

History collides with the ultramodern in South Baton Rouge, where trendy lifestyle centers and thriving university enclaves emerge from land that once belonged to antebellum plantations and ancient swamps.



BRIAN BAIA MONTE

### 1 Mall of Louisiana

[www.malloflouisiana.com](http://www.malloflouisiana.com) • 225.761.7228

Known for its upscale and unique shopping selection that includes Abercrombie & Fitch, Ann Taylor, Caché, Gap, Godiva Chocolatier, Solstice, Swarovski, Talbots, Williams-Sonoma and much more, plus a carousel for the kids and The Boulevard, a pedestrian-friendly lifestyle center featuring Louisiana's first Apple store.

### 2 Ralph & Kacoo's

[www.ralphandkacoos.com](http://www.ralphandkacoos.com) • 225.766-2113

First opened in 1969 on a marshy bend of the old Mississippi called False River, this classic Cajun and seafood restaurant has been voted "The Best Cajun Seafood in Louisiana" and listed in "Top 100 Places to Dine in America." Look for the big pink building!

### 3 Perkins Rowe

[www.perkinsrowe.com](http://www.perkinsrowe.com) • 225.761.6905

Boutiques, condos and palm trees line the streets in one of the South's most sophisticated and innovative commercial developments. Whether you're catching a movie on one of Cinemark's 16 screens or wine tasting at The Grape, you'll never run out of things to do at Perkins Rowe. More than 60 stores and restaurants to choose from.

### 4 Boutin's

[www.boutins.com](http://www.boutins.com) • 225.819.9862

Another taste of South Louisiana steeped in Cajun tradition. Local favorites like crawfish etouffee and shrimp and oysters en brochette are complemented by a blending of classic cuisine with a nouveau twist. Authentic ambience, oak dance floor and live Cajun music six nights a week.

### 5 BREC Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center

[www.brec.org](http://www.brec.org) • 225.757.8905

Have an adventure in a pristine 65-acre cypress-tupelo swamp and an upland hardwood forest with dramatic

ravines. The two ecosystems are linked by a series of walking trails and boardwalks for exploration and magnificent views. Wildlife includes yellow-crowned night herons, owls, hawks, raccoons, foxes, bobcats, snakes, turtles and alligators.

### 6 On the Half Shell

[www.onthehalfshell.biz](http://www.onthehalfshell.biz) • 225.767.3667

You came to Louisiana for oysters, now go get you some! Sample from a variety of sumptuous oyster preparations or dig deeper into traditional South Louisiana cuisine with crawfish pies, boudin balls or blackened fish.

### 7 Historic Highland Road

Aside from being extraordinarily scenic with its canopy of aging live oaks and dramatic Spanish Moss, Highland Road is rife with popular restaurants, hang-outs, shops and boutiques—and lined with some of the most magnificent homes in Baton Rouge.

### 8 Mount Hope Plantation

225.761.7000

The oldest elegant home on Highland Road is Mount Hope Plantation, built by German immigrants sometime between 1790 and 1817, depending on whom you ask. Greek Revival architecture, spacious lawns, oak trees and colorful flora make it a favorite for weddings, receptions and overnight stays at the bed and breakfast. Tours available.

### 9 Enchanted Mansion Doll Museum

225.769.0005 • [www.enchantedmansion.org](http://www.enchantedmansion.org)

A different kind of trip back in time, with antique dolls, animations of historical figures, a life-size Victorian doll house and other unique exhibits. Proceeds benefit a special foundation for the handicapped.

### 10 Louisiana State University

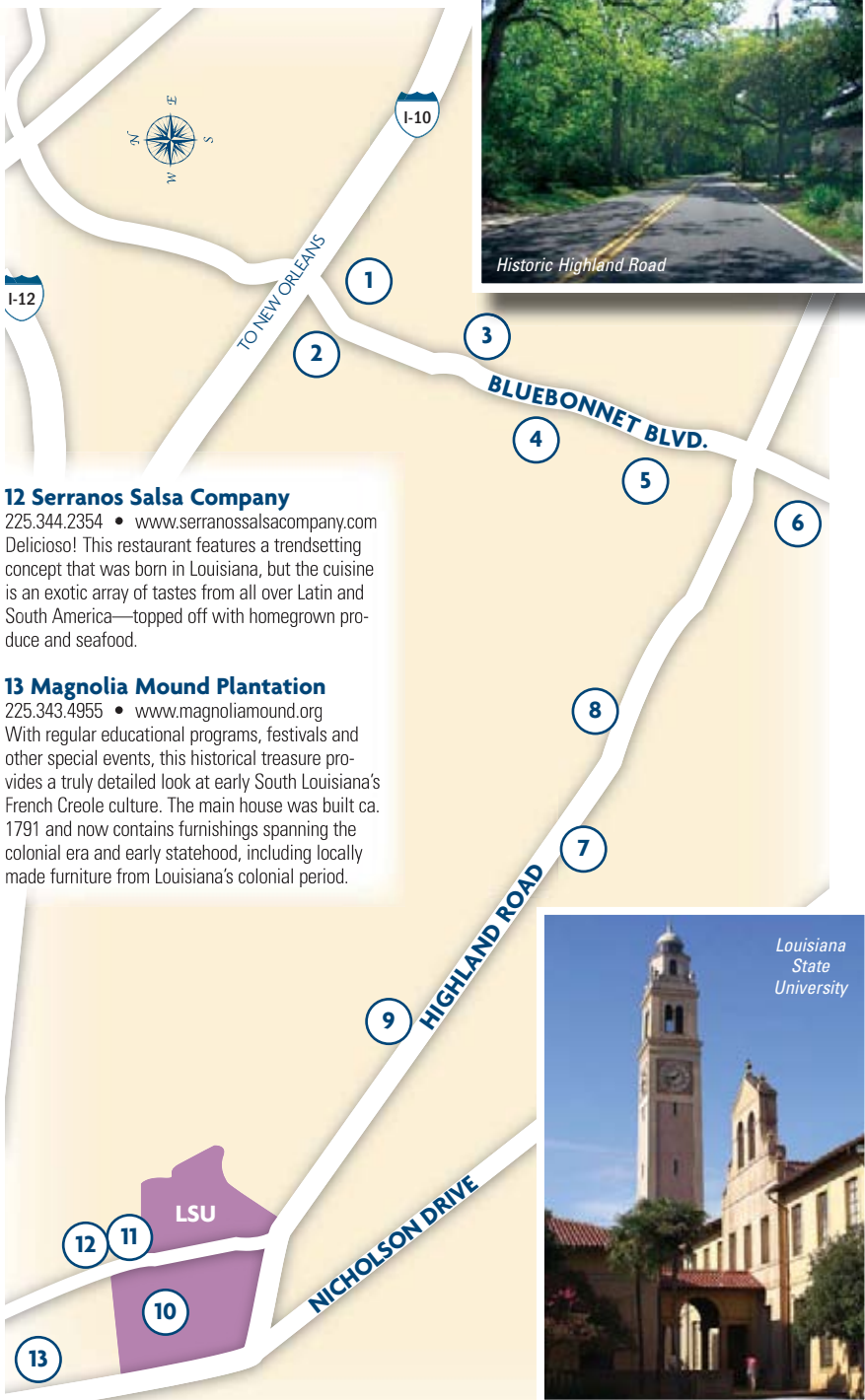
225.578.5030 • [www.lsu.edu/visitors](http://www.lsu.edu/visitors)

From the red-tiled rooftops of its stucco buildings to moss-draped oak trees and towering magnolias, it's no wonder this campus was listed as one of the nation's 20 most beautiful campuses in Thomas Gaines' *The Campus as a Work of Art*. Visit Mike the Tiger in his new habitat in the shadow of Tiger Stadium, and don't miss the Andonie Museum, a treasure trove of LSU sports memories. (Note: The LSU campus is closed to vehicle traffic on weekdays.)

### 11 The Chimes

225.383.1754 • [www.thechimes.com](http://www.thechimes.com)

You haven't completed the LSU experience without a visit to the most visible campus hangout, just outside the North Gates on Highland Road. A favorite for burgers and etouffee, plus a legendary selection of beers from around the world. Next door, The Varsity ([www.thevarsity.com](http://www.thevarsity.com)) is one of the city's most renowned venues for live music.

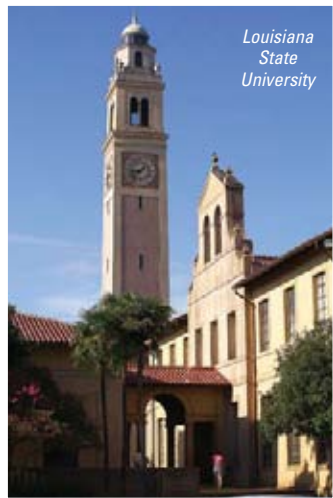


**12 Serranos Salsa Company**

225.344.2354 • [www.serranossalsacompany.com](http://www.serranossalsacompany.com)  
 Delicioso! This restaurant features a trendsetting concept that was born in Louisiana, but the cuisine is an exotic array of tastes from all over Latin and South America—topped off with homegrown produce and seafood.

**13 Magnolia Mound Plantation**

225.343.4955 • [www.magnoliamound.org](http://www.magnoliamound.org)  
 With regular educational programs, festivals and other special events, this historical treasure provides a truly detailed look at early South Louisiana's French Creole culture. The main house was built ca. 1791 and now contains furnishings spanning the colonial era and early statehood, including locally made furniture from Louisiana's colonial period.



JIM ZIETZ/LSU UNIVERSITY RELATIONS