



# Louisiana: Gators & Gumbo Adventure

Nine Days Exploring Louisiana's Incredible Culture & Nature



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## Trip Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** the incredible culture of Louisiana guided by a local, from unique private encounters of living history in New Orleans to breathtaking natural adventures throughout Cajun Country.

**LISTEN** to jazz in one of New Orleans' most storied establishments.

**SAVOR** the culinary wonder of New Orleans' world-renowned restaurants.

**DISCOVER** how to cook traditional Cajun and Creole dishes from a local chef.

**ENJOY** getting to know a local specialty farmstead through the eyes of a Cajun farmer.

**EXPLORE** swamps and bayous by boat and kayak with our naturalist guides.

**VISIT** a local, family-owned accordion factory and learn about Cajun music.

**TOUR** the Whitney Plantation, a non-profit museum dedicated to the lives of the enslaved.

**LEARN** why Anthony Bourdain famously said, "There is no other place on earth even remotely like New Orleans. Don't even try to compare it to anywhere else."





## Tour Dates

### **2025 Departures**

April 6 - 14, 2025

October 19 - 27, 2025

### **2026 Departures**

April 12 - 20, 2026

October 18 - 26, 2026

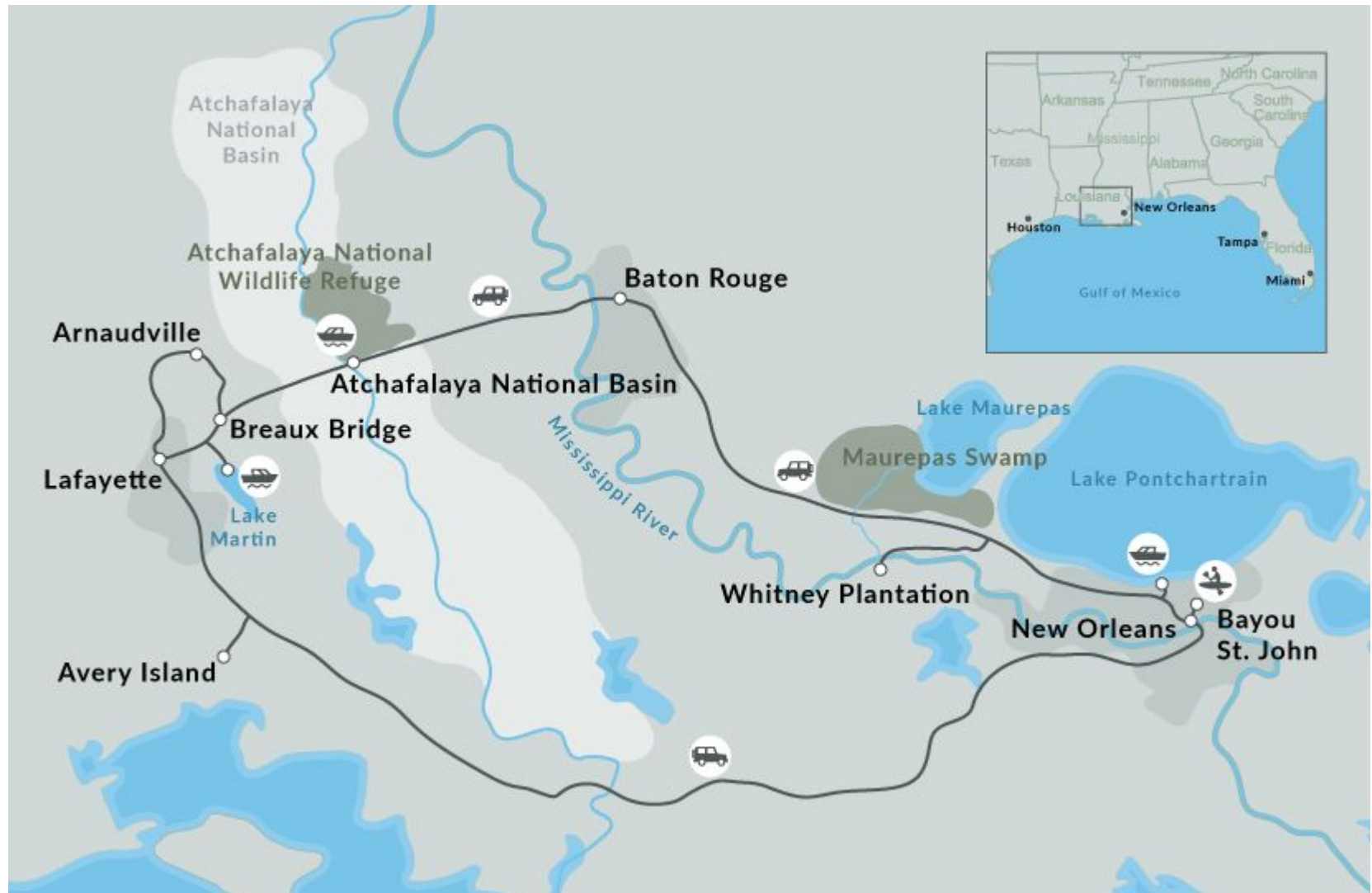
## Tour Price

\$6,795 per person

Single supplement \$1,525



## Tour Map







## What's Included

- Eight nights of accommodations
- Private transportation from New Orleans to Cajun Country and back
- All meals except for one dinner during your free night in New Orleans. All provided dinners include a beer or cocktail
- A private Cajun cooking class
- All tours and entrance fees, including a privately guided walking tour of the Whitney Plantation
- Visit to a family-owned accordion factory
- Bayou kayak tour in New Orleans and three flatboat tours in Cajun Country
- Visit to a local specialty farm

**We pay for Carbon Neutralization for each guest to minimize your trip's impact on the environment.**





# TOUR ITINERARY





## Day One

*Bienvenue à Nouvelle-Orléans!* After you arrive in New Orleans, drop your luggage off at the hotel and depending on the time, you can either relax in the lobby or explore the city. The surrounding area is a mosaic of culture and history, reflected in its architecture alone, and home to many restaurants offering delicious Creole fare.

Be back at the hotel and ready to leave by 3PM. Meet the rest of the group and your guide(s) for introductions. Then we'll embark on our first adventure, where you'll experience a birds-eye view of the city. See why New Orleans is one of the greatest foodie cities in the world during our welcome dinner.

**Dinner is included.**



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“There are a lot of places I like, but I like New Orleans better. There's a thousand different angles at any moment...The city is one very long poem. Gardens full of pansies, pink petunias, opiates. Flower-bedecked shrines, white myrtles, bougainvillea and purple oleander stimulate your senses, make you feel cool and clear inside.”

- Bob Dylan





## Day Two

After breakfast, we leave the city to learn about the origins of Southern Louisiana at the Whitney Plantation. Much of our early economy was a plantation economy. The Whitney Plantation is perhaps one of the foremost institutions in the state dedicated to educating the public about the history and lives of the enslaved.

We will have a private guide and visit original structures that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Following lunch at a local Cajun restaurant, we head to Lake Pontchartrain, a huge body of water integral to the history of the city. Despite its name, it's not a lake, but rather an estuary connected to the Gulf of Mexico and linked to the broader Mississippi River Delta system. The water is brackish and even today, it is an immense engine of life, economy, recreation, and seafood.

Enjoy dinner while coasting along these waters on a relaxing, sunset boat tour.

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**



## Day Three

This morning, indulge in a proper New Orleans breakfast before embarking on our next adventure. Learn more about the history of New Orleans and why it is sometimes referred to as “the Accidental City” as we discover the journey of its founding father, Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville.

After, tour town on a picturesque kayaking excursion via highway-bayou. Before planes, trains and automobiles, the three million something acres of waterways in Louisiana were the highways, which is how Bienville and other locals traveled. Embrace the vibrant bayou ecology surrounding you, teeming with diverse plant and animal life.

Following lunch, we'll visit the iconic French Quarter in the heart of the city, one of the area's oldest neighborhoods. Surround yourself with the beautiful blend of Spanish and French architecture, enjoy the sights and sounds of the live music and nearby restaurants, and get acquainted with the city's past residents during a cemetery tour.

We'll return to the hotel to relax and refresh before free time for the rest of the evening. Let loose in the 'Big Easy'; eat, drink, and dance the night away!

**Breakfast and lunch included.**







## Day Four

Following breakfast, we head to Storyville, the infamous red-light district of 1898 to 1917. Learn about the lives of the demimonde, prostitution and excess drunkenness that ran rampant in this historical district. We'll also uncover how this world birthed one of the most popular music genres to date: jazz. The history, ethnicities, and cultures of the period collided here to create this quintessential American art form.

After lunch, we'll continue experiencing the rich culture of the area. Learn more about the Voodoo religion—one connected to nature, spirits, and ancestors that has become synonymous with New Orleans. Enjoy another soulful dinner and sway to the tunes of the city during a live jazz performance at the historic music venue, Preservation Hall.

Tonight, pack your bags! Tomorrow morning we're leaving for Cajun Country.

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**







## Day Five

This morning, we pick you up from the hotel and head to a light breakfast before embarking on our journey to Cajun Country. We'll transition from the smooth groove of jazz and Creole culture to highlights like bayous and wildlife, zydeco and gumbo, dancing and tabasco.

To start, we'll make a stop in Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana. With over 300 years of history, the city is representative of the state's vibrant mix of cultures and communities. Lunch is at a classic juke joint restaurant. Indulge in a side of blues with your catfish for a harmony of sound and taste.

After, we cross the Mississippi River into the savannas of Southern Louisiana to the Atchafalaya Basin, the largest unbroken forested wetland in the United States. Meet Dean Wilson, the Basin Keeper who protects this natural paradise. He is our boat captain and guide, piloting us through the basin while sharing its fragile beauty and the reality of its many threats.

In the early evening, we head to Breaux Bridge and our new home for the next few days. Our favorite guest chef demonstrates how he prepares the hearty gumbo we'll share for dinner. Spend the rest of the evening enjoying the property's idyllic pond views and cozy rooms.

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**







## Day Six

After breakfast, we travel to Vermilionville, in the heart of Lafayette. Accompanied by a private guide, we experience this living museum that relays the histories of the cultures that shaped the vital melting pot of Southern Louisiana: Native Americans, Acadians, Creoles, and peoples of African descent. Enjoy lunch in the very heart of Cajun Country and taste the unique culinary cuisine of the area.

This afternoon, we will enjoy a one-of-a-kind cultural experience that will further immerse you into the lives and narratives of South Louisiana's diverse community.

Dance the night away with an evening of dinner and zydeco dance lessons on a genuine Cajun Farm.

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**

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We had an amazing tour. They travel with small groups and like to support the local economy, so we were able to go on adventures and experience the people and local environment in a way that would have been impossible with a large group. They were very attentive and responsible to the needs and requests of our group. They had everything well planned out ahead of time, much appreciated, Gondwana Ecotours!

- Jane R.







## Day Seven

We visit Arnaudville for breakfast, a bayou crossroads town. The restaurant has a multi-level deck tumbling down to a bayou with resident cats while egrets and herons wade through the nearby waters.

After, we'll visit a family-owned accordion factory to learn more about the sounds of Cajun Country. The accordions were brought to the area in the 1890s. Soon, the instrument became integral to Cajun music.

We enjoy a sunset swamp tour to end the day, exploring Lake Martin by flatboat. This wetland is a gem of intricate watery pathways, winding between Spanish moss-laden bald cypress trees and wide-open waters. This swamp features a rich and flourishing ecosystem that is home to one of Louisiana's largest rookeries of water birds, alligators, frogs, turtles, mammals like nutria and wild hogs, and more.



**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**



## Day Eight

We begin our journey back to New Orleans after breakfast. Along the way, we'll stop by a little 3,000 acre slice of salt dome in the bayou, Avery Island. Here, we'll learn more about the story of Tabasco; the what, where, why, and how of its origins and manufacture right on site, at the Tabasco factory.

After lunch, we head out on the highway to the *Big Easy*, where our adventure began. Here, we'll enjoy a farewell dinner and share our thanks for joining us on this most excellent '*laissez les bon temps rouler*' of an adventure.

**Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**



## Day Nine

Depending on your departing flight time, you may have some additional time to explore New Orleans in the morning.

Receive a complimentary transfer either to the international airport or to your hotel if you're staying the night. Note that a second transfer the following day from your hotel in New Orleans to the airport is not included, but we can help arrange it upon request.

**Breakfast included.**







## ACCOMMODATIONS





## Hotel Peter & Paul

### Nights 1-4, 8

Located a couple blocks from the iconic Frenchmen Street, Hotel Peter & Paul was once a 19th-century Catholic church and school. After four years of restorations, it is now a chic hotel home to antiques from New Orleans and Europe, a multi award-winning bar and restaurant, and a beautiful courtyard.



## Hotel Saint Vincent

### Nights 1-4, 8

Originally built in the 19th-century, Hotel Saint Vincent was restored in 2021 as an art-deco haven located in the lower garden district. This oasis offers a French-Vietnamese-style café and bakery, a guest-only bar, and is walking distance from a plethora of eclectic restaurants and shops.

*We alternate accommodations on this tour and cannot guarantee a specific hotel. We ensure all accommodations are similar in location and quality. As is common with boutique hotels, room sizes and views are often different within the same property. Please note that we assign guest rooms on a first come, first serve basis. No exceptions.*





## Cajun Country Cottages, Breux Bridge

### Nights 5-7

Located on a five-acre private pond, Cajun Country Cottages is a beautiful and peaceful place to stay. Recline under the live oak trees and do some fishing or paddle the lake. The serenity of this location cannot be beat!



## Country Charm Bed & Breakfast, Breux Bridge

### Nights 5-7

Surround yourself with centuries-old oak trees at Country Charm Bed & Breakfast. The historic property is located in the heart of Cajun country. Enjoy a relaxing stay with an outdoor pavilion, a private fishing lake, and quaint rooms for a peaceful sleep.

*We alternate accommodations on this tour and cannot guarantee a specific hotel. We ensure all accommodations are similar in location and quality. As is common with boutique hotels, room sizes and views are often different within the same property. Please note that we assign guest rooms on a first come, first serve basis. No exceptions.*





Restaurants





## B&C Seafood

B&C is a restaurant owned and operated by a local fishing family, with a history that goes back several generations. The extensive menu includes gulf shrimp, oysters, andouille (hot sausage), poboys, frog legs, fried alligator, hush puppies, a selection of gumbos and more. Still hungry? Try some of their bread pudding or pecan pie.



## Arnaud's

Often coined the most beautiful dining room of New Orleans, Arnaud's has been a New Orleans landmark since 1918. The restaurant offers mouthwatering Creole cuisine like their signature shrimp in Creole remoulade sauce, crispy fried almond-crusted fillet, Louisiana crabmeat and more.

*Note that these are sample restaurants that we often visit on this tour and not guaranteed visits.*





## Pop's Poboy's

Pop's Poboy's is the place in Lafayette for classic versions and exciting twists on the mouthwatering Louisiana poboy. Chef Collin Cormier and his team delight with their many versions of the sandwich and sides such as fried pickles, fried pickled okra, mac and cheese, a variety of salads and Pop's Nashville-style hot fried chicken.

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“America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland.”

- Tennessee Williams



## The Little Big Cup

Enjoy your meal right on the banks of Bayou Fuselier. Specializing in Cajun and Creole cuisine, The Little Big Cup delivers dishes as tasty as the view is beautiful. The menu includes meals like chicken and smoked sausage gumbo, praline chicken and waffles, smoked jambalaya, and a variety of fresh salads.





Meet Your Guides





## Lead Guide

Born in Mississippi and residing in New Orleans, **John Stewart** grew up immersed in the unique musical and cultural traditions of the Deep South. He holds a master's degree in Organizational Leadership and has focused on ecology and world wisdom traditions. He is particularly interested in how the realms of music, human culture, and the natural world influence each other.

Prior to joining Gondwana as a guide, John worked as a professional drummer and educator in Portland, Oregon and New Orleans. He now lives and works between subtropical Louisiana and subarctic Alaska.





## Meet Your Captain

**Captain Dean Wilson** founded Atchafalaya Basinkeeper in 2004 to protect and restore the swamps, lakes, rivers, streams and bayous of the Atchafalaya Basin for future generations. American born, Dean grew up in Spain but came to Louisiana in 1984 en route to the Amazon.

After living in the Basin's deep swamps for 4 months with only a spear, a few hooks, a bow and arrows, Dean fell in love with it. He stayed, working as a commercial fisherman before forming Basinkeeper. When he's not out patrolling or educating communities about the Basin and its many threats and treasures, he works with his family-owned and operated swamp tour business.





## GENERAL INFORMATION



## FAQ - GETTING THERE AND BACK

### Is This Trip For Me?

- Our Gators & Gumbo Adventure requires low mobility and physical fitness. However, you will get the most out of the experience if you can comfortably walk on uneven, natural trails for two miles unassisted and be able to be on your feet for two to three hours at a time for walks. Guests must be able to comfortably enter and exit a passenger van, boats, and kayaks without assistance. We'll spend some time on the water, so hopefully you feel comfortable on a boat. The ability to participate in light canoeing will also add to your experience.

### How do I sign up?

- Secure your spots with a \$500 per person deposit (via phone, email, or on our [website](#)) that is fully refundable within 30 days of payment, provided it is still 121 or more calendar days prior to your trip departure date. The remaining balance is due 120 days before the tour departs. Read our complete [Booking Agreement here >](#)
- After signing up, we will send you a confirmation message and valuable information to prepare you for the trip. We will also send you two easy forms to submit with your registration information and flight details.



## WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

**SMALL GROUP SIZE** Our adventures are filled with nature and culture that will amaze, enlighten and deeply connect you with the region.

**LOCAL GUIDES** Enjoy the company of local guides who share their culture and customs with you for an unbeatable authentic experience.

**CARBON NEUTRALIZATION** We pay for Carbon Neutralization for each guest to minimize your trips impact on the environment.

**LOW IMPACT** Our ecotours leave a small impression on the environment because of the accommodations, restaurants, small group size of 12, and the activities.

**UNIQUE LODGING** Feel the heart of the destination by staying at unique hotels that are locally owned and eco-friendly.

**ONE-OF-A-KIND ACTIVITIES** Many of our activities have been created by our passionate local guides and our founder exclusively for our guests; you truly cannot get these experiences with any other company.





We hope you'll join us in Louisiana!

A \$500 per person deposit is all that's needed to reserve this adventure. Contact us via phone or email to reserve your spot!

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[PAY DEPOSIT >](#)

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