

SATW Central States Conference Pre-FAM Tour Itinerary - Monroe-West Monroe

Saturday, Feb. 11 - Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023

Plan to discover a destination filled with heart and awash in culture, where your senses are free to color outside the lines, where your feet may dance to a different drum, and where you have the freedom to listen to your soul.

Grab a 5¢ Coke at Biedenharn Museum and Gardens from an antique Coke machine. See where the Robertson's of Duck Dynasty fame got their start at the Duck Commander Warehouse. Be on the lookout for alligators and other wildlife at Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge, and experience high-flying adventure at the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum. Enjoy an afternoon tour and wine tasting at Landry Vineyards, located in the rolling hills of West Monroe.

Hungry? We've got something for everyone on our menu like fried chicken, Catfish Desiard, smothered pork chops, tasty po'boys, big burgers, hotwater cornbread, banana caramel pudding, and more! And be sure to check out our local craft breweries, Flying Tiger Brewery and Flying Heart Brewery. Shop along Antique Alley, with classic antique shops and trendy boutique stores.

Discover Monroe West Monroe, where you're welcome to play outside the lines.

Saturday, Feb. 11

8:30 A.M. | Breakfast at Standard Coffee Co.

Address: 411 Desiard St., Monroe | Phone: (318) 367-0888
www.standardcoffeela.com

Created by Chef Cory Bahr, Standard Coffee Co. aims to excellently craft each individual drink paying attention to the quality of espresso, precise milk steaming techniques, and evenly baked syrup portions. This downtown location features a laid-back atmosphere and a wide variety of baked goods, including scones, cookies, and muffins.

10:00 A.M. | Krewe of Janus Children's Parade

Address: TBD

The cutest Mardi Gras parade is rolling at the Pecanland Mall's Center Court. This event kicks off the day's celebrations with the cutest mini-Mardi Gras floats and even cuter riders. Complete with beads, candy, and other throws.

11:00 A.M. | Lunch at Jac's Craft Smokehouse

Address: 401 Trenton St., West Monroe | Phone: 318-855-8680
www.jacscraftsmokehouse.com

Flavorful, Spicy, Tangy - just a few words that describe West Monroe's first smokehouse restaurant. Menu items range from delicious handheld sandwiches to large meat plates to even fried brussels sprouts. Try their famous nachos!

12:00 P.M. | Shop Antique Alley

Address: 689 Trenton St., West Monroe | Phone: 318-388-3930
www.antiquealleyshops.org

Discover blocks and blocks of unique stores in beautiful downtown West Monroe with everything from home decor, jewelry, clothing, European and American antiques, art, and more. There will be food trucks, live music, and other festivities throughout Antique Alley.

1:00 P.M. | Krewe of Paws Mardi Gras Pet Parade

Address: TBD

Experience the magic of furry friends on the red carpet! Antique Alley in West Monroe will be filled with pets of all shapes and sizes ready to roll in this year's parade. All pets are welcomed, even those with feathers and scales!

3:00 P.M. | Krewe of Janus Parade

Address: TBD

Get ready to ride! Join the Krewe of Janus for their 40th annual Mardi Gras parade. Ride on a float, throw some beads, and get ready for a good time. Beads, candy, and other throws are included!

8:30 P.M. (ish) | Dinner at Johnny's Pizza House

This local favorite, in business for over 40 years, is home to the Sweep the Kitchen, which, as you may have guessed, is topped with everything they have. But for something different, try another Johnny's original, Sweep the Swamp, offered seasonally. This hot Cajun treat is topped with spicy, tender crawfish, shrimp, andouille sausage, taste of crab, bell peppers, onions, and jalapeno peppers!

**Details subject to change*

Sunday, Feb. 12

10:00 A.M. | Brunch at Delta Biscuit Co.

Address: 2252 Tower Dr., Suite 101, Monroe | Phone: 318-692-3300
www.deltabiscuit.com

Brunch all day long at Delta Biscuit Company. Monroe's newest brunch spot offers breakfast, lunch, and, of course, plenty of biscuits! Try the Mess of Biscuits served with whipped cane butter for a warm treat that feels like home.

12:00 P.M. | Kayak at Black Bayou with H2Go Guided Tour

Address: 2814 Desoto St., Monroe | Phone: 318-732-9533
www.h2gopaddle.com

Immerse yourself in nature at the Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge. This majestic 4,500-acre expanse of lake, swamp, bottomland hardwoods, mixed pine and hardwood uplands is a wildlife habitat with all manner of plant species and everything from small alligators and turtles to coyote, deer, and a wide variety of fowl. Delight in the beauty of herons, egrets, orioles, and red-winged blackbirds form the wildlife pier or bird blind.

3:00 P.M. | Head back to hotel to clean up for dinner

6:00 P.M. | Dinner at Flying Heart Brewery

Address: 204 Commerce St., West Monroe | Phone: 318-367-0888
www.flyingheartbrewery.com

Flying Heart has six beers served year-round and a rotating variety of seasonal brews that are sure to please any palate. They're known for unique craft pizzas made with fresh ingredients on thin, NY-style dough. They also have rotating monthly pizzas, so you can look forward to a new recipe every few weeks. You can find a variety of other foods, like big, German pretzels, chicken wings, and crawfish rub.

**Details subject to change*

Monday, Feb. 13

9:00 A.M. | Breakfast at Lea's of Lecompte

Address: 318 Louisville Ave., Monroe | Phone: (318) 329-8081
www.facebook.com/Leas-of-Lecompte-111668425536124/

Family-owned and famous for home-made pies, like chocolate, coconut, and lemon meringue. Daily lunch plate specials, ham sandwiches, and their roll-over hamburgers served on homemade sourdough bread, which are 2 for 1 on Friday. They are open daily for breakfast offering eggs, grits, biscuits with gravy, and other traditional Southern cuisine.

10:30 A.M. | Guided Tour of Biedenharn Museum & Gardens

Contact: Ralph Calhoun, Director | Address: 2006 Riverside Dr., Monroe
Phone: (318) 387-5281 | www.bmuseum.org

Step up to the soda counter to hear the tale of Coca-Cola's bottling beginnings from an entertaining soda jerk. Then refresh with a 5 cent Coke and the nostalgia of early Coca-Cola memorabilia displayed in an indoor and outdoor setting of the Coke Museum. Tour the elegant home of Joseph Biedenharn, first bottler of Coca-Cola, every room lovingly decorated by his daughter Emy-Lou Biedenharn, a renowned opera singer during the pre- World War II years. Stroll through the beautiful ELsong Gardens behind the home with over an acre of terraces, fountains, formal plantings and statues, interlaced amid French iron grillwork, tailored boxwood walkways, and year-round blooms all enshrined by an English-style brick wall.

12:00 P.M. | Lunch at Braiz'n Bar & Grill

Address: 1611 North 18th Street, Monroe | Phone: (318) 855-4027
www.braizn.com

Local family joint with burgers and tacos. The Elotes (street corn) are a must!

2:30 P.M. | Tour & Tasting at Landry Vineyards

Address: 5699 New Natchitoches Rd., West Monroe
Phone: (318) 557-9051 | www.landryvineyards.com

Landry Vineyards is a family owned and operated winery located in the rolling hills of West Monroe. Wines produced here include Blackberry Merlot, Blanc Du Bois (Dry and Semi-Sweet), Cabernet Sauvignon, Cotton Rouge, Redneck Red and more. Visitors can sample these wines with cheese and bread, while enjoying the picturesque views from the beautiful tasting room. Their Outdoor Concert Series is not to be missed, with music ranging from country to jazz. Patrons bring picnic blankets and chairs and enjoy live music from the hillside along with jambalaya and dancing. Two harvest festivals are hosted each summer that offer visitors the chance to harvest grapes and participate in a grape stomp. Tours are available by appointment.

4:30 P.M. | Tour & Tasting at Thirsty Farmer Winery

Address: 531 St. Hwy 144, Calhoun | Phone: 318-599-0067
www.thirstyfarmerwines.com

Established in June of 2022, Thirsty Farmer is the area's newest winery & vineyard. The family-owned winery crafts wines for all wine lovers. From fruit-forward wines to bold reds, and hard cider, Thirsty Farmer creates a memorable farm to bottle experience for their guests.

6:00 P.M. | Dinner at The Warehouse

Address: One Olive St., Monroe | Phone: (318) 322-1340

Relax along the Ouachita River while you dine in this unique building that was once a cotton warehouse. Start your meal with fresh, hot hushpuppies. Choose from unique options like Jalapeño Cheese Grits and Corn & Crab Bisque or try the Peppercorn Steak, Grilled Salmon, Gumbo, or Citrus Grilled Tuna Salad. If you're really hungry, try the Ouachita River Special, a plate piled high with seafood. Finish your meal with an order of homemade Key lime pie.

**Details subject to change*

Tuesday, Feb. 14

9:00 A.M. | Breakfast at Lea's of Lecompte

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www.facebook.com/Leas-of-Lecompte-111668425536124/

Family-owned and famous for home-made pies, like chocolate, coconut, and lemon meringue. Daily lunch plate specials, ham sandwiches, and their roll-over hamburgers served on homemade sourdough bread, which are 2 for 1 on Friday. They are open daily for breakfast offering eggs, grits, biscuits with gravy, and other traditional Southern cuisine.

10:30 A.M. | Tour of Chennault Aviation & Military Museum

Address: 701 Kansas Ln., Monroe | Phone: (318) 362-5540
www.chennaultmuseum.org

Inside one of the last standing buildings from the WWII Selman Army Airfield Navigation School. The aviation museum highlights three historic chapters in the nation's and Monroe's history. Explore an extensive exhibit showing the life and times of General Claire Chennault, leader of the Flying Tigers. Authentic war planes undergo restoration outside in the plane yard, where visitors can get up close.

12:00 P.M. | Leave for Shreveport

**Details subject to change*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Links:

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