PASSPORT

TO LOUISIANA ADVENTURE

Heroes AND Heritage TRAIL

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUSEUMS

Welcome to Louisiana's Heroes and Heritage Trail!

Welcome to Louisiana's Heroes and Heritage Trail. Our guiding philosophy in organizing this tour has been to bring Louisiana's incredibly rich story to life for you and your family. Every museum in our system celebrates some unique aspect of Louisiana's remarkable people, their struggles through war and tough times, their joy in peace and prosperity, and above all, their willingness to work hard and build a better state and country for themselves and their children. Indeed, though each of these museums has a different tale to tell, collectively they represent the very story of America itself. As you venture out through Louisiana's picturesque landscapes and on her scenic byways, be open to the experience of this robust heritage.

Wishing you a safe and exciting journey through Louisiana history,

Tom Schedler
Louisiana Secretary of State

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUSEUMS

Heroes AND Heritage TRAIL

A **Chennault Aviation and Military Museum**
701 Kansas Lane
Monroe, LA 71203
318.362.5540

B **Delta Music Museum**
218 Louisiana Ave.
Ferriday, LA 71334
318.757.9999

C **Eddie G. Robinson Museum**
126 Jones St.
Grambling, LA 71245
318.274.2210

D **Garyville Timbermill Museum***
148 Museum St.
Garyville, LA 70051

E **Germantown Colony Museum**
200 Museum Road
Minden, LA 71055
318.377.6061

F **Jean Lafitte Marine Fisheries Museum**
580 Jean Lafitte Blvd.
Lafitte, LA 70067
504.689.3497

G **Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum**
911 Industrial Loop
Abbeville, LA 71052
337.898.9645

H **Louisiana Military Museum**
201 Memorial Drive
Ruston, LA 71270
318.251.5099

I **Louisiana State Cotton Museum**
7162 Highway 65 North
Lake Providence, LA 71254
318.559.2041

J **Louisiana State Exhibit Museum**
3015 Greenwood Road
Shreveport, LA 71109
318.632.2020

K **Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum**
200 S. Land Ave.
Oil City, LA 71061
318.995.6845

L **Louisiana's Old State Capitol**
100 North Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
800.488.2968
225.342.0500

M **Mansfield Female College Museum**
101 Monroe St.
Mansfield, LA 71052
318.871.9978

N **Old Arsenal Museum**
Adjacent to the State Capitol
900 State Capitol Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225.342.0401

O **Shreveport Water Works Museum**
142 N. Common St.
Shreveport, LA 71101
318.221.3388

P **Spring Street Historical Museum**
525 Spring St.
Shreveport, LA 71101
318.424.0964

Q **Tioga Heritage Park and Museum**
1301 Tioga Road
Pineville, LA 71360
318.443.2091

* Under development

Heroes AND Heritage TRAIL

Traveling the Heroes and Heritage Trail

The Heroes and Heritage Trail is not so much a driving tour as it is a series of destinations. Visit one or visit all, a compelling story waits at each. The natural flow of the Trail makes for a convenient set of day or weekend trips into different parts of the state, and we would like to encourage you to take a leisurely pace in exploring all of Louisiana's unique regional cultures. Realizing though that in today's hectic world free time is at a premium, we have compiled this guidebook to help you understand what our museums have to offer and to assist you in planning a trip that meets all your expectations.

So from Abbeville to Mansfield, from Jean Lafitte to Lake Providence, and just about everywhere in between, we have something to offer every traveler and every taste.

Let us help you find your passion for Pelican State history.

Take a journey through history on the Heroes and Heritage Trail and blaze a path to all the museums offered by the Louisiana Department of State Museums.

Along your travels, acquire 11 stamps in your Heroes and Heritage Trail Passport to Adventure to be eligible for an overnight stay at Louisiana's Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

Heroes and Heritage Trail Passport to adventure Rules

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how to play the game:

1. Receive your Heroes and Heritage Trail Passport to Adventure by a) requesting via mail, b) picking up your passport at one of the official museum locations or c) downloading form at: www.sos.louisiana.gov/hht.

2. Fill out the registration card and return it to one of the museum locations or mail to: Louisiana Department of State Museums Division, P.O. Box 94125, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125.

3. Begin visiting the museums. Don't forget your passport! You will need it as you visit the sites. Suggested itineraries are provided.

4. When you first arrive at the museum, inform a staff member that you are a trailblazer blazing the trail.

5. The staff member will give you a game card. Fill out the registration information on Side 1 and, during your visit, complete the required information on Side 2.

6. A staff member will stamp and date your passport to confirm your visit.

7. After you have acquired 11 stamps in your Passport to Adventure, you will be eligible for an overnight stay at Louisiana's Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge.

8. To schedule a time and make arrangements for your overnight stay, call 800.488.2968. Travel to and from Louisiana's Old State Capitol and any other Heroes and Heritage Trail museum is the sole responsibility of the participant. Scheduling is on a first come, first serve basis. Attendance is limited.

Travels In Northeast Louisiana

ITINERARY 1

Northeast Louisiana features beautiful landscapes, quaint small towns and a deep, rich sense of history. A largely agricultural region, often simply called the "Delta," it has wonderful recreational opportunities in its deep woods and along its bayous and oxbow lakes, while its complex history of Native American and plantation pasts makes for an endless array of human dramas that beg to be explored. The two museum stops in this area are the *Delta Music Museum* in Ferriday and the *Louisiana State Cotton Museum* in Lake Providence, both conveniently located on the main north/south artery of Highway 65, which takes the traveler up through the riverfront parishes from Natchez, Miss., all the way to Lake Providence and the Arkansas state line.

Delta Music Museum And Arcade Theater

At Ferriday, the Delta Music Museum tells the story of three local boys – cousins in fact – who rose to national prominence. Jerry Lee Lewis became a national sensation in the mid-1950s as the wild-haired, piano-pounding innovator of rockabilly music, while Mickey Gilley went on to celebrity as a country and western star, putting up more than 30 Top 40 hits, and operating the world-famous nightclub that bears his name in Houston. The third cousin, Jimmy Swaggart, became one of the country's most successful television evangelists. But the museum also focuses a spotlight on the role of the Mississippi River in nurturing the distinct sounds of Southern music, with exhibits that highlight blues, gospel, R&B and country musicians. The recently restored Arcade Theater next door features performances and broadcasts by musicians in all of these different styles on a rotating basis.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Louisiana State Cotton Museum

The Louisiana State Cotton Museum in Lake Providence provides a great introduction to one of Louisiana's major agricultural crops, and certainly the one for which the Delta area is best-known. Its main gallery features an extensive set of interpretive exhibits, including life-sized dioramas, farming equipment, a re-created juke joint, and more, all packed into a replica gin house (where cotton fiber was ginned, or separated from the seed). The original ginning machinery, or stand as it was called, complete in its vibrant yellow and red colors, gives the visitor a feel for the whole process. Also on the grounds of the museum, an impressive array of old plantation buildings, such as a sharecropper's cabin and a small chapel, help bring to life a rural world that has changed dramatically since the onset of tractor farming after World War II.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE FERRIDAY LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA STATE COTTON MUSEUM

Along the I-20 Corridor in North-Central Louisiana

ITINERARY 2

Following along Interstate 20 will bring you to the two major urban areas in north-central Louisiana. Monroe, along the Ouachita River, is a major commercial and cultural center, although it had its start as a cotton port, and later as a center for natural gas production. It is home to the University of Louisiana at Monroe, one of the state's top educational institutions, and also features the *Chennault Aviation and Military Museum*. A short drive away, Ruston is home to Louisiana Tech University and still has many of its old, small-town charms. The *Louisiana Military Museum* is located here. Nearby is Grambling State University, one of the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and the home of the recently opened *Eddie G. Robinson Museum*.

Chennault Aviation and Military Museum

Near the municipal airport in Monroe, the Chennault Aviation and Military Museum is dedicated to one of Louisiana's great warriors, Gen. Claire Lee Chennault, a daring aviator and the leader of the famed "Flying Tigers" that helped battle the Japanese in China during World War II. The museum includes a great deal of Chennault memorabilia, but also includes numerous exhibits on other local men and women who served in America's conflicts throughout the 20th century. The story of Selman Field, which trained navigators during World War II, receives a great deal of attention, as does the origins of Delta Air Lines, which began as a crop-dusting operation in the Delta before moving to the outskirts of Monroe in the late 1920s.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Louisiana Military Museum

Any true military buff absolutely has to see the collection housed at the Louisiana Military Museum in Ruston. Featuring uniforms, weapons, flags, training gear, aircraft and vehicles from almost every conflict in American history, the museum will fascinate anyone with even the slightest interest in how Americans, and our enemies, faced the challenges of combat. Indeed, few museums can boast of a collection as extensive and rich as the one painstakingly pieced together here. America's conflicts during the 20th century – World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars – are particularly well represented.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Eddie G. Robinson Museum

On the campus of Grambling State University, the newly opened Eddie G. Robinson Museum pays tribute to one of the greatest football coaches in American history. "Coach Rob" led the Tigers from 1941 to 1997, rolling up an astounding 408 victories, 17 Southwestern Athletic Conference titles and nine Black College Football National Championships. He placed more than 200 former players into the professional ranks and his teams from the 1950s and 1960s were likely some of the best in the nation. Robinson, of course, was not only a fine coach but also a wonderful mentor that reached young men across several generations, thereby making him one of the most beloved figures in Louisiana history. The museum, rich in memorabilia such as photographs, trophies, uniforms and films, and including numerous interactive exhibits for children, does a great honor to the memory of this exceptional man.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

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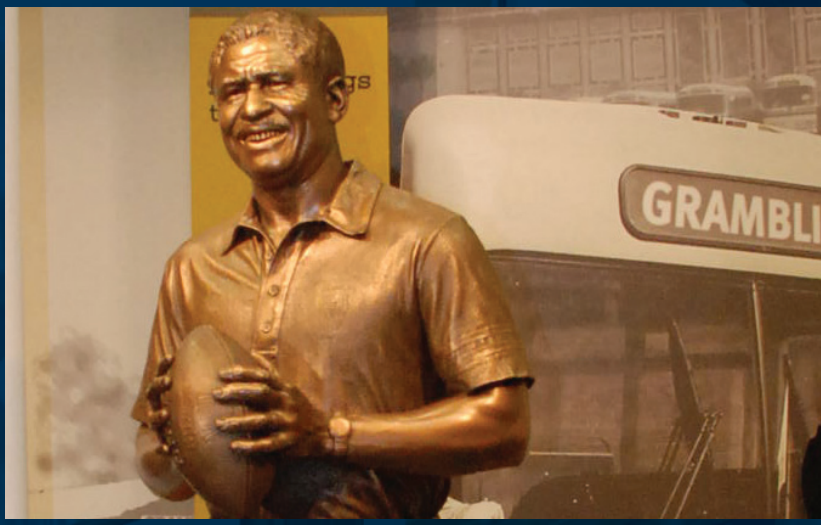
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Into Northwest Louisiana

ITINERARY 3

Once the realm of the Caddo Indians, northwest Louisiana, with its rolling hills and dense stands of pine, was only opened to American settlement in the 1830s with the clearing of the Red River's "Great Raft," a 100-mile long tangle of fallen trees and debris that impeded all transportation. A mixed pattern of agriculture then prevailed in the region, with many small farms and quite a few plantations as well. The *Germantown Colony Museum* outside Minden illustrates this history. But, the local economy changed drastically with the discovery of oil and natural gas in great abundance during the early 1900s. Those first wells led to a booming financial and industrial sector that spurred the growth of the region's unofficial capital, the city of Shreveport, and brought tremendous wealth to the area's citizens. Even today, this corner of Louisiana is known for its natural resources, as the scramble to secure leases on the recently discovered Haynesville Shale gas fields amply demonstrates. The *Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum* in Oil City provides perspective on this story.

Germantown Colony Museum

Located a short drive north of Minden off Interstate 20, the Germantown Colony Museum tells the story of a small group of settlers led by the Count and Countess von Leon who made their way into the isolated wilderness of north Louisiana to establish a pure Christian community, their own "kingdom of heaven." The poor count did not make it all the way, dying of yellow fever along the Red River, but his wife continued on and managed to establish a remarkable settlement that endured for the next 40 years. Members of the original families still live nearby, and the site includes several original buildings and the community cemetery.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

The Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum

Located in aptly-named Oil City (about a 20-minute ride outside of Shreveport), the Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum interprets the fascinating drama of Louisiana's early oil industry history though photographs, films and life-size dioramas. This part of Louisiana, of course, was built on the oil and gas industry, and those visitors interested in the technical aspects of oil field work will find the museum particularly appealing. Across the street and next to the old train depot, an interesting collection of machinery, rigs and equipment further illustrates the character of oil and gas production.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Shreveport

ITINERARY 4

Named for Capt. Henry Shreve, the engineer who cleared the Red River, Shreveport was initially the major commercial center for surrounding farms and plantations. With the coming of oil and gas, though, it transformed almost overnight into the centralized headquarters for operations in the region's oil and gas fields. Indeed, the influx of "new" money into the town is apparent in the spate of new residential and commercial structures that went up in the early 20th century. Exploring these neighborhoods, and the city's museums and cultural attractions, makes for a wonderful way to spend several days. Located within the city proper are the *Spring Street Historical Museum*, *Louisiana State Exhibit Museum* and *Shreveport Water Works Museum*. A short drive to the south is the *Mansfield Female College Museum.*

Spring Street Historical Museum

Harkening back to Shreveport's early days as a river port, the Spring Street Historical Museum is located downtown in an old bank building that dates to the Civil War-era. On the National Register of Historic Places, the building is set in the heart of the old business district just a few blocks up from the Red River, and offers a feel for what "old Shreveport" must have been like. The museum's exhibits rotate often but invariably focus on the history of the city itself. At times they highlight aspects of Shreveport's early "frontier" character or Civil War past, while at other times the city's social and cultural life take center stage.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Louisiana State Exhibit Museum

Completed in 1939 as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "New Deal" public works projects, the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum is an architectural jewel, layered inside and out with costly marble, granite and polished aluminum. Its front portico features a two-story fresco executed by the famed muralist Conrad Albrizio and the beautifully rendered scale dioramas (valued at millions of dollars!) that make up the bulk of the exhibits are like a snapshot of Louisiana life in the 1930s. Without a doubt, this is one of the most beautiful buildings in the state. In its wide halls, the museum features exhibits on Louisiana history and culture almost too numerous to mention, but which include showings of Native American and Civil War collections, as well as continually rotating artwork displays. Outside of the museum itself, the well-manicured grounds feature small gardens for the enjoyment of visitors.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

OPEN

LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT BUILDING

Shreveport Water Works Museum

The Shreveport Water Works Museum at the McNeill Street Pumping Station has the very rare honor of being both a National Historic Landmark and a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The facility is a definite must-stop for those with a bent toward mechanical engineering and science. Opened in 1887 as the main source of city water, it began filtration in 1890, and in 1914 became one of the first facilities in the nation to use liquid chlorine in this process. Today, the entire physical plant (pumps, filters and other machinery) remains intact after more than 100 years. The plant proved so durable that it was not retired from service until 1980!

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Mansfield Female College Museum

The first women's institute of higher learning west of the Mississippi River, Mansfield Female College Museum is located about a half-hour's drive south of Shreveport. Established by the Methodist Church in the 1850s, it served the needs of families in this region of Louisiana for more than 70 years until it was closed and merged with nearby Centenary College in Shreveport. During the Civil War, the college's buildings served as hospitals for wounded soldiers from the nearby Battle of Mansfield, and a supposed ghost from that era even became something of a mascot for later classes of schoolgirls! The museum features much of the art, pottery and crafts produced by the students as well as a surprising array of memorabilia – class rings, commencement dresses, artwork, yearbooks and other items – drawn from the alumnae of the institution and their families.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Touring Around the Cenla and Cajun Country

ITINERARY 5

Leaving north Louisiana, one sets a path for points south into the region of Louisiana known as Cenla (central Louisiana) and then south of that toward Cajun Country. The terrain is diverse, ranging from the soft hills and pine forests around Alexandria, where the *Tioga Heritage Park and Museum* is located, down to the prairies, cypress swamps and slow-moving bayous south of Lafayette, home to the *Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum* in Abbeville, and on to the marshlands west of New Orleans, where you will find the *Jean Lafitte Marine Fisheries Museum*. The people and their histories, too, are different, but equally as fascinating as those found in other parts of the state.

Tioga Heritage Park and Museum

Just north of Alexandria is the Tioga Heritage Park and Museum, the centerpiece of which is the old Tioga commissary. This building served as department store, grocery, post office and general gathering place for decades and was the defining landmark in this little mill town built to house lumber workers and their families. In operation for nearly a century, it finally went out of business in the early 1980s and has been carefully preserved since then. Today, the commissary building and grounds are being developed as a museum focused on the history of central Louisiana, including the all-important timber business and the Louisiana Maneuvers, which helped train the American army for combat during World War II.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Louisiana Military Hall of Fame and Museum

Located deep in the heart of Cajun Country, the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame in Abbeville is designed to honor Louisiana's soldiers, sailors and airmen who went above and beyond the call of duty in their service to our country. The first round of inductees into the Hall includes Louisiana's four Medal of Honor winners, each with a powerful story of heroism and personal sacrifice. Later inductees will include winners of the nation's other high military honors. It is the intention of the museum to pay tribute to these heroes by detailing their service in the military and heroic actions in combat. A short film highlights the stories of the first inductees and the Hall features such interesting items as an original Korean War-era helicopter and a World War II landing craft.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Jean Lafitte Marine Fisheries Museum

In the little fishing village of Lafitte, down along Barataria Bay, the Jean Lafitte Marine Fisheries Museum is dedicated to telling the story of life as it has been lived on this little strip of land tucked between swamp and open water for more than two centuries. The area first gained fame as the hideout and chief base of the notorious pirate Jean Lafitte, who operated in the Gulf of Mexico in the early 1800s. But, once the gallant corsair disappeared from the pages of history, inhabitants in the Barataria region settled into the more steady business of fishing and trapping. Indeed, the area generally has attracted a resilient and independent-minded set of people who know how to exploit the rich natural resources of the bay and swamp. The lives of these people, and the industries that employed them, form the main story of the museum itself. Exhibits detail every facet of the shrimping, fishing, canning and trapping industries in the area. A new home for the museum currently under construction and exhibits at this center will further detail the story of Jean Lafitte the pirate as well as expand on current exhibit topics.

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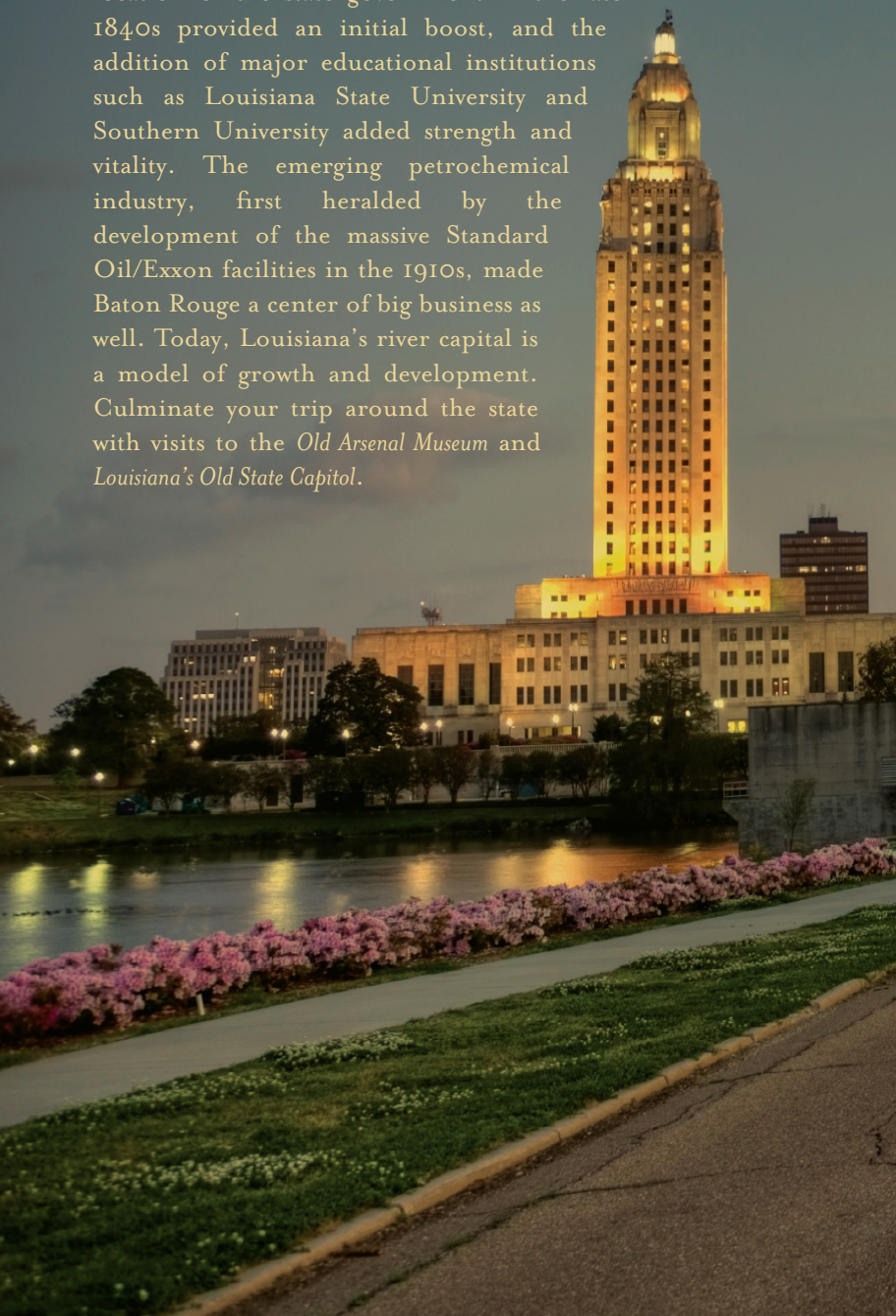
THANKS TO OUR
BENEFACTORS

Baton Rouge

ITINERARY 6

Baton Rouge emerged from its beginnings as a sleepy colonial outpost and supply center for surrounding plantations to become one of Louisiana's most diverse and economically powerful cities. The location of the state government in the late 1840s provided an initial boost, and the addition of major educational institutions such as Louisiana State University and Southern University added strength and vitality. The emerging petrochemical industry, first heralded by the development of the massive Standard Oil/Exxon facilities in the 1910s, made Baton Rouge a center of big business as well. Today, Louisiana's river capital is a model of growth and development. Culminate your trip around the state with visits to the *Old Arsenal Museum* and *Louisiana's Old State Capitol*.



Old Arsenal Museum

Located on the grounds of the new State Capitol, the Old Arsenal was built in 1838 on what was then a federal military post. It was later occupied by the Louisiana militia at the outset of the Civil War and then used by occupying federal troops during the Battle of Baton Rouge. Amazingly, some of their graffiti is still preserved on the building's walls. Later, the structure served the needs of the cadets at the "Ole War Skule," as Louisiana State University was affectionately known when it resided downtown. Today, the Old Arsenal Museum offers exhibits on the Battle of Baton Rouge and the history of the Capitol grounds, perhaps the most historic spot in the city.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

Louisiana's Old State Capitol

Constructed between 1847 and 1852, this imposing structure on a bluff looking out over the Mississippi River has the appearance from the outside of a medieval fortress. The interior, however, is decorated in marble and rich wood paneling, with a commanding cast-iron spiral staircase and an awesome display of stained glass in the main galleries and in an overhead skylight. Gutted by fire during the Civil War, it was restored in the early 1880s and then fell into disrepair after a new, modern capitol building was built in the early 1930s. Concerned citizens moved to save the structure in the 1970s and the whole building subsequently has undergone a loving restoration. Today, the Old State Capitol interprets Louisiana's often rowdy and certainly flamboyant political history, including a fascinating exhibit on the controversial state governor and U.S. Senator Huey Long. Even more impressive, several recently installed, multi-million dollar exhibits, including the startling *Ghost of the Castle* exhibit, explore different aspects of Louisiana's history in new and exciting ways through the use of interactive technology. These are guaranteed to be attractive to children and adults alike.

DATE *of* VISIT _____

"Ghost of the Castle" Louisiana's Old State Capitol Sleepover

As the doors close and the lights dim, you and your group will head out with flashlights in hand searching for adventure. Will you encounter a prisoner from the old jail where Union troops held Confederate captives? Take a walk along the exterior catwalk for a magical view of the Mississippi River—the same perspective that Confederate soldiers had as they patrolled for Union ships. Bring your camera!

In the first floor rotunda, you will find fossils among the original marble floors. You will see an empty pedestal in the Hall of Statues. What is this all about? There is a mystery to be explored! Guests will have the remarkable opportunity to meet "The Kingfish," Gov. Huey P. Long, and determine if he was a statesman or a rabble-rouser. See if you can solve the mystery of who shot Long after you visit the provocative exhibit about his assassination.

Climb the 32 steps of the magnificent cast-iron winding staircase. Enter the House Chamber with its glorious stained glass windows. You will then enter the rotunda and look at the four walls covered with portraits of all of the governors of Louisiana. The "spirit" of Gov. Henry Watkins Allen will share with you secrets about the governors. As you gaze upward, you will be amazed at the stained glass dome – perhaps you can take a peek behind the glass. Step into the Senate Chamber and see evidence of one of the many fires that almost destroyed the building.

Examine the "bones of the castle" exposed by the winds of Hurricane Gustav in 2008. You will find handmade bricks and original materials used throughout this glorious 1850 statehouse.

Finally, back to the ground floor where the castle's best kept secrets lurk... listen closely and remain very still and you may learn that shadows can come to life and the spirit of the castle may be very much alive. End your night bedding down on cots just like soldiers from the distant past.

Heroes and Heritage Trail Registration

COMPLETE FORM, STAMP AND MAIL TO REGISTER.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE ( ) _____

E-MAIL _____

Heroes AND Heritage TRAIL

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HEROES AND HERITAGE TRAIL

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF STATE MUSEUMS DIVISION

P.O. BOX 94125

BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9125

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT
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