

PRE AND POST PRESS TRIPS



The Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Louisiana Office of Tourism and the Louisiana Association of Convention & Visitors Bureaus are happy to provide local, as well as statewide press trips for SATW members. Post tours will depart from the Golden Nugget lobby on the morning of February 10.

The following trips are offered on a first come, first served basis to SATW members.

For full tour details and itineraries, go to www.visitlakecharles.org/satwflc.
*Tours are subject to change.

Pre-Tour Option: Lake Charles Mardi Gras Fanatics

February 4-6

Limited to 15 members

Arrival Airport: Lake Charles Regional Airport

Activity Level: Easy Active.

This tour requires walking at an easy pace, riding on a parade float, and standing for several hours.

Arrive in Lake Charles on Thursday for the kick-off of the Mardi Gras weekend. On Friday, experience the art, culture and history throughout Southwest Louisiana's Charpentier Historic District and museums, along with shopping in the Cottage Shops Cultural District where Mardi Gras krewe members stock up on favors for ball patrons, and ride on board the Convention & Visitors Bureau's alligator float in the Merchant's Parade. Saturday, explore the early mining history of the city of Sulphur and catch the Mardi Gras spirit at the World Famous Cajun Extravaganza Gumbo Cook-off, Krewe of Barkus (dog) Parade and the community Zydeco Dance.



POST-PRESS TRIPS ACROSS LOUISIANA



Post Tour: Beards, Bottles & Bayous Monroe-West Monroe & Ruston Feb. 10-12

Limited to 5 members

Departure Airport: Monroe Regional Airport

Special Requirements: comfortable walking shoes

Experience "Diners, Dog Tags, and Downtowns" when you travel to Ruston & Monroe-West Monroe, located in northern Louisiana. Each city is home to an exciting culinary cuisine. On this trip, you'll enjoy delicious bites from Rosemary's Kitchen, a local favorite owned by a mother-daughter duo, where they serve a daily menu featuring fresh, locally grown ingredients. Dine at Cotton, a restaurant owned by Chef Cory Bahr, a Chopped Champion and *Food and Wine Magazine's* Best New Chef. Tour two military museums, each filled with an array of military artifacts. And tour the unique downtown areas with restaurants, shopping and more.

Post Tour: The Reel Cajun Bayou St. Mary (Cajun Coast) & Terrebonne (Houma) Feb. 10-12

Limited to 10 members

Departure Airport: New Orleans – Louis Armstrong International Airport

Special Requirements: comfortable walking shoes, bug spray, sunscreen

Louisiana has surpassed California in film production, earning our state the title "Hollywood South." Many of your favorite films have taken to the bayou region of southeastern Louisiana for its unique charm and natural surroundings. Visit Louisiana's Cajun Coast and Houma Area for a behind-the-scenes look at the settings of films such as *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *All the Kings Men*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and *12 Years a Slave* and television shows such as *Swamp People*. Explore historic estates, come face-to-face with an alligator and get ready for some "reel" surprises as you travel through Louisiana's bayou region.

**Post Tour: Louisiana's Northshore: A Sense of Place
St. Tammany Parish
Feb. 10-12
Limited to 10 members
Departure Airport: New Orleans – Louis Armstrong
International Airport**

Come see, taste, feel what makes St. Tammany Parish, aka Louisiana's Northshore, special. The parish, draped across the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain, is just 45 minutes from New Orleans' French Quarter but is a destination that both shares the culture of its neighbor and offers its own. On your visit, you'll dine on a deck over the scenic Tchefuncte River and in restaurants rivaling those in New Orleans, including Jeffrey Hansell's Oxlot 9 and celebrity chef John Besh's lovely La Provence. Taste those still-flowing spring waters in the form of Abita Beer on a visit to Abita Brewery. Learn about the Northshore's Native American past from noted historian Grayhawk Perkins and the uniqueness of Louisiana's cuisines from the vivacious Poppy Tooker, cookbook author and host of the popular "Louisiana Eats" radio show. Rest your head in the luxe Southern Hotel, a new boutique property in a totally renovated 1907 Mission-style building in historic Covington.



**Post Tour: New Orleans Plantation Country and
Baton Rouge
Feb. 10-12
Limited to 10 members
Departure Airport: New Orleans – Louis Armstrong
International Airport
Special Requirements: comfortable walking shoes, warm
clothing, rain gear**

Begin your tour in Baton Rouge experiencing culture, food and history! Start by indulging in cuisine indigenous to Louisiana on the C'est si Bon Food Tour then make your way to Louisiana's Capitol, Louisiana's Old State Capitol and Capitol Park Museum where you will immerse yourself in Baton Rouge's colorful political history. Your tour will continue downriver into New Orleans Plantation Country – an unforgettable journey through the parishes of St. James, St. John the Baptist, and St. Charles Parishes. Here you will find majestic plantation homes, mysterious swamps, and the best of Cajun/Creole cuisine. Experience the beauty of New Orleans Plantation Country, where the river shaped the culture, and the experience will shape you.

**Post Tour: Northwest
Film Trail in
Shreveport-Bossier
and Webster Parish
Feb. 10-12
Limited to 10 members
Departure Airport:
Shreveport Regional
Airport**

Participants will spend time exploring two communities that

have become hotbeds of film and television production in recent years:

Shreveport-Bossier and Minden. In Shreveport-Bossier, where more than 150 feature films have been produced since 2005, participating media will dine at restaurants frequented by the stars and tour popular filming locations, including Robinson Film Center and Shreveport Municipal Auditorium. Participating media will also visit Moonbot Studios, an Academy Award and EMMY-winning animation studio based in Shreveport. Located just 30 miles east of Shreveport-Bossier, the charming town of Minden has served as the backdrop of such major Hollywood productions as Premonition, Welcome Home, Roscoe Jenkins, and Texas Chainsaw 3D. Participating journalists will visit Minden's historic downtown, with its brick-paved streets, and meet local shopkeepers whose businesses have been frequented by Hollywood celebrities like Jessica Simpson and Ice Cube.



**Post Tour: From the Farm to the Table
Alexandria/Pineville, Natchitoches and Avoyelles
Feb. 10-13
Limited to 10 members
Departure Airport: Alexandria International Airport**

The culture, history and culinary offerings differ around the state of Louisiana. The central area of the state, known as the crossroads, offers a unique melting pot of cultures – from the American Indians who have thrived in Avoyelles Parish to the Creole cultures found in Natchitoches Parish. Throw in the living-off-the-land (and water) and you have an incredible gumbo of history and foodways. Experience this "gumbo" in Natchitoches, Alexandria and Marksville as you go from the farm to the table.



Photo provided by: Lafayette Travel

Post Tour: Cajun Immersion Tour
Lafayette, Iberia, Jeff Davis, St. Landry, St. Martin,
& Vermillion Parishes
Feb. 10-13
Limited to 10 members
Departure Airport: Lafayette Regional Airport
Special Requirements: comfortable walking shoes

Discover distinct culture and heritage as you learn about the Cajuns of South Louisiana and how their culture has survived and thrived for hundreds of years. Journey through countryside and quaint small towns to experience the food, music and people that make this area so unique. You will get a taste of traditional Cajun cuisine as well as creations from innovative, young chefs. Then, you'll take a whirl on the dance floor to authentic Cajun and Zydeco music. Throughout the year, visitors can enjoy festivals, Cajun music jam sessions, Cajun and Zydeco dancehalls, outdoor activities and more. Most of all, Lafayette is a community with many artists and musicians making the environment here incredibly creative and vibrant. The people are friendly and welcoming and this keeps people coming back for more. Come discover why Lafayette has been named the Tastiest Town of the South, a Top Foodie City and the Happiest City in the USA.

WHAT TO PACK

Attire will be casual for the most part, so make sure and bring comfortable clothes and shoes for the parades and nice slacks or skirts for dinner. Feel free to be festive with Mardi Gras colors of purple, green and gold! Please keep in mind that the weather can change here by the minute or hour. Early February can range from the low 40s to mid-60s and it can sometimes be rainy. It may be wise to pack layers and a rain jacket. If you feel like a dip in the heated lazy river or hot tubs, bring a swim suit.



Photography by: LindseyJanies.com

PAYMENT TERMS / AIR TRAVEL

While the Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana is covering the cost of your flight and hotel room, SATW members will be required to provide their credit card at Golden Nugget Lake Charles for incidentals. Registration fees are listed below. Failure to pay promptly and book your flight may result in losing one's place.

Registration Fee: \$300

Pre-Trip Fee: \$100

Post-Trip Fee: \$100

Register between October 15-November 15 at
www.VisitLakeCharles.org/SATWFLC.

November 15, 2015 – Registration Deadline. Once your paid registration is received, the travel agent will call you directly in early November to confirm your flight arrangements.

December 15, 2015 – Deadline to Book Flight.

The travel agent, contracted by the CVB, will be responsible for receiving confirmation from the SATW member that they agree to the itinerary before booking. It is our intention to book flights at the best possible fare available. All core convention attendees will fly in to Lake Charles Regional Airport.

Once the ticket is issued it is nonrefundable and nontransferable. Any changes to an issued ticket will result in a change fee. Any change fees will be the traveler's responsibility.