



**Join Preserve Louisiana for the
Zydeco Cajun Prairie Tour
May 31 – June 2, 2019**



Friday, May 31, 2019

- 8:00 AM Attendees arrive to **The Old Governor's Mansion** - Check in and load onto bus.
- 8:20 AM Group Departs by Bus to Rayne, Louisiana
- 10:00 AM Arrive at the **Maison Daboval House** – Meet Martha and Gene Royer, charming French Acadian natives to Rayne. Enjoy homemade Sweet Potato Muffins and coffee as we hear about the history of this historic home on the railroad tracks. The home was built in 1892 by Emile Daboval, the sixth mayor of Rayne. In 1927, Mrs. Besse bought the property and it became the Besse Annex. Martha and Gene Royer bought the home from Mrs. Besse in 1994. Gene, a talented residential painter and Martha, a tour guide for Louisiana, have lovingly restored Maison Daboval to its original elegance and charm. During the restoration Gene and Martha found many discoveries about the home. One was the ledger Mrs. Besse kept during the 30's - 40's. This treasure reveals a slice of history about the boarding house days.
(<http://www.dabovalbb.com>)



In the tradition of Cajun hospitality, the Royer's will share nostalgic stories of couples falling in love during the bygone era of the railroad boarding house.

10:45 AM Explore **Rayne** with Martha Royer. Rayne is a treasure of rural Americana spiced with Cajun charm - not to mention cuisine. The Frog Capital of the World and The Louisiana City of Murals welcomes every traveler with warm hospitality. We will see the murals, visit St. Joseph Church which dates back to 1872 and see the famous cemetery that is the only cemetery in the U.S. where the graves run from North to South instead of East to West. Stop at Antiques on the Avenue to meet owners, Ann and Eddie Palmer, as they share the history of the building and Dusty Reed, the "Cajun Picasso" will be there too!



12:15 PM Enjoy a delicious lunch at **Chef Roy's Frog City Café** with Cajun musicians adding to the festivities! Chef Benoit Morel and Mr. Robert Credeur, owners of Chef Roy's Frog City Cafe, invite you to dine with them for "The finest dining experience in all of Acadiana right here in Rayne."



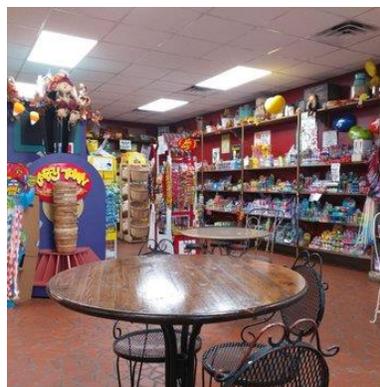
1:15 PM Head to **Roberts Cove, Louisiana**, a small community just outside of Rayne, founded by German settlers and today is made up almost entirely of descendants of thirteen original families. These families continued to grow and blend until family reunions were eventually combined into a full-fledged festival—the Annual Roberts Cove German Fest. Today, German Fest is essentially still a family reunion, celebrating German culture which has been passed down through the generations and shared with visitors from far and wide.

1:30 PM Tour the **German Heritage Museum** – The museum was built to preserve the history and heritage of this unique area in Cajun country. We will hear the history of the area, see a sauerkraut demonstration and hear German music played on the accordion by a local musician. We will also tour the Little Chapel on the beautiful grounds of the museum.



2:30 PM Depart **German Heritage Museum**

2:45 PM Stop at **Candyland Cottage & Ice Cream Shoppe** – While enjoying an ice cream cone or ice cream sundae, take a look at the old fashioned surroundings made up of antiques of all sorts, old fashion candies and pictures. Reminisce about the things you see that remind you of your childhood, including a display of all versions of the Candy Land game since it was created in 1949.



3:15 PM Load bus and depart to Hotel

3:45 PM Check into **Fairfield Inn by Marriott in Lafayette**

6:00 PM Meet in Lobby and **Depart Hotel** for Dinner



6:30 PM Dinner with Cajun Music at **Prejean's Cajun Restaurant** - Since April 15, 1980, people from around the world have been stopping in to sample the savory dishes created by Prejean's talented team of culinary experts. Prejean's now holds the record for the most medals captured by any culinary team in the south. Described as "an incredible dining experience," and a "fun-filled time not to be missed when visiting Lafayette," Prejean's has become a Lafayette landmark, loved by visiting and local diners alike. (www.prejeans.com)

8:15 PM Depart to Hotel

Saturday, June 1, 2019

7:00 AM Breakfast Buffet at Hotel

8:20 AM Meet in Hotel Lobby and load onto bus

8:30 AM Leave Hotel on bus and head to **Sew What** in Branch, Louisiana

9:00 AM Stop at **Sew What Cajun Mardi Gras Costume Shop** - Meet owner, Miss Karen, and explore the costume shop where most of the unique Cajun Mardi Gras costumes are created and shipped throughout the world. (www.vacajun.com/)



9:30 AM Depart for **Church Point, Louisiana** – This quaint town began in 1843, along a curve or point of the bayou. The first chapel here led to the town’s name La Pointe de L’église, or Church Point. The many people who traveled to church here via horse and buggy led to its claim as the “Buggy Capital of the World”! (<http://www.churchpoint-la.com/culturaldistrict.html>)



9:45 AM Tour **Le Vieux Presbytere** – Constructed in 1887 as the priest’s home, this landmark serves as the museum for the cultural history of the town. Le Vieux Presbytere is of state significance in the area of architecture as a rare and important example of a method of construction associated with Louisiana's very significant French Creole architectural tradition. This is one of the last structures in south Louisiana to use the folk craft of mud wall construction which is known as bousillage, a primary characteristic of Louisiana's Creole architectural heritage.

10:30 Depart for **Richard, Louisiana**

11:15 AM Stop by the **Little Cajun Saint** grave in Richard, Louisiana – Charlene Richard was a twelve-year-old Roman Catholic Cajun girl from Richard, Louisiana. She has become the focus of a popular belief that she is a saint—a person who is in heaven—who has performed a number of miracles. The Roman Catholic Church has not given any official approval or begun any processes leading towards her canonization, but local Catholic clergy and diocesan officials have permitted, promoted and participated in the popular veneration of Richard. Over 10,000 people visit her grave every year from across the globe and leave a prayer intention. (www. <http://holymotherchurch.org/1515298.html>)





11:30 PM Lunch at **Kelly's Landing – The Cajun Prairie Farm** - Meet owners, Kelly and Lynn and enjoy a delicious home cooked lunch while Kelly shares funny stories of his life as a rice and crawfish farmer, his tales of collecting antique farm equipment and a huge toy tractor collection. Take a nostalgic walk through the past as you view the farming tools of our fathers and grandfathers and his extensive John Deere toy collection. Kelly's personality is as big as his farm and will keep you laughing while Miss Lynn's hospitality will warm your heart!

12:45 PM Depart for **Mouton's Music Store** –



1:00 PM **Mouton's Music Store** – Meet Greg Mouton and a few of his Cajun musician students at the world famous Mouton's Music Store. The Mouton's have been building accordions since 1960, and they are known as the oldest running Cajun accordion label. They specialize in Louisiana music and the Cajun culture while at the same time promoting all types of music! (www.Moutonmusic.com)

1:35 PM Depart for **Crowley, Louisiana**



1:45 PM

Tour **Grand Opera House** - Tucked away in the heart of historical downtown Crowley, Louisiana sits one of the most unique second-story opera houses still standing. Built in 1901 by David E. Lyons, a livery stable owner and deputy sheriff, the Grand, as it was named then, was referred to by the *Daily Signal* as a "beautiful little playhouse." Costing a mere \$18,000 to build, Mr. Lyons carefully constructed his masterpiece using virgin Louisiana cypress, pine and oak. This mostly wooden structure was accented with pressed tin tiles and hand-painted angel medallions in the four boxed seats. The Grand was known as the place for entertainment and hospitality. Used mainly for vaudeville and minstrel performances in the earlier days and for silent movies and talkies during the later days, the Grand attracted people traveling through the South, specifically those passing through Crowley via the railroad, which was located just a few blocks from the opera house. (www.thegrandoperahouse.org)



2:15 PM

Tour the **Motor Co/City Hall** - Built in 1920 at the cost of \$40,000.00 the Crowley Motor Co. was the city's Ford Motor Model T dealership. Designed by an architect for the Ford Motor Co, it was one of 1,000 similar Ford dealerships constructed in the U.S. The City of Crowley purchased the building in 2000, restoration began in August 2006 City Hall moved in. The building is also home to four museums: The Rice Interpretive Center, the History of Crowley, J.D. Miller Music Recording Studio and Ford Automotive Museums. (www.acadiatourism.org/attraction/detail/crowley-motor-co-ford-building)



3:30 PM Tour the **Historic Rice Theatre** - Opened January 31, 1941 (after a delay in construction in 1940 due to flooding) at a cost of about \$100,000. The opening movie was *"This Thing Called Love"* starring Rosalind Russell. The 1,000-seat Art Modern style theatre seated 700 on the orchestra level and another 300 in the balcony. The theatre closed in late-October 1983, and remained vacant for almost 20 years before the Rice Theatre was acquired by the city of Crowley in 1986 for the Rice City Civic Center ("The Rice City" being Crowley's nickname). (www.cinematreasures.org/theaters/8853/photos)

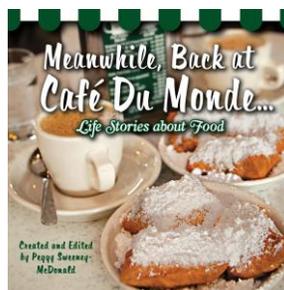
3:30 PM Depart to Hotel

4:00 PM Hotel

6:00 PM Meet in the Hotel Lobby



6:30 PM Dinner at the fabulous **Ruffino's On the River restaurant** and enjoy the hit foodie show, **Meanwhile, Back at Café Du Monde...** Life Stories about Food, emcee'd by creator/author, Peggy Sweeney-McDonald with local foodies sharing their life stories about food.



8:30 PM Return to Hotel

Sunday, June 2, 2019

7:30-8:30 AM Buffet Breakfast at Hotel

8:30 AM Check-Out of Hotel and begin bus loading.

8:45 AM Bus Loading

9:00 AM Depart

11:30 AM Arrive back in Baton Rouge at Old Governor's Mansion

Cost of Tour:

Doubles - \$1,240.00 per couple or for two roommates

Singles - \$750.00

To register go to www.preserve-louisiana.org/events

or call Peggy Sweeney-McDonald

Office: 225-387-2464

Cell: 310-709-2851

What they said about our last Steel Magnolia tour to Natchitoches, Louisiana:



"My friends and I traveled from Oklahoma for the 'Steel Magnolias' tour, which was hosted by Preserve Louisiana. The PL staff was extremely hospitable, warm and welcoming. We laughed and cried throughout the weekend, and our hearts were changed forever by the visit to the plantations. Preserve Louisiana put on a first-class trip and we will definitely be back for more!"

– Stephanie O'Hara

We really enjoyed the tour and our favorite part was the Steel Magnolia House tour. David loved the plantations because he loves history. The hotel was great and the food was wonderful and delicious – Kathy Klapatch

It was a very nice trip and I got my money's worth! The tour took a lot of planning and was well executed. All of the people who greeted us at our destination were very warm, friendly and treated us as though we were diplomats visiting from another country. They are very proud of their historic city and it showed! My favorite experience was visiting Melrose and meeting the creole people. I have been interested in the Creoles of Louisiana for many years and I have several books about this group. I especially enjoyed the lunch in the barn prepared by the Creole couple and found it to be the best food I had on the trip. Great job Peggy and Fairleigh!! – Claudia Golden