

- Shreveport Bossier, LA
- Louisiana Northshore/St. Tammany Parish, LA
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Huntsville, AL

# **Shreveport - Bossier**

Located in beautiful northwest Louisiana, Shreveport-Bossier is the perfect place to meet up with your friends for a weekend getaway. Experience 24-hour gaming, riverfront entertainment, shopping at boutique stores and Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets, year-round festivals, and mouthwatering cuisine.

### DAY 1

<u>Louisiana State Exhibit Museum</u>: Louisiana's only public museum listed as a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. The museum houses a huge collection of Native American artifacts as well as exhibits of original paintings by Clementine Hunter, a series of 22 unusual dioramas called "Louisiana in Miniature," touring exhibits and more.

<u>Sci-Port Discover Center Gallery of Intrigue</u>: Sci-Port's newest addition, the Gallery of Intrigue, tests your knowledge of STEM fundamentals through various adventures and puzzles. There are seven adventures to choose from ranging from different themes and difficulty levels that your group can enjoy.

**Boom or Bust Byway**: The Boom or Bust Byway is the ultimate road trip for explorers seeking an off-the-beaten-path adventure. This scenic, self-driving tour is a total of 136 miles across four parishes in north Louisiana: Caddo, Bossier, Webster, and Claiborne. Jump on the byway from any direction to experience Southern flavors, outdoor trails, historical museums, fishing holes, campgrounds and more.

**R.W. Norton Art Gallery**: Shreveport's largest museum houses thousands of American and European sculptures, paintings, artifacts and decorative arts spanning four centuries. The museum sits on 40 beautifully landscaped gardens and trails.

#### DAY 2

**Get Breakfast**: Get breakfast to-go at Southern Maid Donuts, famous for being the only product that Elvis Presley ever sang a jingle for.

<u>Shreveport Aquarium</u>: Travel through brightly colored coral reefs, creaking shipwrecks, dark ocean caves and tropical lagoons. Guests can also get up close and personal with sharks and pet stingrays, jellyfish, starfish and more.

<u>Shopping at Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets</u>: Explore outlet stores, restaurants and entertainment at the Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets, a dynamic shopping destination. The Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets is home to the popular Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, local chocolatier the Chocolate Crocodile and movie theater with IMAX showings.

**East Bank District & Plaza**: Bossier City's new entertainment and arts district includes Flying Heart Brewing and Pub, BeauxJax Crafthouse, Bayou Axe Co., shops and businesses. The heart of the

district is the East Bank Plaza, designed as a gathering place for events and to host food trucks, festivals and outdoor activities.

<u>Casinos</u>: Shreveport-Bossier's five riverboat casinos and horse racing track are a getaway to adventures that range from Vegas-style gaming and nightlife to decadent dining and posh accommodations.

# Distance from Shreveport-Bossier to Baton Rouge: 4 hours - 188 miles

# **Baton Rouge**

As the Capital City, Baton Rouge is the hub of all things Louisiana. Here you will find attractions that showcase our history and culture, coupled with the "Red Stick's" delicious cuisine, vibrant music and incomparable collegiate spirit!

#### DAY 1

**Tony's Seafood**: Known as Louisiana's largest seafood market, Tony's Seafood also has some of the most affordable and authentic seafood in the capital. Tony's features all of the classic seafood Poboys, seafood boxes filled with fresh catches, and even seafood gumbo by the gallon. The fact that it's a market as well as a deli allows you to taste the dishes or cook it up yourself.

<u>Louisiana State Capitol</u>: A magnificent 34-story art deco-style structure standing proud as the nation's tallest capitol building. Get a birds-eye view of the entire city and mighty Mississippi River from the 27th floor observation deck.

<u>Capitol Park Museum</u>: A Louisiana State Museum where you can step onto a real Mardi Gras float, discover the difference between Cajun and Creole, feast your eyes upon a massive shrimp boat and lose yourself in Louisiana music and historical multimedia presentations.

<u>Old State Capitol</u>: Travel through the state's storied political history, but don't forget to look up at the beautiful gothic staircase and stained-glass ceiling!

#### DAY 2

**LSU Rural Life Museum**: Travel back in time and experience the lifestyles and lifeways of Louisiana's people in this highly rated outdoor museum featuring more than twenty 18th Century buildings including slave cabins, an overseer's house, a blacksmith's shop and more.

<u>Old Governor's Mansion</u>: Louisiana's Old Governor's Mansion, built under the governorship of the famous (and infamous) Huey P. Long as a White House replica, served as the official residence to nine Louisiana governors between 1930 and 1962.

<u>USS Kidd</u>: A tour of this restored WWII Fletcher-class destroyer and a stroll through the historic exhibits in the adjoining Veterans Memorial Museum, is a unique experience for the military enthusiast or for anyone!

<u>Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center</u>: Connect with the nature of Louisiana and explore swamp foliage and wildlife at Bluebonnet Swamp. Over a mile of gravel paths and boardwalks link varied habitats such as the cypress-tupelo swamp, beech-magnolia and hardwood forests. Enjoy live animal exhibits; photographic presentations of the site's flora and fauna; natural artifact and mineral displays; and a sizeable, vintage waterfowl decoy carving collection.

Distance from Baton Rouge to Louisiana's Northshore/St. Tammany Parish: 1 hour – 62 miles

### Louisiana's Northshore / St. Tammany Parish

Reconnect on Louisiana's Northshore, St. Tammany Parish. Located at the intersections of I-10, I-12 and I-59, the Northshore has become known for its eco-friendly and accessible outdoor attractions,

unique museums, walkable historic districts, deep & delicious culinary scene and has over 3,000 hotel rooms to make sure you recharge and are ready to explore even more!

#### DAY 1

<u>Honey Island Swamp</u>: Appreciate the flora and fauna of this 1.5 hour swamp tour with experienced guides that will educate you about the swamp's fragile ecosystem, and offer exciting encounters with the wildlife. Choose from one of several companies that call the Honey Island Swamp home.

<u>Abita Brewery</u>: Louisiana's oldest and largest craft brewery and part of the Louisiana Brewery Trail; Abita Brewery has been creating its unique blends and signature sodas since 1986. Indulge in samples after you tour the brewery and learn the secret to their success.

<u>Insta-Gator Ranch and Hatchery</u>: Hold'em, Touch'em & Feed'em can all be done as you tour this venue. Learn about the American Alligator on this 1.5 hour guided tour. For added adventure, visit during mid-August through September and help hatch baby gators!

<u>Palmettos on the Bayou</u>: Dine al fresco overlooking scenic Bayou Bonfouca for a true Louisiana experience. Enjoy some local favorite dishes made with fresh Gulf seafood. OR

<u>Middendorf's Restaurant</u>: Established in 1934 in the town of Manchac, LA by owners of the same name; now owned and operated by Horst & Karen Pfeifer and on the restaurant's 85th anniversary a second location opened on the Northshore. Known for their signature "thin-fried" catfish, the restaurant serves seafood and local favorites to individuals and groups.

#### DAY 2

<u>Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum</u>: From canoes to steamboats, Louisiana's unique maritime history and culture has it all. Take a step back in time as you learn how Native Americans, European explorers, and early settlers depended upon Louisiana's extensive bayous, rivers, and lakes as the pathways of survival.

<u>Global Wildlife Center</u> - Feed a giraffe or wiggle a camel's hump. All this and more can be found at one of the largest free-roaming wildlife preserve in the United States. Enjoy a narrated safari wagon tour over 900 acres of beautiful Louisiana countryside complete with numerous ponds and a lake. During the tour you'll come face to face with bison, giraffe, zebra, camels, kangaroos, and much more. It's our own Serengeti, in Louisiana!

<u>H. J. Smith's Son General Store and Museum</u>: Located in the heart of Covington's Downtown Historic District, this business has been family-owned and operated since 1876. The museum houses hundreds of items from the past, including a 20-foot long cypress dugout boat, cast iron casket, old farming tools, a 1920s gas pump, a hand operated wooden washing machine, and much more.

<u>Annadele's Plantation</u>: Built in 1834 by Colonel Sully of New Orleans, then purchased in the late 1800's by the Mayor of New Orleans as a summer home. Now refurbished, Annadele's Plantation today is the dining site of exquisite French and Creole-inspired cuisine

Distance from Louisiana's Northshore/St. Tammany Parish to Huntsville, AL: 6.5 hours – 416 miles

### Huntsville, AL

From expansive views of the Tennessee Valley atop Monte Sano Mountain to the inspiration launched every day at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville will lift your spirits. We will share our stories with you from the history of our state at Alabama Constitution Hall Historic Park & Museum to the creative artists of today at Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment. Enjoy culinary discoveries with down-home dishes, international flavors and innovative menus. Find your path among our hiking, biking, outdoor arts, coffee and craft beer trails. There are many ways to experience Huntsville!

#### DAY 1

<u>U.S. Space & Rocket Center | NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC)| Intuitive Planetarium | Space Camp</u>: the birthplace of the U.S space program, Huntsville is called the Rocket city for good reason. Our scientists and engineers developed the powerful rockets that launched America to the moon, and we are working now to return to the moon and onto Mars. The past, present and future of the U.S. space program is on display at the U.S. Space & Rocket and MSFC. Huntsville is also mission control for the International Space Station which you can visit while touring MSFC.

<u>Huntsville Botanical Garden</u>: Home to the nation's largest open-air seasonal butterfly house, the Garden showcases its 112-acre site with woodland paths, grassy meadows, water features, floral collections, demonstration gardens and nature center. The new visitor welcome center is not to be missed! Golf cart tours available, free of charge, by reservation.

<u>Stovehouse for Dinner</u>: Once a 1920s era stove factory, this creatively adapted factory is now a lively entertainment venue featuring multiple ethnic restaurants, rooftop bar, indoor/outdoor seating, retail, special event space and live music. Stovehouse is located a walkable block away from Campus 805, a former city high school reimagined into a craft beer, culinary, event destination in its own right!

#### DAY 2

Twickenham Historic District | Harrison Brothers Hardware | Alabama Constitution Hall Park & Museum | Historic Huntsville Depot: Explore the history of Huntsville before we became Rocket City USA with your guided tour through Alabama's largest collection of antebellum homes-Twickenham- with stops at the state's birthplace-Alabama Constitution Hall Park & Museum; Harrison Brother's Hardware-Alabama's oldest operating hardware store, now a shopper's delight; and the Historic Huntsville depot, in service from the Civil War to Vietnam War and a paranormal hot spot!

<u>Lunch Downtown</u>: the best vacations happen one amazing meal at a time. Enjoy at scatter lunch among the many locally owned restaurants ranging from traditional Southern fare with a twist to Korean fusion to Alabama BBQ.

Huntsville Museum of Art | SPACES Sculpture Trail: Huntsville Museum of Art's permanent Collection consists of approximately 4000 pieces and exhibits include American Studio Glass, Buccellati: A Silver Menagerie and Sellars Collection. Award winning travelling exhibits are featured throughout the year. Download the free SPACES HSV app and start your journey on the SPACES Sculpture Trail, featuring outdoor sculptures and murals. Discover the Purple Cup Secret Art Trail in downtown Huntsville. The name comes from the distinctive cups offered for adult beverages in this entertainment district. You can enjoy your drink while you explore the art.

**Lowe Mill ARTS & Entertainment**: Once a huge textile mill, the space has been reimagined with 148 working studios for more than 200 artists and makers, six galleries, a theatre and performance venues. While nurturing their artists, Lowe Mill also works to educate the public about art and the entire creative process. Visitors are welcome to learn about the artists, have hands-on experiences and shop. Studios include ceramics, painting, sculpture, glass, jewelry, culinary arts, textile, woodworking, film, performance and much more.

**NOTE**: Depending the route chosen, break up the drive with a stop in Mississippi and/or Birmingham, AL to experience Civil Rights heritage sites.



### **Contact Us!**

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