



SATW Central States Conference Pre-FAM Tour Itinerary - Natchitoches

Sunday, Feb. 12 - Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2023

Experience the charm of the original French colony in Louisiana. Natchitoches (Nack-a-tish) was established in 1714, and retains its European flavor through its architecture, heritage and lifestyle. Chances are, the thing you'll love most, (aside from the famous meat pies) is the charming 33-block Landmark historic district - a shopper's paradise and a bed & breakfast lover's dream. The Natchitoches area offers numerous attractions, museums, Creole plantations, a National Park, and year 'round festivals including the Festival of Lights, Louisiana's premiere holiday destination.

Sunday, Feb. 12

PICKUP WRITERS IN SHREVEPORT

DINNER TBD

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS | Samuel Guy House B&B

309 Pine St., Natchitoches | (318) 354-1080

Contact: Susan Wright | www.samuelguyhouse.com

The Samuel Guy House was built in 1850 by Samuel Eldridge Guy. The house was the centerpiece of a working plantation in Mansfield, Louisiana, and remained in the Guy family for 150 years. The Greek Revival style home is two stories and contains such features as an ornate, oversized front entrance and Greek temple dormers, which are unique to the area. It also contains a symmetrical floor plan featuring a central hallway flanked by two rooms on either side.

The house remained vacant for a dozen years and had significantly deteriorated due to neglect. The roof had failed in several places, several of the additions to the back of the house had caved in, the front porch structure was ruined, one front column had collapsed, and the interior was in great disrepair. The Samuel Guy House Bed and Breakfast was moved to Natchitoches and was restored to its original grandeur in 2004. Be sure to enjoy the Praline French Toast Casserole and the property's gardens.

Monday, Feb. 13

10:00 A.M. EXPLORE | Downtown Walking Tour

Tour begins at the Natchitoches Visitor Information Center

780 Front St., Ste. 100, Natchitoches | Cane River National Heritage Area | Contact: Logan Schlatre | 318-356-5555

Learn the historical points of interest in the Cane River National Heritage Area from a Heritage Area guide. Tour includes information about Natchitoches' founder, the oldest general store in the state, the Minor Basilica, the architecture, and more! *Free Admission

11:00 A.M. DISCOVER | Kaffie-Frederick General Mercantile

758 Front St. | Contact: Luke Frederick | 318-352-2525
www.oldhardwarestore.com

Established in 1863, the Kaffie Frederick General Mercantile is not only the oldest general store in Louisiana, but it's an important landmark for the entire community.

11:45 A.M. LUNCH | Merci Beaucoup

127 Church St., Natchitoches | Contact: Sara Corkern | 318-352-6634

Known for their Cajun Baked Potato and bread pudding, this Natchitoches lunch spot is perfect for a casual lunch as you stroll Front Street and the Landmark Historic District.

1:00 P.M. EXPLORE | Cane River Heritage Trail: A Louisiana Scenic Byway

www.canerivernha.org | #ExploreCaneRiver

Facebook (@CaneRiverNHA) | Instagram (caneriver_nha)

Once a primary channel of the Red River, the Cane River is now an oxbow lake bordered by corn and soybean farms, thick stands of sugar cane and pecan orchards. The Cane River National Heritage Trail begins in charming Natchitoches, which many recall as the setting for the film "Steel Magnolias." Tracking the river, the trail winds through rich farmland and pretty towns. It ends at Cloutierville, once the home of writer Kate Chopin. Along the way, views include plantation homes, distinctive Creole architecture and historic landmarks, along with graceful Southern magnolias, crepe myrtles, chinaberry trees and live oaks that flourish on the river's red-soil banks. Here's a sample of what you'll find:

» 1:30 P.M. | Cane River Creole National Historical Park: Oakland Plantation

4386 Hwy. 494, Natchez (LA) | Contact: Barbara Justice

318-352-0383, ext. 316 | www.nps.gov/cari/index.htm

Twitter (canerivercreoleNPS) | Instagram (canerivercreolenps)

The park encompasses Oakland Plantation and portions of Magnolia Plantation, and displays buildings, equipment and personal items that reveal much about the lives of early planters and the slaves who worked the land. The park displays more than the traditional "big houses" associated with plantations; slave cabins, corn cribs and overseers' documents paint a fuller picture of the plantation economy. *Free Admission

» 3:00 P.M. | Melrose Plantation

3499 Hwy. 119, Melrose | Contact: Betty Metoyer | 318-379-0055

www.melroseplantation.org | Facebook (@melroseplantation)

Twitter (@melroseinfo)

Built by the family of Marie Therese Coincoin, who was born to slaves and eventually attained her freedom. The plantation became an agricultural powerhouse as it passed through several owners. Clementine Hunter, a cook who worked for Melrose's owners in the 1940s, became known for her primitive paintings reflecting life in rural Louisiana. At the time of her death in 1988, Hunter's paintings hung in museums around the country.

6:00 P.M. DINNER | Mariner's Restaurant

5948 Hwy. Bypass | (318) 352-4911 | Contact: Keri Fidelak
www.marinersrestaurant.com

Mariner's Restaurant sits on beautiful Sibley Lake in historic Natchitoches and features one of the most breathtaking views, especially sunsets, in Louisiana. Recently purchased and completely remodeled by Chef Ben and Keri Fidelak, Mariner's menu features dishes such as boudin stuffed chicken breast, seared Ahi Tuna with Ginger Sesame Seaweed Salad, and Tomahawk Steaks with Fire Roasted Rosemary. A casual menu featuring burgers, wraps and wings is available on The Docks. Late night dancing and live music are featured in The Cove.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

BREAKFAST | Samuel Guy House B&B

9:00 A.M. EXPLORE | Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum

800 Front St., Natchitoches | Contact: Jennae Biddiscombe
318-357-2492 | Facebook (@LaSportsHall)

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame's collection of portraits and memorabilia celebrate the achievements of more than 300 legendary Louisiana athletes, coaches and other sports figures. Other sports-themed exhibits and interactive media trace the history and importance of sports to life in Louisiana. The Northwest Louisiana History Museum explores the evolution of unique cultural traditions from early native-American civilizations to the present. The building itself, designed by Trahan Architects of New Orleans, evokes the region's rivers and plowed fields with sinuous molded stone interiors and earth-colored exterior sheathing.

10:30 AM. DISCOVER | Gator Country - Natchitoches Alligator Park

380 Bayou Pierre Rd., Natchitoches | Contact: Candace
318-354-0106 | www.gatorcountryla.com

Gator Country is the largest alligator park in Louisiana, housing over 250 American Alligators. The seven-acre park, complete with Cajun music, has a petting zoo, bird sanctuary, reptile house, jungle, tortoise exhibit, baby gator wading pool, feeding show, and more!

12:30 P.M. LUNCH | Lasyone's Meat Pie Kitchen

622 Second St., Natchitoches | 318-352-3353 | Contact: Angela Lasyone
<http://lasyones.com/> | Facebook (@Lasyone's)
Instagram (@lasyonemeatpies)

Home of the famous Natchitoches Meat Pie since 1967.

2:00 P.M. EXPLORE | Los Adaes State Historic Site

6354 Hwy. 485, Robeline | 318-356-5555 | Contact: Logan Schlatre
The site was the capital of the province of Spanish Texas for more than 40 years. Today, the site outlines where the presidio once stood. Located on the El Camino Real de las Tejas National Historic Trail

3:30 P.M. EXPLORE | Fort Jesup State Historic Site

32 Geoghagan Rd., Many | 318-256-4117 | Contact: Carrie McCormic
<https://www.lastateparks.com/historic-sites/fort-jesup-state-historic-site>
Fort Jesup was built in 1822 to protect the United States border with New Spain and to return order to the Neutral Strip. Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Taylor, who first established and commanded the garrison, managed to establish law and order in what had long been neutral ground between the two countries. Fort Jesup remained an important military post for nearly 25 years. The Fort is celebrating its Bicentennial in 2022 with a kickoff Feb. 25-26.

Freshen up at B&B

6:30 P.M. DINNER | Papa's Bar & Grill

604 Front St., Natchitoches | 318-356-7874 | Contact: Justin
www.papasbarandgrill.com

Casual dining offers a wide variety of sandwiches, poboyos and steaks, known for their Big "C" Burger.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

9:30 P.M. EXPLORE | Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site

155 rue Jefferson | (318) 357-3101 | Contact: Justin French
<http://www.lastateparks.com/historic-sites/fort-st-jean-baptiste-state-historic-site>

Visit Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the customs and cultures of the early inhabitants of Natchitoches. Explore the museum and replica

fort and hear about the history of this area as well as the ongoing educational and entertaining events hosted here year-round.

11:00 A.M. LUNCH | Nakatosh Deli & Pub

584 Front St., Natchitoches | (318)-228-8006 | Contact: Clay Mayeaux
Deli & pub offering fresh muffulettas, poboyos, pizza, and wraps, this Natchitoches lunch spot is perfect for a casual lunch as you stroll Front Street and the Landmark Historic District.

DEPART FOR SHREVEPORT/BOSSIER CITY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau

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