-3196** | [www.facebook.com/floatilla](http://www.facebook.com/floatilla)

★ **CROSS LAKE SHREVEPORT** is a **8,575 acre paradise** to all that enjoy nature's creations. Fishermen can catch bass up to 9 pounds. Bird watchers can admire hawks, pelicans, eagles, herons, egrets, and more. Visitors can participate in other recreational activity such as enjoying scenic sunsets and water sports.



JUNE  
**16**

## SUNFLOWER TRAIL & FESTIVAL SBAA

*Hwy. 3049, Gilliam*

View the beautiful, blooming sunflowers at Sunflower Trail and Festival along Hwy 3049 in Gilliam. Enjoy crafts, entertainment, food, and family fun. Admission is free.

**318-296-4303**

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



*Sunflower Trail & Festival*



# Local FARMERS' MARKETS



*April-November* (SATURDAYS)

## BOSSIER CITY FARMERS' MARKET

*Pierre Bossier Mall Parking Lot, 2950 E. Texas St., Bossier City*

Bossier City Farmer's Market host over 150 vendor booths of farmers, growers with fresh foods, honey, soap, makers, children's activities, artists, food trucks, and more. Admission is free.

[www.bossiercityfarmersmarket.com](http://www.bossiercityfarmersmarket.com)

*June-August* (SATURDAYS EXCEPT JUNE 16)

## SHREVEPORT FARMERS' MARKET SRAA

*Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St., Shreveport*

Shreveport Farmer's Market is a growers-only market that features more than 150 vendors, live music and a café serving an uncommon variety of foods. Admission is free.

**318-455-5788** | [www.shreveportfarmersmarket.com](http://www.shreveportfarmersmarket.com)



*May-July* (SUNDAYS)

## **BENTON FARMERS' MARKET** SBAA

**Simpson Street Park, 495 Simpson St., Benton**

The Benton Farmer's Market includes a huge number of regional producers, as well as local arts and crafts vendors, ready-to-eat food, live entertainment, and more. Admission is free.

**318-584-5977 | [www.bentonlafarmersmarket.com](http://www.bentonlafarmersmarket.com)**

*June and October* (THURSDAYS)

## **PROVENANCE FARMERS' MARKET**

**Windrush Park, 1968 Bridgewater Ave., Shreveport**

Provenance residents and members of the Shreveport-Bossier community gather with vendors from around the Ark-La-Tex to enjoy music, artisans, crafters, produce, meats, and more. Admission is free.

**318-780-6603 | [www.yourprovenance.com](http://www.yourprovenance.com)**

*June-July* (SATURDAYS)

## **NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD & CRAFTERS' MARKET**

**Fred's Store, 400 W. McKinley Ave., Haughton**

At this traditional farmers' market, every vendor is the grower. It is comprised of locally grown produce, hand-made artisan crafters, heirloom organic seeds, and more. Admission is free.

**318-949-9592**

# JULY 2018 Events

JULY  
4

## INDEPENDENTS DAY

**Great Raft Brewing, 1251 Dalzell St., Shreveport**  
Celebrate Shreveport-Bossier's local independents with live music, games, food, and beer at Great Raft Brewing. Admission is free.

**318-734-9881 | [www.greatraftbrewing.com](http://www.greatraftbrewing.com)**

JULY  
4

## KTBS-3 INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL

**Festival Plaza, 101 Crockett St. Ste. A, Shreveport**  
On July 4, Festival Plaza will come alive with the annual KTBS-3 Independence Day Festival. In honor of the United States military, this celebration features food, music, fireworks, and family fun. Admission is free.

**318-861-5800 | [www.ktbs.com](http://www.ktbs.com)**

JULY  
9-  
15

## RED RIVER BALLOON COMPETITION

**Louisiana State University Shreveport,  
1 University Pl., Shreveport**

See 43 of the best hot air balloon pilots soar above Shreveport-Bossier as they race to hit a target on the ground in a ring toss competition.

**1-800-551-8682 | [www.redriverballoonrally.com](http://www.redriverballoonrally.com)**



Independents Day





Red River Balloon Rally

JULY  
**13-  
14**

## **RED RIVER BALLOON RALLY**

*Louisian State University Shreveport,  
1 University Pl., Shreveport*

Bring family and friends to experience tethered hot air balloon rides, food, craft vendors, balloon glow, live music, kid's carnival, and fireworks to cap off the evening. Tickets are \$10-\$12.

**1-800-551-8682 | [www.redriverballoonrally.com](http://www.redriverballoonrally.com)**

JULY  
**21-  
22**

## **SBC ANIME FEST**

*Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd., Bossier City*

Celebrate anime, manga, pop culture, animation, and more. This two-day event features a diverse list of guests, vendors, artists, and fan groups in a family-friendly environment. Tickets are \$20.

**[www.sbcanime.com](http://www.sbcanime.com)**

# AUGUST <sup>2018</sup> *Events*

AUGUST  
**17-  
19**

## **GEEK'D CON**

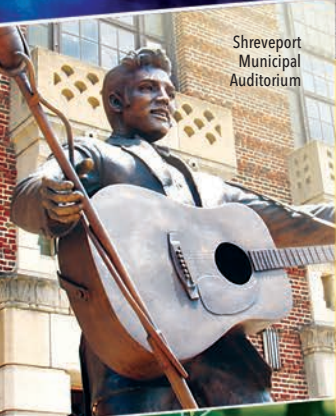
*Shreveport Convention Center,  
400 Caddo St., Shreveport*

Come "geek out" with fans from around the Ark-La-Tex. Geek'd Con features television and film stars, comic book creators, local and regional artists, and vendors from across the country. Fans will also have the opportunity to partake in video games, cosplay and more.

**318-688-1130 | [www.geekdcon.com](http://www.geekdcon.com)**



Shreveport Aquarium



Shreveport  
Municipal  
Auditorium



Gators and  
Friends  
Adventure  
Park



Herby-K's

# The Ultimate SHREVEPORT- BOSSIER, LA BUCKET LIST



by Aly Velasquez,  
20x49.com Blogger



- Find the million dollar wall at one of the six riverboat **casinos** and take a selfie.
- Touch live jellyfish at **Shreveport Aquarium**.
- Feed the chickens in the garden and peruse the art at **R.W. Norton Art Gallery**.
- Eat authentic street tacos at **Ki' Mexico**, named one of "The 31 Best Mexican Restaurants in America" by *Thrillist.com*.
- Zipline over alligators and race high speed go-karts at **Gators and Friends Adventure Park**.
- Drink local craft beer and grab some pizza at **Flying Heart Brewing and Pub**.
- Take a photo with Elvis outside of **Shreveport Municipal Auditorium**.
- Brave a haunted tour at **Logan Mansion**.
- Swing through a **drive-thru daiquiri spot** and try a unique flavor like "Frog in a Blender," "King Cake" or "Candy Crush."
- Grab a Shrimp Buster and frosty goblet of beer at **Herby-K's**.

# ADVENTURE AWAITS

Dive in at:

[www.Shreveport-Bossier.org](http://www.Shreveport-Bossier.org)

Request a free copy of the  
*Official Visitors' Guide* by  
calling 1-800-551-8682.



EAT LIKE

A *Local.*

Learn how by downloading  
*Eat Here: A Food Lover's Guide  
to Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana.*

[www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/brochures](http://www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/brochures)



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SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER

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FESTIVAL AND EVENT NEWS  
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SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER



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TASTE IT.

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