

Visit Shreveport-Bossier:
Louisiana's Other Side

SPICE AND SOUL ITINERARY

Group Itinerary



Erica Telsee
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800-551-8682 ext. 104 or
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Duration: 2 Days

Walking: Moderate

Booking: Year-Round

Travel to Shreveport-Bossier to learn about African American Heritage in northwest Louisiana. The various individuals, landmarks, churches, schools, and structures are living testaments of a resilient, proud people and their achievements.

Day 1 Driving Tour of Downtown Shreveport's Historic African American Landmarks:

Start the day with a driving tour of some of downtown Shreveport's most iconic African American landmarks. Then be sure to have lunch and visit some local attractions that share the loss and triumphs of African Americans.

Antioch Baptist Church

Antioch Baptist Church is the oldest African American Baptist organization in Shreveport, which was founded in 1871. The Romanesque Revival style building that stands today was built in 1903 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter Statue

A bronze life-size statue of this legendary blues and folk singer stands pointing towards Ledbetter Heights, a neighborhood named after him. This famous Shreveport musician still has great influence on some of the greatest artists of today. The statue is the work of Shreveport native Jesse Pitts, Jr.

Once in a Millennium Moon Mega Mural

One of the largest in the nation, this mural is a unique and monumental time capsule capturing the essence of the people of Shreveport, their treasures, tragedies, and triumphs.

Lunch at Taylor's Catering and Restaurant

This cafeteria-style restaurant serves up soul food and country cooking. Popular menu items include whole fried catfish, fried pork chop platters and barbecue ribs, as well as home-cooked vegetable sides and hot water cornbread.

Multicultural Center of the South

Learn about the rich diversity and history of northwest Louisiana at Multicultural Center of the South. Tour exhibits reflecting the cultures of African Americans, Creoles, Hispanics, Italians, Native Americans, and more.

Calenthan Temple and Texas Avenue

Thriving African American businesses and social life concentrated along the 800-1100 blocks of Texas Avenue during the 1910s and 1920s. Entertainers such as Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Count Basie, and Duke Ellington played on the rooftop of the Calenthan Temple and at the Plamoore Dance Hall. Few of these businesses and none of the homes remain, though a few of the buildings still stand. Today, the district is home to many beautiful murals and is the site of the new Caddo Common Park.

Old Galilee Baptist Church

In 1958 and 1962, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at this historic site, effectively initiating the Civil Rights Movement in Shreveport. The church, which was first founded in 1877, played a pivotal role in the fight to integrate Caddo Parish public schools.

Caesar Carpentier Antoine's House

Antoine served as the first African American Senator from Caddo Parish from 1868-1872. In 1871, he introduced a Senate bill to incorporate the city of Shreveport. Antoine later served as Lieutenant Governor of Louisiana from 1872-1876. Not open to the public.

 Food Available for Purchase

Art and Soul of Shreveport Group Experience at Southern University Museum of Art

Experience the culture of African and African American life through the lens of art. Explore relics from the major art-producing regions in West and South Africa, while "feeling the beat" of the drum circle.

Us Up North Dining Experience

You're invited to a special cooking demo and tasting with Chef Hardette Harris, the founder of the Official Meal of North Louisiana. Guests will learn firsthand about cooking traditions as they enjoy the region's popular homemade dishes like hot water cornbread, catfish, greens, and more.

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Day 2

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Big Mama's Antiques and Restorations

Big Mama's Antiques and Restorations sells industrial materials, salvage materials and eclectic offerings. They specialize in African American historical artifacts and have been featured on the "Antiques Roadshow" and in the *Antique Trader Magazine*.

Lunch at Eddie's Seafood & Soul Food Restaurant

Named one of the "Best Soul Food Restaurants in the South" by *Southern Living* magazine, Eddie's Seafood and Soul Food Restaurant is a small neighborhood eatery that is world famous for their version of "Shreveport-style" stuffed shrimp. The restaurant also serves burgers, daily plate lunch specials and more.

Backstage Music Tour at Shreveport Municipal Auditorium

Take a backstage tour of Shreveport's most iconic music venue. Groups can walk in the footsteps of music legends and stand on the stage where idols like Elvis Presley, Hank Williams and Johnny Cash got their start on the Louisiana Hayride radio program. Notable African American musicians who also once graced the stage include Jimi Hendrix, Aretha Franklin and Sam Cooke.

RNL Authentics

Book a shopping appointment with clothing designer Niematulai Longstratt, who is originally from the West African country of Sierra Leone. Longstratt designs garments inspired by traditional African clothing, as well as modern fashion. She also specializes in West African cuisine that is available for catering orders.

Dinner at Orlandeaux's Café

Orlandeaux's Café is a Creole and Southern restaurant serving up Shreveport's famous stuffed shrimp, gumbo, chicken fried steak, pork chops, po'boys and more. Today, visitors to Orlandeaux's Café can taste the original recipe that owner Damien Chapman's great grandfather Arthur Chapman helped develop and cooked up at the iconic African American-owned Freeman & Harris Café.

Louisiana Daiquiri Café

Located in a renovated, historic building in Shreveport, this is a great place to enjoy great daiquiris named after Shreveport neighborhoods like the Highland, Mooretown and Allendale.

Entertainment and Dining at Riverboat Casinos and Horse Racing Track

Shreveport-Bossier's six riverboat casinos and horse racing track are a gateway to adventures ranging from Vegas-style gaming and nightlife to decadent dining and posh accommodations.



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