WELCOME TO THE CENTER OF LOUISIANA’S RICH AND VARIED CULTURE

Baton Rouge has blossomed into one of the premier people cities of the New South, yet it clings proudly to its gracious past.

Historic landmarks dot this fertile region along the Mississippi River, where the French explorer Iberville first sighted an Indian encampment in 1699 and gave the town its name. The area’s elegantly restored antebellum mansions still whisper secrets of that golden era before the Civil War. Our many other historic attractions reflect periods of a culture that for more than two centuries has struggled and grown under the rule of ten different flags.

Yet our industries, our river commerce and our architecture reflect a bold commitment to the future. Baton Rouge ranks as the nation’s seventh largest port and is home of the second largest petroleum refinery in the country.

Baton Rouge is a center of government. Here you’ll discover the tallest state capitol in the United States, towering over a 27-acre landscape of beautifully manicured grounds. The Old State Capitol nearby is a magnificent Gothic Revival castle situated on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi.

Baton Rouge is the home of two of the South’s leading educational institutions: Louisiana State University and Southern University. Both welcome visitors to their scenic, tree-shaded campuses to see their many outstanding attractions.

Here in Baton Rouge, you’ll taste the splendors of our native Creole cuisine - mouthwatering dishes such as crawfish etouffee, seafood gumbo, jambalaya and shrimp creole. And our entertainment spots and sparkling nightlife will show you what we mean by Louisiana hospitality.

You may want to browse through our giant antique shops or visit one of our fine shopping malls, including the 10th largest mall in America.

Whatever your lifestyle, you’ll find plenty of things to keep you busy in our city: sightseeing spots...exhibits of art, science, and history...museums and galleries...parks and gardens and numerous other attractions.

After you’ve seen our city we think you’ll agree that Baton Rouge is indeed one of America’s extraordinary cities. We welcome you and your family to discover our unique treasures and enjoy our delightful lifestyle.
1. RIVERSIDE BATON ROUGE: This area along the Mississippi River was the location of the original fort and settlement at Baton Rouge. Today it is the central district for business, government, and finance and it offers a high concentration of historical as well as contemporary attractions. Please consult Riverside map for details.

2. MAGNOLIA MOUND PLANTATION (2161 Nicholson Drive): This relatively simple settler's cottage was built in the late 1700s and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It has been restored and is furnished in the Federal style. Tours available Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Closed Mon.; Adults $2.00; Students, 75¢. Children under 12, 50¢; (504) 343-4955.

3. LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY: 1.5 miles south of downtown Baton Rouge between Nicholson Drive and Highland Road. This beautiful park-like campus is a community within itself with a peak population approaching 50,000 persons. Major attractions include: Anglo-American Art Museum in the Memorial Tower (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-12 noon, 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.). Campus Information Center. Museum of Natural Science in Foster Hall (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m.-5 p.m.). Museum of Geoscience in Geology Building (Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). LSU Union (Mon.-Thur., 7 a.m.-11 p.m.; Fri., 7 a.m.-12 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-11 p.m.). Art Gallery (Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). Hours may change with certain exhibits. Campus tours are available, free of charge, starting at the Memorial Tower at 10 a.m. Reservations appreciated (504) 388-3355.

4. MOUNT HOPE PLANTATION AND GARDENS (8151 Highland Road): Built in 1817 by an early German settler, Mount Hope is a splendid example of a southern plantation home of the 1820s. Open daily for tours from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults, $2.50; children under 12, $1.50. Limited overnight accommodations. (504) 766-8600.

5. COHN MEMORIAL ARBORETUM (Foster Rd. just off Comite Drive): An outdoor complex of 19th century buildings of the rural South. Many were moved from plantation sites, some from outlying areas in Louisiana and others are faithful copies of typical plantation buildings. All are appropriately furnished. Located on the LSU Burden Research Plantation, the compound includes an overseer's house, blacksmith shop, open kettle sugar mill, plantation commissary and country church. Appointment necessary. Phone (504) 764-2341. School groups must be eighth grade or older; groups must call one month in advance. Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-12 Noon and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. No Charge; donations accepted.

6. THEBATONROUGE AREA IS FILLED WITH THINGS TO SEE AND DO

7. BON MARCHE MALL [Honda Blvd. at Lobdell]: Built in 1960 as the first regional shopping center in the area, Bon Marche' was expanded in the early 1980s and converted into a covered mall in 1974 using an ingenious method of prefabrication engineering. The mall now contains some 100 merchants including three department stores. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. *

8. MAGNOLIA MOUND PLANTATION (2161 Nicholson Drive): This relatively simple settler's cottage was built in the late 1700s and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It has been restored and is furnished in the Federal style. Tours available Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Closed Mon.; Adults $2.00; Students, 75¢. Children under 12, 50¢; (504) 343-4955.

9. BARTON MOUND (Florida Blvd. at Lobethol): Built in 1960 as the first regional shopping center in the area, Bon Marche' was expanded and converted into a covered mall in 1974 using an ingenious method of prefabrication engineering. The mall now contains some 100 merchants including three department stores. Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. *

10. RYAN AIRPORT (8-10 at Harding Blvd.): Serviced by four major airlines and one commuter airline. Visitor information is available at the flight insurance counter.*

11. COHN MEMORIAL ARBORETUM [Foster Rd. just off Comite Drive]: Wide, paved walkways meander through this unique 16-acre tract of rolling terrain which is covered by more than 120 varieties of native and adaptable trees and shrubs, each labeled for identification. There is also a greenhouse for growing and exhibiting rare and exotic plants. Weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. (504) 775-1006.*

12. TEXAS-AM PHILIP CORPORATION (1004 Airline Highway): This 538-acre tract of rolling terrain which is covered by more than 120 varieties of native and adaptable trees and shrubs, each labeled for identification. There is also a greenhouse for growing and exhibiting rare and exotic plants. Weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; summer weekends, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ages 7-15: 25¢; over 17; $0; under 12, free. Free to all, Sat., 9 a.m.-12 noon. (504) 775-3877.*

13. SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY (North of Airline Highway, just off Scenic Highway): This campus is bordered on the west by the Mississippi River. This 775-acre tract of rolling terrain which is covered by more than 120 varieties of native and adaptable trees and shrubs, each labeled for identification. There is also a greenhouse for growing and exhibiting rare and exotic plants. Weekdays, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; weekends, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; summer weekends, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Ages 7-15: 25¢; over 17; $0; under 12, free. Free to all, Sat., 9 a.m.-12 noon. (504) 775-3877.*

14. BAXTER HERITAGE MUSEUM (1050 Main Street, Baker, La.): Based in a Victorian cottage built in 1896, the heritage museum exhibits life as it was in a small Louisiana town such as Baker at the turn of the century. The museum includes displays of rural life, period furnishings, an exhibit barn, a one-room school house, a country store, a shop, a gazebo and a gift shop. Tours Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat & Sun., 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Free. (504) 764-1576.

15. MCMILLIAN HOUSE MUSEUM (4524 Virginia Street, Zachary, La.): A restored Victorian house featuring period furnishings, clothing and objets d'art, showcasing small town life from the turn of the century to the early 1950s. Wed.-Sun., 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Groups are requested to make reservations. (504) 454-3042. $1.00 per person, children free.

16. TOWN OF PORT ALLEN (Directly across the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge) Port Allen was laid out in 1854 and incorporated in 1923. It is also noted as the farthest inland deepwater port in America. It is the site of the second largest petrochemical refinery in America and includes such corporate giants as Exxon, Ethyl, Uniproyl, and Kaiser.

17. WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM (804 N. Jefferson, Port Allen) An interesting collection of historical items and period pieces from the area dating from the 19th century; a bedroom furnished in American Empire style; a huge relief map of West Baton Rouge Parish; changing art exhibits. Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-12 noon, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Mon. by appointment. (504) 383-2392. Free. Visitor Information Center. (504) 344-3327.

18. PORT OF BATON ROUGE (Across the Mississippi River from Downtown Baton Rouge) The port is ranked as the fourth largest in the United States. It is also noted as the farthest inland deepwater port in America and is the point of exchange between ocean-going vessels and inland river towboats.
BE SURE TO SEE THESE RIVERSIDE SIGHTS

1. OLD STATE CAPITOL (North Blvd. and River Road) Built in 1849, restored in 1961 and added to the list of National Historic Landmarks in 1982, this Gothic Revival castle stands on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River. Today it houses the Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitor Bureau as well as other offices, a visitor information center and the 11th R. Broussard Memorial Galleries. The site is ideal place to begin your tour of Baton Rouge. Mon., Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 1 p.m.-5 p.m. (504) 384-8501.*

2. LOUISIANA ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER RIVERSIDE (River Road at North Blvd.) Formerly the site of the Louisiana State Penitentiary, Riverside is now a 12,000-seat arena and 102,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space. The complex includes the former Baton Rouge Municipal Building and will eventually include a 3,900-seat theater and a Parish Library Branch. (504) 359-2202.*

3. MISSISSIPPI RIVER OBSERVATION DECK Adjacent to LASC Riverside, this elevated platform offers a clear view of the Mississippi River and its traffic. Deck connects with a walkway over the River Road, joining it to the Riverside Centroplex. No charge.

4. RIVERSIDE CENTROPLEX (Government Street at River Road) Baton Rouge's new convention/exhibition center overlooking the Mississippi River. Facilities include a 12,000-seat arena and 102,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space. The complex includes the former Baton Rouge Municipal Building and will eventually include a 3,900-seat theater and a Parish Library Branch. (504) 359-2202.*

5. FLOUG HOUSE 101 Napoleon Street (Private), 1824, 1926. Former home of Governor Henry C. Fugue. Many adaptive reuses of early homes are nearby in this historic section of Baton Rouge known as Regency Town.

6. LOUISIANA ARTS AND SCIENCE CENTER PLANTATION (St. Charles St. at North Blvd.) One of the few area plantations to survive, it was Baton Rouge's original and only elevated water storage facility from 1830 to 1921.

7. ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHurch (2111 St. James St., 1875) Completed in 1875 in the Gothic Revival architectural style, the Church has fine Tiffany glass windows over the altar which are among the most beautiful in the city. Zachary Taylor was one of the congregation leaders; when he was President, his residence, the Episcopal Parish of St. James was created in 1837. (504) 346-8764.*

8. BAYOU ROUGE GALLERY (1415 St. Charles St.) A professional gallery open Sept., May featuring exhibits of various mediums including oils, water color, stained glass, pottery, jewelry, and sculpture. Mon-Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m.-5 p.m. (504) 344-9463. (closed Sat.)

9. THE LAFAYETTE BUILDINGS (342, 344 Lafayette St.) 1821-1823. These are among the oldest structures in the city. The Mansion de Lafayette, returning for a triumphal visit to the United States, was entertained here in 1822, and from the balcony of Judge Charles Tener's home he addressed the townspeople who had organized a parade in his honor. Today the street still bears his name.

10. THE PETIT MUSEUM DU BAYON ROUGE (322 Main Street) Located in the historic Steeple Building, the old Bayou Rouge post office (1806). Gallery, gift shop and museum exhibit featuring Louisiana's people, places and things. Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 1 p.m.-5 p.m., Sun. by appointment. (504) 348-8901.

11. THE FLORENCE COTTEE HOUSE (330 Main Street) This 1890 house is typical of those built by merchants who operated businesses on the first floor and lived upstairs. In the area above, it is the only such complete building in the Riverside area. Private.

12. THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES CENTER (27 Lafayette Street) Located in the Old Baton Rouge Fire Station, built in 1934. The council displays changing art exhibits on the second floor (10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Mon.-Fri.), and historic firefighting equipment in the fire station downstairs (1 p.m.-4 p.m.; Sun.). Group tours by appointment. (504) 344-5051.*

13. ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL (412 North St.) Built in 1849. It is the oldest church in Baton Rouge. The church was originally named for the Dominicans of San Francisco, California and was later renamed in honor of the Virgin Mary. The church was burned and rebuilt more than once, but even today the present structure is an integral part of historic Baton Rouge. (504) 341-5700.*

14. PENTAGON BARRACKS (Baton Rouge Mall at Government Street) Completed in 1833 by Francisco Pardo for the Spanish, this structure is a fine example of Federal architecture reminiscent of the stately mansions of old Louisiana. For many years it has been the home of the Louisiana State Police. (504) 341-5700.*

15. THE HOUSTON HOUSE (362 Main Street) Built in 1821, the house became the home of Governor Thomas J. McRae, who was also the first postmaster of the United States. The house now serves as a museum and is open daily. (504) 348-8901.

16. THE POINTE HOUSE (221 North St.) A Classical Revival cottage built in 1831 by Francis P. Crocker. It is one of the few remaining examples of houses built in "Spanish Town," which was laid out in 1825 by order of the State of Louisiana. The building now serves as a museum and is open daily. (504) 341-5700.*

17. THE SMITH-DODGHERTY HOUSE (142 North St.) Built in 1846, it is a fine example of urban mansions erected in the mid-nineteenth century. It was constructed by master brickmason Nebuck Potts, federal troops occupied the house during the 1860s, and used it as a hospital. (504) 341-5700.*

18. THE PORTS HOUSE (331 North Street) This house was built between 1844 and 1850 by master brickmason Nebuck Potts, who was active in Baton Rouge from 1844-1850, and served as a home for many Baton Rouge residents. (504) 341-5700.*

19. THE WARDEN'S HOUSE (130 Lafayette Street) Also known as the Greystone Building, this structure dates back to 1806. The warden's house and the ward's house were part of the building and the office was serving as the post office which was originally just across the street. The structure, Classical Revival style, is now renovated and used as offices for a business firm.

All listings observe these legal holidays: New Year's, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

*Accessible to handicapped