

MARDI GRAS MAMBO YOUR WAY IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

It's carnival time in Baton Rouge- bakers are busy creating irresistible king cakes and Mardi Gras krewes are preparing floats, ball gowns, costumes and throws! The Baton Rouge Mardi Gras kicks off with huge floats, fancy balls and entertainment for everyone. The parades include beautifully decorated traditional floats, marching bands, costumed canines, lawn mower pushing krewes and dancing for all to enjoy!

Traditions and Culture

While you're in town, be sure to experience the culture and traditions of how Louisianans celebrate Fat Tuesday throughout the state at the Louisiana State Museum! You'll see what it's like to ride on a real Mardi Gras float, while viewing the Krewe of Lawnmowers and real Mardi Gras Indian costumes.

Want to bake king cakes like the Cajuns? Try a cooking demonstration at BD Kitchen Co. or Viking Cooking School Outdoors. The festive tradition of baking king cakes originated to celebrate the Christian Fest of the Epiphany, to honor the three kings who gave the baby Jesus gifts. There is a tiny plastic baby inside every cake, and the person who receives the slice of cake with the baby is asked to continue the Mardi Gras festivities by buying the next king cake!

Throw Me Somethin' Mister!

If you're looking for a bow-wow celebration, check out the **Krewe of Mutts Parade**. Costumed pooches of all breeds and sizes will parade through the streets of Baton Rouge on Jan. 29. The parade's 2012 theme is "The Good, The Bad & The Furry!"

The **Krewe of Jupiter and Juno** will host its nighttime parade on Feb. 4. Come downtown to enjoy the beautiful lighted floats! The **Krewe of Artemis** is the only all-female Mardi Gras krewe in Baton Rouge. The family friendly krewe is named for the goddess Artemis, known as the "Mistress of Animals" and the protector of children. The Krewe of Artemis will feature a full length New Orleans style night parade through downtown Baton Rouge on Feb. 10.

Krewe Mystique de la Capitale Mardi Gras Parade will roll on Feb. 11. Krewe Mystique de la Capitale is celebrating 35 years of parading in Baton Rouge. They are the city's oldest parading Mardi Gras Krewe and have provided years of carnival fun for the citizen's of Baton Rouge. The parade is family oriented and fun for all ages.

The **Krewe of Orion's** 13th annual Mardi Gras parade, themed "Celebrating 200 Years of Louisiana History," will also roll downtown of Feb. 11. Each float will depict an area landmark. Parade goers will enjoy colorful lighted floats pulled by tractors. The Krewe of Orion boasts a diverse membership and is named for the mythological "hunter of the skies."

Baton Rouge is known for its hospitality and hometown charm, and the **Krewe Southdowns** neighborhood parade offers a celebration of the hometown experience. The krewe will celebrate its 25th year in 2012. The parade will roll on Feb. 17, and the theme will be "Southdowns Silver Jubilee - 25th Empire."

If you're looking for a wild and wacky good time, put on your hot pink clothes, feathers, and sparkles and get downtown for the 2012 **Spanish Town Parade**. This beloved Baton Rouge tradition is known for its racy floats with political satire! The good times will roll on Feb. 18.

The **Krewe of Poseidon** is named after the "god of the sea" and is Baton Rouge newest fun-loving Mardi Gras krewe. Its 2012 parade will also roll downtown on Feb. 18!

For more information, contact:

Katie Guasco, Senior Sales Manager, Tourism Development
359 Thrid Street Baton Rouge, LA 70801
Katie@VisitBatonRouge.com 1 800 LA ROUGE