

Courier

DELIVERING
BUSINESS ESSENTIALS
TO MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL TOUR
ASSOCIATION

December 2005



Shopping rules

Harnessing
the power of
purchase

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Tour Operator Spring Meet

March 22-25
in Louisville

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Blue Ridge Pkwy.
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Rockies, Glacier
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SPECIAL INTEREST

Gumbo and golf

Louisiana links

As a sportsman's paradise, Louisiana offers golfers plenty of dynamite golf courses for play at all skill levels. There are approximately 175 golf clubs and courses in about 100 towns and cities across the state, including public links, luxury resort and semi-private courses and professional-level courses to challenge everyone from weekend warriors to "when I retire, watch for me" Senior Tour hopefuls.

The Audubon Golf Trail — with 10 exceptional courses in Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Hammond, Lake Charles, Many, Marksville, Monroe, New Orleans and Shreveport — is perfect for a week of serious play or an afternoon on the fairways as a break from tours of antebellum plantations. The state's three largest metropolitan areas are especially attractive for golf tours because each has more than a dozen nearby golf courses: Baton Rouge (16 courses), New Orleans (13) and Shreveport-Bossier (13).

Despite disruptions due to Hurricane Katrina, most of Louisiana's golf courses remain open. Damaged courses expect to re-open soon, although operators of a few courses were not able, by press time, to estimate when. For example, at the Peter Dye-designed TPC of Louisiana course across the Mississippi River from New Orleans, buildings sustained only minor wind and rain damage, but over 1,000 trees will have to be removed and standing water destroyed the turf on holes 2 through 6.

Contact Doug Bourgeoi, domestic and Canadian marketing (dbourgeois@crt.state.la.us) or Eric Kaspar, AGT administrator (ekaspar@crt.state.la.us) at the Louisiana Office of Tourism for information about conditions at specific courses, especially those in the path of Hurricane Katrina.