L. U. I. S. T. A. N. A

Be Our Guest

TOURIST BUREAU • DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
Colorful Mardi

In majestic size and sweep, no other carnival in America compares with New Orleans’ famed Mardi Gras, which climaxes the Louisiana Festival Calendar, with more than 60 balls and 13 fantastic street parades. Then, on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent, people cast off
Gras in New Orleans

inhibitions behind gay, bewitching masks. In true Mardi Gras fashion, bizarre costumed creatures fill the streets from early hours to revel in gay abandon in procession with the parade of Rex, Lord of Misrule and King of Carnival.
State Fair
Giant among Louisiana’s fairs and festivals is the Louisiana State Fair which attracts some 500,000 people. Usually staged during October at Shreveport’s extensive Fair Grounds, the event has grown since its inception in 1903 to one of the most spectacular of Southern State Fairs. Amusements galore, the elaborate State Fair Revue and other extravaganzas are staged for the entertainment of visitors. Agricultural exhibits and other panoramic reports of Louisiana’s accomplishments highlight the nine-day event.

International Festival of Rice
Rice, one of Louisiana’s top commodities, receives its share of attention when the International Rice Festival is staged in Crowley. Unique with this event is the Frog Derby, where two-pound Louisiana jumbos compete in broad jumping contests, prodded and cajoled by striking, dark-eyed Acadian girls. Attracting sportsmen and gourmets from throughout the country, the Festival also features an International Duck Calling contest, a cooking competition with Creole delicacies, selection of a queen and demonstrations of Acadian handicrafts.

Yambilee... fete of the Yams
In picturesque Opelousas, the golden yam is the focal point for the explosive Yambilee in October. Glittering floats, elaborate pageants, agricultural exhibits and other festivities mark the three-day festival. Attracting some 50,000 visitors yearly, the festival also calendars the selection of the Yam Queen, parades and time for visitors to view the quaint French customs of the Teche Country.
Festival of Sugar

Amid a setting of tall sugar cane fields and old plantation homes lining the banks of romantic Bayou Teche, New Iberia celebrates its annual Sugar Cane Festival in September. Featuring agricultural and industrial exhibits, the event is filled with sports, parades, balls and other entertainment. Visitors may join in the traditional “fais do-do”, or street dance, to the accompaniment of Acadian music. A highlight is the selection of a “Queen Sugar”.
Balloons and bunting transform Morgan City’s shrimp boats into fleets of maritime Cinderellas when, for one day, the costumed vessels parade along the Atchafalaya River during the annual Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet. Besides this traditional observance dating from the arrival of Acadians from Nova Scotia, visitors are offered a colorful and animated series of parades, tableaus and water races, spiced with the always-fresh delights of Louisiana seafood.
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