

## The Red River Tour

Shreveport's history is steeped in the Red River. Take a tour of the Red River to see how the "Designing the Future" played such an important part in the development of Shreveport and Bossier City.

Meet at nine o'clock in front of the Shreveport Convention Center for a quick bus ride to the Barnwell Gardens and Art Center and Riverfront Park for the start of the tour. Jan Pettiet of Yesterday's Lady will be your history guide. Beautifully gracing the riverfront in downtown Shreveport, the Barnwell Center is one of the few combined art and garden centers in the Southwest. The domed botanical garden conservatory is enhanced by the newly finished Riverfront Park. The spectacular cascading waterfall, the sculptured stage areas for festivals, the towering steel roses signifying the importance of the rose to Shreveport, along with the memorials to the local police and fire departments are part of the incredible view one enjoys while resting on the benches. There is also a great little gift shop inside the Center.

At the boat ramp board the *Spirit of the Red*. The *Spirit of the Red* tour boat takes you on a relaxing one hour ride along the Red River and up Cross Bayou while the Captain tells stories of early Shreveport and development of industry here.

After disembarking at the boat ramp, it is a visit to the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Visitors Center. The newest addition to the riverfront is this state of the art facility highlighting the history of the clearing of the Red River and the construction of the lock and dam system along the river. Through a series of ongoing programs, exhibits, displays, and a short film the Center provides an excellent opportunity for groups of all ages to marvel at the Corps of Engineer's latest project. The front of the building is shaped to resemble the front of a riverboat with a second floor observation deck. The facility also includes examples of area wildlife and artifacts found in the Red River.

At the conclusion of this three hour tour, take the bus across the Texas Street Bridge from the Shreveport Riverfront to Bossier City's Louisiana Boardwalk for lunch, shopping, and fun along the east bank of the Red River. Spend as much time as desired during the afternoon at the Boardwalk. The bus will pick up participants hourly until six o'clock to take them back to the Shreveport Convention Center.