



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Movies](#) [Music](#) [Events/Exhibits](#) [About Us](#)



## Local News

# Getaway: The two faces of L'Auberge

## Sure, it's a casino, but you don't have to gamble to enjoy this resort

Chéré Coen

---

Everything revolves around the casino at L'Auberge du Lac in Lake Charles. At the resort's heart lies 230,000 square feet of non-stop Vegas-style gambling with 62 table games and more than 1,600 slot machines.

But L'Auberge is also an elegant resort with spa and salon, lazy river pool, new luxury shops and a tower expansion that includes 252 new guest rooms and suites, 10 of which are luxury garden suites with private terraces and butler service. The giant ballroom space attracts popular musicians as well; Hall & Oats will appear April 3-4 and Everclear will open the "Party by the Pool" on May 7.

Which is why L'Auberge's advertising slogan is "Staying here is just as fun as playing here."

And here's one more thing to consider.

Although L'Auberge's rooms run up into the \$200 range on the weekends and during special concerts, there are ways to stay here for those on a budget. Some weekdays, for instance, go as low as \$109, and from the many choices of restaurants it's possible to keep food costs to a minimum.

### On the high road

L'Auberge offers wide, spacious rooms with original artwork, heavenly linens, wide-screen TVs and views of the expansive pool area and neighboring Lake Charles. The new suites built last year range from 750 to 1,400 square feet and include many of the same luxuries, plus custom designer furniture, in-room bars and access to a VIP lounge, lobby and elevator.

Five new ground suites feature private gardens that open on to the adults-only pool with its luxury cabanas and outdoor "Florida rooms," plus include quick-fill two-person outdoor bathtubs carved from solid blocks of Italian travertine.

For dining, there's the rustic elegance of the Snake River Grill, which serves up beef, seafood and homemade Eskimo bars around a dual-sided fireplace. The restaurant has been the recipient of Wine Spectator's "Award of Excellence" and winner of local readers awards.

Inside Spa du Lac is an 8,700-square-foot cardio fitness center that has a day-use fee, plus the full-service spa and hair salon. Packages include body scrubs, couples massage and teeth whitening, among many others.

The par-71 championship Contraband Bayou Golf Club, designed by golf architect Tom Fazio, travels through a variety of Louisiana landscapes and includes a driving range and practice area.

Some of the newly opened Shops at L'Auberge include Modele women's apparel, L'ove lingerie, Loved

Ones with luxury items for kids and pets and Ambalo fine jewelers.

### **On the low road**

During the week L'Auberge's room rates drop drastically, and look for advertised specials for even lower prices.

For non-gambling fun, families can enjoy the resort's heated lazy river pool, where guests pick up inner tubes and float through a long winding course across a massive pool area. Parents might prefer to swim up to the Poolside Bar and enjoy a specialty drink reminiscent of the Caribbean or enjoy a light meal at the Nevie Beach Club poolside.

For meals, Le Café offers 24-hour casual dining but I'd go for Asia, a noodle bar that calls itself "Asian-fusion." A dinner of Pad Thai and a drink will cost under \$15 and the service is friendly and accommodating. A quick bite at the bar of Snake River Grill can save you money as well. A gourmet burger and a draft beer will cost under \$25, and you get to soak up all that rustic ambiance.

Guests can also pick up a scone and a latte at the coffee bar serving Starbucks, to save on breakfast.

A shop called Desserts will put you back some but there's no way you can stay at L'Auberge and not sample some of its decadent chocolates and homemade gelatos, not to mention that the children will discover it like heat-seeking missiles.

Never a cheap evening, but also impossible for children to miss, is L'Arcade, a large room full of video games that's open late. L'Arcade will suck in your children worse than the casino lures in adults, but it's one of the best arcades I've seen.

### **While you're in Lake Charles**

**WHAT:** Check out the Celtic Nations Heritage Festival

**WHEN:** March 27-March 29; 10 a.m. - 10 p.m., Friday; Sat. 10 a.m. - midnight  
Saturday; 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sunday

**WHERE:** Lake Charles Civic Center

**COST:** \$10 per adult per day, \$8 per child per day, children under 5 and seniors over 62 are free.

**DETAILS:** Concerts, workshops, Irish tea room, Celtic music, highland games, public whiskey tasting, Celtic balladeers, puppet shows, Celtic Canines, art galleries, Celtic dancers, currach racing, sheep herding fully stocked pub with live entertainment and numerous Celtic vendors.

**INFO:** [www.celticnationsfestival.org](http://www.celticnationsfestival.org); (337) 905-2358

 [Print this article](#)  [E-mail this to a friend](#)

Copyright ©2007 The Times of Acadiana. All rights reserved.  
Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)  
(Terms updated 7/20/05)