

Lake Charles, Louisiana and the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road

From world-class gaming to the great outdoors, Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana is the perfect blend. And our location nearly halfway between Houston, TX and New Orleans, LA (2.25 hours west of Houston/3.5 hours east of New Orleans) on Interstate 10 makes getting here so easy. VisitLakeCharles.org

Day One

Tour the [Historic Charpentier District](#)

Take a step back in time in this 40 block district in downtown Lake Charles. Homes dating from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. Free tour app (search "Lake Charles Historic") available in English, French, German and Spanish.

Feeling more adventurous? Tour the Charpentier District, or other areas, on a bicycle! Let [Lake City Bike & Board](#) bring the bikes, or paddle boards, to you with this unique mobile service.



[Mardi Gras Museum of Imperial Calcasieu](#), 809 Kirby St., Lake Charles, LA, 337-430-0043

This six-room museum features the largest Mardi Gras costume display in the world. The rooms display the history of the festival, the Captains' Den, costume design, king cakes, and the marvel of 12th Night. Also showcased are ballroom costumes, a Mardi Gras parade display, including a parade float that everyone can climb aboard.



Choose from a huge variety of cuisines at local restaurants including, of course, Cajun. For a list of the top 20 restaurants as voted by the locals visit

<http://www.visitlakecharles.org/restaurants-culinary/top20/>



[Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail](#)

Considered a staple snack in the southern regions of Louisiana, boudin (pronounced boo-dan) is made of varying amounts of rice, pork meat, liver, onions, parsley and dry seasonings. Bought by the pound, boudin is Southwest Louisiana's favorite finger food. And each boudin master has their own secret recipe...follow-the trail and try them all!



Distillery tour and tasting at [Louisiana Spirits](#), 20909 South I-10 Frontage Rd, Lacassine, LA, (337) 588-5800

Louisiana Spirits is the largest private distillery in the U.S. The facility offers distillery tours, a rum tasting bar and gift shop. Bayou Rum is handcrafted on site the Louisiana way – in a traditional copper pot using 100 percent natural, unrefined Louisiana cane sugar and molasses.



[Gator Chateau](#), 100 Rue de l' Acadie, (I-10 Park Exit 64), Jennings, LA, 337-821-5521,

Interact with live alligators and learn about them! We foster orphaned baby alligators until they are able to be released back into their natural habitat. Our alligator docent will educate you in all things Alligator! Our babies are hand fed so they don't bite. You can hold them and take your picture!



Day Two

[Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point](#), 2740 Ruth St., Sulphur, LA 70665, 337-502-4358

Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at the new Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point—a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana's unique culture. Through imaginative, hands-on displays sure to inspire, you can learn the best places to spot alligators and migrating songbirds, take a peek at wildlife found in bayous and marshes, smell mouthwatering aromas of Cajun/Creole cooking, and "play along" with a Cajun and Zydeco band. Free.





Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, 337-436-9588

One of only 43 All-American Roads in the entire United States, the Creole Nature Trail is a journey into the untamed wilderness of Louisiana's Outback including four wildlife refuges. World-class bird and alligator populations make this byway a natural wonder while top-notch fishing, hunting, crabbing, boating, nature photography and other outdoor opportunities distinguish the byway as a recreational paradise. 26 miles of natural Gulf of Mexico beaches offer fabulous shelling, birding and photography as well as swimming, fishing and sunbathing.

Free self-guided tour app in English, German, French, Spanish, Japanese and Mandarin Chinese, just search "Creole." Download the app before you leave home and your device's gps will auto play content once you arrive on the route and start the app!



Would you prefer a [guided tour](#) of the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road? **SWLA Tours** knowledgeable tour guide will give you the history and background of Southwest Louisiana as you take in the incredible sights and of places you've only dreamed about or seen on TV. At SWLA Tours we make it easy for you to enjoy the outdoors. Sit back, relax, and let us do the driving! Maximum 14 persons per tour.



Grosse Savanne Eco-Tours, 358 Chalkley Rd., Bell City, LA, 337-310-4260

Fully-guided personal boat tour of private 500-acre marshland where you can view several bird rookeries, numerous migratory and residential bird species, along with various small mammals, reptiles, insects, flowering plants and numerous plant communities. (Advance reservations required. Other tour options also available, see website.)

Additional activity options:

Experience an exquisite Southwest Louisiana sunset from the water with [Paddle Up](#).

Paddle Up will provide stand up paddle board, paddle, and life jacket. Paddle Up guides will give beginner instruction while allowing repeat or seasoned customers to warm-up on their own. After initial warm up the group will head out to circle Prien Lake and enjoy the breathtaking sunset on the water. (Already an experienced paddler and want to go out on your own, paddle board rentals as well as private paddle board lessons are also available.)

Enjoy an intimate hands-on cooking class, followed by a family-style meal of what you and your classmates cooked, with Chef Nicole Butler of [The Velvet Pig](#). Classes range from Cajun/Creole, to French Influence and Thai, with Vegetarian options available for any of these.



Experience the brand new state-of-the-art [Crying Eagle Brewing](#) constructed from the ground up to produce great craft beer and be a place to enjoy it. Features a custom 30 barrel brewhouse for our large distributed brews while the "Brewer's Playground" pilot system is for taproom-exclusive brews along with a taproom with plenty of comfortable indoor seating made for sampling our rotating line of beers. Or, step outside to the

beer garden to relax and enjoy Louisiana's beautiful outdoors while playing a game of washers or bean bag toss.

Casino gaming: Lake Charles boasts four casino resorts offering Las Vegas-style gaming with ALL the amenities!

- [L'Auberge Casino Resort](#)
- [Golden Nugget Lake Charles](#)
- [Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel](#)
- [Delta Downs Racetrack Casino & Hotel](#)

Golf: Five public golf courses, each designed to preserve the authenticity of the area as well as provide an unforgettable golfing experience, feature lush scenery and championship golf for all levels of play.



