



# SATW Central States Conference Pre-FAM Tour Itinerary - Lake Charles

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

Explore Southwest Louisiana's cultural offerings during one of the most festive seasons of the year, Mardi Gras! From Twelfth Night to Fat Tuesday, Lake Charles transforms into a vibrant party with plates of piping-hot crawfish, flamboyant Carnival costumes, traditional and unorthodox king cakes, high-energy neighborhood parades, gumbo cookoffs, and more. Around here, you come for the food and stay for the party, but you'll also fall in love with the locals. There is no better way to pre-game for SATW than reveling around Louisiana's Playground in green, gold, and purple.

## Sunday, Feb. 12

### Journalists arrive in Lake Charles

**1:00 P.M. | Brunch at Drago's Seafood Restaurant inside L'Auberge**  
Drago and Klara Cvitanovich opened the first Drago's in 1969 in Metairie, Louisiana. Now run by their son, Tommy, L'Auberge is home to the sixth location of Drago's Seafood Restaurant. Get your taste buds ready for delicious seafood dishes, including the famous Charbroiled Oysters! However, the brunch menu was crafted by Lyle Broussard, Jr., the executive chef at Barstool Sportsbook, which is the property's newest restaurant addition.

**3:00 P.M. | Hotel Check-In - L'Auberge Casino Resort Lake Charles**  
777 Ave. L'Auberge, Lake Charles

**6:00 P.M. | Dinner at Barstool Sportsbook inside L'Auberge**  
This addition to the L'Auberge Casino Resort brings a sophisticated sports lounge for real-time odds, point spreads, and over/under. Place wagers on football, basketball, hockey, soccer, baseball, golf, tennis, auto racing, cycling, boxing, UFC, and more. Barstool Sportsbook features a 24-foot video wall, 16 betting kiosks, 18 slot machines, daily dining and drink specials, and 45 TVs for viewing the best games. Must be 21+ to enter the restaurant and betting lounge.

**7:30 P.M. | Walking Tour of L'Auberge Casino Resort**  
Enjoy the best of everything, right at your fingertips. With fabulous amenities such as high-end shopping, a tranquil spa, extraordinary restaurants, sports betting, and exciting live entertainment, there's no question that L'Auberge has it all! Close to Houston and New Orleans, but far beyond what you've ever experienced, the ideal resort casino experience is found right here in Lake Charles, Louisiana. A 26-story casino resort, 1,000 casually elegant rooms with 147 luxury suites, 70,000 sq. ft. of non-stop Vegas-style gaming with 85 table games and approximately 1,400 slot machines and a sports Betting area. Contraband Bayou Golf Club, an 18-hole championship Tom Fazio course. Eight innovative restaurants, a world-class spa and pools with a lazy river, The Shops at L'Auberge, and top-name entertainment.

**8:00 P.M. | Journalists Explore Casino at Their Leisure**

*\*Schedule Subject to Change*

## Monday, Feb. 13

### A Taste of Southwest Louisiana History

**8:00 A.M. | Breakfast at Pujo St. Café**  
Take advantage of American, Cajun/Creole, steaks, seafood, pasta, and desserts at Pujo St. Cafe. This downtown dining experience offers

a New Orleans atmosphere with a courtyard patio. It's been a local favorite for more than 25 years.

### 10:30 A.M. | Tour of Downtown Lake Charles & Historic Charpentier Neighborhood

Covering 40 blocks of downtown Lake Charles, you can step back in time with a self-guided walking or driving tour of one of the finest collections of Victorian architecture in Louisiana, dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

### 12:00 P.M. | Lunch at Famous Foods

Famous Foods has a down-home atmosphere with a friendly feel. The restaurant area is spacious with great seating for families making their way down the Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail! This well-known restaurant stands the test of time by delivering a genuine taste of Southwest Louisiana, including cracklin, boudin, and plate lunches.

### 2:00 P.M. | Zydeco History & Dancing Demonstration

Experience the art and history of Zydeco roots in Lake Charles with a local zydeco band that gets you on your feet and swaying with singing souls of Southwest Louisiana. Lake Charles is home to Brandon Ledet & The Creole Touch, an authentic Creole Zydeco Band from Southwest Louisiana featuring the best in classic and contemporary Zydeco with blues and a touch of soul. Regular performances include private parties, social events and local club and festival venues in Southwest Louisiana and abroad.

### 4:30 PM | Downtime

### 6:30 P.M. | Dinner at Buffi's Peaux Boys

Po'boys are considered Louisiana gourmet. Buffi's offers real food that is served by real people in downtown Lake Charles. Known for its traditional and unorthodox po'boy sandwiches, guests can choose from more than 20 different flavors, like BBQ pulled pork, crawfish boil, chicken salad, Philly, and more.

*\*Schedule Subject to Change*

## Tuesday, Feb. 14

### Mardi Gras Must-Haves

### 8:00 A.M. | Breakfast at Insane Sausages

This quick-service eatery serves up classic Cajun offerings and some of the most unique sausage and boudin creations, like smoked pork enchilada boudin and bacon chipotle chicken sausage, as well as fried foods. Insane Sausages was the 2018 winner of the Boudin Wars competition.

### 10:30 A.M. | King Cake Tasting at Cypi's Cake Box

At Cypi's, you can receive gourmet cakes for any occasion. From festive party cakes and cupcakes, to elaborate wedding and groom

cakes, as well as various king cake flavors during Mardi Gras season.

**12:00 P.M. | Lunch at Steamboat Bill's**

Get your Cajun, Creole, and crawfish fix at Steamboat Bill's. Boiled crawfish (hot & spicy), crabs, seafood dinners, crawfish and shrimp pistolettes, gumbo, etouffee, po'boys & stuffed potatoes. You'll get consistent flavor and hospitality every time you enter this restaurant.

**2:00 P.M. | Beer Tasting at Crying Eagle Brewing Company**

Crying Eagle Brewing Company is a craft brewery with a unique vision for the entire family, located in Calcasieu Parish. The 4,000-square-foot taproom features plenty of comfortable indoor seating made for sampling the rotating line of beers. The Bistro features weekly specials, hand-rolled pizzas, Louisiana classic small bites and more.

**4:00 P.M. | Pasta-Making Class at Pasta Lab**

The focus of Pasta Lab is indeed pasta. Fresh and dry, flat and shaped, flour, water, and egg. Maybe some fresh herbs, or a little tomato, or spinach, or beet juice. It's fresh pasta that can also be made with your hands. Step into this microfactory, and make your own version of one of the world's favorite carbs.

**6:30 P.M. | Downtime at Casino**

**8:00 P.M. | Dinner at The Villa Harlequin**

The Villa Harlequin is a low-lit, fine dining restaurant located in downtown Lake Charles serving traditional Italian cuisine with an emphasis on steaks, chops, and fresh seafood with popular menu items like crab Remick, crab royale, Creole tomato bisque with basil, and lump crab, shrimp and crab salad, and more.

*\*Schedule Subject to Change*

**Wednesday, Feb. 15**

**8:00 A.M. | Hotel Check-Out**

**9:00 A.M. | Breakfast at The Bakery**

Fresh baguettes, scones, biscuits, muffins, quiche, coffee, and more delicious treats that are baked fresh daily. Located just blocks from Lake Charles scenic Shell Beach Drive, the French-inspired bakery is light, open, and airy with sparkling chandeliers, soft music, two areas for outdoor patios and a coffee bar. Now serving, wine and champagne in the afternoons.

**11:00 A.M. | Depart for Shreveport**

Shalisa will transport journalists from Lake Charles to Shreveport in a corporate vehicle to attend the SATW Central States Chapter meeting.

**2:30 P.M. | Arrive in Shreveport**

**HOST CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Visit Lake Charles**

Contact: Shalisa Roland, Director of Public Relations

Email: [sroland@visitlakecharles.org](mailto:sroland@visitlakecharles.org)

Phone: 936-371-7134

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