
FROM THE FIRST
FIGHTS AGAINST SEGREGATION
TO THE FIRST
SELF-MADE FEMALE MILLIONAIRE
TO THE FIRST
NOTES OF JAZZ.

COME SEE IT ALL FIRS^THAND.



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

NEW ORLEANS AREA ITINERARY

Greater New Orleans

For a variety of reasons, New Orleans has long been identified as the nation's most African American city. Arriving at the beginning, African Americans shaped the architecture, food, language, music, and culture of South Louisiana in countless ways. They placed their stamp on daily life by working the plantations; building the homes and levees; selling food, baskets, and other goods on the street; and playing music at house parties and in dance halls. For the traveler interested in unraveling different threads of African American history and culture in the area, we have created several brief itineraries that will expose you to some of the major themes and historic sites. Enjoy!





Origins of Jazz / Free People of Color

After breakfast at one of the city's eateries, start your day roaming the **French Market**. This open-air trading center was designed by architect Joseph Abeillard, a free man of color. Enslaved black people, Free People of Color (Gens de Couleur Libres) Native Americans and whites all exchanged wares at this location, dating back to the early 1700s. The French Market today treats shoppers to a wide array of imported clothing, jewelry, and souvenirs as well as home-grown music, vegetables, and spices. After the market, be sure to have lunch at one of the many fine restaurants in the area.



Origins of Jazz / Free People of Color

An afternoon excursion will take you deep into the historic neighborhood of **Tremé** (pronounced "Tre-may"), located just north of the Quarter, across Rampart Street. Under French and Spanish rule, Louisiana had very liberal manumission laws, as well as a strong tradition of racial mixing, and by the early 1800s,



a large population of Free People of Color existed in New Orleans. They dominated the building trades, and as merchants, businessmen, and real estate speculators, they sometimes amassed great wealth and property. Light-skinned and French

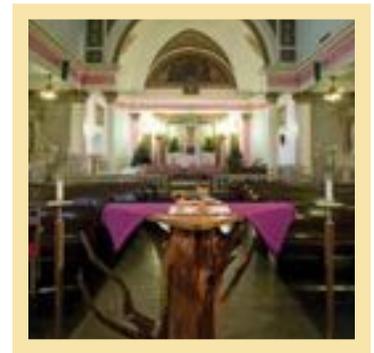
speakers, they often identified more with their European than African ancestry. They lived in separate areas of the city, such as the Tremé neighborhood and Faubourg Marigny on the east side of the Quarter, where they could maintain their traditions independent of Anglo-American influences.



Origins of Jazz / Free People of Color



Tremé evolved around the old **Congo Square**, now a part of **Armstrong Park**, where enslaved people would gather on Sundays to participate in sacred African rituals, as well as to talk, trade, dance, and sing.



As the neighborhood developed, **St. Augustine Catholic Church**, located at St. Claude and Gov. Nicholls Street, emerged as its spiritual center. The church has served the community for well over 150 years and is still a vibrant congregation. Tours are available, so be sure to stop in for a visit to get a better feel for the real heart of Creole culture.





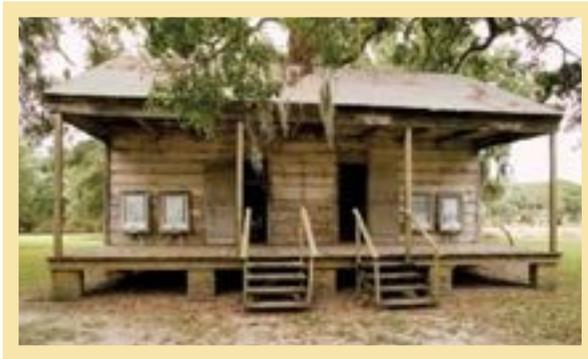
Origins of Jazz / Free People of Color

Further up Gov. Nicholls Street, the **New Orleans African American Museum of Art, Culture, and History** features rotating exhibits as well as a fine collection of African artwork and crafts. Finish up your afternoon visit to the Tremé area with a visit to one of the historic **St. Louis Cemeteries** along Basin Street, which are the resting places for many prominent Creoles, including Homer Plessy (hero of the struggle against legalized segregation) and Ernest "Dutch" Morial, the first African American mayor of New Orleans. Or visit the grave of legendary gospel singer Mahalia Jackson in **Providence Park Cemetery** in Metairie. Born and raised in New Orleans, Jackson is widely considered the best and most influential gospel vocalist in history. Be sure to have dinner at one of the fine local restaurants, and enjoy live music in one of the city's many nightclubs.



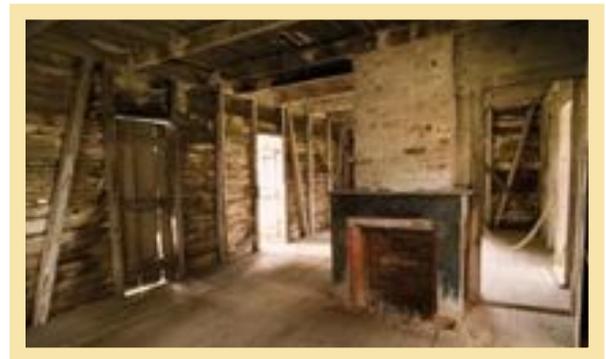


Along River Road



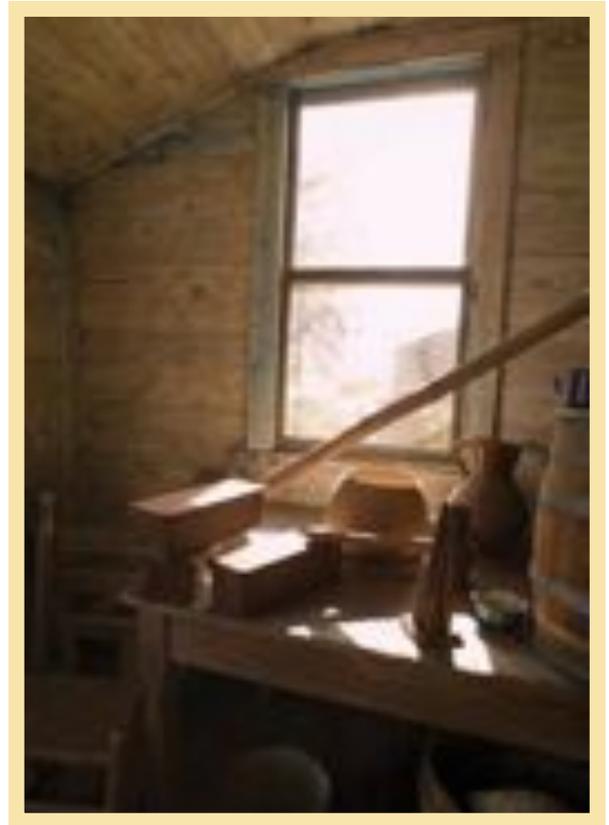
The second day's tour will take you up into plantation country, along River Road between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. For many years, the plantations told only the story of the "big house," but since the 1990s,

a great deal of attention has been paid to developing the hidden story of slave life in the quarters. The enslaved people of these plantations, after all, made up the vast majority of the area's population, and their influence in language, culture, food, and music is undeniable. **Evergreen Plantation**, with tours by appointment, features a virtually intact complex of slave quarters that includes twenty-two original cabins. Such cabins, once commonplace across Louisiana and the South, are incredibly rare nowadays, and Evergreen has done important work in documenting the site's archaeological and cultural legacies, enriching our views of the enslaved, and later free, African Americans who lived there.



Along River Road

Laura: A Creole Plantation is one of the most intriguing tours along River Road; it focuses on the white and black Creole families that lived at this place in the 19th century. Alcée Fortier, the famed Louisiana historian and folklorist, recorded African stories about *Compair Lapin* (Br'er Rabbit) while visiting the plantation in the 1870s, and the present owners have made good use of the historical record to recreate the sites, sounds, and smells of this lost world.



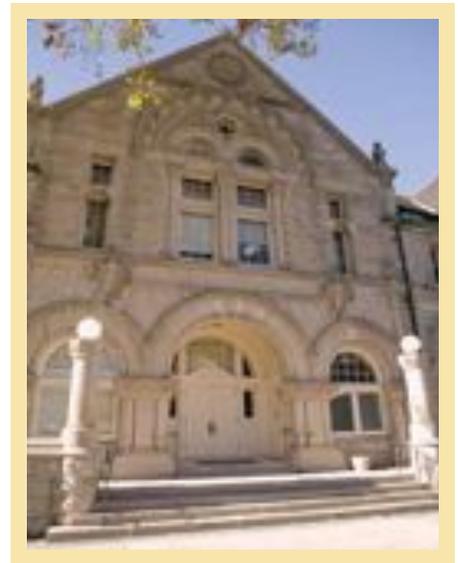
Along River Road

Whatever site you choose, it will occupy an entire morning. Lunch can be had at several local restaurants along the way, or in Donaldsonville. This quaint little town, the capital of the state for a brief time in the 1820s, was once the commercial center for the sugar plantation district based along Bayou Lafourche. In steamboat days, as a thriving river town, it attracted a sizeable African American population, especially in the decades after the Civil War. Primarily French speakers and Catholic, these people were merchants, doctors, teachers, musicians, and laborers who established separate institutions and took pride in the success of their schools, churches, and fraternal organizations. While in town, you must visit **The River Road African American Museum**, which does a superb job in outlining the history and accomplishments of this unique black community. Reclaiming a history and tradition that had faded with time and cultural change, the museum, although small in space, is packed with exhibits. No other venue in the state offers such a detailed and intimate portrait of African American life in a particular place and time.



Understanding the African American Experience

After breakfast, the third day's tour will take you uptown to Tulane University. There, in Tilton Hall, right on St. Charles Avenue, you will find the **Amistad Research Center**, one of the nation's premier facilities for studying African American history. Although focused on the needs of scholars, Amistad has a wonderful and varied rotating collection of artwork, literature, and other items for all travelers to enjoy.



Understanding the African American Experience

Have a quick lunch, and then hop onto Interstate 55, crossing Lake Pontchartrain to Hammond, home of the **Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum**. The museum features a set of twenty-six 8'x8' murals that illustrate in dramatic color the history of African Americans in the United States. Sometimes shocking, the murals display scenes from their original homelands in West Africa to the



horrors of the Middle Passage and into the plantation South. The murals continue the story up through Reconstruction, Jim Crow segregation, and the Civil Rights Movement.

These are powerful, emotionally charged pieces that will move every visitor. Other galleries feature rotating exhibits by nationally known black artists, while still others provide an introduction to African American history and genealogy in Louisiana's Florida Parishes. Enjoy a fabulous dinner at some of the upscale restaurants in Hammond, or back in New Orleans.



FEATURED LOCATIONS

The French Market

1008 N. Peters St.
New Orleans
(504) 522-2621
www.frenchmarket.org

Congo Square (in Armstrong Park)

901 N. Rampart St.
New Orleans
(504) 589-4806
www.nps.gov/jazz

St. Augustine Catholic Church

1210 Gov. Nicholls St.
New Orleans
(504) 525-5934
www.staugustinecatholicchurch-neworleans.org

New Orleans African American Museum

1418 Gov. Nicholls St.
New Orleans
(504) 566-1136
www.neworleansmuseums.com

St. Louis Cemeteries No.1 and No.2

No.1, Basin St. between
Conti and St. Louis Streets
New Orleans
No.2, N. Claiborne Ave.
between Iberville and
St. Louis Streets,
New Orleans
[www.neworleansonline.com/
neworleans/tours/
cemeterytours.html](http://www.neworleansonline.com/neworleans/tours/cemeterytours.html)

Providence Park Cemetery

8200 Airline Dr.
Metairie
(504) 464-0541

Evergreen Plantation

State Hwy. 18
Wallace
(504) 201-3180
www.evergreenplantation.org

Laura Plantation

2247 Highway 18
Vacherie
(888) 799-7690
(225) 265-7690
www.lauraplantation.com

River Road African American Museum

406 Charles St.
Donaldsonville
(225) 474-5553
www.africanamericanmuseum.org

Amistad Research Center (at Tulane University)

6823 St. Charles Ave.
New Orleans
(504) 862-3222
www.tulane.edu/~amistad

Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum

1600 Phoenix Square
Hammond
(985) 542-4259
www.africanamericanheritagemuseum.com



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER

LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

BATON ROUGE AREA ITINERARY

Plantation Country

Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana, is a blend of the many different cultures and regions of the state. An old river town, it still carries a cosmopolitan flair similar to, but on a smaller scale than, New Orleans. Its downtown neighborhoods—Spanish Town, Beauregard Town, the Garden District, and Old South Baton Rouge—have a funky vibe akin to some of New Orleans' unique residential areas. But, as the home of 40,000-plus students attending two major universities (LSU and Southern) and as the seat of state government, Baton Rouge is definitely filled with a frenetic energy all its own. And the surrounding countryside is filled with opportunities for exploration by the interested traveler.



Southern University

After breakfast, head to **Southern University**, one of the state's Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Southern originated in New Orleans as an agricultural and mechanical school in the years after Reconstruction. Although it offered courses in liberal arts, it was primarily viewed as a place



where African Americans could learn a trade and thereby improve themselves. It suffered from a chronic lack of funds, however; in 1914, it was reorganized and moved to Baton Rouge, where, under the leadership of President J. S. Clark, and later, his son F. G. Clark, it expanded

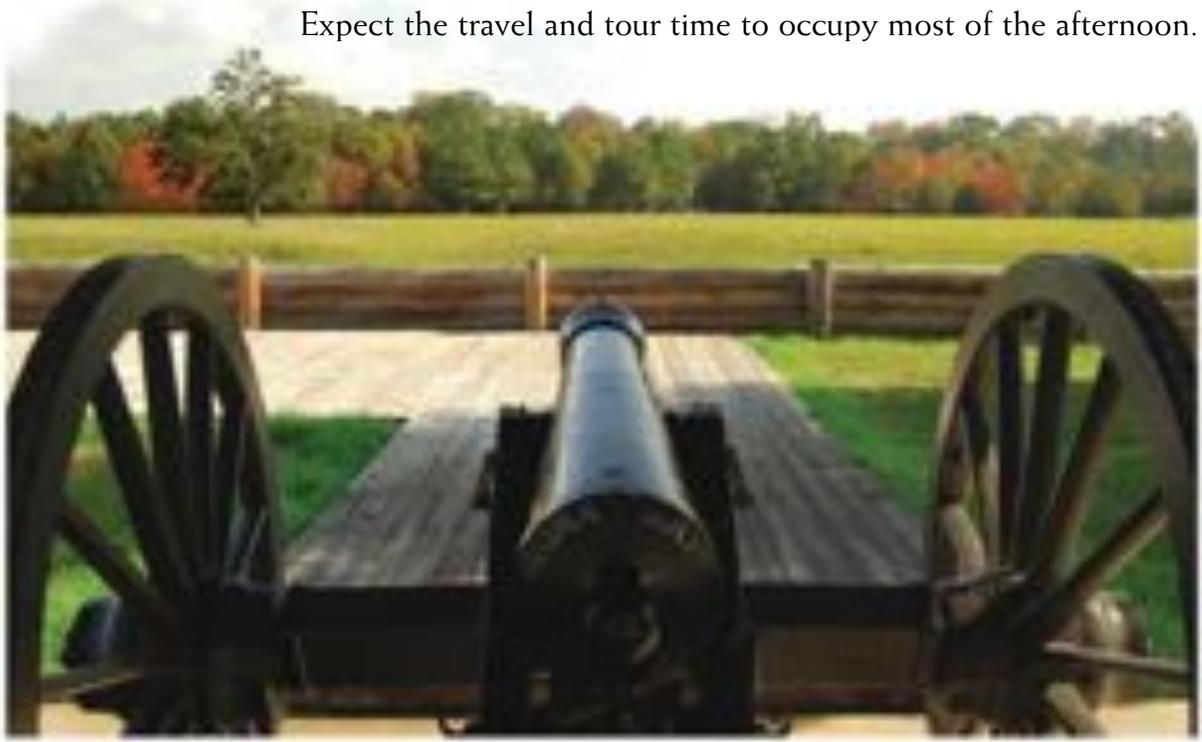
its course offerings and emerged as a true center of learning. In addition to touring the grounds, be sure to visit the **Southern University Museum of Art**, which features an impressive collection of African and African American art. The museum alone, outside of the river view from the Bluffs and the history of the school, is well worth the visit.



Port Hudson

Grab some lunch, and then drive about 20 miles on Highway 61 towards **Port Hudson State Historic Site**, site of the first major use of African American troops in combat during the Civil War. Several regiments of the Louisiana Native Guards, locally recruited from ex-slaves and Free People of Color in the New Orleans area, served in the besieging Union army and participated in the bloody assaults against the Confederate defenses. A small museum interprets the history of the site, and a series of walking trails along the ridges and ravines highlight important parts of the battlefield.

Expect the travel and tour time to occupy most of the afternoon.





Plantation Country

The second day's tour will take you down into plantation country along **River Road**, which stretches between Baton Rouge and New-Orleans. In the past decade, understanding and interpreting the plantation experience of African Americans has become increasingly important.



Have lunch in Baton Rouge or at a local restaurant on the way to or in Donaldsonville. This quaint little town, the capital of the state for a brief time in the 1820s, was once the commercial center for the sugar plantation district based along Bayou Lafourche. In steamboat days, as a thriving river port, it attracted a sizeable African American population, especially in the decades after the Civil War.

Primarily French speakers and Catholic, these people were merchants, doctors, teachers, musicians, and laborers who established separate institutions and took pride in the success of their schools, churches, and fraternal organizations.



Plantation Country



While you're in town, you must visit the **River Road African American Museum**, which does a superb job in outlining the history and accomplishments of this unique black community. Reclaiming a history and tradition that had faded with time and cultural change, the museum, although small in space, is packed with exhibits. No other venue in the state offers such a detailed and intimate portrait of African American life in a particular place and time.





Plantation Country

Continuing down the road to Vacherie, **Laura: A Creole Plantation** offers one of the most intriguing tours along River Road; it focuses on the concept of Creole culture in interpreting the lives of the white and black families that resided here in



the 19th century. In addition to the "big house," Laura Plantation has preserved several of the original slave cabins, once so common, but now incredibly rare. Again, these are portals for understanding life in the "quarters." Of great interest

in this regard is the story of Alcee Fortier, the famed Louisiana historian and folklorist, who recorded African stories about Compair Lapin (Br'er Rabbit) while visiting the plantation in the 1870s. These stories are virtually indistinguishable from those told to this day in West Africa. The present owners have made good use of the historical record to recreate the sites, sounds, and smells of this lost rural world.



State Capitol

Start your day in Baton Rouge's Capitol Park area, anchored by the **Louisiana State Capitol** itself. Built in the early 1930s by the dynamic political leader Huey Long, the Capitol has outstanding artwork and an incredible view of the city from an observation platform at the top. While in the front lobby, see the bust of *P. B. S. Pinchback*, a larger-than-life figure who became the first African American governor in our nation's history. Pinchback served as the only African American captain in the Union-controlled 1st Louisiana Native Guards during the Civil War. He later became active in the Republican Party and participated in Reconstruction state conventions. He was elected to the Louisiana Senate in 1868 and, three years later, became acting lieutenant governor when Oscar Dunn, the first elected African American lieutenant governor in American history, died. In 1872, the sitting governor, Henry Clay Warmoth, was impeached, convicted, and removed from office. Pinchback succeeded him and served as governor for 35 days. Pinchback went on to be elected to both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, although both elections were contested, and he was never seated. Not until 1990 did another African American become governor of a U.S. state.



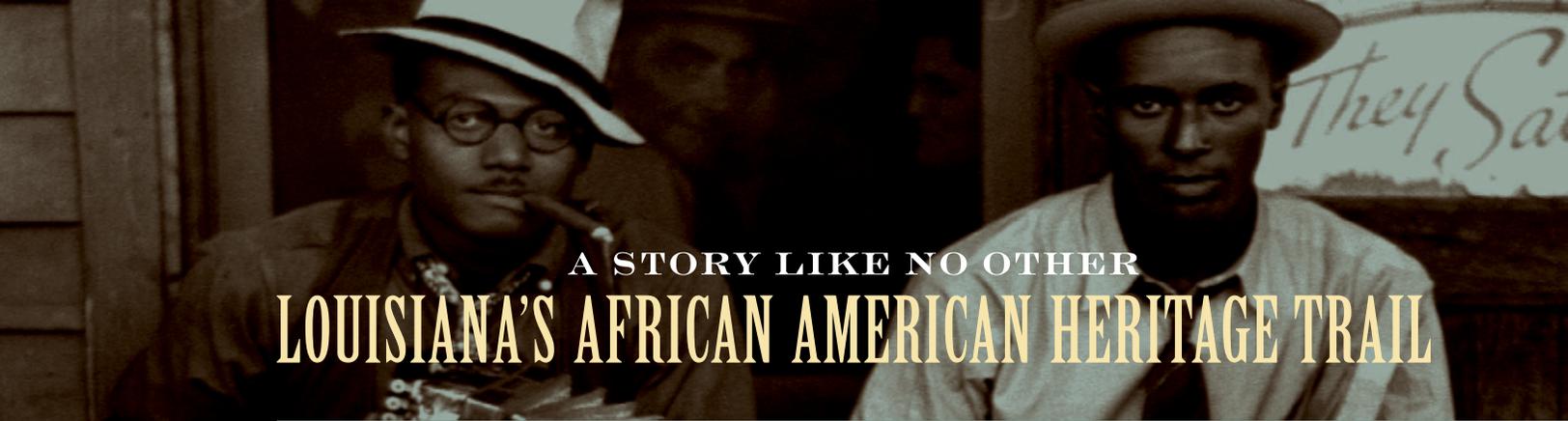
Hammond

After leaving the Capitol, be sure to stop at one of the downtown restaurants for lunch. Then hop in the car for a visit to the **Tangipahoa African American Heritage Museum** in Hammond, about a half hour's drive on Interstate 10/12. The museum features

a set of twenty-six 8'x 8' murals that illustrate in dramatic color the history of African Americans in the United States. Sometimes shocking, the murals display scenes from their original homelands in West Africa to the horrors of the Middle Passage and into the plantation South. The murals continue the story up through Reconstruction, Jim Crow segregation, and the Civil Rights Movement. These are powerful, emotionally charged pieces that will move every visitor. Other galleries feature rotating exhibits



by nationally known black artists, while still others provide an introduction to African American history and genealogy in Louisiana's Florida Parishes. Enjoy a fabulous dinner at some of the upscale restaurants in Hammond or back in Baton Rouge.



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

FEATURED SITES

**Southern University
Museum of Art**

798 Harding Blvd.
Baton Rouge
(225) 771-4500
www.subr.edu

**Port Hudson
State Historic Site**

236 Highway 61
Jackson
(888) 677-3400
[www.crt.state.la.us/
parks/ipthudson.aspx](http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ipthudson.aspx)

**River Road
African American
Museum**

1418 Gov. Nicholls St.
New Orleans
(504) 566-1136
[www.neworleans
museums.com](http://www.neworleans
museums.com)

Laura Plantation

2247 Highway 18
Vacherie
(888) 799-7690,
(225) 265-7690
www.lauraplantation.com

**Louisiana
State Capitol**

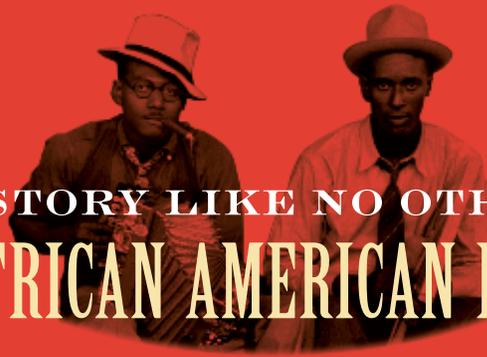
N. 3rd St. and
State Capitol Dr.
Baton Rouge
(225) 342-7317
[www.crt.state.la.us/
tourism/capitol.htm](http://www.crt.state.la.us/
tourism/capitol.htm)

**Tangipahoa
African American
Heritage Museum**

1600 Phoenix Square
Hammond
(985) 542-4259
[www.africanamerican
heritagemuseum.com](http://www.africanamerican
heritagemuseum.com)

FOR MORE ITINERARIES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL, VISIT
WWW.LOUISIANATRAVEL.COM/AFRICANAMERICANHERITAGETRAIL

LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA ITINERARY

Cajun Country

Although Southwest Louisiana is widely known as "Cajun Country," there is plenty of African American history and culture in this region as well. In fact, the two groups have coexisted and shared their food, religion, and cultures since the beginning. Take a few days to drive through the area, enjoying the landscape, cuisine, and nightlife. Lafayette makes a nice, central location to begin your explorations and has a lot of good restaurants, bars, and clubs to sample in your downtime.





DAY 1

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Opelousas



Spend the morning visiting the beautiful little town of Opelousas, which features several points of interest for those travelers drawn to African American history and culture. In fact, “Creoles of Color,” as they were sometimes called, figure prominently in the history of the

region. French-speaking and Catholic, they represent one of Louisiana’s unique cultural groups. The **Creole Heritage Folklife Center** serves primarily as an educational center for local youth but nonetheless offers an intense and very personal narrative of African American life in the first half of the 20th century.





DAY 1

SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

St. Martinville

Following the morning excursion north of Lafayette, follow the winding Bayou Teche that flows off to the southwest. This will bring you to the **St. Martinville African American Museum**, located in the town's historic district. This museum gives a very nuanced and powerful interpretation of the Afro-Creole community in the region.



Running through Louisiana's Acadian heartland, the Bayou Teche area attracted not only the well-known French Canadian exiles but also a wide array of other French-speaking immigrants, including creolized Africans brought to the region to work on vast sugar plantations. Many remained enslaved, but a number gained their freedom through various ways. As in New Orleans, these Free People of Color occupied a middle ground between free and slave, often dominating the building or service trades. After the Civil War, the communities were unified through strong social organizations and their Catholic faith.

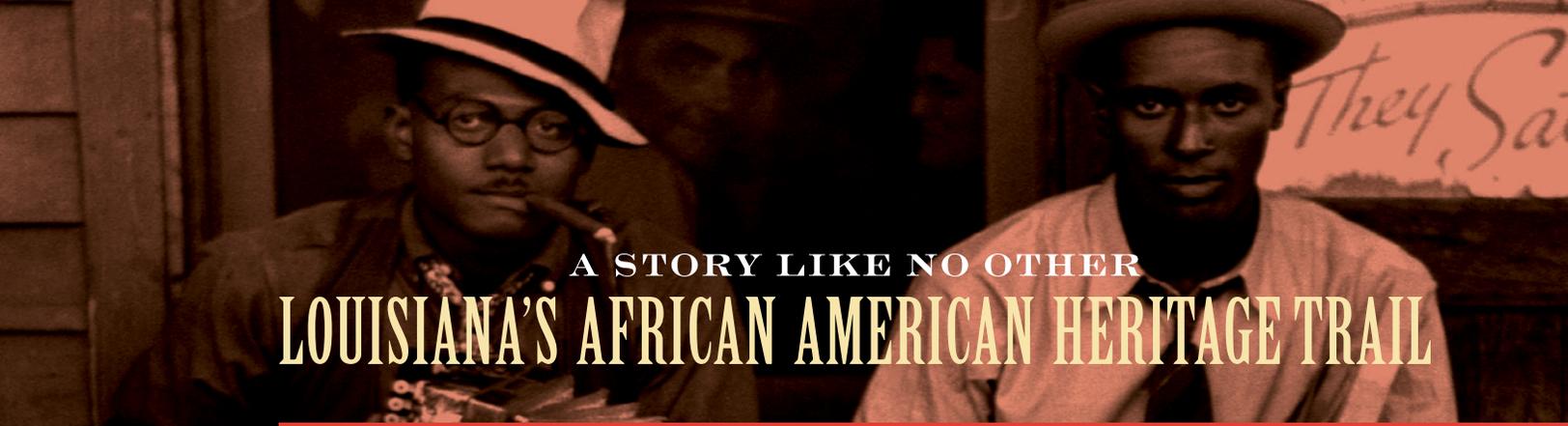
Lake Charles

Spend a quiet morning in Lafayette or follow I-10 out to Lake Charles for a look around. Have some lunch, and then visit the **Black Heritage Gallery**. Located in the Central School Arts and Humanities Center, the gallery

features rotating art and cultural exhibits from

local and national artists. The foundation that operates the gallery also hosts the area's annual Black Heritage Festival in the spring. Spend the evening enjoying the music clubs, casinos, and great restaurants of Lake Charles.





A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

FEATURED LOCATIONS

**Creole Heritage
Folklife Center**

1113 West Vine St.

Opelousas

(337) 948-9884

[www.cityofopelousas.com/
visit/museum_creole.html](http://www.cityofopelousas.com/visit/museum_creole.html)

**St. Martinville
African American Museum**

125 South New Market St.

St. Martinville

(337) 394-2258

[www.dssnet.net/
african%20american](http://www.dssnet.net/african%20american)

Black Heritage Gallery

In the Central School

Arts and Humanities Center

809 Kirby St., Ste. 324

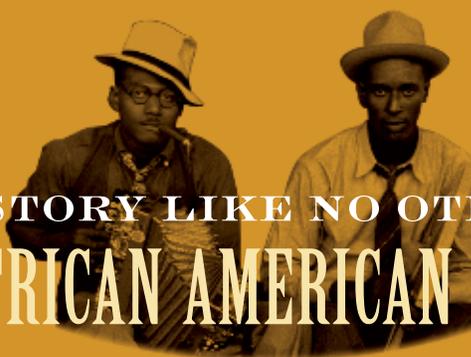
Lake Charles

(337) 488-0567

www.bhflc.org/page12.htm

FOR MORE ITINERARIES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL, VISIT
WWW.LOUISIANATRAVEL.COM/AFRICANAMERICANHERITAGETRAIL

LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

CENTRAL LOUISIANA

Crossroads

Rolling hills of red clay, thick forests of fragrant pine—this is the heart of Louisiana. Its heritage is Creole, French, and Spanish. Its beat, the rhythm of gospel choirs. Its way of life, easy. At the cultural core of the area is the Cane River region, home to Melrose Plantation—the only plantation built, owned, and operated by a freed slave. Nearby is historic Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Territory. And it's a quick drive to the museums of Alexandria and a broader perspective on the heritage of Louisiana's "Crossroads" region.



Natchitoches / Cane River Creoles

On scenic Highway 1 below the town of Natchitoches, you will find yourself in a section of the state rich in history and culture, a last outpost of the French Creole culture of south Louisiana. This district, in particular, is unique, having been the



home of a distinct group of “Creoles of Color” for more than two centuries. Descendents of the French planter Claude Thomas Pierre Metoyer and his common-law wife of African descent, Marie-Thérèse Coin-Coin, they are tied together by blood, faith, and tradition. Today they still

form a vibrant group with a strong focus on their common heritage. A number of sites are accessible via a driving tour. **Melrose Plantation**, the original seat of the Afro-Creole Metoyer family, includes the original “big house” as well as many plantation outbuildings. One of these, the “African House,” is an extremely rare example of African architecture in Louisiana.

Melrose was later home to the famed African American folk artist Clementine Hunter, whose work is prominently featured.





Natchitoches / Cane River Creoles

Nearby is **St. Augustine Catholic Church**, the spiritual center of the Creole community. This structure is over two centuries old and still in active use. In the same vicinity, the **Cane River Creole National Historical Park** includes



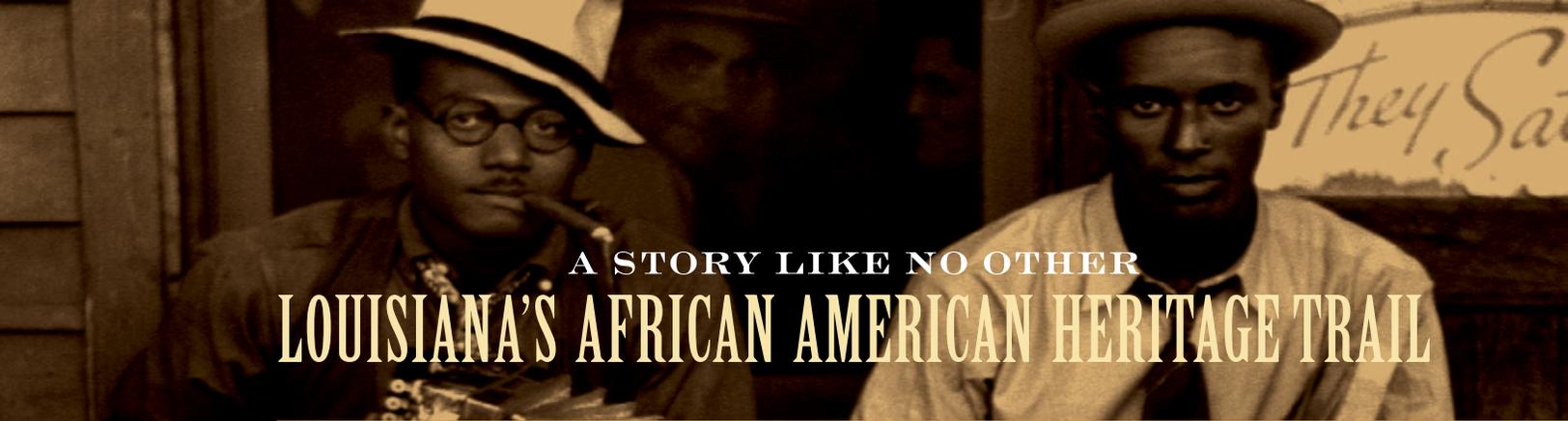
sections of Magnolia and Oakland Plantations. The park relates the story of plantation slavery in the area, particularly the complex intersections of French and African cultures in the creation of a truly Creole society. The brick slave cabins on Magnolia are particularly striking. Natchitoches has some great restaurants, so be sure to stop at one of them for lunch or dinner.



Alexandria / Arna Bontemps

Spend your second day in Alexandria, home of the **Arna Bontemps African American Museum**. Bontemps was one of Louisiana's most prolific African American writers, and this museum, his birthplace, serves as a memorial to his incredible life and work. Although he left the state at an early age, much of his writing dealt with black life in Louisiana and the South. As a novelist, poet, playwright, essayist, and historian, he continually opposed the injustices of segregation. An important member of the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, Bontemps' contributions to African American history and culture are immense, as the museum's exhibits make readily apparent. Grab lunch or dinner in Alexandria, then continue on to your next stop on the trail!





A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

FEATURED LOCATIONS

Melrose Plantation

3533 Highway 119
Melrose
(318) 379-0055
www.preserve.natchitoches.org

**St. Augustine
Catholic Church**

2262 Highway 484
Natchez
(318) 379-2521
[www.diocesealex.org/
default.aspx?tabid=237](http://www.diocesealex.org/default.aspx?tabid=237)

**Cane River Creole
National Historical Park**

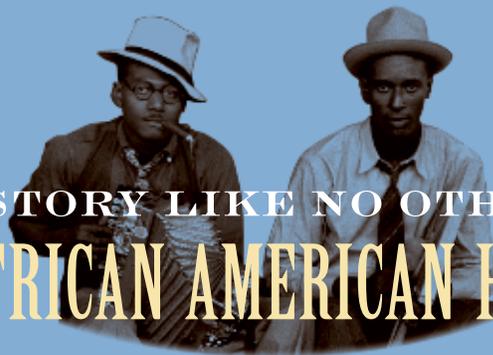
400 Rapides Dr.
Natchitoches
(318) 352-0383
www.nps.gov/cari

**Arna Bontemps
African American Museum**

1327 3rd St.
Alexandria
(318) 473-4692
[www.arnabontemps
museum.com](http://www.arnabontempsmuseum.com)

FOR MORE ITINERARIES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL, VISIT
WWW.LOUISIANATRAVEL.COM/AFRICANAMERICANHERITAGETRAIL

LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism



A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

NORTH LOUISIANA ITINERARY

Sportsman's Paradise

Well known to outdoor enthusiasts for excellent fishing, golf, and hunting, North Louisiana has long been praised for its astounding natural beauty. But just as impressive is the region's cultural heritage, which can be found in big cities and rural outposts alike. In the twin cities of Shreveport-Bossier, you'll find some of the best gaming, nightlife, and shopping in the state. For a slower pace, Monroe-West Monroe welcomes you with small-town charm, great antique shopping, and museums and gardens. Wherever you begin your journey through Louisiana's "Sportsman's Paradise," the region's rich history is close at hand.





African Americans in Shreveport

Start out on Texas Street, the heart of downtown Shreveport, and visit the **Multicultural Center of the South**. This community center and interpretive facility features a wide array of exhibits on the many different cultures represented in Shreveport's population. For those interested in African American history, the art exhibits, including paintings by folk artist Clementine Hunter, are particularly impressive.



Also, the section on Creoles in North Louisiana

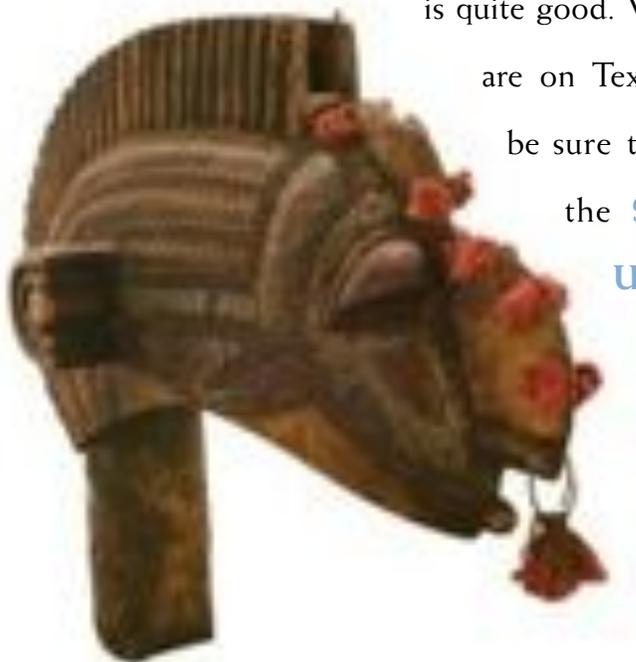
is quite good. While you

are on Texas Street,

be sure to stop at

the **Southern**

University



Museum of Art Shreveport. The small exhibit features a nice selection of African and African American artwork put together from the university's collections and from private donations.



Grambling State University

Take a day trip out from Shreveport to see **Grambling State University** in the Ruston area. Located in Lincoln Parish, the Grambling community emerged in the 1870s as an enclave of independent African American property owners and eventually became the first all-black municipality in Louisiana.

The university opened in 1905 as an agricultural and industrial school and eventually blossomed into an accredited institute of higher learning. The Charles Adams House, home of the



founder and first president, is incredibly important due to Adams' long association with the university.





Grambling State University Coach Eddie Robinson

Grambling is best known for the long and storied career of head football coach *Eddie Robinson*, one of the most respected and beloved coaches in American history



and one of only two to achieve 400 victories. Coach Robinson spent his entire career, from 1941 to 1997, at Grambling and sent over 200 players into the National Football League, including four Hall of Famers. Equally respected off the field and on it, Robinson molded several generations of young African American men who would make their marks in professional careers and serve as

leaders in the struggle for equal rights. The Eddie Robinson Museum on campus, undergoing a major expansion, tells his story as well as those of his players in vivid detail.



Monroe and the Delta

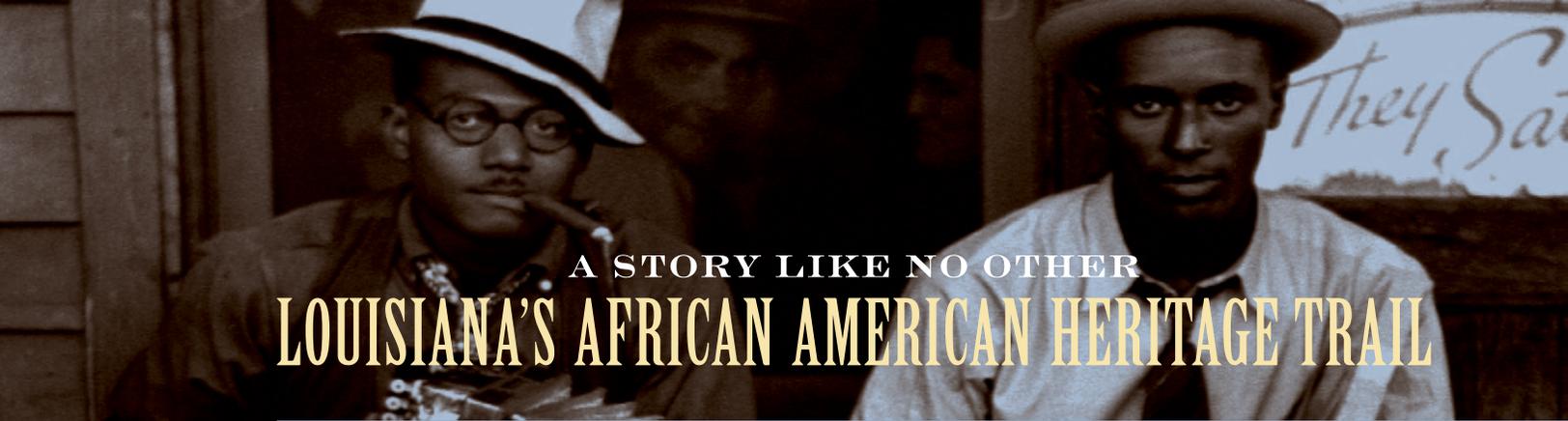
Start your day in Monroe with a visit to the **Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Heritage Museum**. Founded in 1994, this museum features seminars, research materials on the 1960s civil rights movement in Northeast Louisiana,



and works of art by Don Cincone, Bernard Menyweather, and Agnes Hicks. Head for the Delta along Interstate 20 to Tallulah and stop at the **Hermione Museum**, run by the Madison Historical Society. Of particular interest is an exhibit on Madame C. J. Walker, born just after the Civil War in the surrounding plantation country. She left as a teenager to seek her fortune in the North, eventually becoming the nation's first black millionaire through her line of hair care products.

But she maintained close contacts with her old friends and family in the area, and the museum houses several pieces of her correspondence as well as to other relevant items. Grab a bite to eat in the area or head back to Monroe for dinner.





A STORY LIKE NO OTHER
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

FEATURED SITES

**Multicultural
Center of the South**

401 Texas St.
Shreveport
(318) 424-1380
www.mccofthesouth.org

Hermione Museum

315 Mulberry St.
Tallulah
(318) 574-0082
www.ladelta65.org

**Southern University
Museum of Art
Shreveport**

610 Texas St.
Shreveport
(318) 678-4631
www.susla.edu/sumas

**Grambling
State University**

403 Main St.
Grambling
(318) 247-3811
www.gram.edu

**Northeast
Louisiana Delta
African American
Heritage Museum**

503 Plum St.
Monroe
(318) 323-1167
www.nldaahm.com

FOR MORE ITINERARIES AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL, VISIT
WWW.LOUISIANATRAVEL.COM/AFRICANAMERICANHERITAGETRAIL

LOUISIANA
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism