

**Capitol Historical Trail Literature**

Capitol Historical Trail

Baton Rouge, Louisiana

A 12 Mile Hike Through History

Administered By:

 Louisiana Hiking Trails, Inc.  
louisianahikingtrails.org

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Louisiana Hiking Trails was incorporated in 1975 as a non-profit corporation by Eagle Scout Pierre Connor III. The purpose of this corporation is to administer historic trails in the State of Louisiana for the benefit of the public.

Louisiana Hiking Trails is staffed entirely by volunteers. The corporation's initial capital came from generous grants and the only income today is proceeds from the sale of trail awards. This income helps defray the cost of printing and distributing literature.

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This pamphlet is set in ITC Garamond and ITC Avant Garde.

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# Introduction

## Welcome

You are hereby invited to an enjoyable walking tour of the past and present life of Baton Rouge, the capital city of Louisiana. The Capitol Historical Trail, as this self-guided tour is called, features stops at many historical sites and museums in Baton Rouge. This pamphlet contains all the information you will need. Please read this pamphlet in its entirety before you begin your hike. We wish you an enjoyable hike!

## Hike Overview

The Capitol Historical Trail is 12 miles (19.3 km) long and begins and ends at the same point (the Parker Agricultural Coliseum on the Louisiana State University campus). There is an optional stopping point after 6 miles (9.7 km) at the Louisiana State Capitol. The resting point, after 4 miles (6.4 km), has benches and garbage containers and is therefore an excellent location for eating a sack lunch. These three points are marked on the TRAIL MAP.

## Important Information

### Certification

- The Capitol Historical Trail is certified as a nationally approved historic trail by Boy Scouts of America.
- The historical significance of the hike and accuracy of this material was certified in 1973 by T. Harry Williams, Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University.

### Who Should Hike

- The Capitol Historical Trail is open to the public. The trail is commonly hiked by youth groups. Younger groups should finish at the optional stopping point while older groups are encouraged to hike the complete trail.
- The hike is excellent for youth groups practicing compass skills, because the hiking instructions in this pamphlet contain both verbal directions and compass directions.
- Due to its historical significance, the hike is well suited for middle school and high school history classes.
- The trail follows paved roads and sidewalks and is generally on level ground. When the trail passes over steps, there is usually a ramp nearby. Most of the buildings you will enter are publicly owned buildings and offer handicapped access.

### When To Hike

- Capitol Historical Trail is open every day of the year. The **FACILITIES SHEET** in this pamphlet lists the current hours for museums. You will certainly want to choose your day and time of hike in such a way as to maximize the number of museums you can visit.
- The time required to hike the trail varies, depending on the hiking rate of your group, the amount of time you rest, the number of museums you visit, and whether or not you finish at the optional stopping point or hike the whole trail. Since all the museums and the rest point are before the optional stopping point (the halfway point), the first half of the hike will take two to three times as long as the second half. Most groups average 3 mi (4.8 km) per hour, but this does not include stops at museums or resting. Most groups spend an average of 30 minutes at a museum and another 30 minutes for lunch. Start your hike early. This gives you greater flexibility later. You should start no later than 10 AM so that you reach the rest point before noon. We recommend that you start even earlier, between 8 AM and 9 AM.

### Transportation

If you are finishing at the optional stopping point, then you will probably have your transportation drop you off at the starting point and pick you up at the stopping point. On the other hand, if you are hiking the full trail (which starts and ends at the same location on the Louisiana State University campus), please keep in mind that LSU allows non-registered vehicles to park only on most weekends and certain holidays. You can find the telephone number for LSU Visitor Registration & Information on the **FACILITIES SHEET**. Please call and make sure parking is available before you depart.

## Registration

There is no need to register before hiking the Capitol Historical Trail because the trail does not cross any private property. We keep a record of the quantity of adult and youth hikers who use the trail each year. We base this information on the **AWARD APPLICATION**, which groups mail to us after hiking. It is important that groups mail us that form after hiking, whether or not they choose to apply for awards.

## What To Bring

- Wear comfortable clothes and good shoes. Do not wear brand new shoes or you may easily develop blisters. Youth groups which have an identifying uniform or T-shirt are encouraged to wear them.
- Although there are some restaurants along the way, we recommend that hikers each bring a sack lunch to be eaten when the group relaxes at the resting point. It is also highly recommended that hikers each bring a canteen of water to help quench their thirst during the hike. Water is not available at the resting point.
- Leaders are asked to bring a First Aid kit and to be familiar with basic First Aid treatment.

## Money

There is no charge for hiking the trail and you are required to enter only those museums which are free of charge. Consequently, the only money you need to bring is a little change for emergencies. However, you are welcome to visit those museums which charge admission, in which case you must bring the necessary amount.

## Camping

There are no camping facilities along the trail. However, facilities are available nearby in the Baton Rouge area. They are listed on the **FACILITIES SHEET**.

## Facilities

- Public telephones are available along the trail at the LSU Student Union (near the start of the trail) and the Louisiana State Capitol building (at the halfway point). We ask that telephones only be used by leaders, and only when absolutely necessary.
- Public restrooms are available at most museums along the trail and at the LSU Student Union.
- There are two United States Post Offices in the vicinity of the trail. The LSU Student Union houses a branch office and the main office is downtown.
- Churches of many denominations are located on the LSU campus and downtown. Please consult a telephone directory or directory assistance operator for help in locating a specific denomination.

## Options

- The U.S.S. Kidd Museum allows youth groups to spend the night on the battleship. Call the museum for more information.
  - The LASC Planetarium presents star shows and movies in their fascinating auditorium. Call the planetarium for more information.
  - You may wish to visit the other museums in the Baton Rouge area which are not along the trail. They are listed on the **FACILITIES SHEET**.
  - The Greater Baton Rouge Zoo features over 890 mammals, birds, and reptiles, many of which are rare and endangered species. Call the zoo for more information.
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## Trail Regulations

1. This is a city hike. Hikers must obey all traffic signs. Use a sidewalk when available; otherwise, hike facing traffic in a single file. Hike only during daylight hours.
2. All youth groups must be accompanied by adult leaders at all times. There must be at least two adult leaders, and an additional adult leader for every ten youth hikers beyond the first ten. One of the adult leaders must be 21 years of age or older.
3. Leaders are requested to supervise their groups. Defacing or damaging of either public or private property will not be tolerated. Leaders are fully responsible for the actions of their group.
4. No pets are allowed on the trail. Animals which aid handicapped individuals (such as seeing-eye dogs) are excepted.
5. Groups applying for trail awards must complete the hike on foot, read the historical information, and answer the questions correctly.
6. BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA: You must file a Local Tour Permit (number 4426) if you are from within 500 miles of Baton Rouge, or a National Tour Permit (number 4419A) otherwise. You are asked to wear the uniform (or a Boy Scout T-shirt during the summer months).

## Awards

Trail awards are available to all who have completed the hike on foot and have answered the questions along the way. A souvenir medal, consisting of a medallion draped from a ribbon, and a souvenir patch are available.

Prices for these awards can be found on the [AWARD APPLICATION](#). It is not a requirement of hikers to purchase these trail awards. If hikers choose to purchase trail awards, we ask that they pay for the award after completing the hike.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA: Please note that the medal is approved for wearing on the uniform, but the patch is not. The patch may be sewn onto the back of an activity jacket or may be used for patch swapping.

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## Historical Sketch

Welcome to Baton Rouge, the capital city of Louisiana. Baton Rouge is located at the north end of the highly industrialized "Petrochemical Gold Coast", which is so named because of the high concentration of refinery and chemical plants which line both sides of the mighty Mississippi between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Industry is traditional in the area. According to the Junior Archaeological Society, American Indians manufactured tools and weapons from native chert in the area as early as the first century AD.

Baton Rouge is situated on a high terrace on the east bank of the Mississippi. This commanding position naturally attracted people to the area from the earliest times. The Houma and Bayou Goula Indian tribes used the region for hunting. To denote the boundary between their hunting grounds, they chose a large cypress tree which they used for hanging up freshly-caught game. In time, the blood from their kills permanently stained the tree red. Local Choctaw Indians chose to be called the Istroumas, since the word in Choctaw meant "the red pole". Early French visitors to the area also noted the tree by referring to the territory as "Le Baton Rouge" (the red stick), and thus the city, which later built here, came to be named.

Baton Rouge has a rich history under seven flags: French, English, Spanish, West Florida, Louisiana, the Confederate States of America, and finally the United States of America. Perhaps the first European to visit the area was Robert Cavalier, Sieur de la Salle. He travelled down the Mississippi from Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1682 with a large party and claimed the whole river valley for France. In 1699, Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville travelled 240 miles up the river from the Gulf of Mexico against the current. Iberville is generally credited with naming the area "Baton Rouge". The French held the area until 1762 when it was ceded to the British.

Four major battles were fought in and around Baton Rouge. These battles accounted for the succession of flags to fly over the state after the French and English. On Sept. 21, 1779, the British were defeated here in the only battle of the American Revolutionary War to be fought in this state. In the same year, Don Bernardo de Galvez took over the territory for Spain. For the next thirty-one years, the area was in Spanish hands. These facts help to explain why even today the traditions of the area are a blend of French, Spanish and English. In 1810, the Spanish were driven from control by a small army of 300 plantation owners from Feliciana Parish. This group set up a new government called the Republic of West Florida, with its capital located in St. Francisville, Louisiana. The West Florida flag was taken down and replaced by the Louisiana flag when Louisiana became a state in 1819. By the Civil War, the population of the city had grown to 5500 people. In 1861, the state seceded from the Union and the flag of the Confederate States of America was raised briefly. Early in 1862, the Federal Army took Baton Rouge with little trouble. The final Battle of Baton Rouge came on August 5, 1862 when the Rebels, under the command of Major General Breckenridge, tried to retake the city. Under the cover of darkness and intense fog, the Rebel Army advanced so close to the battlements of the Federals that they could hear singing in the Union camp. In the morning, after a bloody battle, the Rebels were thrown back and never again attempted to take the city.

Baton Rouge was incorporated as a city in 1812, after the Spanish were driven from power. It became the capital in 1849. While the Federals occupied the city, the capital city of Confederate Louisiana shifted frequently. During this period, Opelousas, Alexandria, and Shreveport served at various times as the state capital. The distinction of "capital city" finally returned to Baton Rouge in 1882.

Before the turn of the century, Baton Rouge was a center of local agriculture. Cotton and sugar cane were the major crops grown on a number of large and beautiful plantations, many of which are now open to the public as reminders of the past. At the turn of the century, Baton Rouge numbered 25,000 people. Change took place rapidly with the expansion of the petrochemical industries in the 1930's and 1940's. Today Baton Rouge is one of the key "energy centers" of the country. Pipelines feed local refineries and chemical plants and, in return, transport finished fuels and chemicals to the industrial centers of the Midwest and East. Traffic up and down the Mississippi has increased dramatically, making Baton Rouge the largest inland seaport in the country. Today the city covers over 75 square miles and has a population of more than 400,000 people.

We hope that this brief sketch of the history of Baton Rouge will make your tour more interesting as you retrace the steps of historic figures such as Iberville, Galvez, Lafayette and Zachary Taylor, who had a powerful hand in making the area what it is now.

## Hiking Instructions & Questions

### Organization

These directions contain different types of information. Each type is indicated by a small graphic symbol:

**STANDARD** Standard Hiking Instructions. Follow these if you do not wish to use a compass.

**COMPASS** Compass Hiking Instructions. Follow these if you wish to use a compass. We recommend that one person reads the instructions while another person uses the compass.

**MUSEUM** Museum. Stop and read the historical information to your group. To be eligible for trail awards, you must visit all museums which are open and free of charge. Optionally, you may choose to enter those museums which charge an entrance fee. After visiting a museum, be sure to list it on the [ANSWER SHEET](#).

**HISTORICAL SITE** Historical Site. Stop and read the historical information to your group.



Question. This is a question which should be answered on the [ANSWER SHEET](#).

### Getting To The Starting Point

The Capitol Historical Trail starts at the Parker Agricultural Center on the Louisiana State University campus. You may reach the LSU campus from I-10 by exiting at Acadian Throughway (exit number 157B) and driving south. At the Perkins Road intersection, Acadian Throughway becomes Stanford Avenue. Continue south along Stanford Avenue. On your right will be University Lake. Turn right onto West Lakeshore Drive (immediately past the lake). This winding road leads into the LSU campus. Follow this road and you will go past another lake (Campus Lake) on your right. The Parker Agricultural Center is next to the large parking lot which you will soon see on your left. LSU allows you to park here on most weekends and holidays, but please be sure to lock your vehicles. You may assemble your group in the parking lot or you may wish to use the grassy area across from the parking lot (next to Campus Lake). At this point you are ready to begin hiking the Capitol Historical Trail.

### You Are Now Ready To Begin

**STANDARD** Go to the corner of the intersection of Highland Road and South Stadium Road and hike away from the Parker Agricultural Center along Highland Road until you reach the French House (right before you reach South Campus Drive).

**COMPASS** Go to the corner of the intersection of Highland Road and South Stadium Road and follow a bearing of 355° until you reach the French House (right before you reach South Campus Drive).

The French House, or La Maison Française, was completed in 1935 and served as the language center for students studying French and Italian. During the war, it housed an Army Officers' Club and military personnel attending school at LSU. After the war, LSU built a new language laboratory in another building, and the French House was used only as a dormitory for language majors. In 1968 the house was closed because maintaining it became too expensive. It deteriorated for many years but was eventually restored and opened again in 1981. Now it houses the LSU Press, one of the most highly respected University publishing houses in the country. Notice the addition made to the building in 1981.



1. How many circular windows are on the roof of the building?

**STANDARD** Continue on Highland Road until you reach Raphael Semmes Road. Turn left and walk on the sidewalk next to the Parade Grounds (the large grassy area with a flagpole in the middle) until you reach the Memorial Tower.

**COMPASS** Continue on Highland Road until you reach Raphael Semmes Road. Your next destination is the Memorial Tower (at a bearing of 290°). Use the sidewalk to get there.

The Memorial Tower was dedicated to the student veterans of all wars from the Civil War to the present. Read the bronze tablet in front of the tower. Turn around to look directly across the Parade Grounds, where you will see the LSU Law School, which was patterned after the United States Supreme Court building.

MUSEUM Visit the Anglo-American Museum in the north and south wings of the tower.

② 2. Who was the first president of Louisiana State University?

STANDARD Proceed to the other side of the Memorial Tower. On your right should be Thomas Boyd Hall, and the Middleton Library should be in front of you. Follow the diagonal path towards the right which goes between the two buildings until you reach Foster Hall.

COMPASS Proceed to the middle of the western side of the Memorial Tower and follow a bearing of  $310^\circ$  until you reach Foster Hall.

Foster Hall houses the Museum of Natural Science, which houses dioramas and displays containing more than 100,000 common Louisiana plants and animals in their natural habitats.

MUSEUM Visit the museum.

STANDARD From the western end of Foster Hall, walk due west towards the Mississippi river (see map) until you reach the Indian Burial Mounds.

COMPASS From the western end of Foster Hall, walk due west until you reach the Indian Burial Mounds.

These burial mounds have been designated as an historical monument and date back to the Marksville Era (AD 100). There are only three remaining burial mounds in the area (you will visit the other one later along the trail).

③ 3. What is the name of the fieldhouse next to the mounds?

STANDARD Proceed left on Fieldhouse Road (the road next to the mounds) until you reach North Stadium Road and turn right. Proceed until you reach the cage of the LSU Mascot.

COMPASS From the top of the southern burial mound, find the location where North Stadium Road meets Fieldhouse Road at a bearing of  $190^\circ$ . Proceed to this three-way intersection, and follow a bearing of  $235^\circ$  until you reach the cage of the LSU Mascot.

Upon reaching the cage, stop and visit the mascot (but don't get too friendly). On the other side of North Stadium Road is the Tiger Stadium, built in 1936, which seats 80,148 football fans on many fall evenings. On the mascot's side of the street is the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, which seats 14,237. The Assembly Center, completed in 1971, is a versatile arena used for concerts, theatrical productions, and basketball games. Right next to the cage is the fenced Bernie Moore Track Stadium.

④ 4. What is the mascot's name?

STANDARD Look down the path between the Track Stadium and the Assembly Center (away from the stadium) and you should see another building (down the path on the left), the indoor Track and Fieldhouse. Go to the fieldhouse and go left on the path which runs between the track stadium and the fieldhouse until you reach Nicholson Drive. Turn right on Nicholson Drive until you reach the old brick gateways.

COMPASS From the cage follow a bearing of  $350^\circ$  until you reach the southeast corner of the indoor Track and Fieldhouse. Now follow the path at a bearing of  $265^\circ$  until you reach Nicholson Drive and proceed along a bearing of  $355^\circ$  until you reach the old brick gateways.

Stop and examine the insignia and inscriptions on the gateways, which mark the edge of the LSU campus.

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**STANDARD** Continue along Nicholson Drive, crossing West McKinley Street, until you reach Magnolia Mound Plantation House.

**COMPASS** Proceed along Nicholson Drive at a bearing of 350° until you reach Magnolia Mound Plantation House.

Magnolia Mound is a charming old French settler's cottage completed in 1791 by James Joyce. The Baton Rouge Foundation for Historical Louisiana has renovated the house and furnishes guided tours. Visit the house and grounds now, being sure to pay special attention to the gigantic trees in front of the house. The six largest ones have been designated as Bicentennial Trees in commemoration of our nation's 200th anniversary.

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**STANDARD** Continue along Nicholson Drive until you reach Oklahoma Street and turn left. Proceed until you cross the railroad tracks and reach River Road. Turn right and proceed along the levee or River Road until you cross underneath Interstate 10.

**COMPASS** Continue along Nicholson Drive until you reach Oklahoma Street. Now follow a bearing of 270° until you cross the railroad tracks and reach River Road. Proceed along the levee or River Road in a northerly direction until you cross under Interstate 10.

You are now at the south end of Baton Rouge's downtown riverfront. In front of you (and towards the right) is the old Illinois Central freight station, built in 1923. Some old train cars are still there. Around the turn of the century, before the levee was built, this small area would flood whenever the river rose. Supposedly catfish would be trapped here when the river went back down. Thus, the area came to be known as Catfish Town. Walk through Catfish Town now.



5. What year was Catfish Town founded?

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**STANDARD** Emerge from Catfish Town on the side where you saw the train cars, turn right, and follow the road to the Louisiana Naval War Memorial and Nautical Historic Center.

**COMPASS** From the train cars, proceed at a bearing of 350° until you reach the Louisiana Naval War Memorial and Nautical Historic Center.

**HISTORICAL SITE** Before visiting the museum, go to the Louisiana Memorial Plaza next to the museum, which is dedicated to all Louisianians who served in war. It lists the names of Louisianians who gave their lives or are "missing in action". Take time to visit this area, and answer the question.

**MUSEUM** Then visit the museum and the U.S.S. Kidd. Upon leaving the U.S.S. Kidd, remain at the top of the levee.



6. Which war was the most costly?

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**STANDARD** From the top of the levee, continue northward (against the flow of the river) until you reach an historical marker (by the fountains).

**COMPASS** From the top of the levee, continue northward until you reach an historical marker (by the fountains).

The marker describes a proposed plan for the city of Baton Rouge. You are now at the Riverfront Plaza, the center of Baton Rouge's downtown riverfront.



7. What is the name of the proposed village?

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**STANDARD** Use the steps in the plaza to walk down to street level and turn left on River Road. Proceed until you reach the Louisiana Arts & Science Center.

**COMPASS** Your next destination is the Louisiana Arts & Science Center, at a bearing of 15° from the historical marker.

Visit the Louisiana Arts & Science Center, which used to be a train station. Next to the museum (at the north end) is an old steam locomotive with remodeled passenger cars. Visit this train as well.

8. At what time was train number 15 (southbound) due?

STANDARD Cross the street using the walkway.

COMPASS Cross the street using the walkway.

You are now at the site of the Baton Rouge Riverside Centroplex and Governmental Complex. This area is the focal point of the Baton Rouge City-Parish government. The two main buildings of the Riverside Centroplex are the arena and the exhibition hall, located on your right. These facilities are used for all types of events: conventions, ice shows, sporting events, trade shows, concerts and meetings. Ahead, you will see the ten-story Governmental Building, which houses the offices of Baton Rouge civic leaders and City-Parish officials. Next to the Governmental Building (on the right) is the Performing Arts Theater, which houses performances of symphony orchestras, ballet troupes, solo concerts, Broadway shows, and virtuoso artists. On the left is a library. Tour the Riverside Centroplex Area at your leisure, and enjoy its plazas and fountains.

You have reached the resting point. If your group has brought a sack lunch, the area makes an excellent spot for lunch. Please use the disposal units for your waste material.

Notice the Old State Capitol, located north from the Riverside Centroplex. Walk to the entrance of the Old State Capitol, which is directly across from the Louisiana Arts & Science Center. The cornerstone of the Old State Capitol was laid in 1847, and the building was completed two years later when Baton Rouge became the state capital. The building is a Gothic Revival structure, originally having three floors and four towers. In 1862 the building was taken over by Federal troops. While they were quartered there, a fire broke out, destroying all but the outer walls. The building was restored in the 1880's, and housed the state government until 1932. Since that time it has been extensively modernized and re-dedicated as a war memorial. Visit the Old State Capitol now. Afterwards, tour the grounds and locate the Henry Watkins Allen Monument.

9. What is this monument?

STANDARD Walk around the Old State Capitol to the northeast corner where you will reach the Old Boxcar.

COMPASS Walk around the Old State Capitol to the northeast corner where you will reach the Old Boxcar.

Following World War II, the columnist Drew Pearson organized the "Friendship Train" to collect food and clothing for the war-ravaged French and Italians. In thanks, the French sent a train of 49 boxcars containing gifts for people in each of the states. This boxcar was accepted by Louisiana Governor Earl K. Long in February of 1949.

10. How many men (hommes) or how many horses (cheveaux) could this car hold?

STANDARD Hike east up North Boulevard (away from the river) to the monument of the Confederate Soldier.

COMPASS Hike east up North Boulevard to the monument of the Confederate Soldier.

The monument was dedicated to the memory of those who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War by the citizens of East and West Baton Rouge Parishes.

11. When was the monument erected?

STANDARD Continue along North Boulevard until you reach the statue of Hebe.

COMPASS Continue along North Boulevard until you reach the statue of Hebe.

On the left is the Old Post Office. It was erected in 1894 and served as the Main Post Office and City Hall until 1955. The statue next to you is of Hebe, the Greek goddess of Wine and Youth, Cup Bearer to the Gods. It was given to the city in 1914 by the

Women's Christian Temperance Union. You are presently at the northern part of a planned community originally laid out by Elias Beaugard in 1806. A number of the houses which were part of Beaugard Town still reflect Beaugard's original design. Notice the names of the cross streets along North Boulevard. They were originally named after various gentlemen, such as Louis, Ferdinand, and Charles. Many of these names became "saints" due to a sign painter's error. For example, instead of painting "Louis St.", the sign painter wrote "St. Louis". Today, these streets are called by the erroneous names.



12. When was the Old Post Office renovated?

STANDARD Continue along North Boulevard to the corner of St. Charles Street, where you will reach the Old Governor's Mansion.

COMPASS Continue east along North Boulevard to the corner of St. Charles Street, where you will reach the Old Governor's Mansion.

The Old Governor's Mansion housed Louisiana governors from 1930 to 1963. It was built from plans originally laid out by Thomas Jefferson for the White House. It is now a museum and houses art exhibits and individual rooms which represent the governors who lived there. Read the plaque by the door and then visit the museum. The LASC Planetarium is on the southern side of the mansion. It offers star shows, movies, and concerts.



13. Under which governor was the mansion built?

STANDARD Cross North Boulevard and proceed on St. Charles Street (now called Fifth Street) to Convention Street. Turn left and follow Convention Street one block to St. James Church.

COMPASS Your next destination is St. James Church, at a bearing of  $300^\circ$  from the front of the mansion.

St. James Church is a Gothic Revival structure completed in 1895. It contains three magnificent stained glass windows over the altar. The founding of the St. James Parish is described on the plaque beside the church.



14. Of what religion is St. James Church?

STANDARD Turn right on Fourth Street (away from North Boulevard) and walk one block to Florida Boulevard. Turn left and walk two blocks to Lafayette Street. Turn right and proceed to the Lafayette Building.

COMPASS From the plaque, follow a bearing of  $345^\circ$  until you reach Florida Boulevard. Now follow a bearing of  $255^\circ$  until you reach Lafayette Street. Proceed at  $345^\circ$  until you reach the Lafayette Building.

Read the historical plaques on the building and in front of the building. This building was constructed as two separate residences in 1762. The building is named thus because the Marquis de Lafayette addressed a local audience from the balcony in 1825. The architecture is reminiscent of the Vieux Carré (which literally means old square) in New Orleans, commonly called the French Quarter. The building itself has been used for a variety of purposes, including a home, a law office, an insurance office, a theater, and an art gallery.



15. Who was the original resident of the house?

STANDARD Continue on Lafayette Street to Laurel Street. Turn right and proceed on Laurel Street until you pass Fourth Street and reach the Old Bogan Central Fire Station.

COMPASS Continue on Lafayette Street to Laurel Street. Now proceed east on Laurel Street until you pass Fourth Street and reach the Old Bogan Central Fire Station.

In 1825 the Baton Rouge Bucket Company was formed to handle fire emergencies in the city. In 1837 the city bought some hand-

driven fire engines and formed two fire units. They handled all fires until 1875, when a third unit was formed and the three units formed a joint "Fire Board" to organize the units and chose a Chief Fire Officer to have complete charge of the three units. By 1889 there were six units, all of which had and were staffed by volunteers. By 1890 they were using the original buckets, the hand-driven fire engines, steam-powered engines, and the new horse-drawn hose carts. In 1914 the first mechanical fire engine was purchased by the city, and two years later the city expanded its boundaries, requiring more volunteer fire units. It was decided that the volunteer units should be disbanded and replaced by paid units owned by the city, marking the beginning of the Baton Rouge Fire Department. Robert A. Bogan became the first paid Fire Chief and served for forty-one years. Chief Bogan accomplished many things, which include first aid training for all firemen and the creation of the Fire College, which is operated by Louisiana State University. The Baton Rouge Fire Department is now very modern and their good work allowed Baton Rouge to receive a "Class 1" safety rating in 1980, which gives the citizens of Baton Rouge the lowest fire insurance rates. Baton Rouge was the only city in the nation to hold this rating at that time. Visit the museum now.



16. What year was the fire station built?

**STANDARD** Continue on Laurel Street until you reach Fifth Street. Turn left and walk one block to Main Street. Turn left and proceed on Main Street for one block to Fourth Street.

**COMPASS** Continue on Laurel Street until you reach Fifth Street. Now follow a bearing of  $345^\circ$  until you reach Main Street. Follow a bearing of  $245^\circ$  until you reach Fourth Street.

You are now at St. Joseph Cathedral, the seat of the Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Baton Rouge. St. Joseph Cathedral, the oldest church in Baton Rouge, was originally constructed on land donated by Don Antonio Gras. The original church burned and has been rebuilt several times. Read the historical plaque beside the church.



17. When was St. Joseph Cathedral built?

**STANDARD** Turn right and follow Fourth Street (towards the State Capitol) until you reach Spanish Town Road. Turn left and proceed to Riverside Mall North. Turn right and walk to the Pentagon Barracks.

**COMPASS** From the corner of Main Street and Fourth Street, follow a bearing of  $345^\circ$  until you reach Spanish Town Road. Now follow a bearing of  $270^\circ$  until you reach Riverside Mall North. Proceed to the Pentagon Barracks at a bearing of  $320^\circ$ .

The Pentagon Barracks were built in 1819-22 from hand-pressed bricks which were dried in the sun. The barracks replaced an earthen fort and served as soldier's quarters until 1877. During the Civil War, Federal Troop occupied the barracks. Louisiana State University was situated here from 1886 to 1925. Now they are used as state offices. In the early nineteenth century, many important military men and public figures either served at or visited the Pentagon Barracks-Zachary Taylor, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, Jefferson Davis, Abraham Lincoln, and Lafayette, to name just a few. Visit the Capitol Complex Visitor Center in the northeast building.



18. How many buildings now make up the pentagon barracks?

**STANDARD** Walk directly to the statue in the middle of the gardens in front of the Louisiana State Capitol.

**COMPASS** Walk directly to the statue in the middle of the gardens in front of the Louisiana State Capitol.

This statue of Huey P. Long sits atop the grave of the famed Louisiana statesman who was murdered here in 1935. You are in the middle of the State Capitol gardens, which cost the state \$1,000,000. In contrast, the capitol building itself cost only \$5,000,000. Both were completed in 1932.

**STANDARD** Walk to the front steps of the Louisiana State Capitol

**COMPASS** Walk to the front steps of the Louisiana State Capitol

You are now in front of the tallest state capitol in the country, rising 34 stories above the city. Begin your tour of the capitol by climbing the front steps to the main entrance. Note the two groups of statuary on either side of the entrance. The west group is called "discovery" and includes a giant figure representing "adventure" above two files of men led by DeSoto and LeSalle. The east group is called "patriotism", and represents an heroic figure of an armed soldier with a band of mourners surrounding a young warrior slain in battle. The stone frame of the entrance illustrates moments of Louisiana history containing twenty-two sculptured portraits of great men from the past.

Enter the building and proceed to the center of Memorial Hall. Look down at the 1500-pound bronze medallion in the floor. Some believe it good luck to pitch a penny onto the giant medal. Be certain to visit the House and Senate chambers at either end of the hall. A guided tour may be available.

Proceed to the hallway behind the elevators. Here is where Senator Huey P. Long was shot on September 8, 1935, following a special legislative session. His assassin was Dr. Carl Weiss, the son-in-law of a judge whom Huey Long was seeking to have removed from office. Dr. Weiss never moved from the spot, having been instantly shot down by Long's bodyguards. Huey Long died two days later. You may be able to locate some bullet holes in the wall.

Board the elevators for a visit to the Observation Deck. The tremendous view which awaits you is well worth the wait for the elevators. From the observation deck, you can view the chemical industry to the north, Port Allen to the west, downtown Baton Rouge and LSU to the south, and the rest of the city to the east.



19. How many steps are there at the front of the building?

STANDARD Walk to the side of the front steps to the Creole State Museum.

COMPASS Walk to the side of the front steps to the Creole State Museum.

Visit the Creole State Museum.

If some of your leaders need to shuttle back to the starting point to pick up vehicles, please do so now while the rest of the group visits the remaining museums in this area. Please remember that two adults must remain with the group.

STANDARD Follow the sidewalk to the east (away from the river) to the Old Arsenal Museum.

COMPASS From the base of the front steps, your next destination is the Old Arsenal Museum, at a bearing of 50°.

In front of the Old Arsenal is a replica of the Liberty Bell, which was given to the state in 1950 as part of a drive to promote Savings Bonds. The replica is correct except that the famous "crack" is painted on. The Old Arsenal is one of the oldest buildings in Baton Rouge, having been erected in 1835. The walls of the buildings are 54 inches thick and the roof is 4 feet thick! The arsenal was captured in 1861 by the Confederates and later recaptured by the U.S. gunboat Iroquois. The arsenal was giving to Louisiana State University, which occupied the capitol grounds before the turn of the century. LSU used the building for various purposes (including a barn). In 1962, the building was opened as a museum, displaying many artifacts representing "Louisiana under seven flags". Visit the Old Arsenal now.

After visiting the museum, climb the small hill next to it and visit the American Revolutionary War cannons. The cannons overlook Capitol Lake, which was once a part of the Mississippi River. The cannons commemorate the defeat of the British in the First Battle of Baton Rouge in 1779. The hill itself is an Indian burial mound (one of only three remaining in the area; you saw the other two earlier). The mound was used as a burial ground for about 30 U.S. Army officers as well.

You may choose to extend your visit to the Governor's Mansion. Simply follow the signs on Capitol Avenue. The mansion was completed in 1962 by Jimmy Davis at a cost of \$1,000,000. While the mansion is thoroughly modern, it is designed after the great plantation homes of Old Louisiana.



20. How many cannons are on the mound?

You have now reached the optional stopping point. If you are finishing your hike here, you may wait for your transportation at the front of the Louisiana State Capitol. Thank you for hiking the Capitol Historical Trail. Be sure to fill out the top of the **ANSWER SHEET** and the **AWARD APPLICATION** and mail them to Louisiana Hiking Trails, Incorporated. Please do this even if you are not applying for trail awards.

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**STANDARD** Hike south (away from the arsenal) on North 6th Street until you reach Spanish Town Road. Turn left and proceed until you reach Bungalow Lane. Turn right and proceed one block to North Street. Turn right on North Street and walk to the Stewart-Dougherty House.

**COMPASS** From the bell in front of the arsenal, find North 6th Street at a bearing of 195°. Go south on this street until you reach Spanish Town Road. Now follow a bearing of 80° until you reach Bungalow Lane. Now follow a bearing of 180° until you reach North Street. Turn right and walk to the Stewart-Dougherty House..

The Stewart-Dougherty House is an antebellum home built around 1840. During the Civil War, Federal forces used the home as a hospital. Read the historical marker in front of the house.

 21. Who built the Stewart-Dougherty House?

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**STANDARD** Proceed west on North Street (towards the river) until you reach the Piño-Charlet House.

**COMPASS** Proceed west to the Piño-Charlet House.

The Piño-Charlet House is one of the finest remaining homes built according to the Spanish plan for the city which was set down in 1805. The house was built in 1823 by Antonio Piño.

 22. Who was the Spanish commandant at Baton Rouge?

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**STANDARD** Continue west along North Street until you reach Seventh Street. Turn left and proceed two blocks to Laurel Street, where you will reach the Old Warden's House.

**COMPASS** Continue along North Street (bearing of 270°) until you reach Seventh Street. Now follow a bearing of 180° for two blocks to Laurel Street, where you will reach the Old Warden's House.

The Old Warden's House was built during 1837-40 and served as both the house for the warden's family and the receiving station for the state penitentiary, which was then located across the street. Read the historical marker in front of the building.

 23. From what date to what date did the prison complex exist?

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**STANDARD** Turn left on Laurel Street and proceed east (away from the river) for approximately one mile until you reach Nineteenth Street at the entrance to Magnolia Cemetery.

**COMPASS** Proceed on Laurel Street at a bearing of 90° for approximately one mile until you reach Nineteenth Street at the entrance to Magnolia Cemetery.

As you walk, notice Junior High School on your right (after you pass underneath Interstate-110). It was built between 1922-23 and is now used by State agencies. Read any historical markers on your way to Magnolia Cemetery.

Magnolia Cemetery was the site of heavy fighting during the Civil War. You may visit the cemetery, but please show due respect. Read the historical marker outside the cemetery.

 24. Which Louisiana novelist is buried here?

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**STANDARD** From Laurel Street, turn right on Nineteenth Street and proceed to Florida Boulevard and cross.

**COMPASS** Proceed on Nineteenth Street (bearing of 180°) to Florida Boulevard and cross.

The Baton Rouge National Cemetery is on the corner. Troy H. Middleton is buried here, after whom the LSU Middleton Library is named. A large monument from the State of Massachusetts can be found near the entrance. Again, you may visit the cemetery, but please show due respect.

 25. Which general is buried here, remembered for his attack on the Spanish fort at Baton Rouge in 1810?

**STANDARD** Continue along Nineteenth Street for several more blocks until you cross Government Street. Nineteenth Street now turns into Park Boulevard. Continue on Park Boulevard until you reach City Park.

**COMPASS** Continue along Nineteenth Street (bearing of 180°) until you cross Government Street. Nineteenth Street now turns into Park Boulevard. Continue on Park Boulevard until you reach City Park.

Park Boulevard was the center of suburban Baton Rouge for many years. City Park features many recreational facilities, including tennis courts, an art gallery, a playground, and a golf course. On the right side of Park Boulevard is the figurehead from the battleship Louisiana. Read the plaques on this monument.

 26. When was the figurehead erected?

**STANDARD** Park Boulevard now turns into Dalrymple Drive. Use the bike path on the east side of the street and continue along Dalrymple, past City Park Lake and University Lake, until you reach a sign for the LSU System Building and the Alumni Center (right before University High School).

**COMPASS** Park Boulevard now turns into Dalrymple Drive. Use the bike path on the east side of Dalrymple and continue southward, past City Park Lake and University Lake, until you reach a sign for the LSU System Building and the Alumni Center (right before University High School).

You are now back on the LSU campus. This end of the campus houses various churches, fraternities, sororities, and other organizations. The university administration is also housed in this area.

**STANDARD** Turn left here and follow West Lakeshore Drive around the lake and past the houses until you reach a bridge (at the edge of the lake). Turn left after the bridge to reach South Campus Drive. Turn right and walk to the Parker Agricultural Center.

**COMPASS** Follow West Lakeshore Drive in a southeastern direction around the lake until you reach a little bridge (at the edge of the lake). You can now walk back to the Parker Agricultural Center, at a bearing of 230°.

You have now completed the Capitol Historical Trail. Congratulations! Be sure to fill out the top of the **ANSWER SHEET** and the **AWARD APPLICATION** and mail them to Louisiana Hiking Trails, Incorporated. Please do this even if you are not applying for trail awards.

## Answer Sheet

Date of Hike:

Time Started:

Time Ended:

Number of Adults:

Number of Youths:

Please write the answer to each trail question below:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.

Please list all the museums you visited below:

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## Award Application

After completing the hike and answering the questions, your group may order souvenir awards. Simply complete this form and mail it, along with payment and the **ANSWER SHEET**, to the address at the bottom of this page. Make checks payable to Louisiana Hiking Trails, Incorporated. Please send us this form even if you are not purchasing trail awards so that we have a record of the quantity of hikers who use the Capitol Historical Trail each year.

Group:

Hike Leader:

Mailing Address:

Telephone:

I certify that all recipients of trail awards have completed the Capitol Historical Trail on foot, read the plaques and other historical information, answered the questions, and visited all open and free museums.

Signature:

Date:

Quantity of Medals: \_\_\_ x \$5.00 =

Patches: \_\_\_ x \$3.00 =

Pins: \_\_\_ x \$2.00 =

Total Enclosed:

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## **Facilities Sheet**

This information should help you plan your trip. Louisiana Hiking Trails, Inc., does not guarantee the accuracy of this information. Last update on 11 January 2000.

### **Trail Museums**

#### **Museum of Art**

(225) 388-4003 Mo,We,Fr: 9-4; Sa: 10-12, 1-4; Su: 1-4 Cost: None

#### **Museum of Natural Science**

(225) 388-2855 Mo,We,Fr: 8-4; Sa: 9:30-1; Su: closed Cost: None

#### **Magnolia Mound Plantation**

(225) 343-4955 Tu-Sa: 10-4; Su: 1-4 Adult: \$5.00, Student \$2.00, Child: \$1.00, Group rates available

#### **U.S.S. Kidd Naval War Museum**

(225) 342-1942 Daily: 9-5 Adult: \$4, Child (under 12): \$2.50 Group rate available

#### **Louisiana Arts & Science Center (LASC)**

(225) 344-5272 Tu-Fr: 10-3; Sa: 10-4; Su: 1-4 Adult: \$3.00, Child (2-12): \$2.00

#### **Old State Capitol**

(225) 342-8211 Tu-Sa: 9-4:30; Su-Mo: closed Cost: None

#### **Old Governor's Mansion**

(225) 344-9463 Mo-Fr: closed; Sa: 10-4; Su: 1-4 Adult: \$1.50, Child (6-12): \$0.75 Saturday from 10-12: No charge

#### **LASC Planetarium**

(225) 768-9948

#### **Old Bogan Central Fire Station**

(225) 344-8558 Mo-Fr: 9-4; Sa-Su: closed Cost: None

#### **Pentagon Barracks Visitor Center**

(225) 342-1866 Tu-Sa: 10-4; Su: 1-4; Mo: closed Cost: None

#### **Louisiana State Capitol**

(225) 342-7317 Daily: 8-4 Cost: None

#### **Creole State Museum**

(225) 387-0419 Mo-Fr: 8-4:30; Sa-Su: closed Cost: None

#### **Old Arsenal Museum**

### **Other Museums**

#### **LSU Rural Life Museum**

(225) 765-2437 Mo-Fr: 8-5; Sa-Su: closed Adult: \$5, Child (under 12): \$3

#### **Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center**

(225) 757-8905 Tu-Sa: 9-5; Su: 12-5; Mo: closed Adult: \$3, Child: \$2.00, Student: \$1.50

### **Parks & Recreation**

#### **Greater Baton Rouge Zoo**

### **Greater Baton Rouge Zoo**

(225) 775-3877 Mo-Fr: 10-5; Sa-Su: 10-6, Free We: 3-5 Adult: \$3.00, Child: \$1.00

### **Cohn Arboretum**

(225) 775-1006

### **Campgrounds**

#### **Police Youth Camp**

(225) 389-3870

#### **Farr Park**

(225) 769-7805 or 766-9220

#### **Greenwood Park**

(225) 778-4044

#### **Optimist Youth Camp**

(225) 275-6979

### **Parking & Transportation**

#### **LSU Visitor Registration & Information**

(225) 388-5030 Mo-Fr: 8-12, 12:30-4:30; Sa-Su: closed

#### **Capitol Transportation Corporation**

(225) 336-0821

### **Other**

#### **LSU Box Office**

(225) 388-5128

#### **Louisiana Office of Tourism**

(225) 342-8119

#### **BR Tourist and Convention Center**

(225) 383-1825

#### **Downtown Development District**

(225) 389-5520