

### THE ST. TAMMANY PARISH **TOURIST & CONVENTION COMMISSION STAFF**

Donna O'Daniels President & CEO

Rae Shipley Assistant to President & CEO

Tanya Leader **VP** Sales

Christina Cooper VP Communications, Marketing & PR

Devan Richoux, CPA VP of Administration and CFO

Zondra White Jones Senior Sales Manager

Anna Strider Manager of Marketing & PR & Film Specialist

Roberta Carrow-Jackson Digital Media Specialist

Louise Lovich Visitor Services Specialist

Sarah Hill Communications Assistant

## **VISITOR SERVICES**

Annette Shurtz **Christy Paulsell** 

#### **TOURIST COMMISSIONERS:**

Mark Myers, Commission Chair Marlaine Peachey, Vice Chair Bonnie Eades, Secretary/Treasurer Alex Carollo Katherine Diemont Patti Ellish Thomas J. (T.J) Smith, Jr.



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The mission of the St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission is to market and promote St. Tammany Parish as a highly desirable destination for visitors, thereby increasing the economic impact of tourism on the area.









#### WHAT WE DO

We work with local hotels, restaurants, attractions, and other businesses frequented by tourists to promote our community as a dynamic and attractive travel destination. Through the impact of travel, we strengthen the economic position of our parish and provide opportunity and jobs for people in our community.

#### **HOW WE ARE FUNDED**

A three percent hotel occupancy tax funds the St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission. We also receive 25% of the four percent state sales tax levied on lodging. Our organization does not receive any funding from St. Tammany Parish resident taxes.

#### HOW WE BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

The St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission works to promote the Northshore's festivals, culture, cuisine, and quality of life to encourage people to visit our destination. These visitors generate tax revenue that saves residents more than \$1,100 in annual state and local taxes. When more visitors stay in our hotels, more money is distributed to St. Tammany Corporation (45%), the Harbor Center (9%), Recreation District One (9%), and St. Tammany Parish Government (12%) through the state sales tax levied on lodging.

#### **WE WON**

2019 Best Marketing Award for the Tammany Taste Campaign: Southeast Tourism Society: Tourism offices and Destination Marketing Organization (DMOs) across a 12-state region compete for this prestigious "Shining Example" award. Campaigns are judged on research, creativity, demographic targets and strategy, and measurements of success.

2019 Outstanding Tourism Commission of the Year: Louisiana Travel Association: Destinations representing parishes from around the State of Louisiana compete for consideration by an out-of-state panel of judges. Louisiana Northshore was recognized for outstanding efforts in promoting tourism in St. Tammany through marketing and promotions, as evidenced by a ROI with an increase in visitation, as well as efforts to partner with other organizations.



THERE ARE 10,030 MEMBERS OF THE ST. TAMMANY COMMUNITY WHOSE JOBS WERE SUPPORTED BY **VISITOR REVENUE** IN 2019.





2019: Tourism's Economic Impact for

LOUISIANA & ST. TAMMANY PARISH



### WHY TOURISM MATTERS:

Under the direction of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, visitation to the state of Louisiana increased by 3.8% in 2019, and the travel and tourism industry welcomed 53.2 million domestic & international visitors to the state of Louisiana.



Visitors to Louisiana spent \$18.9 billion in 2019. The travel and tourism industry generated \$1.92 billion in state and local tax revenue, representing a 2.1% increase year over year.



The travel and tourism industry is the **4th highest** employer in the state of Louisiana, providing work for 242,200 people employed by the leisure & hospitality industry.



If it were not for the state and local taxes paid by tourists visiting St. Tammany, each St. Tammany family would pay an additional \$1,100 per year in taxes to maintain current services.



In 2019, tourists spent **\$771,420,000** in St. Tammany Parish which directly resulted in \$276,750,000 earned by residents in our community.

43:1

According to the state statistics, tourism advertising returns add up to \$43 earned for every \$1 invested.

Sources: Tourism Economics, UNO Hospitality Research Center



The St. Tammany Parish Tourist and Convention Commission's strategic marketing plans are data driven and optimized for the best results. The Tourist Commission engages experts in the field of tourism research to study our destination and incorporates key findings into a plan of action to reach potential visitors.

Longwoods International began tracking American travelers in 1985, and has conducted large-scale syndicated visitor research quarterly since 1990.

**UberMedia** is a mobile tech company that gets geolocation data from 2 sources: 150k apps that require location permission, and ads served on mobile devices from their real time bidding exchange. They are currently collecting location data from over 300 million mobile devices in North America monthly. The data is 100% GPS based and never uses cellphone towers. This means locations are accurate within 3 meters.



# TRAVEL USA VISITOR VOLUME STUDY FOR 2019 BY COMPASS LONGWOODS INTERNATIONAL

This is currently the largest ongoing study conducted of American travelers, providing key insight for destinations.

WE HAD

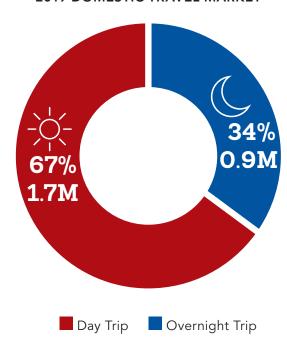
2.63 MILLION

VISITORS

IN 2019

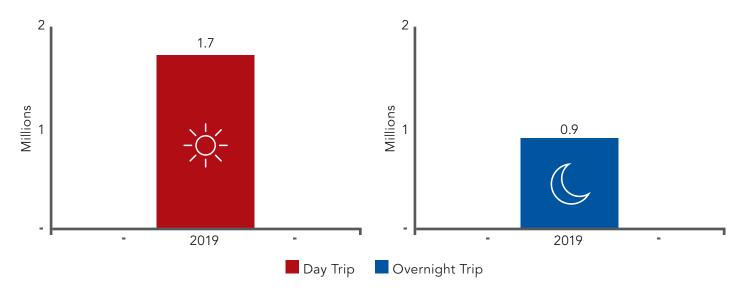
IT'S AS IF EVERY
MAN, WOMAN
AND CHILD IN THE
CITY OF CHICAGO
CAME TO ST.
TAMMANY PARISH
IN 2019 AND SPENT
\$293.15 EACH.

# TOTAL SIZE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH 2019 DOMESTIC TRAVEL MARKET

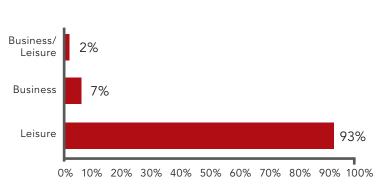


2.63 MILLION VISITORS CAME TO
ST. TAMMANY PARISH IN 2019
Or, roughly the population of the city of Chicago.

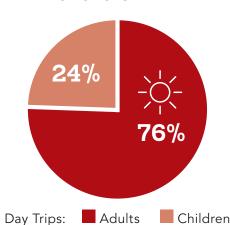
#### TOTAL NUMBER OF DAY VS. NIGHT TRIPS TO ST. TAMMANY PARISH IN 2019

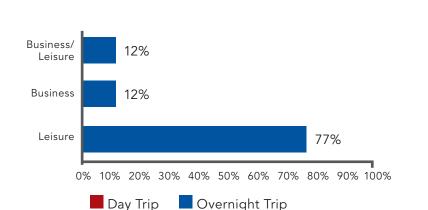


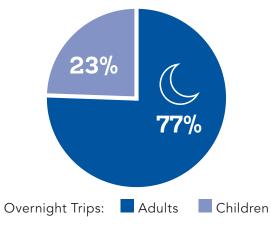
SIZE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH TRAVEL MARKET BY TYPE OF TRIP



SIZE OF ST. TAMMANY PARISH TRAVEL MARKET ADULTS VS. CHILDREN







# **UberMedia**

#### ST. TAMMANY PARISH VISITATION STUDY BY UBERMEDIA

To qualify as a visitor for this study, anyone living or working within 50 miles of St. Tammany Parish was excluded. Also, the mobile device had to be confirmed in St. Tammany for at least six hours for an overnight trip and two hours for day trips.

AVERAGE LENGTH OF TRIP TO ST. TAMMANY PARISH

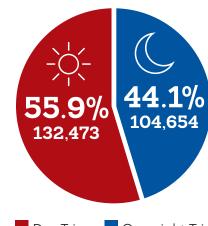




Day Trip

Overnight Trip

TOTAL UNIQUE VISITOR SPLIT: DAY TRIPS VS. OVERNIGHT TRIPS



Day Trip

Overnight Trip

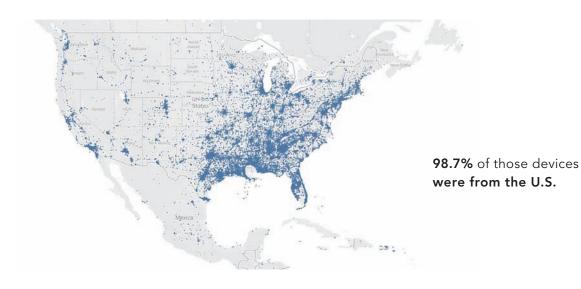
In 2019, UberMedia tracked **237,127 unique mobile devices** in St. Tammany Parish.

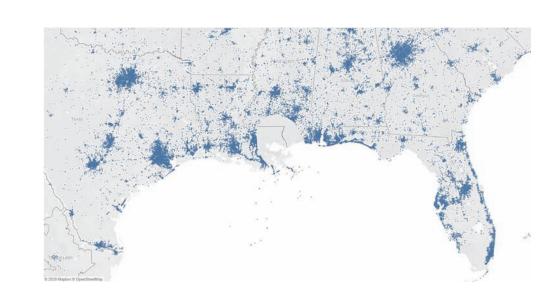
**44.1%** of those trips were overnight visitors, while **55.9%** were day visitors.

UBERMEDIA
TRACKED **346,779**MOBILE DEVICE
TRIPS AND **237,127**UNIQUE MOBILE
DEVICES IN ST.
TAMMANY PARISH.

# ST. TAMMANY PARISH OVERNIGHT UNIQUE VISITATION ORIGIN MARKETS 104,654 unique overnight visitor mobile devices were tracked to St. Tammany Parish.







Of the 98.7% domestic devices, the top 6 states with the highest overnight visitor mobile devices tracked were:

- 1. Texas
- 2. Louisiana
- 3. Florida
- 4. Alabama
- 5. Mississippi
- 6. Georgia



# STAFF BOARD & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Leadership Louisiana

Leadership St. Tammany

Leadership Northshore

Southeast Tourism Society

Society of American
Travel Writers

Louisiana Travel Association

Louisiana Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus

Louisiana Tourism Coastal Coalition

Northshore Harbor Center

Louisiana Tourism Leadership Academy Alumni Taskforce

Mid-South Women in Tourism

Carnival in Covington
Committee

Society of Governmental Meeting Planners – Louisiana Chapter

Southeastern Alumni
Association, GOLD Council

Greater Madisonville Area Chamber of Commerce

Madisonville Old Fashioned
4th of July

Team Louisiana

The St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission is an active community partner promoting travel and tourism and small businesses in St. Tammany. We offer marketing services, including media outreach, website and visitor guide listings; family reunion consulting; group tour planning and assistance; social media promotion and more **free of charge** to tourism-related businesses and events in the parish.

#### **TOURISM PARTNER TRAINING SESSIONS**

Throughout the year, the St. Tammany Parish Tourist

Commission sponsors free training sessions for industry partners. Included in 2019 was a Google My Business free partner training session co-sponsored with the Louisiana Office of Tourism and Miles Media.

#### SIMPLEVIEW PARTNER TRAINING

Our Sales staff sends out leads to our hotels and industry partners through Simpleview, our Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, considered the gold standard in the industry for tourism marketing organizations. Hotel partners

are able to upload information directly to the LouisianaNorthshore.com website through our extranet. The sales team conducts one-on-one Simpleview training with new hotelier staff throughout the year.

#### **HOSPITALITY FAMILIARIZATION TOUR**

Our front-line hospitality agents are an important key to success in tourism. The St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission's sales team sponsors yearly hospitality tours of the parish for hoteliers, front desk agents, concierges, and other hospitality partners so that they can familiarize themselves with area attractions and upsell room nights.

# FIT PARTNER EDUCATION FOR INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

The St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission met individually with many partners to educate and assist them in negotiating FIT (Family and Independent Travel) contracts with receptive operators to increase international visitation.



**ADVERTISING BUDGET 2019:** \$588,194

ADVERTISING REACH/CIRCULATION: 32,759,074

**ADVERTISING LEADS: 20.268** 

**WEBSITE VISITS**: 710,876

The Communications Department uses a multipronged approach to promote and market our St. Tammany Parish community to leisure travelers, business visitors, and the film/TV industry to promote economic development. The department produces all collateral materials to promote the parish, drafts and administers the commission's marketing plan and ad placement, fosters media relations, oversees the LouisianaNorthshore.com website and social media, as well as coordinates film commission efforts.

It is noteworthy that the STPTCC Communications department produces all collateral materials in-house and is responsible for photography, copy, art direction, and editing, saving agency costs of up to 25%. (Randall Travel Marketing, 2017 Tourism Research Study)

## **2019 INITIATIVES:**



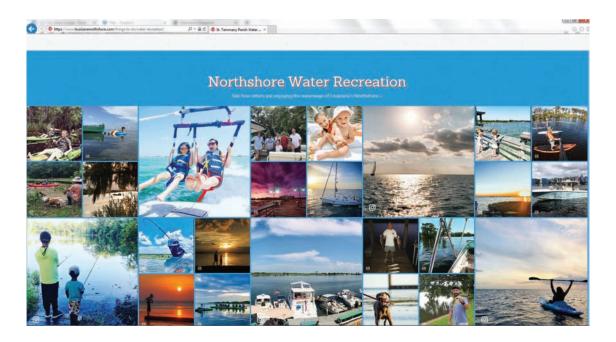




Increased the visibility and distribution of the new magazine-format, inspirational **Explore the Northshore Visitor Guide**. Distributed **100,000 copies** of the new guide to visitors in the drive market requesting information on St. Tammany Parish as well as to St. Tammany Parish hotels, attractions and Welcome Centers throughout the state through the Louisiana Travel Association.

Expanded our photo library with fresh and updated photography highlighting the destination's vibrancy to appeal to a younger demographic. Used throughout collateral materials including the Explore the Northshore Visitor Guide, ads, on social media. Produced numerous professional photo shoots with multiple photojournalists, arranged for models and partner participation, handled logistics.

Promoted our newly rebranded Tammany Taste Culinary Trail and culinary scene. Attended a press trip to Atlanta with Louisiana Culinary Trails, the Louisiana Travel Association and the Louisiana Office of Tourism. Promoted area chefs, brewers and makers with Poppy Tooker through a series of podcasts with Louisiana Eats! called Tammany Taste Quick Bites. Our Tammany Taste of Summer culinary campaign, aimed at increasing room nights and economic impact for restaurant partners, earning a Shining Example Award from Southeast Tourism Society for Campaign of the Year.



Partnered with CrowdRiff to advance the ability to obtain and display User Generated Content in galleries on the LouisianaNorthshore.com website, social media, and other advertising avenues to promote authentic travel experiences on the Louisiana Northshore.

Increased Louisiana Northshore's presence in the State of Louisiana's Inspiration Guide distributed to 300,000 potential Louisiana visitors by offering cooperative advertising opportunities to Northshore partners. Co-op partners who benefited from the St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission's subsidizing almost half the costs of the ad placement and/or listing include: Bayou Adventure, City of Covington, Culinary Kids & Adults, Dr. Wagner's Honey Island Swamp Tours, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, Little River Bluffs Nature Preserve & Retreat and Palmettos on the Bayou.



## **2019 ACHIEVEMENTS:**



#### PRINT WITH EARNED MEDIA

Media contacts and FAM tours in 2019 resulted in these stories, and more.

See LouisianaNorthshore.com/articles for more.



#### FOOD & WINE MAGAZINE

"This New Orleans Suburb is Making Us Seriously Hungry"

Featuring: Covington



#### TRAVEL CHANNEL

"10 Small American Towns with Surprisingly Big Food Scenes"

Featuring: Covington



#### **COOKING WITH PAULA DEEN**

"Touring St. Tammany"

**Featuring:** Mandeville, Covington, Abita Springs and 11 tourism partners



#### **360 WEST MAGAZINE**

"The Wander List Appetite for Adventure: Louisiana pit stop"

**Featuring:** The Garden House at the Southern Hotel, Oxlot 9, Covington



#### ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION

Spring Travel: The Big Outdoors

Featuring: Pearl River Eco Tours, Slidell



#### **USA TODAY'S 10 BEST**

"Small Towns For Adventure"

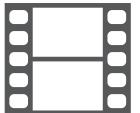
Featuring: Abita Springs



#### **COURIER MAGAZINE**

"The Louisiana Lowdown"

**Featuring:** Abita Brewery, Cajun Encounters and Dr. Wagners Honey Island Swamp Tours



#### FII M

St. Tammany's varied locations, historic downtown and diverse architecture are among the reasons Louisiana's Northshore is the perfect locale for film. The tourist commission offers full-service assistance including location scouting, permitting, accommodations, industry contacts and workforce development. And, Louisiana's beneficial tax incentives just help sweeten the deal.

Production Projects Assisted on in 2019 include:

"Troop Zero"

"The Dirt"

"The Highwaymen"

"Green Book"

CBS' NCIS: New Orleans Season 5











#### **PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

The Communications Department handles media relations including outreach and pitching of story ideas, press releases, and hosting media familiarization (FAM) tours. On these tours, we cater the itineraries to the media's interest and outlets and showcase some of the best chefs, attractions, and memorable experiences St. Tammany has to offer. These FAM tours foster a personal connection with the media and can result in earned media exposure for years to come and a tremendous ROI.



Top 5 visiting states to

LouisianaNorthshore.com

DIGITAL & SOCIAL MEDIA

Sessions: **710,876 19.6% over 2018** 

Users: **496,917 18% over 2018** 

Pageviews: 1,224,137 **1**2.9% over 2018



Facebook followers: 36,855

3.6% YOY



Instagram followers: 5,848

134% YOY



Twitter followers: 5,175 \$\dagger 5\% YOY



YouTube subscribers: **332** 

**1** 56% YOY

All videos viewed:

406.5K times **1** 301% YOY



5. Illinois

1. Louisiana

Texas

4. Mississippi

3. Florida

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Group Tourism Impact: **OUR SALES DEPARTMENT** 



"WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING MEETINGS IN LOUISIANA'S NORTHSHORE. THE TEAM AT ST. TAMMANY PARISH TOURIST **COMMISSION IS ALWAYS** SO NICE TO WORK WITH TO HELP US HAVE SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS. THEY MAKE US LOOK GOOD!"

## CRYSTAL CARTER,

MPA | Vice-President Association Management Strategies





The St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission's Sales Department works to attract **sporting tournaments**, **meetings**, **conventions**, **family reunions**, **weddings** and **group travel companies** to host their events in St. Tammany Parish. The department works closely with area **hoteliers**, **tourism partners**, **meeting** and **sporting venues** to help increase the number of hotel room nights spent and provide a positive economic impact to St. Tammany parish.

**Our full-service sales team** offers complimentary planning services, site visits and room block assistance from our hotel partners, meeting room suggestions and customized itineraries for off-site attractions.

## **2019 INITIATIVES:**

- Contracted with Tourism Tactics by Tico to help increase international travel to St. Tammany by facilitating receptive contracts with hotel partners, hosting receptive operators on familiarization tours, sales calls, socials and training. Also maintained inventory with current on-line travel agencies and hosted individual education sessions with interested Northshore hotels and restaurants.
- Grew the SMERF market with an emphasis on Family & Military Reunions and Tour & Travel through sales calls, site visits, sponsorship endeavors, advertising and attending national conferences.
- Strategically partnered with our destinations in Baton Rouge and New Orleans by creating a joint itinerary named "Not your typical 10" to promote the I-12 corridor to our International visitors.
- Partnered with state organizations such as the Louisiana Office of Tourism, Louisiana Travel Association and Team Louisiana through buy-ins when feasible and in direct correlation with our mission.
- Sought opportunities to continue **hospitality and** sales education.







#### IN 2019, THE STPTCC WELCOMED SEVERAL MEETINGS AND SPORTING EVENTS INCLUDING:

- Louisiana Pharmacists Association
- Louisiana Plumbing-Heating & Cooling Contractors Association
- Elite Redfish Team Open Tour Series
- USTA Divisions 18+, 40+ & 55+ Mixed State Championships
- 25th Annual Midnight Madness Soccer Tournament

## THE SALES DEPARTMENT ATTENDED NUMEROUS TRADE SHOWS AND WORKED TO DEVELOP NEW BUSINESS FOR THE PARISH IN THE DOMESTIC MARKET INCLUDING:

- Rendezvous South
- Travel South
- Sports ETA
- SGMP National Educational Conference
- LSAE Annual Conference

- SGMP State Conference
- Small Market Meetings
- Military Reunion Network
- SCMA/AMA/GMOA Joint Conference

## **2019 BY THE NUMBERS**

# \$2.9 million

in Estimated Economic Impact from Group Business

**236** Total Direct Sales Appointments

123 International Inquiries fulfilled

**125** Leads Sent to Industry Partners for Potential Business

18 Industry Partners Hosted on our Hospitality Fam Tour

100+

Groups Assisted

Familiarization Tours,
Sales Calls & Site
Inspections

**17**Facilitated Reunions

#### **INTERNATIONAL MARKET:**

The St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission continued efforts started in 2016 to make pursuing the international market a priority. Nearly 1 million international visitors came to Louisiana in 2019. International visitors stay an average of 9 nights while traveling in Louisiana.

#### Our Sales Department hosted sales calls and training in

New York, Boston and Florida with top European receptive companies resulting in direct contract interest for several of our hotel, restaurant and attraction partners. They also attended many international tradeshows and co-sponsored hospitality events to increase visibility of the Northshore with receptive tour operators including:

- Co-hosted United Kingdom/German Reception with Visit Baton Rouge for the 3rd year at IPW
- Represented St. Tammany Parish Tourist Commission in the Louisiana Office of Tourism State Booth at IPW
- Attended North American Journeys RTO East Summit
- Participated in the Canadian Sales Mission through the Louisiana Office of Tourism to promote the launch of Air Transat direct flights to New Orleans



#### **TOP 5 COUNTRIES VISITING THE** LOUISIANA NORTHSHORE WEBSITE

- 1. US
- 2. Germany
- 3. Canada
- 4. U.K.
- 5. Australia

#### **TOP 5 INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES THAT VISITED LOUISIANA IN 2019**

- 1. Canada
- 2. U.K.
- 3. Germany
- 4. Australia
- 5. France

(Source: Tourism Economics, 2020)



LOUISIANA TAX FREE SHOPPING: IN 2019, ST. TAMMANY INTERNATIONAL SHOPPERS SPENT A TOTAL OF \$47,512 WITH 276 TAX FREE PURCHASES.





Our Visitor Center at Hwy. 59 welcomed **3,409 people** to St. Tammany Parish in 2019. We distributed visitor guides, brochures, map pads and information to visitors seeking information on area lodging and attractions. The state welcome center in Slidell received 169,873 visitors in 2019. Pearl River welcome center received nearly 68,085 visitors in 2019.

#### PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDISE:

The Tourist Commission offered over 59,000 complimentary promotional items and visitor guides to incoming conferences, meetings, reunions, weddings and sporting event participants, totaling over \$27,000 in merchandise promoting the Northshore.





St. Tammany Parish Tourist & Convention Commission 68099 Highway 59, Mandeville, Louisiana 70471 800.634.9443 | LouisianaNorthshore.com