

Three Day Itinerary

Day One:

Spend your day in downtown Baton Rouge! Start with a tour of Louisiana's Old State Capitol, where you'll travel through the state's storied political history. And don't forget to look up at the beautiful gothic staircase and stained glass ceiling.

Then head over to Louisiana's current State Capitol, 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 from the 27th floor observation deck.

Next, you'll stroll across the intricate Capitol gardens for a chance to experience true Louisiana at the Louisiana State Museum. Here 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 historical multimedia presentations.

Before your next stop, grab lunch at the Main Street Market where choices include down-home Southern cooking, Greek and Lebanese, healthy sandwiches, salads and jambalaya — a Louisiana favorite. Don't forget to pick up some authentic Louisiana souvenirs while you're there!

After that, head to the Old Governor's Mansion, a White House replica, which was once home to legendary Governor Huey P. Long.

For your last stop downtown, choose between the USS Kidd, Louisiana Art & Science Museum or the LSU Museum of Art. For the military enthusiast, the USS Kidd provides a unique experience. Take a tour of this restored WWII Fletcher-class destroyer and then stroll through the historic exhibits in adjoining Veterans Memorial Museum. A group with a mix of tastes may want to stop at the Louisiana Art & Science Museum. With fine art exhibitions, a hands-on gallery, art activities for children, a state-of-the-art planetarium and more, there's something for everyone! For the art lovers, choose the LSU Museum of Art, located inside The Shaw Center for the Arts and featuring a diverse art collection.

Wrap up your day at Boutin's Restaurant as you enjoy delicious Cajun cuisine, listen to music and dance the night away!

Day Two:

Start your day with a quick drive to beautiful Saint Francisville. Choose from the impressive 375-acre Rosedown Plantation or the popular Myrtles Plantation, often referred to as "one of America's most haunted homes." Whether you spend the morning strolling the beautiful gardens at Rosedown or exploring the mysteries at the Myrtles, be sure to stop by Varnedoe's restaurant, located in the Bluffs for lunch or brunch. Drive back to Baton Rouge for your next stop at Magnolia Mound Plantation. During your tour of this 1790's French Creole house get a true taste of South Louisiana flavor with an open-hearth cooking demonstration.

Next, head across the Mississippi River Bridge to the West Baton Rouge Museum. See how sugar was produced and learn about the history of a sugar plantation.

After that, visit Nottoway, the largest plantation home in the South. Take a candlelight tour of the elegant antebellum home and top off your visit with dinner at Nottoway's Randolph Hall Restaurant. Sample a variety of Cajun and Creole delicacies, including the Plantation Mint Julep, Creole Gumbo and Bread Pudding with Rum Sauce.

Feeling lucky? Wrap up your evening with some excitement at one of downtown Baton Rouge's two riverboat casinos, Belle of Baton Rouge and Hollywood Casino!

Day Three:

Start your day at Louisiana State University's Rural Life Museum & Windrush Gardens. Get a feel for working plantation life through an abundance of artifacts and tools from the plantation era. The facility also features more than twenty 19th Century buildings, including slave cabins, an overseer's house, a blacksmith's shop and more. Make plans in advance to experience a living history demonstration such as blacksmithing, candle making, soap making and weaving.

Next, head to Houmas House Plantation & Gardens, once known as the "Sugar Palace." Before your tour, break for a delicious lunch at the Houmas House pavilion. When you're done eating, a guide in antebellum dress will take you through some of the beautifully landscaped gardens and into the big house full of period antiques and artwork.

Then, you'll make your way to Alligator Bayou for a sunset swamp tour. Get up close and personal with gators of all sizes and a variety of other wildlife as you walk through the gator pit. Step onboard the covered boat to experience an exciting and educational eco-tour through a pristine swamp.

After all the excitement, wind down with dinner at one of the locals' favorite restaurants, Mike Anderson's. Enjoy delicious seafood, served a variety of different ways, in a fun atmosphere on Mike Anderson's popular Side Porch.

Wrap up your day with a riverboat jazz cruise aboard the Steamboat Natchez. Savor the beauty and romance of the New Orleans skyline while enjoying a delicious buffet-style dinner and a live jazz band.

