Bienvenu !

Louisiana

Acadian Bicentennial Celebration

1755 - 1955
The Acadians were French Colonists expelled from their homes in Nova Scotia because of their refusal to take an oath of allegiance to the English King. In 1755, they were deported and scattered over the face of the New World. About 4000 found their way to Louisiana, where they were given lands along the bayous Teche, Vermilion and Lafourche. During 1955... 200th Anniversary Year of this famous migration, Louisiana commemorates this part of her colorful past with a year-long, statewide celebration...

The climax celebration of the Acadian Bicentennial will take place in historic St. Martinville during October, 1955. One of the highlights will be a historic Pageant with a cast of hundreds—dramatizing the migration of the Acadians to Louisiana. Locale of the pageant will be the Longfellow-Evangeline State Park, chosen because of its striking natural beauty. Another feature will be a Folk Festival of music, dance and song, drawing its material not only from Acadian culture but from other diverse folk elements found in Louisiana. The festival week will also include a French Opera. Expected to attend the celebration climax are dignitaries from at least four foreign nations. Plan now to be on hand for this gigantic celebration... it's the biggest show in Louisiana during 1955!
The Acadian migration is familiar to most Americans as the theme of Longfellow’s beautiful epic poem, “Evangeline”. In Louisiana, Evangeline is real. In life she was Emmeline Labiche who was separated from her lover, Louis Arsenault. After many months of weary wandering, they were reunited under the Evangeline Oak on the banks of Bayou Teche. Her statue stands in quiet repose in the historic churchyard in St. Martinville . . . just a few steps from their legendary meeting place.

The famous statue of Evangeline in St. Martinville

“Beautiful is the land . . .” wrote Longfellow in describing Louisiana’s Land of Evangeline . . . a shady, shadowy land of deep greens and soft greys, where sunlight glances with a golden touch on stately age-old live oaks and the tranquil depths of bayous. Here in the “Eden of Louisiana” the traditional language, customs and handicrafts of the Acadians have been carefully preserved for the span of two centuries . . .

In Louisiana, your travel dollar buys a real “bonus” all year-round. The “joie de vivre” of Louisiana’s Gallic heritage makes it a land of fairs and festivals . . . over 100 each year with climaxes in September and October. From the North and Central sections right down the curve of the River to the Gulf, Louisiana offers everything for a memorable vacation. This year, mark Louisiana on your travel calendar . . . and come during the Acadian Bicentennial.
“Beautiful is the land, with its prairies and forests of fruit trees; 
Under the feet a garden of flowers, and the bluest of heavens 
Bending above, and resting its dome on the walls of the forest. 
They who dwell there have named it the Eden of Louisiana.”
—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

ACADIAN BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1755 – 1955

If you are planning to attend Louisiana’s Acadian Bicentennial Celebration during 1955, and would like further information on dates, specific events, etc., write:

Acadian Bicentennial Celebration
P. O. Box 4185, Capitol Station, Baton Rouge, La.