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8 Days

50+ Women on the Go Presents A Tale of Three Mardi Gras

 03 Feb 2027 - 10 Feb 2027  United States

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About This Trip

Three cities. Three traditions. One unforgettable Mardi Gras.

ral looks a little different in every Louisiana town - and a lot different in Mobile, Alabama, where it all began. On this eight
y, we'll trace the story of Mardi Gras across three of the Gulf South's most colorful cities: the tradition's birthplace in Mo
stumes and king cakes of New Orleans, the pink-flamingo spirit of Baton Rouge, and the heart of Cajun Country celebra
Gras and Mardi Gras Day in Lafayette. Along the way: parades, museums, hands-on king cake making, oak-shaded garc
ont views, and meals that taste like home.

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Arrival

Wednesday, February 3



Welcome to New Orleans, the gateway to our Carnival adventure. You'll fly into Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, where we'll be waiting to greet you and get the coach loaded. From there it's an easy ride east along the Gulf Coast to Mobile, Alabama, the true birthplace of Mardi Gras in America. We'll check into our host hotel in downtown Mobile with time to settle in, freshen up, and meet your travel companions before our adventure officially begins.

This evening, we'll gather for a welcome dinner at a beloved downtown restaurant — a chance to share a meal, meet your tour director, and hear what's in store for the days ahead. Then comes the magic. Tonight, the Order of LaShe and the Order of Olympia roll back-to-back right through the heart of downtown, and we'll have a comfortable spot to take it all in. The mystic societies have been doing this since 1703, and the floats, marching bands, and flying MoonPies feel like a celebration that's been carefully passed down through generations.

Dinner Included

Enjoy the sites of Mobile Alabama

Thursday, February 4



After a full breakfast, we begin our Mobile day right where Carnival history lives — the Mobile Carnival Museum. Housed in a beautifully restored historic mansion, the museum's fourteen galleries trace more than 300 years of Mardi Gras tradition. You'll see royal trains and crowns up close, sit on a real parade float, and learn why this Port City celebration is unlike any other in the world.

Next, we cross over to Battleship Memorial Park to tour the USS Alabama. This decorated World War II battleship sits proudly on Mobile Bay, and walking her decks is a moving experience for veterans, history lovers, and anyone curious about the men and women who served. Plenty of seating and rest spots are available throughout the park.

From there, we head right across the Causeway to Felix's Fish Camp for lunch — a Mobile institution perched on stilts over Mobile Bay with floor-to-ceiling water views. Their fresh Gulf seafood, gumbo, and Southern hospitality have been drawing locals and travelers for decades. Plan on a leisurely meal with a view that's hard to beat.

In the afternoon, we make our way south to Bellingrath Gardens and Home — sixty-five acres of flowering gardens, a winding bayou boardwalk, and the elegant 1935 Bellingrath family home. February brings camellias, early azaleas, and the kind of soft Southern light that makes you want to slow down and breathe deep.

This evening is yours to enjoy on your own. Mobile's downtown is full of wonderful restaurants within easy walking distance of our hotel — your tour director will have plenty of recommendations. Then we'll regroup in downtown Mobile for tonight's parade, the Mystic Strippers Society, one of Mobile's most beloved and high-energy processions, known for a marching band behind every float and some of the best throws on the route. Mobile's Carnival builds in energy as Fat Tuesday approaches, and tonight promises floats, music, and plenty of beads to take home.

Hello New Orleans and Baton Rouge

Friday, February 5



After breakfast and check-out, we point the coach west — and into the heart of Carnival country. Our first stop today is New Orleans, where we'll spend the heart of the day soaking in the city at her most magical time of year.

We'll begin at the Mardi Gras Museum of Costumes and Culture in the French Quarter, where founder Carl Mack has assembled one of the most extraordinary collections of Carnival regalia anywhere. From feathered headdresses to royal court gowns, this is the artistry that rolls down St. Charles Avenue every year — up close where you can really see the beadwork.

From there, you'll have free time around historic Jackson Square for lunch on your own. Grab a po'boy or a muffuletta, watch the street performers, peek inside St. Louis Cathedral, or browse the artists who set up along the iron fence. The whole quarter hums with pre-Mardi Gras energy.

In the afternoon, we cross the river for a tour of Mardi Gras World — the working warehouse where the city's most spectacular floats are designed and built. You'll walk among twenty-foot jesters, towering kings and queens, and floats fresh from last week's parades. It's a behind-the-scenes look at Mardi Gras you simply can't get anywhere else.

By late afternoon we'll roll west to Baton Rouge, where we check into our hotel and gather for a relaxed welcome dinner downtown. Tomorrow the Capital City celebrates.

 **Breakfast, Dinner Included**

Baton Rouge Cake, Costumes and Celebrations

Saturday, February 6



This morning after breakfast, we're rolling up our sleeves for one of the trip's most fun experiences — a hands-on king cake class at Eloise Bakery. Their team will walk us through this Carnival tradition step by step, from braiding the dough to the final purple, green, and gold finish. You'll head out with a king cake of your own and a few new tricks for your kitchen at home.

Around midday, we'll head downtown for the Spanish Town Mardi Gras Parade — the biggest parade in Baton Rouge and one of the most distinctive in the country. The official mascot is the pink flamingo, the unofficial dress code is anything bright pink, and the floats are famous for their irreverent take on the year's news and politics.

A note on the spirit of the parade: Spanish Town is the city's wittiest, most satirical celebration where editorial cartoon meets Carnival. Some floats poke fun at current events with humor that can be a little spicy. Most of our group simply enjoys the floats, the marching bands, the costumes, and the energy of a hundred thousand people in pink. We'll have a comfortable viewing area along the route and you can step away anytime you'd like.

Breakfast, Dinner Included

Lafayette- The Heart of Cajun Country

Sunday, February 7



After breakfast, we'll spend our last morning in Baton Rouge at the Old State Capitol — the Gothic Revival "castle on the Mississippi" that Mark Twain once called the ugliest building on the river (and that the people of Baton Rouge have proudly preserved ever since). The stained glass dome is genuinely breathtaking, and the exhibits inside trace the wild, colorful history of Louisiana politics from the Huey Long era forward.

After lunch on your own downtown, we'll point the coach southwest into Acadiana — the heart of Cajun Country. The drive to Lafayette is short

and easy, and we'll pull into our hotel by mid-afternoon with time to settle in.

Tonight, you're in for one of South Louisiana's signature experiences: a Cajun dinner with live music. Lafayette doesn't do a quiet evening — there's almost always someone playing accordion, fiddle, or zydeco somewhere in town and we'll find ourselves right in the middle of it

 **Breakfast, Dinner Included**

Lundi Gras in South Louisiana

Monday, February 8



Lundi Gras — the Monday before Fat Tuesday is one of the most cherished days in South Louisiana. This morning after breakfast, we'll explore Vermilionville, Lafayette's beautifully preserved Cajun and Creole heritage village. Costumed interpreters demonstrate the music cooking, and craftsmanship of the early Acadians, and a walk along the bayou is the perfect way to slow down before tonight's festivities.

After lunch on your own, you'll have free time the afternoon to rest, shop along Jefferson Street, or visit the Acadian Cultural Center.

This evening, we head to dinner together before staking out our spots for the Krewe of Bonaparte parade — Lafayette's signature Lundi Gras night parade. Illuminated floats, marching bands, the Royal Court of Carnival, and the unmistakable rhythm of Cajun Country roll right past our viewing area. There's something special about Mardi Gras in Lafayette — it feels less like a tourist event and more like the whole town spilling into the street to celebrate together.

 **Breakfast, Dinner Included**

Lafayette Mardi Gras Day

Tuesday, February 9



Fat Tuesday. After breakfast, we'll head downtown for King Gabriel's Parade — Lafayette's official Mardi Gras Day parade and one of the oldest Carnival traditions in the country. King Gabriel rolls through downtown leading the city's most colorful celebration, and the streets fill with locals in handmade costumes, families with kids on shoulders, and the joyful chaos that only a Cajun Mardi Gras can deliver.

After King Gabriel, we'll catch the Queen Evangeline Parade and then close out our Mar Gras with the legendary Independent Parade in the early afternoon — a Lafayette favorite where dozens of float groups roll back-to-back through downtown. We'll have lunch together right in the middle of the festivity, then have the rest of the afternoon to enjoy Fat Tuesday at our own pace.

This is our last night in Cajun Country, and we'll spend it the way Lafayette does best. Once the parades wind down, we'll gather one more time for a relaxed farewell dinner together. It's the perfect way to cap off a big week — a chance to swap stories, compare our favorite parades, and toast a Carnival well celebrated before we point the coach toward home in the morning.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included

Goodbye Louisiana

Wednesday, February 10



Our Carnival journey comes to a close this morning. After a final Louisiana breakfast, we'll make the easy drive back to New Orleans and Louis Armstrong International Airport, arriving with good time for your flights home. You'll leave with a suitcase full of beads, a few good king cake stories, and the memory of three very different cities that each know how to celebrate. Safe travels home, and laissez les bons temps rouler until we roll again.

What's Included

Included

- Motorcoach transportation throughout the tour, including round-trip airport transfers in New Orleans
- Seven (7) nights of hotel accommodations
- Seven (7) breakfasts, two (2) lunches, and six (6) dinners
- Admission to the Mobile Carnival Museum
- Admission to USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park
- Admission to Bellingrath Gardens and Home
- Admission to the Mardi Gras Museum of Costumes and Culture (New Orleans)
- Admission and tour of Mardi Gras World (New Orleans)
- Hands-on king cake class at Eloise Bakery (Baton Rouge)
- Admission to the Old State Capitol (Baton Rouge)
- Admission to Vermilionville (Lafayette)
- Reserved parade viewing in Mobile, Baton Rouge, and Lafayette (where applicable)
- Baggage handling — one bag per person

Not Included

- ✕ Gratuities for tour director, motorcoach driver, local guides and meal services
- ✕ Meals not listed
- ✕ Personal purchases and souvenirs
- ✕ Travel insurance (recommended)
- ✕ Airfare to and from New Orleans (guests book their own flights)

Book Your Trip

Double Occupancy

- 2 people 1 King size bed or 2 Queen size beds
- \$500 Deposit required at the time of reservation
- \$1,449.00 USD** per person

Single Occupancy

- One person, private room
- \$500 Deposit required at the time of reservation
- \$2,999.00 USD** per person

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