

WHAT'S NEW

IN LAKE CHARLES/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

MARDI GRAS IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA – EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC



Feathers, fabulous frocks and the fais-do-do can only mean one thing – it's Mardi Gras Time! The king cakes, parades, royal balls and glitzy costumes all add to the mystique of the 2nd largest Mardi Gras in Louisiana in Lake Charles.

Visit the Mardi Gras Museum with the largest Mardi Gras costume display in the world. Parades,

Children's Day, a Zydeco dance, a Gumbo Cook-off and other events pack the weekend, Feb. 5-7. The Royal Gala occurs the Monday night before Mardi Gras, Feb. 8.

Fat Tuesday, Feb. 9, starts off early with the Iowa Chicken Run followed by live music and delicious gumbo at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Afterward, reserve your spot for the grand finale with the Krewe of Krewes Parade that winds through Lake Charles for four miles. Visit www.swlamardigras.com for more information.

CRAFT BREWERY RESURGENCE

Crying Eagle Brewing Co. is under construction in Lake Charles with a 15,000-square-foot facility to produce craft beer. It will feature indoor and outdoor stages, private event space and a landscaped outdoor beer garden.



The brewery, which will occupy 10.4 acres of land near McNeese State University's Cowboy Stadium, will continue to build on the industry that in 2014 had a \$646 million economic impact in Louisiana.

Crying Eagle will serve seasonal hand-crafted beers and will feature a two-story tap room. The brewery will also offer tours and have live band performances. Crying Eagle Brewing

is expected to open in the Spring of 2016 with at least three handcrafted brews to offer the public.

Being that the brewery is located in Calcasieu Parish, the name "Crying Eagle" is a nod to the region's history and culture. The Attakapas word "quelqueshue" — source of the word "Calcasieu" — means "crying eagle."



The craft beer tourism trend has been on the rise for a while, and another brewery, Rikenjaks Brewing Company is about to make a comeback in Lake Charles, which first made its debut in the 1990s. Rikenjaks is set to make a rebirth this spring as a new venue for drinking, eating and music.

For more information, go to www.visitlakecharles.org/brewery-distillery.

TOP 10 ATTRACTIONS

1. Casino Gaming
2. Creole Nature Trail All-American Road
3. Festival Capital of Louisiana with over 75 fairs and festivals
4. Year-round Golf
5. Culinary Explorations
6. Sam Houston Jones State Park
7. Charpentier Historic District
8. Museums & Art Galleries
9. Live Music
10. Cottage Shops Cultural District

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CASINOS EXPANDING



Golden Nugget Lake Charles owner, Tilman Fertitta, recently announced that a 300-room hotel tower will be added to the resort by the end of this year, bringing the resort's room count to 1,040 rooms. Each of the additional rooms will be over 500 square feet and will contain a five-fixture bathroom with two sinks, walk-in shower, oversized tub and a separate toilet.

Currently, the 25-story resort that opened in December 2014 features 740 luxury hotel rooms and suites; an 18-hole championship golf course and Country Club; extensive retail options; an 18,000 square-foot ballroom; 30,000 square feet of meeting space; a one-of-a-kind pool; private beach front and marina; and a number of Landry's, Inc. signature restaurants. An innovative casino floor features 77 table games, a state-of-the-art poker room, and 1,600 of the world's newest slot machines.

Delta Downs Racetrack Casino & Hotel in Vinton, La. is undergoing a \$45 million expansion project, also slated for completion by the end of 2016. The centerpiece of the



project is a new hotel tower, featuring 167 additional guest rooms and suites. Additionally, all 200 existing rooms as well as food and beverage outlets will be redesigned.

The property is also expanding its special events center to better accommodate meeting and banquet functions.

Visit www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Gaming for more details on Southwest Louisiana's casinos and resorts.

FAVORITES SOUTHERN KITCHEN



L'Auberge Casino Resort's newest restaurant, Favorites Southern Kitchen, is the spot for your Southern and Creole food cravings for breakfast, lunch, dinner and even late nights. Chef Kevin Thompson is a Lake Charles native who loves to treat guests to regional cuisine featuring locally caught seafood and breakfast 24/7. Choose to sit in the cozy bistro indoors or on the terrace overlooking the resort pools and lazy river.

ACADIAN COFFEE ROASTERS

Nancy Holmes and Nancy Kirby, both Louisiana natives, are turning their coffee roasting hobby into a career and setting roots in Lake Charles to grow their business - Acadian Coffee Roasters, the first and only certified organic coffee roaster in Southwest Louisiana.



Acadian Coffee Roasters is a micro-roaster that offers strictly 100 percent roasted Organic, Rain Forest Alliance and Fair Trade Arabica beans.

Acadian Coffee Roaster products are currently available for purchase at the roaster's warehouse (2908 Hodges St. Lake Charles, La. 70601), PaperSmith, local grocery stores, and every Tuesday at the Cash & Carry Farmers Market. For more information on Acadian Coffee Roasters, visit www.AcadianCoffee.com.

FREE CVB APPS



LAKE CHARLES EVENTS APP

The Events app allows users to easily access a calendar of events for Southwest Louisiana.



CREOLE NATURE TRAIL APP

The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road app is a hands-on opportunity to experience one of America's untamed natural wonders. This touring app is available in six languages.



LAKE CHARLES HISTORIC APP

Experience the Charpentier Historic District, with a tour app that highlights the history of Lake Charles, the Great Fire of 1910 and Ghost Stories and Legends of the district. Visitors can choose 30 minute or 1 hour tours and a haunted tour. The Lake Charles Historic District tour is available in five languages.

Check out these apps and more at www.VisitLakeCharles.org/Apps.

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