



## 2017 NGFA Annual Convention Tours & Activities

**MONDAY March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**



### CAJUN AND CREOLE CUISINE DEMO

Our local chefs can be colorful characters and today one of the best New Orleans chefs will teach you the techniques and secrets that get to the very soul of Cajun and Creole cooking. (Rule #1 – first you make a roux!) You will learn the differences in the various styles of cooking in Louisiana and receive copies of recipes to take home with you to dazzle family and friends with your newfound culinary skills. During the demonstrations, traditional New Orleans-style coffee will be served. Your meal will consist of the delicious Cajun and Creole dishes prepared in the demonstration.



Typical afternoon menu with two courses includes:



Pastaletta  
Shrimp Creole  
Pralines

Iced tea, coffee, Abita Root Beer or Abita Beer

**MONDAY March 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM - 9:30 pm**



### GHOSTS AND GRIS GRIS: A HAUNTED HISTORY TOUR

New Orleans has an inordinately colorful history – ghosts, voodoo priestesses, and haunted mansions notwithstanding. Underneath the quaint streets and tidy shuttered cottages of the French Quarter lie secret and sinister legends of strange phenomena and paranatural residents who have dwelled in this 18<sup>th</sup> century historic neighborhood for hundreds of years.



Whether you are lured by tales of hauntings, or intrigued with the historic nature of New Orleans legends, you are sure to enjoy this stroll within New Orleans' mysterious landmarks.



You will first enjoy a brief introduction to the history of the French Quarter. Then, amidst the narrow streets of the Quarter, you will visit the many “ghost ridden” locations where unusual tales will unfold. You will see the home of famous Voodoo Queen Marie Laveau on Royal Street, the notorious Madame LaLaurie House where unthinkable atrocities were

committed against slaves, the graceful Beauregard-Keys House where fighting sounds are still said to be heard, and, of course, Pirate's Alley, where it is reputed that the ghost of Pirate Jean Lafitte resides.

You will also stop at Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop for a cocktail and learn about the pirate Jean Lafitte and his ghostly form that still can be seen on a foggy night at the oldest bar in the United States.

The uneasy dead on the deserted cobblestone streets of the old Vieux Carré are sure to give you chills and thrills on this unique tour!

## **TUESDAY March 21<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 pm -4:00 pm**



### **MYSTERIES OF LOUISIANA SWAMPLANDS**

Join us for an incredible journey into the mysterious swamps and bayous of southern Louisiana. On today's swamp boat tour, you will be introduced to the interesting history of our Louisiana wetlands and the rich Cajun heritage of the people who inhabit this region.



Today, as your swamp boat travels into the depths of Cajun country, you will hear the tales of the Cajun folks and how they reap the bounty of their surroundings: they trap nutria, mink, otter, and muskrat; they hunt frogs, and alligators; and they fish for catfish and crabs. You will also soon discover the respect and knowledge the Cajun people have for the wildlife and vegetation indigenous to the swamp.



As your swamp boat glides through the waters, gently breaking the tranquility of the ancient bayous, you will see exotic tropical plants and wildlife only found in the Louisiana wetlands. Majestic herons, nutria, and large turtles sunning themselves on tree stumps are abundant; and, the swamp's favorite son, the alligator, will be witnessed in its glory, easing quietly through the murky, cypress-shrouded waters of Louisiana.

You will return to your hotel with a true appreciation of the Acadian people and the unique region they call home!



### **MARDI GRAS BEHIND THE MASK**

Mardi Gras has been called the "Greatest Free Show on Earth." Private organizations employ multitudes of artists who work tirelessly to create the elaborate, themed floats that have become tantamount with the celebration. Remarkably, when Mardi Gras rolls in again the next year, spectators are more bedazzled than the last by the larger-than-life float creations they behold.



Your tour begins with a picturesque ride along historic St. Charles Avenue. Then at Blaine Kern's famous Mardi Gras World, you will learn an insider's story of the history and traditions behind our Mardi Gras celebration. You will also see firsthand a team of artists working on the construction of an actual float – one that won't be made public until the next Mardi Gras parade rolls.



A special refreshment will be served during your visit to Mardi Gras World: a traditional New Orleans-styled king cake, an oval-shaped brioche sprinkled with sugar in the Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold.