

UTravel Club

Travel made for you.

Join your fellow UTravelers for a day of exploring:

Natchitoches, Louisiana's Oldest City

Friday, May 13, 2022

Three Hundred years ago, Louisiana was an exotic and somewhat unforgiving wilderness that adventurer and entrepreneur Louis Juchereau de St. Denis saw as an alluring opportunity. In 1714, he established a trading post on the banks of Red River, now known as Cane River Lake, making **Natchitoches** the first European settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase.

As Louisiana's original French colony and the oldest city in the Louisiana Purchase, **Natchitoches** is a unique blend of French, Spanish, African, American Indian and Creole which is reflected in the culture and architecture. Natchitoches is a favorite destination for visitors from around the world.

To begin our exploration, our first stop after picking up our guide is **St. Augustine Catholic Church**, the center of the Cane River's historic Creole community. The church was founded in 1803 by freed slave Nicolas Augustin Metoyer. St. Augustine is celebrated as the first church built by and for free people of color in Louisiana and the **second oldest in the United States**.

Next on our adventure, is the two hundred year old historic **Melrose Plantation** founded in 1796. The history on Melrose is extensive and very interesting. I will leave this information for our guide to share with us. **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**.

We will break for lunch at noon. Lunch will be a Creole Buffet at the famous **Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant**. People from all over the world have stopped in to try Lasyone's meat pies, from local towns folk to Charles Kuralt, Lorne Greene, Vanna White, Daryl Hannah, and a host of others. Lasyone's Meat Pie has been recognized and raved about by a score of magazines including Southern Living, Cooking with Paula Deen, The New Yorker, Glamour Magazine, and Gourmet Magazine just to mention a few.

Last item on our tour is based on the movie "**Steel Magnolias**", the Stage Play by **Robert Harling Jr.** that came to Natchitoches in 1988. However, the real **Steel Magnolias** have been in Natchitoches for much longer. We will hear the real life story, see the site of Truvy's (Dolly Parton) Beauty Shop, drive down Harling Lane to see Shelby's (Julia Roberts) "home", the **Steel Magnolias House** and much more.

If time permits, we will explore the shops along Front Street and walk along the Downtown Riverbank. You will definitely want to take time for a photo op at the Beau Jardin Garden and Water Feature that overlooks the Cane River Lake located on the west end of the riverbank along with other historic structures.

This will be a one day trip that will be worth the drive. Call today.

Pricing

\$148.00 per person

Full Payment Due with Reservation

Registration Deadline: April 5, 2022

Price Includes: Transportation, All taxes, gratuities on Inclusions, Tour entrance fees, Guide Services, Creole Buffet,

Itinerary

6:00 AM	Leave Nacogdoches (4822 North Street, Nacogdoches)	1:30 PM	Depart Lasyone's
		2:00 PM	Steel Magnolias Driving Tour
6:30 AM	Depart UBank, Central (3592 North HWY 69)	3:30 PM	Shopping on Front Street Stroll the Downtown Riverbank
9:00 AM	Arrive Natchitoches Visitors Center Meet with Guide	4:30 PM	Depart Downtown—You can do bath room break and Pickup an easy snack before getting on bus OR
9:30 AM	Tour Saint Augustine Church	4:35 PM	Stop at McDonalds
10:00 AM	Tour Melrose Plantation	5:00 PM	Depart for Home
11:30 AM	Depart Melrose	7:00 PM	Arrive Lufkin
12:00 PM	Lunch at Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant - Creole Buffet	8:00 PM	Arrive Nacogdoches

Additional Information

For Additional Information Call: Patsy Weaver (936) 633-5110

If Patsy is unavailable ask for Marvin or Britney (936) 639-5566

(Remember a phone call will place you on the interest list only,

Your Reservation is Guaranteed with Payment)

Makes checks payable to:

UTravel Club and mail to: 403 South Chestnut, Lufkin, TX 75901

Payment is non-refundable after April 5, '22, but transferrable.

SPECIAL NOTE ... This trip requires average physical activity. You should be able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances. We must have 26 for the trip to make.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL: *Your health and safety are of paramount concern while traveling. CDC guidelines will serve as our operating procedures. Masks will be worn when required and are encouraged for those who would feel more comfortable wearing one. Please do not travel if you have a fever, cough, respiratory symptoms or have been exposed to someone who is sick. There is an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 or any other communicable illness and you voluntarily assume this risk.*