

LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA

mardi gras



2017

VISIT OUR INFORMATION CENTER

Intersection of I-10 & I-49
1400 N.W. Evangeline Thruway

I-10 Exit 103-A
I-49 South of I-10

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



*Schedule subject to change.

For information on dining, lodging and attractions:

Lafayette

LOUISIANA

Convention and Visitors Commission

LafayetteTravel.com

HISTORY OF KING CAKE

The season of Carnival begins on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the day the Christ Child was visited by the three kings. And with this date comes an old Louisiana tradition – King Cakes!

The creation of “King Cakes” began in 12th century France when a cake was baked on the eve of Jan. 6 with a small token hidden inside. Whoever got the token in his or her slice became the royalty of the night.

The king cake tradition made its way to Louisiana, but like all good things we tend to keep it going as long as we can. Cakes are enjoyed on Jan. 6, usually with a small baby inside and whoever gets the token must buy the next cake and so on it goes.

Louisiana king cakes come plain, with decoration on top, or filled with wonderful things like cream cheese, fruit preserves and pecan praline or created in other unique and wonderful ways. We enjoy our King Cakes, decorated in the Carnival colors of purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power, until Ash Wednesday, the day following Mardi Gras.

Ask anyone in town who makes their favorite king cake and you'll get a dozen answers. You can find king cakes in mini marts, grocery stores and coffee shops as well as bakeries including:

POUPART'S FRENCH BAKERY

Serving up a traditional Mardi Gras king cake as well as a traditional French-style king cake, which is a round puff pastry with almond filling.

337- 232-7921 poupartsbakery.com

KELLER'S BAKERY DOWNTOWN

Serving up a pastry made with soft layers of moist Danish pastry dough packed with your choice of fillings and iced with a sugar frosting. Keller's hasn't changed their king cake recipe in over 115 years.

337- 235-1568 kellersbakery.net

HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

When is Mardi Gras?

The fluctuating date of Mardi Gras was established by the Catholic Church that designed the Gregorian calendar with a fixed date for Christmas and moveable dates for other religious holidays. Easter, which can fall on any Sunday from March 23 to April 25, is set to happen with the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox. Mardi Gras is always scheduled 46 days preceding Easter (the 40 days of Lent plus six Sundays). The carnival season officially opens on the Epiphany 12 days after Christmas and ends on Mardi Gras Day, the day before Ash Wednesday.

The Colors of Mardi Gras

In 1872, King Rex, the king of New Orleans' carnival, selected the official colors of Mardi Gras (purple, gold and green). Rex assigned a meaning to the colors in 1892 for his parade entitled Symbolism of Colors: purple represents justice, green represents faith and gold signifies power.

Mardi Gras Krewes

A Mardi Gras Krewe is the membership organization for a parade. Krewes also get together throughout the year for the Coronation Ball (where the Maids, Dukes and King are announced) and Mardi Gras Ball or Tableau (where the Krewe usually appears in their parade costumes). Undisputed as the favorite event of the Krewes is the parade itself, where riders throw trinkets to throngs of people calling, “Throw me something, mister!”

Throw Me Something Mister/Sister

“Throw Me Something Mister” (or sister) is a shout that can be heard as the parade floats roll past. Parade-goers will use any technique to get the attention of the float riders so they can go home with more “throws” than anyone else. Throws are inexpensive trinkets tossed from floats by costumed and masked krewe members. The most popular throws include doubloons (a coin-like souvenir of a carnival krewe, usually with the name and crest of the krewe on one side and its theme of the year on the other, plastic cups, Mardi Gras beads (necklaces) and even stuffed toys. The throwing of trinkets to the crowds was started in the early 1870s by the Twelfth Night Revelers and is a time-honored expectation for young and old alike.

Lafayette's Mardi Gras

The first formal Mardi Gras ball and parade in Lafayette dates back to 1869. In 1897, King Attakapas, the first Mardi Gras king, was crowned and the first organized parade was held in Lafayette. Formal Mardi Gras balls and parades after 1897 seemed to come and go until 1934 when the Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association was created. Today as in 1934, Queen Evangeline and King Gabriel, who symbolize the Acadian sweethearts separated during the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in Longfellow's Evangeline, are reunited each year at Mardi Gras to rule over the Mardi Gras festivities.

Courir de Mardi Gras

The rural Mardi Gras celebration, the Courir de Mardi Gras, dates back to the earliest days of the area's settlement and is still considered a rite of passage for many in the area. With its roots firmly in the medieval tradition of ceremonial begging, bands of masked and costumed horseback riders roam the countryside “begging” for ingredients for their communal gumbo. “Le Capitaine,” a caped but unmasked captain, stops his revelers at a distance while he approaches with a white flag and asks permission for his riders to enter the owners' property. If permission is granted, the captain lowers his white flag and the riders charge towards the house. There, they dismount and proceed to dance and sing for live chickens and other donations such as rice, onions and flour to be used in the gumbo. The captain and his group of masked riders return to town in the late afternoon with their loot. The day's festivities usually end with a fais-do-do and lots of gumbo for Mardi Gras revelers.

February 12

Courir de Mardi Gras - Old-Fashion Mardi Gras Run

Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette.

337-233-4077, Vermilionville.org

February 18

Carencro Mardi Gras Parade

Starts at Carencro High. Ends by Carencro Community Center. 11 a.m.

337-896-4147, Carencro.org

February 18

Krewe des Chiens Parade for Dogs

Downtown, Lafayette. 2 p.m.

ParadeForDogs.org

February 18

Krewe of Carnivale en Rio Mardi Gras Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.

337-984-6522, RioLafayette.com

February 19

Scott Mardi Gras Parade

City of Scott. 1 p.m.

337-269-5155

February 24

"Kick Off" Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 24-28

Le Festival de Mardi Gras a Lafayette

Cajun Field, Lafayette. Carnival rides & games, live music, food vendors, parades roll through festival grounds. Times vary.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 25

Krewe of Bonaparte Mardi Gras Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 25

Children's Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 12:30 p.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 25

Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade

Public Works building to Fountain View, Youngsville.

337-856-4181

February 27

Queen Evangeline's Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 28

Mardi Gras Show at Clark Field

Clark Field Stadium, Lafayette.

MardiGrasShow.com

February 28

King Gabriel's Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 10 a.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 28

Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 1 p.m.

800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

February 28

KADN Fox 15 Independent Parade

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 2:30 p.m.

337-237-1500, GoMardiGras.com

February 28

Southwest Mardi Gras Association Pageant & Ball

Heymann Performing Arts Center and Frem F. Boustany

Convention Center, 1373 S College Rd., Lafayette.

337-291-5540, HeymannCenter.com

SCHEDULE FOR SURROUNDING CITIES:

February 10

Bayou Mardi Gras Parade

Historic Downtown, 102 W Main St., New Iberia. 6:30 p.m.

337-367-6466, IberiaTravel.com.

February 18

Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Parade

Lake Arthur.

337-774-3675

February 18

Rotary Club Mardi Gras Ball

Cade Community Center, 1688 Smede Hwy., St. Martinville.

337-394-2233, StMartinville.org

February 19

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Children's Dance

7304 E. Hwy. 90, Jeanerette. 3-6 p.m.

337-365-8655, Facebook.com/MonAmiGrandMarais.

February 19

Krewe of Ezana Jeanerette Mardi Gras Parade

Canal, MLK & Main St, Jeanerette. 1 p.m.

337-255-9539, IberiaTravel.com

February 22-28

Cajun Country Courir de Mardi Gras

Downtown Eunice - 2nd Street area.

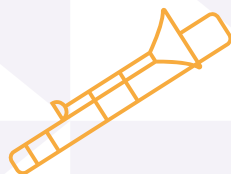
337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com

February 24

Downtown Opelousas Mardi Gras Celebration

Delta Grand Theatre, 120 S Market St., Opelousas.

337-948-6263, CajunTravel.com



February 24-26

Lil Nate's L'Argent Trailride, Chicken Run & Parade

Yambilee Arena, 1939 W Landry St., Opelousas.
337-319-0639, CajunTravel.com

February 24-27

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Dance

7304 E. Hwy. 90, Jeanerette. 2 p.m.
888-677-7200, Facebook.com/MonAmi.GrandMarais.

February 25

Jennings Mardi Gras Festival & Parade

Founder's Park, 341 N Main St., Jennings.
337-821-5532, CityOfJennings.com/Events

February 25-26

Cajun Courir de Mardi Gras Run

Saddle Tramp Club House, 1036 E Ebey St.,
Downtown for parades, Church Point.
877-783-2109, ChurchPointMardiGras.com

February 26

Eunice Lil' Mardi Gras

Eunice Rec Complex, 461 Sittig St., Eunice.
337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com

February 26-28

Carnival D'Acadie (Mardi Gras)

Downtown, Crowley. Fair, live music and street dance,
costume contests, parade.
337-783-0821, Crowley-LA.com

February 27

Lundi Gras Boucherie

Lakeview Park & Beach, 1717 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Eunice.
337-457-2881, CajunTravel.com

February 28

Grand Marais Mardi Gras Parade

Hwy 90 E at College Rd., Jeanerette. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
337-365-8185, IberiaTravel.com

February 28

Krewe of Coteau Mardi Gras Parade

Francis Romero Memorial Park & LA 88, Coteau. 1 p.m.
337-577-5099, IberiaTravel.com

February 28

Family Affair Mardi Gras Parade

Main St., Loreauville. 2 p.m.
337-229-6001, IberiaTravel.com

February 28

Tee Mamou-Iota Mardi Gras Folklife Festival

Downtown, Iota. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
337-523-6557, IotaMardiGras.com

February 28

Krewe Chic-A-La-Pie Mardi Gras Parade

Downtown, Kaplan.
337-643-6554

February 28

Half-Fast Krewe of Frank Mardi Gras Parade

600 E Landry St., Opelousas.
337-351-6943, CajunTravel.com

February 28

Sunset Mardi Gras Parade

Oak Tree Park Dr., Sunset.
337-322-5374, CajunTravel.com

February 28

Mamou Mardi Gras

Downtown, Mamou.
337-468-3175

