



Preserve Louisiana – Steel Magnolias Tour – Natchitoches, Louisiana Agenda - October 26-28, 2018



Friday, October 26, 2018

- 8:00 AM Group Check-in and load onto bus at Creative Bloc - 804 Main Street (park in back parking lot) downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- 8:30 AM Group Departs from Creative Bloc in Baton Rouge to Natchitoches, Louisiana -
T The heart of "Steel Magnolia Country" on a 31 passenger luxury bus with bathroom.
- 11:30 AM Lunch – Lasyone’s Meat Pie Restaurant (www.lasyones.com)



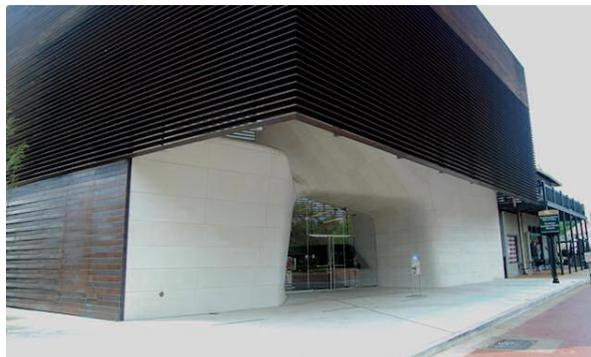
A TRADITION SINCE 1967 Lasyone’s Meat Pie Restaurant is an authentic soulful Creole Cuisine experience. Their family recipes are always prepared with love from the soul of deep southern roots. Famous for meat pies, this family-owned and operated restaurant boast many unique dishes you will enjoy. Lasyone’s is recognized nationally

by the leaders of the restaurant industry, travelers from around the world and in Natchitoches La. as a local favorite.

12:45 PM Walk across the street to tour the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception – Established 1728. Consecrated as a Cathedral 1854 and elevated to the status of Minor Basilica in 2010.



1:15 PM Visit the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana Museum in a spectacular \$23-million complex in Natchitoches Landmark Historic District of downtown Natchitoches, Louisiana.



Louisiana Sports Hall Of Fame

The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame's collection of portraits and memorabilia celebrate the achievements of more than 300 legendary Louisiana athletes, coaches and other sports figures. Other sports-themed exhibits and interactive media trace the history and importance of sports to life in Louisiana.

Northwest Louisiana History Museum

The Northwest Louisiana History Museum explores the evolution of unique cultural traditions from early native-American civilizations to the present. The building itself, designed by Trahan Architects of New Orleans, evokes the region's rivers and plowed fields with sinuous molded stone interiors and earth-colored exterior sheathing.

2:30 PM Leave downtown Natchitoches to check into hotel

2:45 PM Check-into Fairfield Inn by Marriott

4:15 PM

Meet in Lobby - Leave Hotel for Steel Magnolia Tour with Barbara Bailey



The movie "Steel Magnolias", based on the Stage Play by Robert Harling Jr., came to Natchitoches in 1988, but the real Steel Magnolias have been here for much longer. Bobby's family story was his inspiration. It is a story of love and friendship, relationships, of loss and grief but most of all a story of how a family and a community lived through it all. As engaging as is the movie, the real life story behind the movie is even more fascinating. It has warmth, humor and the capacity to touch something very deep within us. The story of one family's experience provides a life lesson for us all.

Hear the real life story. See the site of Truvy's (Dolly Parton) Beauty Shop. Drive down Harling Lane. See Shelby's (Julia Roberts) "home", the Steel Magnolias House on Rue Jefferson and more.

What they say about Barbara Bailey:

"... it was a total blast. Led by beautiful, sassy, "Don't Worry, I Know the Sheriff—Go Ahead and Jump that Fence" Barbara Bailey of Tour Natchitoches with Barbara, it was one of the most pleasant experiences we've had on a recent vacation."



5:15 PM

Arrive at the "Steel Magnolia Home" – Tour the home and enjoy cocktail on the patio
In 2003, the stately brick house featured in the film was converted into a bed and breakfast, aptly named The Steel Magnolia House. It's changed hands a few times since then, but the interior and exterior of the home on Jefferson Street hasn't changed a bit. Visitors can count on plenty of antiques and Steel Magnolias memorabilia—from costume sketches to behind-the-scenes photos—throughout the home.

6:20 PM

Leave for ***Mamas Oyster House Restaurant***



6:30 PM Enjoy a delicious dinner at Mamas Oyster House a local favorite to taste the delicious flavors Louisiana has to offer. After dinner, stay for local blues music (optional) (www.mamasandpapasnatchitoches.com)

8:30 PM Depart for Hotel or stay for music at Mamas Blues Club.



Saturday, October 27, 2018

8:00 AM Breakfast Buffet at Hotel

9:00 AM Meet in Lobby & Depart for Oakland Plantation



9:30 AM Tour Oakland Plantation – Oakland Plantation, originally known as the Jean Pierre Emmanuel Prud'homme Plantation, and also known as Bermuda, is a historic cotton plantation in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana. It is one the nation's best and most intact examples of a French Creole cotton plantation complex. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2001, and is now owned by the National Park Service as part of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park. (<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/caneriver/oak.htm>)

10:45 AM Depart for Melrose Plantation



11:00 AM Tour Melrose Plantation - We invite you to discover the two-hundred year history of the beautiful Melrose Plantation. The birth of a slave, Marie Therese Coincoin, and her ten Franco-African children with Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer became the legacy of the Isle Brevelle Creole Community. Descendants of the Metoyer family live along Cane River today, a people proud of their heritage and culture.

Come realize the impact of the American Civil War and reconstruction on Cane River and the survival of a southern plantation along with the establishment of the Melrose freedman school by Fanny Hertzog.

Explore the wonders of the early 20th Century Melrose artists' retreat founded by Carmelite Garrett Henry and follow the discovery of Clementine Hunter, one-time Melrose cook, as she emerged to become Louisiana's most celebrated primitive artist.

A National Historic Landmark, Melrose Plantation contains nine historic buildings including the African House, Yucca House, Weaving Cabin, Bindery and the Big House. A collection of work by world famous African American folk artist Clementine Hunter is available for viewing, including her popular African House Murals.

www.melroseplantation.org

12:30 PM Lunch in Rustic Barn at Melrose Plantation – Enjoy a bowl of chicken and sausage gumbo, meat pie, salad and pecan pie for dessert prepared by Miss Janet LaCour of Cataes Catering.



1:30 PM Tour St. Augustine Church across from Melrose Plantation – St. Augustine was the first Catholic Church in America founded, independently financed, and built by free people of color. St. Augustine is the spiritual and social center of the Cane River Creole community on Isle Brevelle in Natchitoches Parish. Nicolas Augustin

Metoyer, eldest son of Marie Thérèse "Coin Coin" and Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer, donated the land on which St. Augustine Catholic Church stands today. He and his brother, Louis Metoyer, who established Melrose Plantation, provided the funds for the original chapel, which was built in 1803. The present church structure was built in 1916.

2:00 PM Downtown Shopping or Back to Hotel



3:00 PM Fort Jean Baptiste Historic State Site Tour –



The Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site is a replication fort based upon original blueprints and extensive archival research in Louisiana, Canada, and France. It is located on Cane River Lake (formerly the Red River), a few hundred yards from the original fort site. Construction began in 1979 under the direction of the late Samuel Wilson, Jr. and the Louisiana Office of State Parks. Building materials were obtained locally, and many 18th-century techniques were employed in the replication. Nearly 2,000 treated pine logs form the palisade and approximately 250,000 board feet of treated lumber went into the construction of the buildings. All of the hinges and latches were handmade at a nearby foundry. The original fort was established around 1716, when Sieur Charles Claude Dutisné was sent to Natchitoches with a small company of colonial troops to build and garrison an outpost that would prevent the Spanish forces in the province of Texas from advancing across the border of French Louisiana. This strategic outpost was named Fort St. Jean Baptiste des Natchitoches.

www.canerivernha.org/fort-st-jean-baptiste-los-adaes-state-historic-sites.com

4:00 PM Return to Hotel

6:00 PM Meet in Hotel Lobby - Depart for Merci Beaucoup Restaurant

6:30 PM Dinner & Meanwhile, Back at Café Du Monde... show
(<http://mercibeaucouprestaurant.com/>)



Merci Beaucoup is the place to "see and be seen" in historic downtown Natchitoches every day of the week. Customers from around the world have savored homemade Gumbo, the signature Cajun Potato, and homemade Orange Dressing. For dessert, you must try their famous Bread Pudding. We will dine in a private room for our 3-course dinner with wine or beer and enjoy the hit foodie show, Meanwhile, Back at Café Du Monde... life stories about food, emcee'd by Peggy Sweeney-McDonald with local Natchitoches foodies sharing their food stories.



These foodie monologues invoke your own special comfort foods, recalling tasty memories of life, love, family and friends to warm your heart, feed your soul and make you pause to savor the sweetness of life. (www.meanwhilebackatcafedumonde.com)

Sunday, October 28, 2018

8:00 AM Breakfast Buffet at Hotel
9:00 AM Check-out & Depart Fairfield Inn
Noon Arrive back in Baton Rouge to Creative Bloc

Cost of Tour includes transportation, hotel for two nights, breakfast Saturday and Sunday, lunch Friday and Saturday, 3-course dinner with glass of wine or beer Friday and Saturday, all tours, snacks/bottled water on bus and the **Meanwhile, Back at Café Du Monde...** show on Saturday night.

\$675/pp – Doubles - \$802/Singles