

TRAVEL

2 Girls Who Travel Take Lake Charles, Louisiana

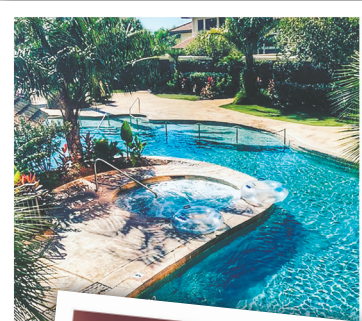
By Valerie Jones and Kim Floyd

2 Girls Who Travel

When people think of good food and fun in Louisiana, the first city that usually springs to mind is New Orleans. Now don't get us wrong, we LOVE New Orleans, but a slightly closer drive down I-10 from Houston (only 2.5 hours) in Southwest Louisiana is Lake Charles. Lake Charles has great food, casinos and some pretty cool things to do! Take a look at our guide for places to stay, things to do and what to eat.

WHERE TO STAY

1. L'Auberge Casino Resort, 777 Avenue L'Auberge, Lake Charles, LA 70601 – Well-appointed rooms, a casino, Contraband Bayou Golf Club, an 18-hole championship Tom Fazio course, eight restaurants, a world class spa and fantastic outdoor pool area... What more could you want?



2. Golden Nugget Lake Charles, 2550 Golden Nugget Blvd, Lake Charles, LA 70601 – This Landry's family hotel has a casino, some great restaurants (Vic & Anthony's, Saltgrass, Cadillac Mexican Kitchen and more), an 18-hole golf course, and a lazy river, beach and marina!

3. Delta Downs Racetrack Casino and Hotel, 2717 Delta Downs Drive, Vinton, LA 70668 – Horse racing, slot and video machines, cool live entertainment calendar, aquatic center and tasty dining options. Our favorite was the Lookout Restaurant. Be sure to stop in for drinks at the Rosewater Grill & Tavern.



4. The Isle of Capri Casino & Hotel, 100 Westlake Ave., Westlake, LA 70669 – It's all about fun at the Isle of Capri! There are slots, gaming tables and video poker plus free live entertainment every Friday and Saturday.

WHAT TO DO

1. Creole Nature Trail, 180 miles of vast marshlands, Gulf beaches, alligators, birds and wildflowers. It's been called a "Louisiana Outback."



2. Mardi Gras Museum, 809 Kirby, Lake Charles, LA 70601 – Museum has a large collection of intricate and detailed Mardi Gras costumes through the years from various krewes.

3. Grosse Savanne Eco-tours, 1730 Big Pasture Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70607 – Unlimited access to a both fresh and salt water marshes, cypress swamps, native coastal prairies, pine forest plantations and agricultural lands. You can hike on the private nature trails, schedule a marsh tour or do some insta-worthy photography of some rare wildlife.

4. Visit the Bayou Rum Distillery, 20909 South I-10 Frontage Road, Lacassine, LA 70650 – It's the largest private rum distillery in the US. They offer free distillery tours, a rum tasting bar and fully-stocked gift shop.



WHERE TO EAT

1. Jack Daniels Bar & Grill, L'Auberge Casino Resort, 777 Avenue L'Auberge, Lake Charles – Definitely have the chargrilled oysters or the baked au gratin oysters with shrimp, crawfish and blue crab on top! Yes, please!

2. The Bakery, 206 W. 11th St., Lake Charles, LA 70601 – The quiche is absolutely delicious and definitely try the cinnamon rolls. Plus they have a super cute patio for dining al fresco.

3. Crying Eagle Brewing Co, 1165 E. McNeese St., Lake Charles, LA 70607 – Yes, they have excellent craft beer... but don't sleep on their "What the Fig?!" pizza with black mission figs, prosciutto, bacon jam, mozzarella, goat sheet and topped with arugula! Amazing!

4. Blue Dog Cafe, 609 Ryan St., Lake Charles, LA 70601 – To start, get the bag of cracklin', seafood wontons and the cast-iron heirloom cornbread. For an entrée, you really can't go wrong – our favorite was the crawfish enchiladas.

5. La Truffe Savage, 7076, 815 W Bayou Pines Dr, Lake Charles, LA 70601 – Fine dining in Southwest Louisiana. Have the pan sautéed crab cake and the pan roasted wild gulf red snapper. The slow braised beef short rib is also a winner!



Armed with a love for culture, adventure, food, arts and entertainment – and equipped with a laptop, camera and multiple cellular devices – 2 Girls Who Travel has a mission to share their journey with the world. Throughout their travels, they conduct exclusive interviews, write about cool finds, give destination-specific travel tips and provide their takes on the best food and drinks and so much more. Follow us at www.2GirlsWhoTravel.com!