

Mardi Gras In Shreveport, LA



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Tour Summary

Spanning both sides of the Red River, Shreveport and Bossier City offer a wide range of activities. From riverboat gambling to river walk amusements, or from musical hot spots to the famous gastronomical creation called the “Muffy.” Most anticipated in northwest Louisiana is the Mardi Gras season. Carnival is a farewell to flesh. A celebration of abundance before renouncing Earthly pleasures on Ash Wednesday. But not before the exclamation: *laissez les bons temps rouler*, or “let the good times roll!” *Mardi Gras* is French for “Fat Tuesday,” the biggest party day before the devout repentance of Lent. On the “Other Side of Louisiana,” the fun-

loving people of Shreveport and Bossier City celebrate an alternative version of Mardi Gras.

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Where Cajun Meets Cowboy





From Creole cuisine to burlesque shows, from neighborhood parades to colorful Mardi Gras floats, Shreveport and its neighboring Bossier City in northwest Louisiana celebrate *joie de vivre* in high spirit every year. Let's throw on some beads and check it out!



The literal French meaning of *Mardi Gras* is “Fat Tuesday,” and only applies to that day, although the term is interchangeable with Carnival. In Louisiana, the Carnival season begins on January 6th. This date is the 12th

night, as in the 12 Days of Christmas song, also known as the Feast of the Epiphany. The 2-month to 3-month long Carnival winter party season ends at midnight on Mardi Gras.



Although Louisiana is famous for its Mardi Gras celebrations all across the state, Louisiana is also called the Pelican State, or the Sportsman's Paradise. The "Bass Master" fishing event takes place at Shreveport every few years. We'll get on

the Red River that bisects Shreveport from Bossier City and have a look at the bayou country.



Shreveport is the commercial and cultural center of the Ark-La-Tex, the area where Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas meet. We'll tour the Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center museum on the river front of Shreveport and see the latest exhibit, plus the permanent displays.



Many people in the community refer to the twin cities of Shreveport and Bossier City simply as “Shreveport-Bossier.” But don’t try to speak “Bo-Zear” into a GPS system as the locals pronounce it, because the GPS will not register the accent. Here is the Red River waterfront walkway on the Bossier City side.

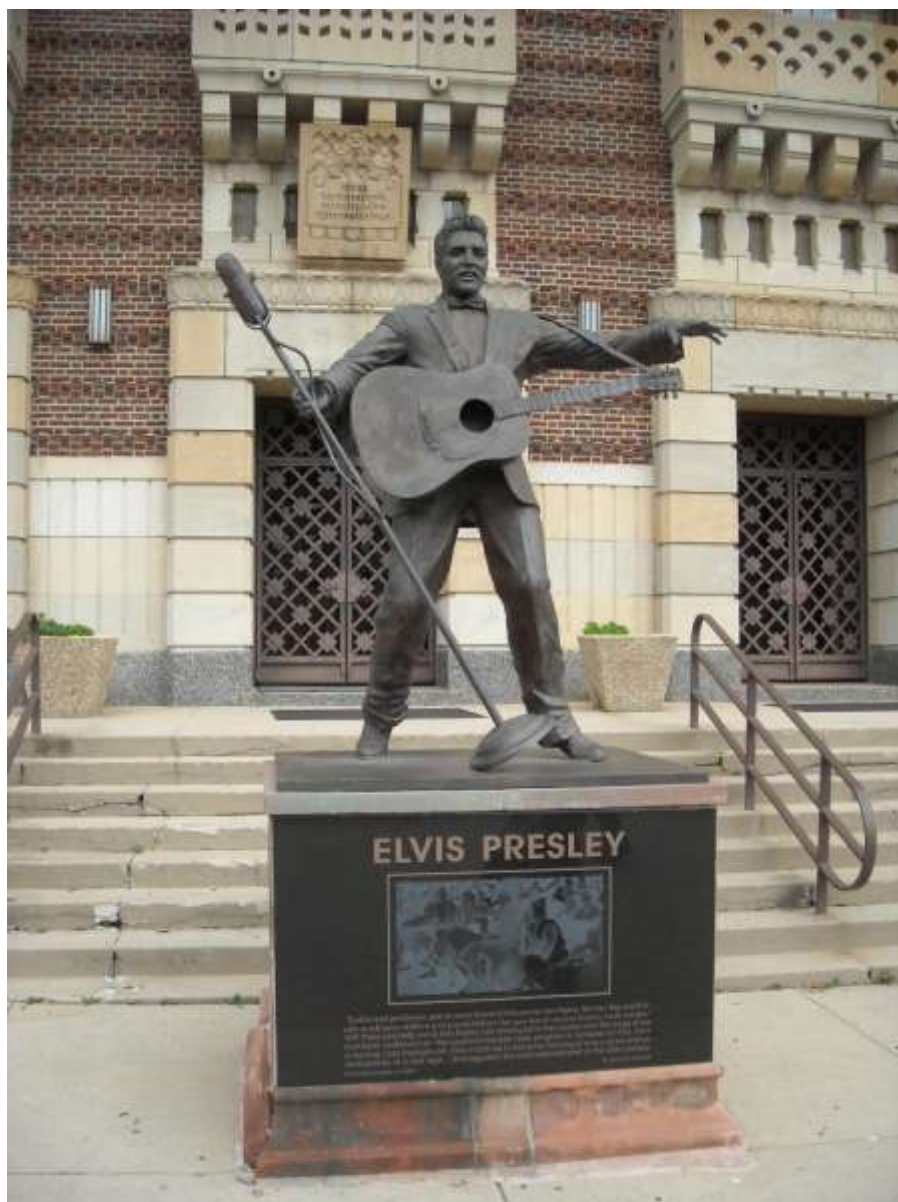


The “Louisiana Boardwalk” shopping plaza and riverfront is so extensive in Bossier City that a trolley car helps shoppers get from one end to the other.



We'll tour the main cultural institutions in Shreveport, including the Regional Art Council called "Art Space," and the Robinson Film Center, as seen from the balcony overlooking Texas Street and downtown Shreveport. The Robinson Film Center has a bar and the restaurant called Abby Singer's, and movie-goers can bring

their food or drink in to watch a movie in one of two art house-style theatres, or the big multi-use room.



Shreveport was home to the Louisiana Hayride radio show, especially popular in the 1950s, on which Elvis Presley got his start. Before his live performance in front of

\a live audience and broadcast widely on AM radio, Elvis was a virtually unknown performer.



The iconic Shreveport Municipal Auditorium is the third-most visited Elvis Presley pilgrimage location outside of his former home known as Graceland in Memphis, Tennessee, and his birthplace in Tupelo, Mississippi.



Many other famous country singers also performed at the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, including Johnny Cash, Jimmi Hendrix, and hundreds of others.



Across the street from the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium is the Oakland Cemetery, the oldest graveyard in Shreveport. Many people say the auditorium is haunted, and ghosts have been seen crossing the street back and forth!



Lastly, we'll visit a few of the most unique eateries in Shreveport, including Fertitta's, home of the famous "Muffy" sandwich. Over one million served since 1960!

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