

LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA

# mardi gras



2017

## VISIT OUR INFORMATION CENTER

Intersection of I-10 & I-49  
1400 N.W. Evangeline Thruway

I-10 Exit 103-A  
I-49 South of I-10

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



\*Schedule subject to change.  
For information on dining, lodging and attractions:

# Lafayette

LOUISIANA

Convention and Visitors Commission

[LafayetteTravel.com](http://LafayetteTravel.com)

## HISTORY OF KING CAKE

The season of Carnival begins on Jan. 6, known as the Epiphany or Twelfth Night, the day the Christ Child was visited by the three kings. And with this date comes an old Louisiana tradition – King Cakes!

The creation of “King Cakes” began in 12th century France when a cake was baked on the eve of Jan. 6 with a small token hidden inside. Whoever got the token in his or her slice became the royalty of the night.

The king cake tradition made its way to Louisiana, but like all good things we tend to keep it going as long as we can. Cakes are enjoyed on Jan. 6, usually with a small baby inside and whoever gets the token must buy the next cake and so on it goes.

Louisiana king cakes come plain, with decoration on top, or filled with wonderful things like cream cheese, fruit preserves and pecan praline or created in other unique and wonderful ways. We enjoy our King Cakes, decorated in the Carnival colors of purple for justice, green for faith and gold for power, until Ash Wednesday, the day following Mardi Gras.

Ask anyone in town who makes their favorite king cake and you'll get a dozen answers. You can find king cakes in mini marts, grocery stores and coffee shops as well as bakeries including:

### POUPART'S FRENCH BAKERY

Serving up a traditional Mardi Gras king cake as well as a traditional French-style king cake, which is a round puff pastry with almond filling.

337- 232-7921 [poupartsbakery.com](http://poupartsbakery.com)

### KELLER'S BAKERY DOWNTOWN

Serving up a pastry made with soft layers of moist Danish pastry dough packed with your choice of fillings and iced with a sugar frosting. Keller's hasn't changed their king cake recipe in over 115 years.

337- 235-1568 [kellersbakery.net](http://kellersbakery.net)

## HISTORY OF MARDI GRAS

### When is Mardi Gras?

The fluctuating date of Mardi Gras was established by the Catholic Church that designed the Gregorian calendar with a fixed date for Christmas and moveable dates for other religious holidays. Easter, which can fall on any Sunday from March 23 to April 25, is set to happen with the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox. Mardi Gras is always scheduled 46 days preceding Easter (the 40 days of Lent plus six Sundays). The carnival season officially opens on the Epiphany 12 days after Christmas and ends on Mardi Gras Day, the day before Ash Wednesday.

### The Colors of Mardi Gras

In 1872, King Rex, the king of New Orleans' carnival, selected the official colors of Mardi Gras (purple, gold and green). Rex assigned a meaning to the colors in 1892 for his parade entitled Symbolism of Colors: purple represents justice, green represents faith and gold signifies power.

### Mardi Gras Krewes

A Mardi Gras Krewe is the membership organization for a parade. Krewes also get together throughout the year for the Coronation Ball (where the Maids, Dukes and King are announced) and Mardi Gras Ball or Tableau (where the Krewe usually appears in their parade costumes). Undisputed as the favorite event of the Krewes is the parade itself, where riders throw trinkets to throngs of people calling, “Throw me something, mister!”

### Throw Me Something Mister/Sister

“Throw Me Something Mister” (or sister) is a shout that can be heard as the parade floats roll past. Parade-goers will use any technique to get the attention of the float riders so they can go home with more “throws” than anyone else. Throws are inexpensive trinkets tossed from floats by costumed and masked krewe members. The most popular throws include doubloons (a coin-like souvenir of a carnival krewe, usually with the name and crest of the krewe on one side and its theme of the year on the other, plastic cups, Mardi Gras beads (necklaces) and even stuffed toys. The throwing of trinkets to the crowds was started in the early 1870s by the Twelfth Night Revelers and is a time-honored expectation for young and old alike.

### Lafayette's Mardi Gras

The first formal Mardi Gras ball and parade in Lafayette dates back to 1869. In 1897, King Attakapas, the first Mardi Gras king, was crowned and the first organized parade was held in Lafayette. Formal Mardi Gras balls and parades after 1897 seemed to come and go until 1934 when the Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association was created. Today as in 1934, Queen Evangeline and King Gabriel, who symbolize the Acadian sweethearts separated during the expulsion of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in Longfellow's Evangeline, are reunited each year at Mardi Gras to rule over the Mardi Gras festivities.

### Courir de Mardi Gras

The rural Mardi Gras celebration, the Courir de Mardi Gras, dates back to the earliest days of the area's settlement and is still considered a rite of passage for many in the area. With its roots firmly in the medieval tradition of ceremonial begging, bands of masked and costumed horseback riders roam the countryside “begging” for ingredients for their communal gumbo. “Le Capitaine,” a caped but unmasked captain, stops his revelers at a distance while he approaches with a white flag and asks permission for his riders to enter the owners' property. If permission is granted, the captain lowers his white flag and the riders charge towards the house. There, they dismount and proceed to dance and sing for live chickens and other donations such as rice, onions and flour to be used in the gumbo. The captain and his group of masked riders return to town in the late afternoon with their loot. The day's festivities usually end with a fais-do-do and lots of gumbo for Mardi Gras revelers.

**February 12**

**Courir de Mardi Gras - Old-Fashion Mardi Gras Run**

Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Rd., Lafayette.  
337-233-4077, Vermilionville.org

**February 18**

**Carencro Mardi Gras Parade**

Starts at Carencro High. Ends by Carencro Community Center. 11 a.m.  
337-896-4147, Carencro.org

**February 18**

**Krewe des Chiens Parade for Dogs**

Downtown, Lafayette. 2 p.m.  
ParadeForDogs.org

**February 18**

**Krewe of Carnivale en Rio Mardi Gras Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.  
337-984-6522, RioLafayette.com

**February 19**

**Scott Mardi Gras Parade**

City of Scott. 1 p.m.  
337-269-5155

**February 24**

**"Kick Off" Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 24-28**

**Le Festival de Mardi Gras a Lafayette**

Cajun Field, Lafayette. Carnival rides & games, live music, food vendors, parades roll through festival grounds. Times vary.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 25**

**Krewe of Bonaparte Mardi Gras Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6:30 p.m.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 25**

**Children's Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 12:30 p.m.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 25**

**Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade**

Public Works building to Fountain View, Youngsville.  
337-856-4181

**February 27**

**Queen Evangeline's Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 6 p.m.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 28**

**Mardi Gras Show at Clark Field**

Clark Field Stadium, Lafayette.  
MardiGrasShow.com

**February 28**

**King Gabriel's Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 10 a.m.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 28**

**Lafayette Mardi Gras Festival Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 1 p.m.  
800-346-1958, GoMardiGras.com

**February 28**

**KADN Fox 15 Independent Parade**

Downtown to Cajun Field, Lafayette. 2:30 p.m.  
337-237-1500, GoMardiGras.com

**February 28**

**Southwest Mardi Gras Association Pageant & Ball**

Heymann Performing Arts Center and Frem F. Boustany Convention Center, 1373 S College Rd., Lafayette.  
337-291-5540, HeymannCenter.com

**SCHEDULE FOR SURROUNDING CITIES:**

**February 12**

**Krewe of Ezana Jeanerette Mardi Gras Parade**

Canal, MLK & Main St, Jeanerette. 1 p.m.  
337-255-9539, IberiaTravel.com

**February 17**

**Krewe of Andalusia Mardi Gras Parade**

Historic Downtown, 102 W Main St., New Iberia. 6:30 p.m.  
337-367-6466, IberiaTravel.com

**February 18**

**Lake Arthur Mardi Gras Parade**

Lake Arthur.  
337-774-3675

**February 18**

**Rotary Club Mardi Gras Ball**

Cade Community Center, 1688 Smede Hwy., St. Martinville.  
337-394-2233, StMartinville.org

**February 22-28**

**Cajun Country Courir de Mardi Gras**

Downtown Eunice - 2nd Street area.  
337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com

**February 24**

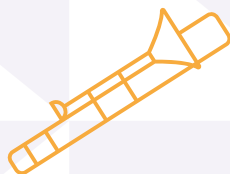
**Downtown Opelousas Mardi Gras Celebration**

Delta Grand Theatre, 120 S Market St., Opelousas.  
337-948-6263, CajunTravel.com

**February 24-26**

**Lil Nate's L'Argent Trailride, Chicken Run & Parade**

Yambilee Arena, 1939 W Landry St., Opelousas.  
337-319-0639, CajunTravel.com



**February 25**

**Lake Fausse Pointe Mardi Gras Parade**

Lake Fausse Pointe State Park, 5400 Levee Rd., St. Martinville. 2 p.m.  
888-677-7200, IberiaTravel.com

**February 25**

**Jennings Mardi Gras Festival & Parade**

Founder's Park, 341 N Main St., Jennings.  
337-821-5532, CityOfJennings.com/Events

**February 25-26**

**Cajun Courir de Mardi Gras Run**

Saddle Tramp Club House, 1036 E Ebey St.,  
Downtown for parades, Church Point.  
877-783-2109, ChurchPointMardiGras.com

**February 26**

**Eunice Lil' Mardi Gras**

Eunice Rec Complex, 461 Sittig St., Eunice.  
337-457-7389, CajunTravel.com

**February 26-28**

**Carnival D'Acadie (Mardi Gras)**

Downtown, Crowley. Fair, live music and street dance,  
costume contests, parade.  
337-783-0821, Crowley-LA.com

**February 27**

**Lundi Gras Boucherie**

Lakeview Park & Beach, 1717 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Eunice.  
337-457-2881, CajunTravel.com

**February 28**

**Grand Marais Mardi Gras Parade**

Hwy 90 E at College Rd., Jeanerette. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
337-365-8185, IberiaTravel.com

**February 28**

**Krewe of Coteau Mardi Gras Parade**

Francis Romero Memorial Park & LA 88, Coteau. 1 p.m.  
337-577-5099, IberiaTravel.com

**February 28**

**Family Affair Mardi Gras Parade**

Main St., Loreauville. 2 p.m.  
337-229-6001, IberiaTravel.com

**February 28**

**Tee Mamou-lota Mardi Gras Folklife Festival**

Downtown, Iota. 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
337-523-6557, IotaMardiGras.com

**February 28**

**Krewe Chic-A-La-Pie Mardi Gras Parade**

Downtown, Kaplan. 337-643-6554

**February 28**

**Half-Fast Krewe of Frank Mardi Gras Parade**

600 E Landry St., Opelousas.  
337-351-6943, CajunTravel.com

**February 28**

**Sunset Mardi Gras Parade**

Oak Tree Park Dr., Sunset.  
337-322-5374, CajunTravel.com

**February 28**

**Mamou Mardi Gras**

Downtown, Mamou.  
337-468-3175

