

LOUISIANA

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LOUISIANA OFFICE OF TOURISM

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A CULINARY CELEBRATION

Join us on a journey across the bayous and byways of the nation's most savory state.

Looking for stories about food? Louisiana has plenty. So many that it's hard to know where to start.

We could go back 300 years, when American Indians took time to introduce European settlers to sassafras leaves, used to make filé, an important ingredient for gumbo.

Or we could talk about the Canadian exiles known as Acadians, or Cajuns, who brought their recipes to Louisiana and adapted them to our rich seafood—lobster dishes became crawfish dishes, redfish was substituted for salmon and so on.

Consider the very name jambalaya. It's a combination of the French word for ham (*jambon*) and an African word for rice (*ya-ya*). You don't get much more multicultural than that.

In other words, every Louisiana dish tells a story. That's what makes us so different: Down here, food is not just for eating. It's part of the Louisiana experience.

One of Louisiana's best-known chefs and historians, John Folse, said it best. "The stories tie us together, making Louisiana not just a culinary destination but a *cultural* destination."

Our dishes are even celebrated in song—just listen to Hank Williams' *Jambalaya*, Muddy Waters' *Red Beans* or New Orleans native Dr. John's *Crawfish Soirée*.

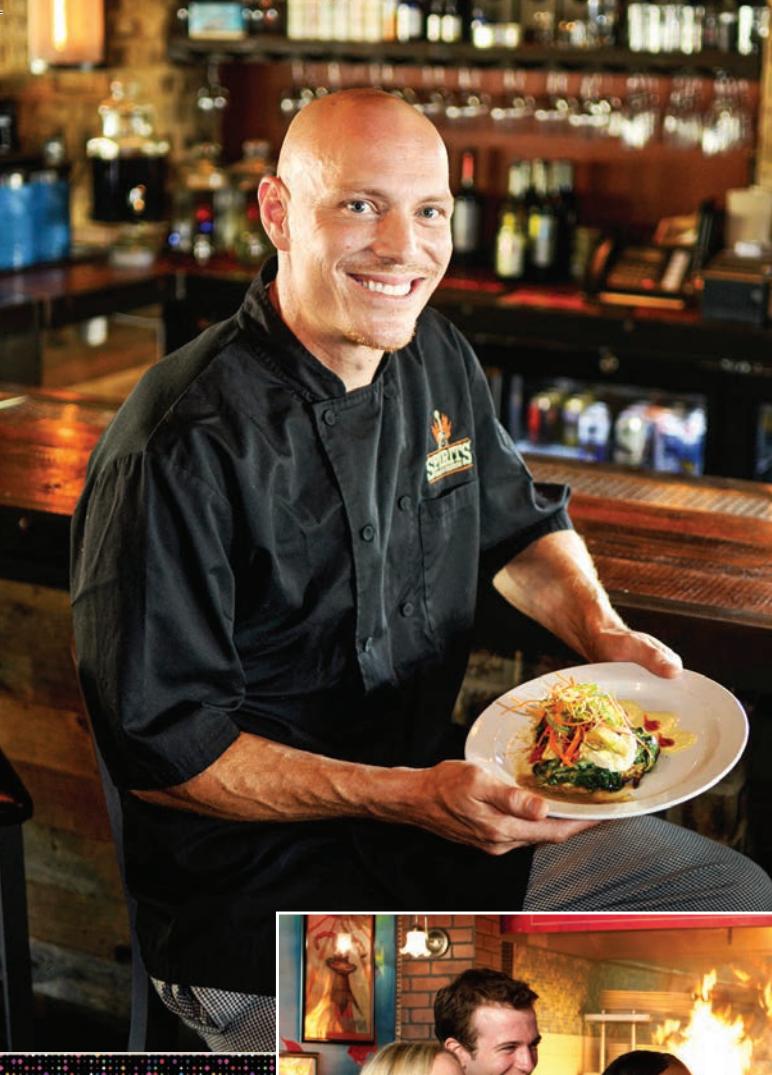
Want more evidence of our love affair with food? Well, chew on this. The waters of south Louisiana produce more oysters and blue crabs than any other state. Louisiana is among the top 10 domestic producers of sugar cane, sweet potatoes, rice and pecans.

In Louisiana, there is a saying: We don't eat to live—we *live to eat*

So join us at our table and, as they say down in Cajun Country, "pass a good time." We'll meet chefs and restaurateurs, sure, but also fishermen, farmers and festival organizers who invite you to sit down, grab a fork and dig in.

And because there are too many Louisiana stories to tell here, we invite you to visit LouisianaCulinaryTrails.com to read more. See others' culinary tales and share your own by using [#TasteLouisiana](#) on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

PHOTOS (OPPOSITE PAGE, FROM TOP LEFT) Stephen & Tracy's Chicken ©Spirits Food & Friends; Po'boy ©Denny Culbert; Louisiana oysters - photo courtesy of LouisianaNorthshore.com; Oceana Grill ©Oceana Grill; Bowl of chicken and sausage gumbo ©Denny Culbert; Liz Munson of Liz's Where Y'at Diner - photo courtesy of LouisianaNorthshore.com; Sazerac cocktails at The Sazerac Bar ©Brian F. Huff; Burger and ale at Enoch's Irish Pub & Cafe ©Monroe-West Monroe CVB; Grand Royale platter ©Tableau; chocolates at Sucré ©Chris Granger.





DIG in to
the many *flavors* of

LOUISIANA

In Louisiana, we don't just eat. We dine with gusto. And we'd love for you to join in our fun, so we've created culinary trails that cover the entire state. Each trail will guide you to some of the best local spots we have to offer, from four-star restaurants to mom-and-pop favorites. Visit our website and get your road trip started.



LOUISIANA



culinary  trails™

LouisianaCulinaryTrails.com

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

LOUISIANA'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Just like music tells a story, Louisiana's African-American Heritage Trail brings together histories, personalities and achievements in a way that no single museum ever could. Visit ASTORYLIKENOOTHER.com for stories, photos and itineraries.

Discover these locations on the trail:

1. New Orleans African-American Museum (New Orleans)
 2. St. Augustine Catholic Church (New Orleans)
 3. St. Louis Cemeteries No.1 & No.2 (New Orleans)
 4. The French Market (New Orleans)
 5. Congo Square, Armstrong Park (New Orleans)
 6. The Amistad Research Center (New Orleans)
 7. Mahalia Jackson's Grave, Providence Park Cemetery (Metairie)
 8. Laura Plantation (Vacherie)
 9. Evergreen Plantation (Wallace)
 10. River Road African-American Museum (Donaldsonville)
 11. Tangipahoa African-American Heritage Museum (Hammond)
 12. Louisiana State Capitol (Baton Rouge)
 13. Southern University (Baton Rouge)
 14. Port Hudson State Historic Site (Jackson)
 15. The African-American Museum (St. Martinville)
 16. Black Heritage Art Gallery, Central School Arts and Humanities Center (Lake Charles)
 17. The Creole Heritage Folk Life Center (Opelousas)
 18. Arna Bontemps African-American Heritage Museum (Alexandria)
 19. St. Augustine Church (Natchez)
 20. Cane River Creole National Historical Park (Bermuda, Derry)
 21. Melrose Plantation (Melrose)
 22. Multicultural Center of the South (Shreveport)
 23. Southern University Museum of Art (Shreveport)
 24. Grambling State University (Grambling)
 25. The Northeast Louisiana Delta African American Heritage Museum (Monroe)
 26. The Hermione Museum (Tallulah)
 27. Winter Quarters State Historic Site (Newellton)
- REOPENING 2017**
28. Rosedown State Historic Site (St. Francisville)



29. Audubon State Historic Site/Oakley House (St. Francisville)
30. Centenary State Historic Site (Jackson)
31. Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site (St. Martinville)
32. Fontainebleau State Park (Mandeville)
33. Fort Pike State Historic Site (New Orleans)
34. Eddie G. Robinson Museum (Grambling)
35. Frogmore Cotton Plantation & Gins (Frogmore)
36. Delta Music Museum (Ferriday)
37. Le Vieux Village Historical Park Museum (Opelousas)
38. West Baton Rouge Museum (Port Allen)
39. San Francisco Plantation (Garyville)
40. Our Lady of Grace Historic Sanctuary (Reserve)
41. Ebenezer Baptist Church (Bogalusa)



**VISIT ASTORYLIKENOOTHER.COM
NOW TO LEARN MORE.**

Louisiana BYWAYS

LouisianaByways.com



Louisiana Is Full Of Stories. Yours Begins Here.

Meandering through Louisiana are 17 byways—each offering an authentic taste of Louisiana's food, music, culture and natural beauty like no other. Discover them by car, RV, motorcycle or bicycle year-round. For detailed maps and specific information about the history, sites and attractions along each byway, visit LouisianaByways.com.



1. Bayou Teche Byway (184 miles)

Immerse yourself in culture by visiting cafés and dance halls that serve up Cajun and zydeco music along with boiled crawfish and étouffée. Tour stately mansions for a look at how sugar barons lived in the 1800s.

**2. Boom or Bust Byway (136 miles)**

Keep your camera handy to snap the landmarks and icons that reflect fortunes made or lost in oil, lumber, farming and music in this land of rolling hills, tall pines and beautiful lakes and bayous.

3. Cajun Corridor (33 miles)

Treat your taste buds! Sample fresh shrimp, crawfish, oysters or *boudin*, a spicy local sausage. You will find it all along this route through south Louisiana's rice and sugar cane fields and marshlands.

4. Cane River National Heritage Trail (35 miles)

Step into the set of *Steel Magnolias*, discover the region's signature dish—the meat pie—and tour a plantation once owned by former slaves as you cross hills and prairies rich in historic sites and artifacts.

**5. Creole Nature Trail All-American Road (180 miles)**

Be inspired and amazed by the unsurpassed splendor of renowned coastal wetlands, wildlife refuges and rippling marshes. Crabbing, fishing, birding or shelling, the opportunities are endless for the whole family to personally experience one of America's untamed natural wonders.

6. Dixie Overland (105 miles)

Ancient peoples lived in Louisiana? That's right. See the remains of their ornate society at Poverty Point, then amble westward through Sportsman's Paradise toward the cities of Monroe and Ruston.

7. Flyway Byway (54 miles)

Bike, hike, drive or canoe this scenic trail through swamps, rivers and unique terrains. Discover some of Louisiana's premier birding hotspots, see if you can spot any strange critters and watch out for gators!

8. Longleaf Trail Byway (17 miles)

Stunning views await you along a route through the majestic Kisatchie National Forest, where a rugged landscape features beautiful mesas, abundant wildlife and many chances to spot rare birds.

9. Louisiana Colonial Trails Byway (567 miles)

Follow in the footsteps of the brave men and women who settled Louisiana and Texas. View historic plantations, Civil War battlefields, ancient Indian mounds and miles of breathtaking wilderness.

10. Louisiana Great River National Scenic Byway (717 miles)

The longest portion of the 3,000-mile, 10-state Great River Road travels through Louisiana. As mighty as the river it follows, this byway traverses the history, diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage that make Louisiana one of the most fascinating places on the globe.

11. Myths and Legends Byway (178 miles)

Like a good story? You will love ambling through pine forests and blackberry farms during a tour based on true accounts, tall tales and a gunslinger named Leather Britches Smith.

12. San Bernardo Byway (38 miles)

"In 1814 we took a little trip..." See where Andrew Jackson and pirate Jean Lafitte defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans. Learn what drew Canary Islanders and Europeans to this area centuries ago.

13. Toledo Bend Forest Scenic Byway (78 miles)

Discover a fishing and boating paradise that is home to bald eagles, thousands of acres of woods, great local food and dozens of historic sites along a byway that parallels the sprawling Toledo Bend Lake.

14. Tunica Trace Byway (20 miles)

The home of Louisiana State Penitentiary may seem an odd place to begin a journey, but Angola is a community with a colorful past. Explore the town, then take a short scenic drive to historic St. Francisville.

15. Southern Swamps (67 miles)

Alligators and turtles slip through the quiet waters, snowy egrets and blue herons pick their way across marshes and time seems to stand still in this fishing and seafood paradise. Be sure to stop for gumbo!

16. Wetlands Cultural Byway (204 miles)

Amble along bayous for views of shrimpers, tugboats and shipbuilders; stop for lunch at a Cajun restaurant; or catch a guided swamp tour for close-ups of egrets, turtles, snakes and alligators.

17. Zydeco Cajun Prairie Byway (231 miles)

Want a tour that sounds as good as it looks? This byway rolls past many iconic music spots, along with crawfish farms, sweet potato fields and the sites of some of Louisiana's favorite festivals. Stop for lunch!

For more information, visit LouisianaByways.com

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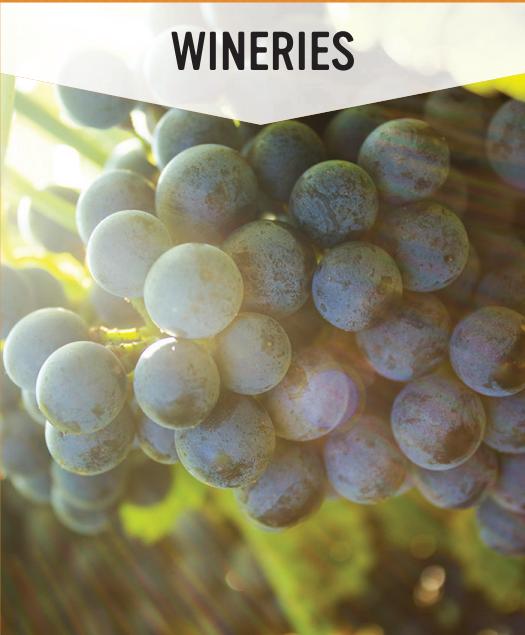
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LOU!S!ANA L!BAT!ONS

BREWERIES



WINERIES



DISTILLERIES



In Louisiana, we dine with gusto, but did you know we're also home to America's first cocktail—the Sazerac? In celebration of our cocktail culture, we've created a place for visitors to explore our Louisiana craft breweries, distilleries and wineries while planning your trip. Our Louisiana libations are hand-crafted and infused with local ingredients to create flavor profiles you won't find anywhere else in the country.

As passionate as we are about our cuisine, it was only a matter of time before Louisiana's craft breweries heeded the call to make flavorful beers that complement our food culture. The Louisiana Brewery Trail highlights 16 of these craft breweries throughout the state so visitors can discover their favorite local pint.

Travel Louisiana's Winery Trail to swirl, sniff and sip your way through four wineries offering grape varietals ranging from crisp whites to sweet berries. The enticing green vineyards of Louisiana offer oenophiles (or novice wine enthusiasts) a unique Southern twist on traditional wine profiles to enjoy on their own or paired with Louisiana meals.

Louisiana's distilleries are concocting a diverse array of liquors. From the sweet, locally grown sugar cane that distills into strong rum to the European original Absinthe, you will find distinctive Louisiana-made liquor throughout the state.

Visit Libations.LouisianaTravel.com to find details on the state's Brewery, Distillery and Winery Trails and plan your trip. Be sure to keep an eye out for these local libations in bars and restaurants. Cheers!

LouisianaLibations.com





Acadia

ACADIA PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS COMMISSION

AcadiaTourism.org

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Tour the Crowley Ford Assembly Building's four museums: the Rice Interpretive Center, History of Crowley, the J.D. Miller Recording Studio and the Ford Automotive Museum. Catch a glimpse of the 1901 Grand Opera House of the South, a museum that holds treasures of the past. Tour Crystal Rice Heritage Farm with the Blue Rose Museum and then hop over to Rayne to view the frog murals that explain why it is the Frog Capital of the World and Louisiana's City of Murals. Travel down to Roberts Cove, a German settlement, and visit its Heritage Museum.

Three Reasons to Visit

Food: Acadia Parish boasts the best Cajun cuisine—gumbos, crawfish dishes, jambalaya, boudin, cracklins, red beans and rice and the best bread pudding you will ever taste.

Culture: Travel the Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway and experience the heartland of Acadiana while enjoying Cajun and zydeco music.

Festivals: Acadia Parish has nine fairs and festivals. Church Point is the Buggy Capital of the World and celebrates with the Buggy Festival the first full week in June. Crowley celebrates the International Rice Festival, Louisiana's oldest and largest agricultural festival on the third weekend in October. You are sure to have a jumping good time at the 44th Rayne Frog Festival May 11 - 14, 2016. Acadia Parish is also known for its Cajun Prairie family-friendly, rural Mardi Gras, which includes chicken chases and costumes with screened masks and capuchins (cone-shaped hats), with festivities in Church Point Feb. 6 - 7, 2016, Crowley, Feb. 7 - 9, 2016, and Iota Feb. 9, 2016.

Make Sure to Experience

Kelly's Landing Agricultural Museum & Farm Tours: Take a nostalgic walk through the past and view the farming tools of our forefathers. The antiquated equipment is simple and usually handmade. You will marvel at the ingenuity of former generations and how many basic concepts they recognized are still used today. Take the crawfish tour or rice tour to learn about the importance of agriculture in Acadia Parish.



ALEXANDRIA/PINEVILLE AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Discover a variety of boutiques, locally-owned restaurants and a diverse art scene in the Alexandria/Pineville area. Experience the area's history at a plantation, museum or historic site. Find your adventure outdoors along trails, waterways or in the mud. Whether it is family and food or bayous and blues, you can find it all in the Heart of Louisiana.

Three Reasons to Visit

At the Heart of Louisiana: Located in the center of the state, the Alexandria/Pineville area is also known as the Heart of Louisiana. It is situated on Interstate 49 with easy access to Interstate 10 and Interstate 20. If you prefer to fly, choose the Alexandria International Airport (AEX) for your arrival. The central location makes the Alexandria/Pineville area a convenient place for hub-and-spoke tours.

At the Heart of History: Central Louisiana is rich in many areas of history, especially military history. Spanning from the Civil War's Red River Campaign to World War II's Louisiana Maneuvers, the museums and historic sites tell the story of cotton plantations; the burning, rebuilding and growth of Alexandria; and the preparations for war and beyond.

At the Heart of Outdoors: Named one of the Top 100 Adventure Towns by *National Geographic Magazine*, the Alexandria area is home to the state's longest hiking trail—the Wild Azalea Trail—and thousands of acres of the Kisatchie National Forest.

Make Sure to Experience

Silver Dollar Pawn & Jewelry: Home of The History Channel's *Cajun Pawn Stars*, the shop is filled with movie memorabilia, unique collections and a Civil Rights exhibit containing the hearse that carried Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Openings and Accolades

Hotel Bentley: This newly renovated historic hotel in downtown Alexandria offers guests the opportunity to stay where John Wayne, Roy Rogers and several WWII generals stayed and dined. Critical decisions during the Louisiana Maneuvers, the training prior to being deployed to the war front in WWII, were made within these walls. The Bentley was originally opened in 1908 and occupies an entire city block. Guests, locals and visitors can grab a signature cocktail in the Mirror Room Lounge.

Solomon Northup Story: *Twelve Years a Slave*, the story of Solomon Northup that took place in Rapides and Avoyelles parishes, was made into a movie in 2013. Northup, originally from New York, was kidnapped into slavery in the Bunkie-Cheneyville area before being freed at "the Marksville Courthouse" in the 1850s. A self-guided driving tour of Northup's journey is available.



ASCENSION PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION

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Situated on both banks of the mighty Mississippi River, Ascension Parish is a must-see area between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Visit museums, plantation homes, gardens, shopping boutiques and restaurants, ranging from casual to exquisite. Stay in one of the thousand accommodating hotel guest rooms or charming bed-and-breakfasts. The food, festivals, architecture, history and way of life reflect this rich culture, which Ascension Parish residents are proud to share with visitors.

Three Reasons to Visit

Shopping: Ascension Parish is home to Louisiana's favorite outlet mall, the Tanger Outlet Center, which has tax-free shopping for international visitors. Visit Cabela's, the world's foremost outfitter for outdoorsmen. It offers an interactive retail experience with entertaining and educational displays. Shops at the Cajun Village offer a unique experience.

Attractions: Explore Houmas House Plantation and Gardens beneath 200-year-old live oaks dripping with Spanish moss. Hear stories of life on a sugar cane plantation. The River Road African American Museum in Donaldsonville collects, preserves and exhibits art, artifacts and buildings related to the history and culture of African-Americans in the rural communities along the Mississippi River.

Food: The Cabin in Burnside is a one-of-a-kind restaurant serving down-home southern cooking, Cajun and River Road cuisine. The Cabin was constructed from former slave dwellings. Grapevine Café and Gallery in Donaldsonville is earning rave reviews from visitors, food writers and locals for its authentic south Louisiana flair. Sno's Seafood and Steak House, a Gonzales landmark, is where locals and visitors enjoy regional and signature dishes.

Make Sure to Experience

Jambalaya Festival: This festival is held every year in Gonzales on Memorial Day weekend. The whole family will enjoy the variety of world-champion jambalaya served daily along with other great food, live music, entertainment, cooking contests and carnival rides. The festival will take place May 27 - 29, 2016.

Openings and Accolades

Ascension Hot Air Balloon Festival: Bring your entire group to the Lamar Dixon Expo Center Sept. 23 - 24, 2016, to enjoy great music, food, a children's village, carnival rides, a car show, early morning balloon flying, balloon glows and fireworks at night.



AVOYELLES COMMISSION OF TOURISM

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Located in the center of Louisiana is historic Avoyelles Parish, a northern gateway to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Avoyelles is home to nine cities/municipalities, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and its premier property, Paragon Casino Resort and Tamahka Trails Golf Course (part of Audubon Golf Trail). Avoyelles is known for its joie de vivre and rich history, French heritage and annual festival fun. Choose from 10 museums and a variety of opportunities for specialty shopping.

Three Reasons to Visit

History: Avoyelles is one of the original 19 Louisiana parishes. The courthouse, located in Marksville, houses a permanent pictorial exhibit of the history of Avoyelles Parish and an outdoor plaza displaying facts about municipalities and the Avoyelles Parish connection to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Tunica Biloxi Cultural and Educational Resource Center: See where the famed Tunica Treasures are displayed and maintained in the conservation lab. Tunica-Biloxi Reservation is the site of the annual Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow and the recently constructed Tunica-Biloxi Nature Walking Trail.

Festival Fun: Plan your trip around any of Avoyelles Parish's unique festivals: Mardi Gras activities in the spring, Egg Knocking Festival on Easter weekend, Lagniappe Fest in April, Cochon de Lait Festival on Mother's Day weekend, Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow in May, Louisiana Corn Festival in June, Avoyelles Arts and Music Fest on July 4, Quilt Festival the first weekend in October, Cookbook Festival the second weekend in October, Farm Festival in Moreauville in April and Christmas on the Bayou Festival during the second weekend in December in Cottonport.

Make Sure to Experience

Amish Country Store and More: Enjoy a shopping experience like no other in central Louisiana. The Amish Store, located in Mansura, offers a true Amish family shopping experience. Purchase candies, snacks, homemade peanut and almond butters or pick out a gift from handmade brooms, quillows, potholders and bird houses. Choose from an assortment of jams, jellies, pickling spices, chocolates, dairy products and meats.

Openings and Accolades

French-Creole Designation: In June 2013, Louisiana's Legislature recognized Avoyelles Parish as one of four Louisiana French-Creole Parishes. The additional parishes are Pointe Coupee, St. Landry and Evangeline.

Solomon Northup Story: *Twelve Years a Slave*, the story of Solomon Northup that took place in Avoyelles and Rapides parishes, was recently made into a movie. Northup, originally from New York, was kidnapped into slavery in the Bunkie-Cheneyville area before being freed at "the Marksville Courthouse" in the 1850s. After obtaining his freedom, Northup wrote a book that made its way to Avoyelles and was later reprinted. A self-guided driving tour of Northup's journey is available.



BAYOU LAFOURCHE AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Located 40 miles southwest of New Orleans, the Bayou Lafourche area is your first stop in Cajun Country. Experience spectacular swamp tours, Cajun cultural attractions, award-winning festivals, scenic bayou drives and the best Cajun cuisine. Relax in our affordable hotels or bed-and-breakfasts. Come experience our joie de vivre.

Three Reasons to Visit

Louisiana Wetlands Cultural Byway: Magnificent swamplands, fisheries, antebellum plantations and Cajun culture await you as you tour and explore the Wetlands Cultural Byway.

Fishing: One of the top five fishing destinations in the U.S., Bayou Lafourche boasts more than 25 local charter captains available for fishing excursions year-round. Deep-sea, coastal and freshwater fishing trips include everything from your overnight accommodations to your bait and tackle.

Home of the Longest Main Street in the World: La. Hwy. 1 along beautiful Bayou Lafourche offers 110 miles of scenic beauty. Travel along the bayou stopping to visit sugar cane plantations, Cajun trawl net shops, shrimp processing plants, the Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building and other cultural attractions along with traditional Cajun restaurants, bakeries and more.

Make Sure to Experience

Bayou Lafourche Area Mardi Gras: Known as the “Greatest Free Show on the Bayou,” a Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 Event and an American Bus Association 2015 Top 100 Event. Bayou Lafourche Area Mardi Gras is two weekends of parades, tableaus and other Carnival events. Special group tour packages are available.

Openings and Accolades

Donner-Peltier Distillers: This rum, vodka and whiskey distillery located in Thibodaux makes these spirits with all Louisiana products, including rice and sugar cane. Alcohols are distilled 17 times and hand crafted in small batches. Tours are given on weekdays at 4 p.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., or by appointment for larger groups. A gift shop and tasting room are on-site.

Bayou Country Children’s Museum: This museum is a hands-on children’s museum where children will learn about Cajun agriculture, music, food, geography and more in a fun, safe environment.

Bayou Lafourche Area Mardi Gras, Louisiana Swamp Stomp Festival, French Food Festival and Louisiana Gumbo Festival of Chackbay: These four festivals are winners of Southeast Tourism Society’s Top 20 Events. The Bayou Lafourche Area Mardi Gras has won the STS Top 20 Event award for six consecutive years, and was also awarded the American Bus Association Top 100 Award for 2015. Special group tour packages are available for several area festivals.



BEAUREGARD TOURIST COMMISSION

BeauregardTourism.com

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View the countryside once known as No Man's Land and learn many tales from its once booming lumbering heyday. Travel the Myths and Legends Byway through the vast landscape of rolling hills to the swamplands of Bundick Lake and enjoy many roadside markets along the way.

Three Reasons to Visit

Tours of the Gothic Jail: Beginning January 2016 the historic Gothic Jail in DeRidder will be open for guided tours. Hear ghostly tales and learn the history and the stories of this historical jail.

Nation's First USO & War Room Museum: Opened on Nov. 27, 1941, DeRidder USO was the first building built for and used exclusively by the United Service Organizations during World War II. Both the exterior and interior of the structure are preserved in their original condition on the original site, and dances are still held on the original wooden floor. This museum has the distinction of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lois Loftin Doll Museum: This museum displays a collection of more than 3,000 dolls from around the world. Admission is free.

Make Sure to Experience

Beauregard Watermelon Festival: The fun and sweet annual Watermelon Festival is held the last weekend in June each year and offers great Louisiana swamp pop music.

Openings and Accolades

Myths and Legends Byway: The Myths and Legends Byway is the state's only byway based on cultural stories that may or may not be true. While they remain faithful to factual information in a historical context, the stories are entertaining and provide a glimpse into the history and culture of rural south Louisiana.

Cajun and Southern Cuisine: Steamboat Bill's, Cecil's Cajun Kitchen and Two Southern Brothers are where you can get your fill of Cajun and southern foods. Full of bold flavors and spices, these three restaurants will show you what you have been missing.



CAJUN COAST VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU

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The Cajun Coast is the perfect place to start your Louisiana adventure. Step into the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area along the Bayou Teche Scenic Byway. Enjoy Cajun food, fun and music at some of the nation's best festivals. Tour antebellum homes and museums, go bird watching, play golf, kayak or try your luck at casino gaming.

Three Reasons to Visit

Atchafalaya Basin: Covering one-third of Louisiana, the Atchafalaya Swamp is the largest overflow swamp in the U.S. It is home to an abundance of wildlife including birds, endangered/threatened wildlife species, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, finfish and shellfish. Swamp tours are available daily.

Welcome and Interpretative Center: Step inside to learn about the flora and fauna of a south Louisiana swamp, then step outside to experience it firsthand. Stroll the covered walkway while viewing cypress trees, hear cicada, spy an American bald eagle or catch a glimpse of Cayenne—the 6-foot American alligator that lives in the swamp behind the visitor center, open daily.

Franklin: Named one of the most beautiful towns in Louisiana by Lyle Saxon in his book *Old Louisiana*, Franklin encompasses more than 420 noteworthy properties and a turn-of-the-century shopping district. Walking and driving tours are recommended when visiting.

Make Sure to Experience

Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival: Held on Labor Day weekend, this free festival is the oldest chartered harvest festival in Louisiana and a 2012 American Bus Association Top 100 Event. This four-day extravaganza of family entertainment includes live music, a huge arts and crafts show, the children's village, the Cajun Culinary Classic, the traditional Blessing of the Fleet and a water parade.

Openings and Accolades

Cypress Bayou Casino • Hotel: Louisiana's first land-based casino is located on the Chitimacha Indian Reservation in Charenton. Enjoy slot machines, table games, a poker room, seven restaurants and ROX, an upscale nightclub. The 102-room hotel connects to the casino and offers a variety of room options.

Atchafalaya Golf Course at Idlewild: An Audubon Golf Trail course named *Golfweek's* 2012 Best Course to Play in Louisiana, this masterfully crafted course includes expansive greens and spectacular views. The clubhouse is constructed of cypress boards and offers a spectacular view of the shared ninth and 18th holes.

Bayou Teche Scenic Byway into the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area: This 125-mile route is home to two distinct cultures, the French Cajun culture of the upper Teche area and the Anglo culture of the lower Teche area. It is also home to a natural landscape that is part of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, featuring beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife. Enjoy swamp tours, paddling, music, food, driving adventures and more.

Cajun Coast



DESOTO PARISH TOURIST BUREAU

DeSotoIsDifferent.com

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Sharing a border with Texas influenced the history of DeSoto Parish and left a rich legacy for visitors to explore. Communities within the parish have many Civil War sites, some with annual re-enactments. Keachie's three 19th-century historic churches, Greek Revival homes and other buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The communities of DeSoto Parish—Carmel, Frierson, Gloster, Kingston, Pelican, Mansfield, Keachie, Stonewall, Logansport, Grand Cane, Longstreet and Stanley—are rich in history.

Three Reasons to Visit

History: DeSoto Parish is filled with history, recreation and culture with many historic homes, churches, the Mansfield State Historic Site and the Mansfield Female College Museum.

Recreation: Logansport—the Gateway to Toledo Bend—is located on the Sabine River where it empties into the lake.

Mansfield Female College Museum: Officially incorporated in 1855, this college taught arts, sciences and teaching as professions to many generations of young women.

Make Sure to Experience

Mansfield State Historic Site: This must-see Civil War site offers semimonthly programs pertaining to military and civilian events.

Openings and Accolades

Grand Cane Louisiana Cultural District: Original artwork can be purchased tax-free at the DeSoto Arts Council Art Gallery in Grand Cane.

DeSoto is Different: DeSoto will soon feature information about its cemeteries. The cemeteries and the extensive genealogical library at the Mansfield Female College Museum are good places to rediscover your lineage, whether you are a genealogy buff or you simply want to know more about our nation's history.

Clista A. Calhoun Center: This center, located in Mansfield, is open for private and public gatherings.



EVANGELINE PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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Along the Cajun Prairie in the south-central part of Louisiana exists a tiny piece of heaven where neighbors still visit, call each other *chèr* and stand up fiercely for their flag and their French, Cajun and Creole heritages. This is Ville Platte, named for the terrain of the land. The motto is "Ici on est fier de parler Français" which means "Here we are proud to speak French." Some Evangeline Parish residents speak more French on a daily basis than any other parish in Louisiana.

Three Reasons to Visit

Wonderful People: Evangeline Parish residents enjoy a *joie de vivre* unlike any other community. In English or in French, you will feel the hospitality from your first step into Evangeline Parish and throughout your visit.

Fabulous Food: Nick's on Main in Ville Platte is a local sports bar that serves pizza, po'boys and a luncheon buffet featuring Cajun food. Leroy's Cajun Meats along with B & S Grocery serves traditional boudin, cracklins and hogs head cheese as well as daily plate lunches of home-cooked Cajun delights. A special treat awaits all at the Crawfish Barn on the west side of town with crawfish, crab, shrimp and alligator. Café de LaSalle is a quaint restaurant that serves breakfast and a Cajun buffet at noon. The Krazy Cajun Café on Sixth Street in Mamou features home cooked Cajun delicacies along with Miss Sue's Café in Turkey Creek, the Pine Cone in Pine Prairie and The Bearcat in Basile.

Swamp Pop, Cajun French and Zydeco Music: Enjoy music at Fred's in Mamou every Saturday morning and throughout Mardi Gras season. April hosts the Boggy Bayou Festival in Pine Prairie, Labor Day weekend offers the Mamou Cajun Music Festival and mid-October brings the annual Louisiana Cotton Festival and Le Tournoi de la Ville Platte (a jousting tournament). The Louisiana Swine Festival, held the first weekend in November in Basile, serves the best cracklins in the world.

Make Sure to Experience

Le Grand Hoorah/Prairie Heritage Festival: At beautiful Chicot State Park April 15 – 16, 2016, this festival is a must for locals and visitors alike. People from around the world spend the weekend in Ville Platte to learn and share Cajun/French language, music, dance and cuisine.

Smoked Meat Festival (Le Festival de la Viande Boucanee): Come enjoy this festival, held on the last full weekend of June at the Ville Platte Civic Center, as 50 – 60 smoked delicacies are cooked to perfection. This festival is dedicated to all veterans with an opening ceremony which reflects our flag and freedom.

Gobble Gulley Paintball Field: A one-of-a-kind low impact outdoor paintball field located in Turkey Creek. Many playing fields are open to ages 6 and up. Seasonal themes are used throughout the year, and parties and celebrations can be booked in advance.



CITY OF GRETNA

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Gretna is a charming city with a small-town atmosphere, located in the middle of a major metropolitan area. Settled by German immigrants in 1836, Gretna was declared a village on May 19, 1913, and four months later it was incorporated. Gretna celebrated its centennial in 2013. Come stroll through one of Louisiana's largest National Register of Historic Places Districts.

Three Reasons to Visit

Gretna: Louisiana's largest National Register of Historic Places Districts, Gretna, turned 100 years old in 2013.

Louisiana Fire Museum/Gretna Historical Society Museum: The David Crockett Fire Company No. 1's 1859 firehouse proudly displays an 1876 hand-pulled steam-fire pumper. The museum includes artifacts from throughout the state. Most importantly, it is the oldest continuously active volunteer fire department in the U.S.

Hook & Ladder Cemetery: This cemetery, which dates back to 1859, has beautiful statues adorning the above-ground tombs which are common to the region. View several interesting monuments including one dedicated to Louis Oscar Fried, who was the first casualty during the 1914 Mexican-American War.

Make Sure to Experience

Gretna Attractions: Explore the German-American Cultural Museum and follow the journeys of German immigrants who came to Louisiana during the 1800s and became a major influence in New Orleans. Take a tour of Gretna City Hall—erected in 1907—which was a courthouse and is the grandest structure of its age in Jefferson Parish. City Hall houses a pictorial history of Gretna and its people. Make time for the Gretna City Park Observatory, the largest public observatory in the Greater New Orleans area. Walk through the 1850 McDonoghville Cemetery and the 1859 Hook and Ladder Cemetery and enjoy the free tours of above-ground tombs.

Openings and Accolades

Heritage House Information and Welcome Center: The Welcome Center is located at 1036 Huey P. Long Ave. at the restored former home of John Linden, a German immigrant who came to Gretna in about 1840.

Historic Post Office/Gretna Cultural Arts Center: Formerly a U.S. Post Office built in 1906, this historic space has been transformed into the Black Box Theater and is available for public events and private rentals.



Houma

HOUma AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Travel less than an hour southwest of New Orleans, and you'll enter Louisiana's Bayou Country and New Orleans Cajun Country—Houma. Embark on a unique adventure with thrilling swamp tours, Cajun food and music, a wildlife park and working alligator farm, world-class charter fishing, several plantations and museums and a wide assortment of festivals and fêtes. Here, you don't just see the sights, you become a part of them.

Three Reasons to Visit

Ardoine and Southdown Plantations: Houma has two sugar cane plantations that were built in the 1800s. Ardoine Plantation recently opened to the public for tours and is a rare example of Victorian Gothic architecture featuring all of the original furniture. Southdown Plantation has several exhibits including a Mardi Gras exhibit and an exhibit celebrating the history and significance of the Houmas Indians.

Swamp Tours: The home of *Swamp People*'s R.J. and Jay Paul Molinere, the Houma area showcases some of the most pristine swamps in the Atchafalaya Basin. Visitors can tour the swamps by airboat, pontoon or by air in a small plane.

Greenwood Gator Farm: See live alligators of all sizes, from new hatchlings to full-grown monsters, up close at this full-time working alligator farm. Greenwood Gator Farm houses and hatches 5,000 – 10,000 alligators each year. Come take a guided tour of how Louisiana alligators are born and raised and learn about the centuries-old art of alligator hunting from authentic hunters.

Make Sure to Experience

Mardi Gras/Festivals: Mardi Gras in Houma is a true Cajun celebration. Houma has one of the largest Mardi Gras celebrations in Louisiana, with more than a dozen parades full of colorful floats. The Voice of the Wetlands Festival featuring Tab Benoit is held in the fall, and the Rougarou Festival, which celebrates the legendary Cajun swamp monster that is half wolf and half human, is held the weekend before Halloween.

Openings and Accolades

Acadian Deportation Cross Monument: The Acadian Deportation Cross Monument is the first of its kind in the U.S. The monument, located in front of the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum, memorializes the journey of the Acadians from Acadie to the banks of the Louisiana bayous.

Chauvin Sculpture Garden, The Art of Kenny Hill: A bricklayer by trade, artist Kenny Hill settled on Bayou Petit Caillou in Chauvin and transformed his lush bayou environment into a fantastic chronicle of the world as seen through his eyes. Recently named the Fifth Best Folk Art Sculpture Garden in the World, the garden has more than 100 life-size concrete sculptures and is open from dawn to dusk.



IBERIA PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Savor Louisiana's hot and sweet side in Iberia Parish. Discover a captivating culture teeming with lush tropical gardens on tranquil islands, famous factories, museums, charming historic districts, stately plantation homes, art galleries, live theater, shopping, fishing, scenic drives and walking tours, colorful birds, golf, canoeing, festivals, contagious Cajun and zydeco music and renowned cuisine.

Three Reasons to Visit

New Avery Island Experience: Avery Island's world-famous TABASCO® Factory and Country Store just expanded its tour, offering visitors a more in-depth look into the making and history of the sauce. They also offer a cafeteria-style restaurant and a food tour featuring Cajun culture and samplings of local cuisine. Nearby Jungle Gardens added new signage and private birding tours for individual travelers and groups.

New Iberia's Historic Commercial and Residential District: The Commercial District won the 2005 Great American Main Street Award® sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation®. The Residential District includes Shadows-on-the-Teché, Louisiana's only National Trust for Historic Preservation® house, museum and garden.

Easy Access and Abundance of Tourism Opportunities: In the heart of Cajun Country, enjoy and explore rich culture and history, festivals, delicious food and people who never meet a stranger. Iberia Parish is located 30 minutes from Lafayette and two-and-a-half hours from New Orleans.

Make Sure to Experience

Famous Attractions: Tour the famous TABASCO® factory, century-old KONRIKO®/Conrad Rice Mill, National Register plantation home Shadows-on-the-Teché and award-winning historic Main Street captured in the Dave Robicheaux series by James Lee Burke. Stroll the lush Jungle Gardens, Antique Rose Ville and Rip Van Winkle Gardens/Jefferson Mansion. Learn about Iberia's history and industry at the Bayou Teché and Jeanerette Museums.

Openings and Accolades

The Bayou Teché Paddle Trail: Recently named to the National Paddle Trail System, the historic and cultural trail map was entered in the Library of Congress and received an award in the 2015 Cartography and Geographic Information Society Map Design Competition.

New Shopping Opportunities on New Iberia Main Street: An antique mall, a fudge/sweets shop, several local retailers and a monthly food truck festival are all new to the New Iberia Main Street.

City of Jeanerette: Jeanerette has a new self-guided, historic walking/biking tour, coffeehouse and gift shop.

James Lee Burke's Dave Robicheaux Detective Novel Series: This detective series was recently praised by *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*. New Iberia will host the first Dave Robicheaux's Hometown Literary Festival April 8 - 10, 2016.

Town of Delcambre: Delcambre received the Spirit of Community Award at the Gulf of Mexico Climate Outreach Community of Practice's annual meeting. Bayou Carlin Cove, a dock and pavilion for the monthly seafood and farmers market and other community events, is Delcambre's latest addition.



IBERVILLE PARISH TOURISM DEPARTMENT

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Nestled in the heart of the Atchafalaya at the soul of Louisiana's Plantation Country, Iberville is a wealth of discovery. One of the oldest settlements on the Mississippi River, Iberville boasts historic sites, plantation homes and natural landscapes ideal for paddling and fishing.

Three Reasons to Visit

Nottoway Plantation: This is the South's largest antebellum plantation home and a Historic Hotel of America.

The Madonna Chapel: This chapel is fabled to be the smallest Catholic Church in the world.

National Hansen's Disease Museum: This captivating tour documents the exiled lives of Hansen's Disease (formerly leprosy) patients.

Make Sure to Experience

Iberville Swamp Life Expo: This expo occurs the first Saturday in October. Come experience authentic Cajun lifestyles at the Swamp Life Expo, the official kickoff of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Days. Enjoy displays of local art, food, crafts and music. Admission is free.

Openings and Accolades

Nottoway Plantation: The plantation continues to expand its resort services by providing 40 luxurious accommodations. Recently receiving the prestigious designation of one of the Historic Hotels of America, Nottoway provides stellar hospitality through its cuisine, accommodations, elegant meeting and event venues and riveting history.

The Island Country Club & Golf Course: An inaugural member of Louisiana's Audubon Golf Trail, this course is appropriately known as the "Sweet Spot of the South" due to its great golf, amazing cuisine and prime location in the heart of Louisiana's sugar cane country. The Island celebrates the culinary talents of Louisiana chef Michael Dardenne. Open for lunch Tuesdays through Sundays and dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, The Island Grill specializes in culinary dishes with Louisiana flair served in a beautiful Acadian-style setting.

Iberville Museum: The museum captures the heritage and culture of Iberville Parish. Continued enhancements include an expansion of exhibit space with the addition of a permanent interpretive display of the life and culture of the Atchafalaya Basin.



JEFF DAVIS PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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In Jefferson Davis Parish, you can canoe, bike or drive a scenic route along the Flyway Byway to get up close and personal with millions of birds and creatures. Come visit the Gator Chateau and hold baby alligators. Dine over beautiful Lake Arthur and taste and tour the rum distillery.

Three Reasons to Visit

Flyway Byway: Millions of migratory waterfowl funnel through the North American Flyway and feed in the harvested rice fields. The Flyway Byway begins off Interstate 10 at La. Hwy. 99 in Welsh and heads south to both the Lacassine Pool and the Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge. An extreme bike trail begins at Niblett Road, and canoeing is available on the Lacassine Bayou. The entire byway provides an opportunity to view birds and the natural flora and fauna of Louisiana.

Seafood Sensation Culinary Trail: Arrive by plane, boat or car to Lake Arthur and dine on the water at the Regatta LA Seafood and Steakhouse, featuring fresh seafood, steaks and pasta. Try award-winning gumbo, steaks and seafood at Mike's Seafood and Steakhouse in Jennings. Dine on homestyle Cajun favorites at Cajun Tales Seafood in Welsh. Eat the famous Gummy Burger and local seafood favorites at Nott's Corner in Lake Arthur. Seasonal boiled crawfish will hit the spot at Frey's Crawfish House in Welsh, along with a full menu of steaks and local favorites. Be sure to pick up some delicious boudin, stuffed meats and smoked sausage at Cormier's Specialty Meats in Jennings.

Regatta Festival: Lake Arthur is one of Louisiana's best-kept secrets. It is a small town with big hospitality nestled 8 miles south of Interstate 10 on La. Hwy. 26. Cast your sails and find a shady seat under one of the majestic oak trees in Lake Arthur's beautiful park during the second weekend in June, when you can tempt your taste buds with some great Cajun favorites and listen to some of the hottest regional and national bands.

Make Sure to Experience

Crawfish Tours and Gators: Crawfish field tours in Jefferson Davis Parish run from March to May. Spectators will experience the habitat, harvest, distribution and consumption of Louisiana's favorite food. See live alligators at the Gator Chateau and interact with baby alligators year-round.

Openings and Accolades

Louisiana Spirits Rum Distillery: Bayou Rum is handmade in the largest privately owned rum distillery in the U.S. using traditional methods. Rum is pasteurized, fermented, distilled, aged in barrel storage, bottled and served at their in-house tasting bar. After the tour and tasting experience, make sure to visit the gift shop.

Bank Hotel: The hotel is named L'Banca Albergo, which is Italian for The Bank Hotel. An old bank located in downtown Lake Arthur was transformed into a two-story hotel. The old bank vault in the hotel features a wine cellar for hotel guests, and the balcony overlooks Main Street with a perfect view of local Mardi Gras parades.



JEFFERSON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Adjacent to the famous city of New Orleans, you will discover a place steeped in history, culture, mouth-watering cuisine and shopping. It is also the home of the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. From adventurous swamp tours to vibrant historic districts, Jefferson Parish is full of excitement for everyone.

Three Reasons to Visit

Student and Senior Friendly Attractions: The largest National Register of Historic Places District in Louisiana, Gretna is a must see for all ages. Enjoy historic homes, a firehouse, blacksmith demonstrations, unique architecture and German history. The nature trails in Lafitte and central Jefferson's parks are tranquil and bountiful. Explore the bayous and marshes by airboat. Visit historic Rivertown in Kenner, which boasts the region's only planetarium.

Louisiana Oyster Trail: The Louisiana Oyster Trail is a public art project spotlighting the talents of local chefs and artists. Each location proudly displays a 3-foot-tall 3-D oyster sculpture, designed by local artists to reflect the spirit of Jefferson's culture. Louisiana is known for world-famous seafood, and oysters are the highlight of seafood delicacies. Each restaurant showcases a unique oyster dish. Travel along the oyster trail to find exceptional Louisiana seafood and marvel at the one-of-a-kind artwork.

Convenience and Value: Jefferson Parish is the central destination to visit in southeast Louisiana. It is home to the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and only 7 miles to the historic French Quarter and downtown New Orleans. It is the heart of shopping in Louisiana as well as home to the New Orleans Saints' and Pelicans' training camps, the Zephyrs AAA Baseball Club and Stadium and NOLA Motorsports for racing enthusiasts. Jefferson has Bayou Barataria, Lafitte and Grand Isle where you will experience authentic swamp and airboat tours, Cajun food and the best fishing, crabbing and camping adventures. The value-priced hotels ranging from economy to full-service do not charge parking, and most offer complimentary breakfast, giving you two more reasons to choose Jefferson Parish for your next Louisiana experience.

Make Sure to Experience

Family Gras and Jefferson Parish Mardi Gras: The Carnival season kicks off in Jefferson Parish with Family Gras, a three-day event combining the pageantry and fun of Mardi Gras parades with outdoor concerts, food and art vendors.



LAFAYETTE TRAVEL

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Lafayette is a food lover's paradise. Homegrown chefs put a fresh spin on time-honored Cajun recipes, which mesh perfectly with unique live music venues and festivals that showcase Cajun and zydeco music. Lafayette's menus and venues are calling your name.

Three Reasons to Visit

Lively Cajun & Zydeco Music: Live Cajun or zydeco music can be enjoyed seven nights a week at Cajun dance hall restaurants including Randol's, Prejean's and Pont Breaux's. Live music can also be enjoyed on the weekends at Vermilionville, Begnaud House and Blue Moon Saloon. For groups, experience the music presentation at Martin Accordions, a family-owned Cajun accordion manufacturer.

Vermilionville Living History Museum & Folklife Park: Vermilionville, located on the banks of Bayou Vermilion, is a 23-acre Cajun, Creole and American Indian heritage and folklife park that authentically recreates life in the Acadiana area between 1765 and 1890. This historical village features costumed interpreters sharing the stories of their ancestors. Lunch options, including a cooking school, are available. Boat tours, Cajun or zydeco dance lessons, a watershed environmental exhibit and voluntourism are also available for groups.

Swamp Adventures: Featuring a variety of swamp and outdoor experiences, we have something to fit every level of adventure. Choose from large boat tours with McGee's Landing, more intimate small boat tours, or guided kayaking and canoeing trips with Bayou Teche. More options include airboat experiences for groups and individuals.

Make Sure to Experience

Mardi Gras Lafayette-Style: Groups and VIPs can enjoy a prime spot for parade viewing on Mardi Gras weekend. Lafayette features seven parades and a special reviewing stand with seating available for every parade during Mardi Gras week. Lafayette's Mardi Gras is a 2016 American Bus Association Top 100 Event.

Openings and Accolades

Cajun Boudin Trail Top 10 Best Food Trail: The Cajun Boudin Trail, centered in the Lafayette area, is a USA Today 10Best Food Trail.

All-American Vacation: Lafayette was included in the Travel Channel's *Travel's Best All-American Vacations 2015* for its unique Cajun/Creole food, music and language found only in this small part of the country.

The New TABASCO® Experience: TABASCO® is upping its game by expanding the visitor experience. Additions include a new Visitors Center, a greenhouse, mash warehouse and processing warehouse for visitors to learn about the famous TABASCO® Brand Pepper Sauce. A restaurant featuring authentic Cajun food is also part of the expansion.



LAKE CHARLES/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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There is a reason why *AAA Southern Traveler* readers named several Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana attractions the Best of the South. Spot alligators, hear the Cajun rhythm, catch a glimpse of Mardi Gras and taste flavorful cuisine in Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana. The area offers Las Vegas-style casino gaming resorts, Cajun cuisine, diverse music, performing arts, more than 75 annual fairs and festivals, pristine golf courses and outdoor adventure along the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road.

Three Reasons to Visit

World-Class Casino Resorts: The newest property, Golden Nugget Lake Charles, opened December 2014 and is a \$700 million resort with 740 luxurious guest rooms, a championship golf course, lazy river swimming pool and 12 restaurants. The new resort is located next door to L'Auberge Casino Resort, which has its own championship golf course, lazy river and swim-up bar, eight innovative restaurants, world-class spa, high-end shopping and exciting entertainment. With the addition of the Golden Nugget, Calcasieu Parish has four casinos, making the area the premier casino resort destination in the South.

The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road: Experience a hands-on opportunity to see one of America's last great wildernesses near Lake Charles. Traveling through wildlife refuges, Gulf Coast beaches and marshlands will allow the groups to see alligators, migrating waterfowl, Neotropical birds and dolphins along the ship channel, not to mention the beauty and tranquility of Louisiana's Outback.

Southwest Louisiana Boudin Trail: This trail offers more than 25 stops for visitors to try boudin, described as Cajuns' favorite finger food. One location, LeBleu's Landing, includes a gift shop, a full-service restaurant and a meat market with a window for patrons to watch the boudin-making process.

Make Sure to Experience

Mardi Gras: Southwest Louisiana hosts one of the largest Mardi Gras celebrations in Louisiana. King cake, parades, glitzy flowing costumes and the sweet sound of Cajun and zydeco music add to the mystique of Mardi Gras in Lake Charles, which is a family-friendly affair. The majority of the events will take place Feb. 6 - 9, 2016. The Mardi Gras Museum—which holds the largest costume display in the world—is open year-round.

Openings and Accolades

Acadian Coffee Roasters: Micro roaster offering 100 percent organic, fair trade and Rainforest Alliance coffees and a 30-minute tour. Enjoy learning about top grade coffee beans from around the world.

Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point: Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point in Sulphur—a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana's unique culture. Through imaginative, hands-on displays sure to inspire, you can learn the best places to spot alligators and migrating songbirds, take a peek at wildlife found in bayous and marshes, smell mouthwatering aromas of Cajun/Creole cooking and play along with a Cajun and zydeco band.

Crave Gourmet Baskets & Gifts: Crave is a unique boutique, offering gourmet baskets, premium olive oils and balsamics, wine, cheese and other fine foods. A unique tasting bar allows you to sample all of its products before making your selections.

Awards: The Lake Charles/Southwest Louisiana CVB was named 2015 CVB of the Year by the Southeast Tourism Society. In 2013, the Louisiana Travel Promotion Association awarded the CVB the Outstanding CVB of the Year and Best Tourism Campaign of the Year. Lake Charles was named City of the Year by *Acadiana Profile* in 2013. *AAA Southern Traveler* named the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road the Best Nature Trail, L'Auberge Casino Resort the Best Casino and Louisiana's Audubon Golf Trail—which includes Lake Charles' Gray Plantation—the Best Golf Trail in 2013.



LIVINGSTON PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Each year, thousands of visitors discover the wonder of southeast Louisiana. From first-class golfing and endless waterways to shopping and strolling through quiet antique boutiques, Livingston Parish offers something for everyone. Convenient to Interstate 12, Interstate 10 and Interstate 55, Livingston Parish is 10 minutes from Baton Rouge, home of LSU and Southern University, and 45 minutes from New Orleans. You will find excellent hotels, beautiful RV parks and local restaurants coupled with a friendly, down-home atmosphere. Come visit, kick back your heels and stay a while.

Three Reasons to Visit

Denham Springs Antique Village: The first buildings of this area provide a perfect ambiance for the Denham Springs Antique Village. The village consists of more than 30 shops with many unique items. Shoppers will find new and collectible jewelry and accessories, original art, home decor, flower arrangements, books, vases, pottery and many more one-of-a-kind treasures.

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Shopping Complex: As a national leader in sales and one of the most unique facilities in the U.S., the Bass Pro Shops store anchors a shopping experience including several small retail shops and eateries. The complex is located only a few miles from the Antique District of Denham Springs.

Delicious Dining: While Louisiana is renowned for exceptional cuisine, Livingston Parish sports more than a fair share of great restaurants, and gumbo, jambalaya and crawfish pie are just a few of the specialties. Sample the original, creative dishes, and you will be sure to come again. On or near the water, mouthwatering tastes are available at Hill Top Inn, Kevin's Cajun Seafood, Charlie's, Red's and many more.

Make Sure to Experience

Powerboat Poker Run: The Tickfaw 200 is the nation's largest Powerboat Poker Run. It is hosted the first weekend of May at the Blood River Marina in Springfield. More than 300 boats come from all over the nation to compete in the Poker Run, a celebration that features great food, super music acts and boating pageantry. Proceeds go to charity.

Openings and Accolades

Denham Springs Antique District: This district was recently voted among the three Best Louisiana Main Streets and also Best Antique Shopping.

Carter Plantation: Carter Plantation in Springfield features the David Toms Signature Golf Course and was named one of the Top 10 Places You Can Play by *Golf Magazine* and Best in the State by *Golf Digest*.

Hungarian Museum and Historic Carter Plantation House: These two properties were recognized for preserving their historical buildings by the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation.



Madison

MADISON PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION

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Hunting and fishing have been the most popular sports in Madison Parish since the earliest settlers, and that popularity continues today. The first enclosed mall in Louisiana—known as Bloom's Arcade—was built in Tallulah and patterned after the French malls in Paris. Madison Parish is home to Madame C.J. Walker, the first self-made woman millionaire of any race. Born to slave parents, she created a line of hair products for blacks.

Three Reasons to Visit

Hunting and Fishing Opportunities: The most popular sport in the parish continues to be hunting and fishing. The woodlands of Madison Parish are abundantly stocked with squirrels, wild turkeys, rabbits, quails, doves, ducks and geese. As far back as 1894, the most popular game fish were black bass, crappie, goggle-eye and perch. By 1957, bream, crappie and channel catfish became the favorites among the fishermen.

Historical Sites: A driving tour of the parish will reveal Civil War trail markers for the Battle of Milliken's Bend, Dalkeith Prison Hospital, Duckport Canal, Grant's Canal, Crescent Plantation and Hermione Museum.

Hermione Museum: A restored antebellum home that was saved from General Grant's March now houses the history of Madison Parish. Brochures are available for a driving tour of Grant's March through Louisiana.

Make Sure to Experience

The Annual Teddy's Bearfest: Held the second weekend in October, this festival is a historical celebration commemorating President Theodore Roosevelt's travel to Louisiana in 1907 to kill the elusive black bear that he failed to capture in Mississippi in 1902.

Annual Christmas along the Bayou Arts and Crafts Festival and Parade: Held on the first Sunday in December, this festival boasts a Christmas concert and fireworks show.

Openings and Accolades

The Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge: Enjoy hiking trails, hunting and fishing opportunities and programs for children and young adults.

Southern Heritage and Air Foundation: Tour the museum and have an unforgettable flight experience, whether you choose an aerobatic flight in a warbird airplane or a vintage airplane.



MONROE-WEST MONROE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Monroe-WestMonroe.org

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Monroe-West Monroe is the place where people shop, eat and discover. Shop along Antique Alley lined with classic antique shops and boutiques. Eat at one of more than 100 locally owned restaurants. Discover the area's history with Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines and World War II hero General Claire Lee Chennault.

Three Reasons to Visit

Landry Vineyards: Located in the rolling hills of West Monroe, Landry Vineyards is a local tradition and a must-see stop for visitors to enjoy the views while sampling wines in the tasting room. Do not miss the fall and spring outdoor concert series and summer harvest festivals when the grounds are filled with music, food and fun.

Antique Alley: Antique Alley has long been a top shopping destination in the region with classic antiques, boutiques, restaurants and a newly opened bed-and-breakfast.

Follow the Beards: The stars of A&E's hit show *Duck Dynasty* call this area home, and you can follow their adventures throughout Monroe-West Monroe with the new Official Duck Commander Hometown Tour. Visit locations featured on the show as well as the store at the Duck Commander Warehouse in West Monroe.

Make Sure to Experience

Christmas on the River: The event is full of holiday cheer with dancing lights, parades, fireworks, live entertainment, great shopping, ice skating and more.

Openings and Accolades

Trapp's Restaurant: The newest venture from Joey Trappey, owner of the popular Fieldhouse Restaurant in Monroe, is located right on the Ouachita River. You may recognize the Trappey name from the hot sauce company started by Joey's great-great-great-grandfather in 1898. Trapp's Louisiana menu offers delicious items such as Mom Bourque's Seafood Nachos, Main Street Blackened Catfish and Bill's Seafood Platter, and of course, there's a bottle of Trappey's Hot Sauce on every table.



MOREHOUSE TOURISM COMMISSION

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If you enjoy hunting, fishing and watching wildlife, then Morehouse Parish is the place to be.

Begin your journey at Chemin-A-Haut State Park and continue by canoeing or kayaking on beautiful Bayou Bartholomew. Hunting, wildlife, tranquility, shopping, museums, antique shops—it is all in Morehouse.

Three Reasons to Visit

Home of Simmons Sporting Goods: Simmons is the South's largest independently owned sporting goods store.

Morehouse Parish: The parish is the fifth-largest duck hunting location in the U.S.

Canoeing and Kayaking on Bayou Bartholomew: This bayou is a major part of the state's paddle trail for canoe and kayak enthusiasts.

Make Sure to Experience

Canoeing and Kayaking on Bayou Bartholomew: Bayou Bartholomew is one of the most beautiful bayous in the world, and paddlers travel here to experience it firsthand.

Openings and Accolades

Bayou Bartholomew: Morehouse Parish is known throughout the country for its 77 miles of beauty for those who canoe and kayak. A part of the Louisiana Paddle Trails, Bayou Bartholomew made its national debut on television as part of a documentary filmed by the Arkansas Educational Television Network. Also receiving recognition in the film is Chemin-A-Haut Creek, a Bartholomew tributary that was recently recognized for its thousand-year-old cypress trees.

Chemin-A-Haut State Park: Recognized for having some of the oldest cypress trees in Louisiana, Chemin-A-Haut State Park has one tree in particular, the Castle, that measures 20 feet in diameter and has a hollow cavern large enough to paddle a canoe through. Core samples estimate the tree's age to be at least 1,000 years old. Further tests may prove that this tree is even older than a millennium. It was designated as one of the six trees in Louisiana that was alive in 1812, the year of Louisiana's statehood.

Canoeing and Kayaking on Chemin-A-Haut Creek: Boat tours are available on beautiful Chemin-A-Haut Creek which winds around the state park. Canoes and kayaks are available for rent.



NATCHITOCHES AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Located in northwest Louisiana, Natchitoches (pronounced “Nack-a-tish”) is a one-of-a-kind community full of culture, history, recreation, shopping and more. Established in 1714, Natchitoches celebrated its tricentennial in 2014 and is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase.

Three Reasons to Visit

Natchitoches Historic Landmark District: Overlooking historic Cane River Lake, downtown Natchitoches offers many unique activities for travelers. Shop the 33-block historic district, take a horse-drawn carriage ride and snack on a famous Natchitoches meat pie.

Cane River National Heritage Trail, a Louisiana Scenic Byway: Stretched along the banks of beautiful Cane River Lake, Natchitoches is home to three state historic sites, the National Parks at Oakland Plantation, Magnolia Plantation Complex and Melrose Plantation all within the boundaries of the Cane River National Heritage Area.

45 Nights of Christmas Lights: Louisiana's premier holiday celebration begins the Saturday before Thanksgiving with a holiday open house, fireworks and entertainment. In December, more than 300,000 Christmas lights illuminate the historic district nightly, with a spectacular fireworks show every Saturday.

Make Sure to Experience

Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site: Experience French colonial life while guided through the fort by costumed interpreters. The site, obtained for the replication of Fort St. Jean Baptiste, is located on Cane River Lake (formerly the Red River) a few hundred yards from the original fort site that Louis Antoine Juchereau de St. Denis set up in 1714.

Openings and Accolades

Home to the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum: Located in the heart of downtown Natchitoches, the two-story, 27,500-square foot museum features spectacular exhibits displaying more than a century of Louisiana sports history and culture. The gallery showcases more than 300 inductees and their incredible stories.

National Recognition: *USA Today* named Natchitoches the Best Southern Small Town in 2015. CNN named historic Natchitoches the Best Destination to Travel in 2014. Yahoo named the Natchitoches Christmas Festival of Lights the Third-Best Holiday Light Show in 2013. *Where to Retire Magazine* ranked Natchitoches in the top eight Great Fishing Cities across the country.



New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Steeped in a history of influences from Europe, the Caribbean, Africa and beyond, New Orleans is home to a truly unique melting pot of culture, food and music. You will find gumbo, jazz clubs, historic neighborhoods and festivals year-round. Come experience one of America's most culturally and historically rich destinations.

Three Reasons to Visit

Music: Wherever you go in New Orleans, live music is part of the rhythm of everyday life, pouring out of open doorways and ringing out from street corners. The city's thriving musical community provides ongoing soundtracks for visitors and locals alike. It is easy to immerse yourself in an authentic musical experience by catching a performance at any local hotspot.

Culture: New Orleans has a vibrant culture. It is Old World with a new twist. The food, festivals and music are shared pleasures and give the city a powerful sense of identity. There are neighborhood restaurants opened by bold creative chefs, brass band parades in local neighborhoods and up-and-coming jazz musicians dominating the local scene. This remarkable city naturally combines traditions with new influences and continues to amaze tourists and locals alike.

Food: New Orleans is known worldwide for its cuisine. Home to more than 1,300 restaurants, New Orleans is truly an epicurean delight. French cuisine blends with local cooking styles and creates distinctive Creole and Cajun dishes that are original to the city, such as gumbo and po'boys.

Make Sure to Experience

National World War II Museum: The National WWII Museum exhibits cover the global scale of the war that changed the world in a voice that is intimate and personal right in the heart of New Orleans. Exhibits not only highlight the role of world leaders, but also the everyday men and women who found the strength and courage to accomplish the extraordinary.

Openings and Accolades

Southern Food & Beverage Museum: SoFAB is a nonprofit living history organization dedicated to the discovery, understanding and celebration of the food, drink and related culture of the South. While based in New Orleans, the museum examines and celebrates all the cultures that have come together through the centuries to create the South's unique culinary heritage.

South Market District: At the center of a new energy and activity transforming New Orleans' historic downtown, South Market encompasses a five-block area at the intersection of the Warehouse/Arts District, Central Business District, Medical District and Sports/Entertainment District.

Le Petit Théâtre du Vieux Carré: One of the oldest community theatres in the country (est. 1916), it quickly became known as the place to see live theater in the South. The theater underwent a multimillion dollar renovation 2012 – 2013, which created space for Tableau, a contemporary Louisiana Creole restaurant. By partnering with an internationally renowned restaurant family, Le Petit Théâtre provides a dinner and theater experience like no other.

The Joy Theater: The entirely renovated Joy Theater is a 10,000-square-foot multipurpose venue that features live music concerts, comedy shows and theatrical productions, as well as a space to host a private party or corporate event. Staying true to the New Orleans heritage, the Joy Theater was returned to its art deco grandeur of the late 1940s, including the renovation of the iconic marquee that once again graces Canal Street.

The Orpheum Theater: A nearly century-old Beaux Arts theater in the heart of New Orleans' Central Business District, the theater was built in 1918. The iconic space—one of the few remaining vertical hall designs in the U.S.—has hosted vaudeville acts, films and countless performances by the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra. With a full renovation and passionate preservation completed, this classic space will open once more to the music-loving public as a fully restored, incomparably luxurious entertainment space.



NEW ORLEANS PLANTATION COUNTRY

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New Orleans Plantation Country stretches 54 miles along the winding, picturesque Great River Road. Between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, an unforgettable journey back in time awaits you. Here you will find 10 majestic, historic plantations to discover. Experience the beauty of New Orleans Plantation Country where the river shaped the culture, and the experience will shape you.

Three Reasons to Visit

Plantations: New Orleans Plantation Country boasts 10 plantation homes offering tours to the public. Immerse yourself in the region's unique and diverse history nestled along the Great River Road. Plantations include Oak Alley Plantation, Houmas House Plantation and Gardens, Evergreen Plantation, Destrehan Plantation, Laura Plantation, Ormond Plantation, San Francisco Plantation, St. Joseph Plantation, Poche Plantation and Whitney Plantation.

Swamp Tours: New Orleans Plantation Country is not only known for its beautiful homes, but also for its mysterious swamps. Travel through the Louisiana bayous and explore the flora and fauna up close where the gators are waiting. Swamp tours are offered by Cajun Pride, Airboat Tours by Arthur, Swamp Adventures, Pleasure Bend Nature Tours and Wild Louisiana Tours.

Food: New Orleans Plantation Country has several restaurants ready to serve your favorite Louisiana dishes. From casual eateries to fine dining, experience the best of Cajun and Creole cuisine at the many restaurants in New Orleans Plantation Country, including Frenier Landing, Nobile's, B&C Seafood, Oak Alley Plantation Restaurant and Latil's Landing. Many fairs and festivals such as the Andouille Festival, Catfish Festival and the Alligator Festival highlight the delicious food found throughout New Orleans Plantation Country.

Make Sure to Experience

Christmas Eve Lighting of the Bonfires: Lighting the way for Papa Noel—the Cajun Santa Claus—the bonfires are one of the oldest holiday traditions in Louisiana, dating back to the 1700s.

Openings and Accolades

Whitney Plantation: Whitney Plantation opened its doors to the public for the first time in its 262-year history as the only plantation museum in Louisiana with a focus on slavery. Through museum exhibits, memorial artwork, restored buildings and hundreds of first-person slave narratives, visitors to Whitney will gain a unique perspective into the lives of Louisiana's enslaved people.

Destrehan Plantation: Phase one has begun in the plantation's master development plan with the construction of a new administrative building. Aided by a \$1 million donation from the Azby Foundation, Destrehan plans to construct a welcome center, bed-and-breakfast cottages, a children's birthday party and small event rental facility and an interactive educational activity center.

Houmas House Plantation and Gardens: Embarking on a new direction for its restaurants, Café Burnside, Latil's Landing and The Carriage House Restaurant will each offer varied menus with frequent updates. The five- and seven-course tastings offered will reflect seasonal availability of herbs, fruits and vegetables grown in the Houmas House gardens. The seafood offered will be local and also aligned with the current season.

NOPC Film Industry: NOPC continues to experience a boom in Hollywood productions with several of the area's attractions receiving starring roles. Destrehan, Evergreen, Ormond, Oak Alley, St. Joseph and Whitney plantations were all featured in productions ranging from commercials to full-length features.



PLAQUEMINES PARISH OFFICE OF TOURISM

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Plaquemines Parish, a world-class fishing destination, has something for everyone to enjoy with sport fishing, outdoor adventures, wetland tours, festivals and historic sites. The community keeps its culture alive through the many fairs and festivals hosted throughout the year, which celebrate the unique people and way of life in Plaquemines Parish. Come experience how the outdoors, history and culture blend together to bring people from all over the world to enjoy this unique and authentic experience.

Three Reasons to Visit

World-Class Fishing: Legendary anglers Bert Jones, Roland Martin and Bill Dance come to Plaquemines Parish to catch the big ones. These anglers continually feature the areas of Venice, Empire, Myrtle Grove and South Pass on their national outdoor shows. Whatever you are looking to catch, the offshore, freshwater and saltwater wetlands in Plaquemines Parish have some of the greatest variety and numbers of fish in North America.

Fairs and Festivals: Plaquemines Parish is home to several annual fairs and festivals that are great family fun. The festival season begins with the Buras Volunteer Fire Department Crawfish Boil-Off in April. May brings the Plaquemines Parish Seafood Festival, where visitors can enjoy great local seafood and other unique food specialties. The first full weekend of December brings the oldest of the parish festivals, the 69-year-old Orange Festival. Held at historic Fort Jackson, the festival was started to celebrate the industrious citrus growers of Plaquemines Parish.

Culture and History: History and culture blend together here and can be found in the many historical sites scattered throughout Plaquemines Parish. The parish has a lot to offer including Civil War forts, plantation homes and monuments.

Make Sure to Experience

Outdoor Adventures: Hiking, birding and off-road biking are some options available to visitors at the Woodland Trails Wilderness Area. Bird watchers will enjoy the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, which is a federal preserve located at the mouth of the Mississippi River that plays host to thousands of migratory and indigenous birds each year. For those who want a closer look at the wildlife in the parish's wetlands, perhaps an air tour or guided swamp tour is more to your liking.

Openings and Accolades

Fort Jackson Museum: Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. It has displays of artifacts from the Civil War battle fought at Fort Jackson. The Fort is available for exterior viewing only due to extensive damage received in recent hurricanes.



POINTE COUPEE PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

PCTourism.org

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Pointe Coupee Parish is one of the oldest settlements in the Mississippi River Valley, and its French and African influences can still be seen. You will find friendly people and delicious cuisine. It has beautiful lakes, a historical bike tour, festivals, country fairs and parades for visitors to enjoy.

Three Reasons to Visit

Hospitality: Pointe Coupee is a rural area with friendly people, great restaurants and beautiful scenic views.

Fairs and Festivals: Pointe Coupee Parish is host to many events such as country fairs, parades, festivals and events including the New Roads Spring Street Festival and Antique Car Show.

Fordoche Fair: Experience a country fair set up around a beautiful pond in Fordoche. Enjoy rides for all ages, home-cooked dinners, live entertainment and lots of Southern hospitality.

Make Sure to Experience

False River and Old River: Stay in a camp, motel or bed-and-breakfast. Enjoy fishing and water sports or relax and enjoy the tranquil views of sunrises or sunsets on either lake.

Openings and Accolades

False River Historical Trail: Hike or cycle along the re-established False River Historical Trail.

Hot Tails Restaurant: Chef Cody Carroll was crowned the 2013 King of Louisiana Seafood at the Louisiana Seafood Cook-Off. Visit his restaurant on Hospital Road in New Roads and enjoy a mix of Cajun and Creole cuisine with a touch of creativity.



RUSTON LINCOLN CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Located in the piney woods of north Louisiana, Ruston is known for southern charm and hospitality, as well as some incredibly sweet peaches. But more than just peaches, it is the perfect getaway for adventure and relaxation. From mountain biking and camping to downtown shopping and dining, enjoy a little something for everyone in this family-friendly locale.

Three Reasons to Visit

Eddie G. Robinson Museum: The Eddie G. Robinson Museum in Grambling is a place where history buffs and sports fanatics can enjoy highlights from the life of a national football coaching icon. Take a trip through Robinson's powerful life and be touched by his remarkable American spirit.

Louisiana Military Museum: Relive 200 years of military history and see through the eyes of local heroes and unknown enemies. The Louisiana Military Museum showcases a massive collection of weapons, uniforms, artifacts and more from the Spanish-American War to Desert Storm.

Dixie Center for the Arts: A restored 1938 theater, Dixie Center for the Arts presents an array of musical and theatrical productions year-round. Home to the Ruston Community Theatre and the Ruston Civic Symphony Society, this gem hosts an array of productions, musicals, orchestral ensembles and performances from regional and national musicians.

Make Sure to Experience

Louisiana Peach Festival: Held the fourth weekend in June, the Louisiana Peach Festival is celebrated with music, exciting events, more than 200 artisans and vendors and Ruston's delicious, juicy, sweet peaches. Ruston and the Louisiana Peach Festival now hold the Guinness World Record for Largest Peach Cobbler.

Openings and Accolades

Beau Vines Steakhouse: This fine dining experience is the classic American steakhouse with hints of Creole influence throughout the menu. Specializing in premier cuts chargrilled to perfection over an open fire, they also offer a variety of wines and liquors to complement every dish. Join them for Sunday brunch and enjoy your favorite dishes with some local flare.

The Revelry: A bar and grill experience unrivaled by anything else, the menu features delicious food options for lunch, dinner and late night—both inside and on its popular outdoor deck. The atmosphere blends seamlessly as the Revelry is the perfect place to catch your favorite sporting event. The Revelry is also the ideal place in north Louisiana to catch your favorite musical act. Come enjoy local artists and national superstars perform in front of as many as 4,000 of your closest friends.

Ruston Lincoln



SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CONVENTION & TOURIST BUREAU

Shreveport-Bossier.org/groups

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Shreveport-Bossier, located in beautiful northwest Louisiana, is a mixture of spicy Cajun attitude and wide-open Texas spirit. Experience 24-hour gaming, riverfront entertainment, family-friendly festivals and mouthwatering cuisine. Groups love the big-city amenities and signature Southern hospitality.

Three Reasons to Visit

Holiday Splendor: Get in the holiday spirit along the Louisiana Holiday Trail of Lights. Eight of north Louisiana's most festive cities mesmerize families and groups from November to December. Shreveport-Bossier is one of the cities that offers great food, music, festivals, fireworks, home tours and more.

Shopping: Leave some time to shop and be sure to pick up some local art from Agora Borealis, an artist's market; Tubbs Hardware, the Mardi Gras headquarters; and Enchanted Garden, a boutique gift shop. The Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets is a favorite one-stop shop for dining, clothes, accessories and entertainment.

Casinos: Shreveport-Bossier offers six riverfront casinos and a horseracing track. These venues lend themselves to 24-hour excitement, world-class cuisine and nightlife.

Make Sure to Experience

Mardi Gras Bash: The annual Red River Mardi Gras Bash is an exclusive party for groups to enjoy one of the largest Mardi Gras parades in Louisiana. The party is held during the Krewe of Centaur Mardi Gras Parade and is hosted by the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau. The climate-controlled party tent is located on the most exclusive spot and includes live entertainment, authentic Louisiana cuisine, commemorative Mardi Gras souvenirs and several hands-on experiences. During the parade, groups will see floats, outrageous Mardi Gras personalities and, of course, catch beads.

Openings and Accolades

New Group Experiences: Groups of 10 or more looking for something new and exciting can immerse themselves in the unique culture of Shreveport-Bossier. With everything from roses and wine to music and hands-on science, groups will embark on a fun journey. Tour journeys can include All About the Roses at American Rose Center, Shreveport Cradle of the Stars Music Tour, Backstage Music Tour at Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, Science is Fun at Sci-Port: Louisiana's Science Center and The Perfect Pair, Wine and Chocolate Tasting at Margaritaville Resort Casino.



ST. BERNARD PARISH OFFICE OF TOURISM

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St. Bernard Parish is located just 5 miles southeast of New Orleans and is considered “New Orleans’ Most Historic Neighbor.” Traveling along the Mississippi River down the San Bernardo National Scenic Byway, visitors can stop at the site of the Battle of New Orleans on the Chalmette Battlefield, tour the Old Arabi Historic District—named one of America’s Prettiest Painted Places—and learn the culture of the Canary Islands at the Los Isleños Museum.

Three Reasons to Visit

Louisiana Crawfish Festival: Held in March, this festival includes four days of entertainment, more than 30,000 pounds of boiled crawfish and 150,000 festivalgoers.

Los Isleños Museum: Considered the last vestige of Spanish colonial Louisiana, groups can enhance their visit with Spanish culinary demonstrations and folklife demonstrations.

World-Class Fishing Destination: St. Bernard Parish was named Best Charter Fishing in Louisiana by The Official Best Of.

Make Sure to Experience

Chalmette Battlefield National Park: Experience *History Comes Alive* at the Chalmette Battlefield Jan. 8 – 9, 2016. Living history volunteers will reenact the Battle of New Orleans on the Living History Foundations Park, and Chalmette Battlefield visitors will enjoy cannon firings, encampments and military drills.

Openings and Accolades

Docville Farm: The historic farm and home of the late Dr. Louis Meraux, overseen and managed by the philanthropic Meraux Foundation, now serves as a 130-acre educational center hosting art exhibits, twilight concerts and youth activities.

Domino Sugar Refinery Tours: Domino Sugar has refined sugar in Arabi for more than 100 years and has preserved the rich history and the importance of sugar to Louisiana. Domino Sugar opened the refinery for group tours by appointment only with the St. Bernard Office of Tourism.

Sugar Museum (Old Arabi Jail): This exhibit highlights the unique history of the Old Arabi community including the stockyards and slaughterhouses, gambling houses, sugar and the neighborhood’s growth up to the 1930s. Tours are by appointment only with the St. Bernard Office of Tourism.



ST. LANDRY PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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St. Landry Parish's rich culture derives from centuries of Cajun, Creole, African, American Indian and Western European people whose influences have provided music, food and culture that are unmatched. This parish is home to the Zydeco Capital of The World, Cajun music and more than 500 antique dealers.

Three Reasons to Visit

Festival Eats: There's no lack of stuffed, fried or blackened foods in this region, especially at the festivals.

Head to the Sweet Dough Pie Capital of Grand Coteau on the fourth Saturday in October for the festival, and enjoy locally grown fillings such as fig and blackberry. Put your taste buds to the test at the Arnaudville Étouffée Festival on the second to last weekend in April. Pig out on hog cracklins at the Port Barre Cracklin Festival on the second full weekend in November, or discover the best way to eat catfish at the Washington Catfish Festival and Atchafalaya Catfish Festival, both in early October.

Local Flavor: Don't just observe, be a part of the experience. Friendly locals of both Creole and Cajun descent can be found at social gatherings including jam sessions, French tables, potlucks, dance halls and more.

The locals often have a story to tell—be it in French or English—and they're always willing to share their boudin and cracklins.

Area Artists: Local artists get creative both in the kitchen and at the work table. Purchase gourd art and homemade pepper jelly in one place. Indulge in organic bath products and fresh vinaigrettes in one unique shop. Reflect on public murals displaying the region's rich culture amongst eateries and historic structures, or visit store fronts for fused glass, pottery, metal work and debris art.

Make Sure to Experience

Cajun Country Mardi Gras: This long-lived rural tradition is an experience like no other that involves chasing chickens, old begging rituals, a community gumbo, live music and more.

Openings and Accolades

Zydeco Music Exhibit at Le Vieux Village in Opelousas: The roots of zydeco reach back to 1719 when the Opelousas Territory was established. In that year, the first slaves were brought from West Africa, and with them came the music that evolved into blues, jazz and zydeco. Explore the people, places and events that contributed to a renaissance of zydeco music and culture.

Experience Louisiana Festival: It's all in the name—experience Louisiana's sights, sounds, tastes, culture and people all in one unique place. Enjoy activities such as a mini traditional Mardi Gras run, cooking demonstrations by professional chefs and various music genres including blues, brass and jazz.

Grand Coteau Bistro: The bistro is the brainchild of Food Network's *Chopped!* Champion, chef Christopher Thames. Stay tuned for zydeco brunches, fresh ingredients and more from chef Thames' kitchen in historic Grand Coteau.



ST. MARTIN PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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St. Martin Parish is home to history, Cajun and Creole fun, music and dancing, and it incorporates the wildlife and nature that is symbolic of Louisiana. Visit each of these three distinct areas: St. Martinville, home of Longfellow's Evangeline; Breaux Bridge, the Crawfish Capital of the World; and Henderson, the Gateway to the Atchafalaya Basin.

Three Reasons to Visit

Swamp Tours: Henderson, the Gateway to the Atchafalaya Basin, offers group tours into Henderson Lake for a unique view of the largest swamp in the U.S., where you will see alligators, migratory birds and other native wildlife.

World-Famous Cajun Seafood Restaurants: Henderson and Breaux Bridge are homes to several world-famous seafood restaurants. Dine at one of the many family-owned restaurants such as Pat's Fisherman's Wharf, Crawfish Town USA and McGee's Landing. Breaux Bridge, the Crawfish Capital of the World, offers Cajun cuisine with a different flair at establishments such as Café des Amis, Crazy 'Bout Crawfish or Buck & Johnny's. Pont Breaux's Cajun Restaurant caters to large groups with the added bonus of live Cajun music most evenings.

Acadian Culture & History: St. Martinville Historic Downtown District offers a view into the past. The Historic District consists of 32 buildings dating from 1820 to 1931 which are notable for their historical significance and architecture. St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church, Evangeline Oak Park, the Acadian Memorial, the African American Museum and Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site offer guided tours.

Make Sure to Experience

Crawfish Festival: The world-famous Crawfish Festival began in 1960 as a spin-off of the Breaux Bridge Centennial Celebration, and it is known throughout the country and the world. Every May, thousands of hungry people flock to Breaux Bridge to be part of the festivities. The Crawfish Festival has also become one of the largest gatherings of world-famous Cajun musicians. All weekend long, you can hear the sound of authentic Cajun, zydeco and swamp pop music. Watch the Cajun dance contests, or join in. Take part in Cajun music workshops. There is no better place to experience Cajun and Creole music than at the Crawfish Festival.

Openings and Accolades

Prehistoric Park: This life-size walk through exhibit features 30 dinosaurs including 10 animatronics with moving action and sound. Group tour discounts, field trips and party set-ups are available.



ST. TAMMANY PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION/LOUISIANA NORTHSHORE

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Nicknamed Louisiana's Northshore for its location north of Lake Pontchartrain, St. Tammany Parish is less than an hour's drive from Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Known for eco-friendly and easily accessible outdoor attractions, outstanding fishing, unique museums and a deep and delicious culinary scene, the Northshore has become a popular getaway destination.

Three Reasons to Visit

Memorable Experiences: Enjoy one of many attractions such as the Insta-Gator Ranch and Hatchery, Global Wildlife Center or a Honey Island Swamp Tour. Tour one of the three breweries including the popular home base of Abita Beer. Groups can tour MovieSets prop house and see part of Hollywood South as they dance and dine among various props from movies and TV shows.

Epicurean Haven: Food lovers can find classic gumbo and po'boys at casual spots or sophisticated chef-driven fare at upscale dining rooms, all showcasing fresh-caught Louisiana seafood and locally sourced produce.

Location: The Northshore is perfectly positioned for visitors to enjoy the hub-and-spoke concept with access to three major interstates—Interstate 10, Interstate 12 and Interstate 59—and is less than an hour away from the New Orleans French Quarter, plantation country and the Mississippi Gulf Coast beaches.

Make Sure to Experience

Wooden Boat Festival: Held in Madisonville on a mid-October weekend, visitors can stroll the banks of the scenic Tchefuncte (pronounced Cha-FUNK-ta) River, lined with scores of vintage wooden boats from across the South. Enjoy food booths, live music and tours of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Maritime Museum, which benefits from festival proceeds.

Openings and Accolades

New Hotel Openings: A new 73-room Country Inn and Suites opened early fall 2015 in Slidell. On the other side of the parish, the Southern Hotel, a 42-room boutique property in historic downtown Covington, features a courtyard, spa services and chef-owned Oxlot 9 restaurant. Originally built in 1907, the mission-style property underwent an \$8 million restoration before reopening in 2014.



TANGIPAHOA PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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From strolling down the sidewalks of a nationally recognized antique city to taking a walk on the wild side, Tangipahoa has hidden surprises for everyone. Nowhere else in Louisiana can you experience the ambience, charm and flavor of Louisiana in a 51-mile stretch of easily accessible highway than in Tangipahoa Parish.

Three Reasons to Visit

Ponchatoula “America’s Antique City”: This historic downtown area is filled with antiques, art, restaurants and cafés.

Historic Downtown Hammond: This area has a vibrant atmosphere filled with chic boutiques, galleries, wine shops, coffee houses, cafés, sushi and fine dining.

Global Wildlife Center: The 900-acre Global Wildlife Refuge is home to more than 3,000 free-roaming animals. Feed deer, camels, zebras, giraffes and more during the 90-minute tram ride.

Make Sure to Experience

Gnarly Barley Brewing: The Northshore’s newest microbrewery opened July 2014 in Hammond. Tours are conducted Saturdays at 1 p.m. Special events will be held throughout the year; check the online calendar for updates. Varieties of beer include: Catahoula Common, Hoppopotamus I.P.A., Radical Rye P.A., Korova Milk Porter, The Exchange Student and Porter Rican.

Openings and Accolades

Roux and Brew Seafood and Steak House: Ponchatoula’s newest dining experience is located in one of downtown’s oldest buildings. Roux and Brew offers an eclectic menu including fresh seafood, steaks, deep-south favorites and local specialties. There are two private meeting spaces, an oyster bar and a lounge-style bar that offer guests casual dining with an upscale feel.

Courtyard by Marriott: This 95-room hotel located off Interstate 12 opened recently and is in close proximity to Hammond Square Shopping Center, downtown Hammond and numerous restaurants and attractions. The hotel has an expansive meeting space, fitness center, swimming pool and on-site bistro.

Florida Parishes Arena’s New Ballroom: This 3,000-square-foot ballroom at the Florida Parishes Arena in Amite opened summer 2014. The multipurpose event center is perfect for meetings, wedding receptions, job fairs, gun shows and more. Located off U.S. Hwy. 51, the ballroom is adjacent to the existing arena and features a partially covered deck.



TOLEDO BEND LAKE COUNTRY/SABINE PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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Toledo Bend Lake Country offers great fishing opportunities along with many other outdoor adventures to make your visit a memorable one. The area, which has a rich frontier history, has a Louisiana Audubon Golf Trail course, four state parks and more than 35 lodging opportunities.

Three Reasons to Visit

Toledo Bend Lake: This 186,000-acre lake provides fishermen with record lunker bass (more than 10 pounds) and an abundance of great freshwater fish. *Bassmaster Magazine* recently named Toledo Bend Lake the Best Bass Fishing Lake in the Nation. A record-breaking 81 lunker bass were caught on Toledo Bend in a 12-month period. With more than 1,200 miles of shoreline, it is one of the favorite destinations for nationally televised tournaments such as the Bassmaster Elite Series and FLW tournaments.

Outdoor Adventures: Unsurpassed outdoor adventures include golf, fishing, four-wheel drive mud bogs, all-terrain vehicle trails, RVing, biking, birding, water sports and much more. All of these adventures can be experienced at North Toledo Bend State Park, South Toledo Bend State Park, Hodges Gardens State Park or at 35 other resorts and marinas on the lake.

History: Here in Toledo Bend Lake Country, the past meets the present with the rich frontier history. Take a drive along the 300-year-old El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, where men such as Stephen F. Austin and Davy Crockett traveled. Visit Fort Jesup State Historic Site, built in 1822 by Zachary Taylor. Fort Jesup served as an important military post for nearly 25 years and brought order to a once lawless region known as No Man's Land.

Make Sure to Experience

Festivals and Re-Enactments: The Zwolle Tamale Fiesta is a three-day event held in Zwolle each year during the second weekend in October. Celebrating its Spanish and American Indian history, this festival offers hundreds of thousands of hot tamales, live musical entertainment, contests, a carnival and a huge mud bog event. The community of Zwolle sells 26,000 dozen tamales during the fiesta. Taking visitors back in time to 1864, the Battle of Pleasant Hill re-enactment is the second weekend in April. It was the largest Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River and one of the last Confederate victories of the war.

Openings and Accolades

Lunker Bass List: The Top 100 Lunker Bass list boasts bass that weigh from 11.92 to 15.33 pounds caught on Toledo Bend Lake.

Bald Eagles: Bald eagles can often be seen during the nature trail hikes at Hodges Gardens State Park.



Union

UNION PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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Recreation on Lake D'Arbonne is tremendously popular among locals and visitors. Record freshwater catches of bass, crappie, catfish and bream make Lake D'Arbonne a fishing haven. Wide-open areas of the lake appeal to water skiers and pleasure boaters. Cyclists will enjoy the challenge of the rolling hills of the park, and a forest full of birds, squirrels, deer and other animals will appeal to nature enthusiasts.

Three Reasons to Visit

Lake D'Arbonne State Park: Piney forests, rolling hills, five fishing piers and a beautiful lake draw visitors to this quiet, majestic state park. Designed to keep the focus on nature, park facilities blend with the natural landscape to enhance the outdoor experience of this 655-acre park.

Annual Mayhaw Festival: This festival is held on Mother's Day weekend each year in downtown Marion. The festival features arts and crafts, entertainment, food booths, quilt shows and tasty mayhaw jelly. The Mayhaw Orchard, located on the outskirts of Marion, features more than 400 trees.

Corney Creek Festival: The annual Corney Creek Festival is held in downtown Bernice each year in April. The festival features live entertainment, arts and crafts, a carnival and plenty of food.

Make Sure to Experience

Watermelon Festival: The Louisiana Watermelon Festival is held each July in downtown Farmerville. Featured activities include a parade, street dance, watermelon auction and eating and seed-spitting contests. The Miss Louisiana Watermelon Festival Pageant is also held at this time.

Openings and Accolades

Golf: Enjoy the piney hills of north Louisiana with two nine-hole golf courses: Meadow Lake Golf and Country Club in Bernice and Lake D'Arbonne Country Club Pro Shop in Farmerville.



VERMILION PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

MostCajun.com

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Vermilion Parish is known as the most Cajun place on earth, known for its food, authentic Cajun culture, festivals, marshlands, nature, true southern hospitality and more. Come visit; your place at the table is ready. It is located 30 minutes from Lafayette and New Iberia.

Three Reasons to Visit

Authentic Cajun Cuisine: With more than 30 locally owned Cajun and seafood restaurants, Vermilion Parish is the place to come for authentic Cajun cuisine. The only problem you will have is deciding what to eat next.

Palmetto Island State Park: Located south of Abbeville on the Vermilion River, this Louisiana state park offers a real south Louisiana outdoors experience. Overnight guests may choose from six cabins or more than 90 camper sites. The visitor center complex features a water playground and bathhouse. A multipurpose room can be rented for meetings, gatherings and many other events. A boat launch provides access to the river for fishing and boating, while the interior lagoons allow paddlers and kayakers an up-close look at the native plant and animal life.

Fall Festivals: Whether it's shrimp, cattle, ducks or giant omelets, we celebrate it with great music, delicious Cajun food and plenty of dancing in the streets. Vermilion Parish loves to pass a good time.

Make Sure to Experience

Fall Festivals: The Delcambre Shrimp Festival is held the third full weekend in August. The Gueydan Duck Festival is held the weekend before Labor Day weekend and features duck and goose calling, dog trials, a cook-off, a parade and more. The Louisiana Cattle Festival is held the second weekend in October and is one of Louisiana's oldest festivals, featuring music on two stages, a beef cook-off, parades and more. Abbeville's Giant Omelette Celebration is held the first full weekend in November in Magdalen Square. This is an international festival ending with the cooking of a 5,028-egg omelet on Sunday.

Openings and Accolades

White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area's Two-Mile Birding and Nature Trail: Located south of Gueydan, the trail includes a covered pavilion, educational kiosks, numerous bird species and an observation tower.

Black's Oyster Bar: This Abbeville icon has reopened under new owners, but still serves the favorites that everyone knows and loves, plus a few new culinary creations. Stop in for their topless salty oysters, seafood, drinks and more.

Sam Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum Annex: Located in downtown Abbeville and next door to the Sam Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum, the annex features additional exhibits on blacksmithing, a video about Sam Guarino's life and other Sicilian immigrant information.



Vernon

VERNON PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION

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Nestled in the piney woods of west central Louisiana, Vernon Parish offers a vast array of opportunities for nature lovers, art enthusiasts and sportsmen alike. Hunters, fishermen, campers and hikers enjoy nature's bounty as they traverse the gently rolling hills through forests studded with freshwater lakes and streams. Art enthusiasts find treasure among the many area art events.

Three Reasons to Visit

Great Outdoor Activities: Enjoy fishing, hunting, biking, hiking, birding, camping, horseback riding, all-terrain vehicle trails and wildflower finding.

Fairs and Festivals: Enjoy a wide variety of festivals including the Roses-in-the-Pines Arts and Crafts Festival the third weekend in April, Mayfest the first weekend in May, Freedom Fest in July, Lions Club Pro Rodeo the first full weekend in October, West Louisiana Forestry Festival and Fair the first full weekend in October, Derby Daze in October, Witch Way to Mainstreet on Halloween day and gallery exhibitions in the Leesville Cultural District.

Myths and Legends Byway: This byway—with plenty of stops—encompasses three parishes along one of the most fascinating routes in the state, and includes 13 museums ranging from historic homes and military to dolls and parish history.

Make Sure to Experience

Mayfest: This annual must-visit festival is held in historic downtown Leesville the first weekend of May with regional music, foods made from scratch and fun for all ages. Mayfest was recognized as the 2012 Louisiana State Festival of the Year by the Louisiana Travel Promotion Association.

Openings and Accolades

New Hotels and Bed-and-Breakfasts: La Quinta Inn & Suites in Leesville has 82 rooms. Quality Inn, also in Leesville, offers 76 rooms. Allen Acres Bed and Breakfast in Pitkin has four rooms.

New Restaurant: Sweet Thing Bakeshop is a coffee shop and bakery offering freshly made baked goods throughout the day and a variety of home-cooked soups, salads and sandwiches for lunch.

New Retail and Galleries: New retail shops and galleries include the Gift Gallery at Phoenix, Hernandez Hardware, Pitkin Community Pavilion and Farmer's Market along the Myths and Legends Byway, Slagle Mall (community store and restaurant), Imperial Hardware, Russell's Gift Shop, My Favorite Things and Nichols.



VISIT BATON ROUGE®

VisitBatonRouge.com

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It's time to dive into one of the South's brightest hot spots. Discover why the Red Stick is a quintessential Louisiana city by experiencing all we have to offer—from an eclectic mix of museums and political landmarks to unique shopping destinations and antebellum homes. You'll soon learn why we were recently named among the 15 Southern Hospitality Cities by *ConventionSouth Magazine*.

Three Reasons to Visit

Hands-On Culinary Experiences: Get into the kitchen. Sign up for professional instruction during a leisure cooking class at the world-class Louisiana Culinary Institute or an open-hearth cooking demonstration at Magnolia Mound Plantation. Get a taste of some of the freshest local flavors by stopping in at the Red Stick Farmers Market—open Thursdays and Saturdays.

Family-Friendly, Group-Friendly, Student-Friendly: With amusement attractions, political landmarks and plantation homes, Baton Rouge has something for all ages. Mardi Gras is also very family-friendly in the capital city with parades the two weekends prior to Fat Tuesday.

Endless Shopping: Baton Rouge shopping starts at the Mall of Louisiana—the largest mall in the state—with 175 retail stores. Next, head over to Perkins Rowe, a unique residential and shopping village. For an open-air marketplace, head to Towne Center at Cedar Lodge where you can indulge in local cuisine at surrounding restaurants. Antique lovers will enjoy a mix of new and old treasures at shops such as Circa 1857 located in mid-city. A short drive down the road is Tanger Outlet Mall, home to more than 60 brand name outlets. A Louisiana Tax Free Shopping Refund Center is available for international visitors inside Macy's at the Mall of Louisiana.

Make Sure to Experience

Free Live Music: Baton Rouge offers several free, outdoor concert series such as Live After Five Concert Series in the spring and fall, Sunday in the Park and Rock 'n' Rowe. Each series offers a variety of music genres.

Openings and Accolades

The Downtown Arts & Entertainment District and Historic Third Street: In recent years, dozens of new businesses, restaurants and bars have opened, including the brand new Holiday Inn Express. There are three added green spaces downtown and a Mississippi River Front Access Point. The C'est Si Bon Food Tour is a guided walking tour in downtown Baton Rouge which includes food tastings at several local restaurants infused with historical and cultural details, leaving you full from belly to brain. Don't forget about all of the historical and cultural museums located in the heart of downtown Baton Rouge.

Awards: Baton Rouge was named the Best Small City for Filmmakers by *MovieMaker Magazine* in 2015, a Top 10 American City to visit in 2015 by *Horizon Travel Magazine* and one of the Top 10 Happiest Cities in America by the National Bureau of Economic Research in 2014. The Red Stick also received the 2013 Southern Hospitality City and the 2013 and 2014 Readers' Choice Awards for The South's Best Foodie Cities for Groups by *ConventionSouth Magazine*.



WASHINGTON PARISH TOURISM COMMISSION

WashingtonParishTourism.com

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Washington Parish is one of the most scenic rural parishes in Louisiana. Enjoy rolling hills, piney woods, farms and small towns. Come fish, hunt, canoe, tube and drive the parish's back roads. Fun, food, festivals and the largest free fair are just some of the offerings in Washington Parish's corner of the state, the toe of the boot.

Three Reasons to Visit

Bogalusa Krewe of MCCA Mardi Gras Parade: Held the Saturday before Fat Tuesday, it is reputedly the largest parade in the area.

Outdoors: Recreation abounds with hunting, fishing, birding and boating. Thriving watermelon patches, you-pick blueberry farms, dairy farms and homegrown produce are all in Washington Parish. Anytime is a great time to be on either of the scenic rivers, the Pearl and Bogue Chitto.

Music: Local music includes blues, bluegrass, country, gospel or honky-tonk. Musical options are bountiful and can be heard at the newest festival, the more than 100-year-old fair or a cozy roadhouse. The Bogalusa Blues and Heritage Festival is the newest offering, held the last Friday and Saturday in September. The Great Southern Blue Grass Event in Angie occurs in spring and fall near the third weekend of April and fourth weekend of September. Birdies Roadhouse was listed as one of 10 Great Louisiana Live Music Venues on LouisianaTravel.com.

Make Sure to Experience

Washington Parish Free Fair: Held the third week in October, enthusiastic crowds come to enjoy the Washington Parish Free Fair and Mile Branch Settlement. Enjoy flowers, homemaking, livestock and agricultural exhibits, midway rides, stage entertainment, professional rodeo and many pioneer activities typical of the 1800s Louisiana piney woods.

Openings and Accolades

Bogalusa Blues and Heritage Festival: The inaugural event was held in 2012. The new stage area/amphitheater and ongoing park redevelopment as well as the Native American and Pioneer Museum make Cassidy Park a destination. The Bogalusa Blues and Heritage Festival, taking place Sept. 23 - 24, 2016, has garnered rave reviews and continues to grow.

Bogue Chitto State Park: Opened in 2010, Bogue Chitto State Park has become one of Louisiana's premier parks. Visitors can tube or canoe within park property, and nature trails abound throughout the park. You can even bring your horse for the riding trail.

First Quilt Block Trail: Washington Parish joined four neighboring Northshore parishes in establishing the first quilt block trail in the state, the Louisiana Northshore Quilt Trail. These are painted blocks that grace buildings or yards and highlight family or local history, business enterprises, professions, churches and more. There are now six blocks in Franklinton and three in Bogalusa with plans for more.



WEBSTER PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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Webster Parish is located in the piney hills of northwest Louisiana 30 miles east of Shreveport off Interstate 20. Minden, the parish seat, is known for its charm. Historic downtown, with the original brick streets, antiques shops and quaint restaurants, was featured in Southern Living's article Roadside Treasure Hunt.

Three Reasons to Visit

Historic Downtown City of Minden: Minden, known for its historic downtown, boasts its original brick streets, 10 antique shops, such as renowned Second Hand Rose Antiques, and quaint restaurants. Nearby, the beautiful historic residential district features more than 70 historic properties within walking distance of downtown, and many are on the National Register of Historic Places Districts.

See Why the Movies Love Minden: The Northwest Louisiana Film Trail offers a walking tour of historic downtown Minden. Its small town charm and original red brick streets have been attracting moviemakers to the area. Webster Parish boasts 24 major movies filmed in the parish in the last nine years including: *The Guardian*, *Premonition*, *Blonde Ambition*, *Year One*, *Drive Angry*, *Season of the Witch*, *Trespass*, *Olympus Has Fallen* and *Dark Places* starring Charlize Theron.

The Germantown Colony State Museum: One of three sites founded by the Utopian Movement or Harmonist Society in the early 19th century is located just 7 miles north of Minden. Established in 1835, the colony operated on a communal basis for 37 years, finally dispersing in 1871. The colony was placed on the official list of the Nation's Cultural Resources Worthy of Preservation by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service in 1979. A newly constructed welcome center houses exhibits of historical artifacts, a gift shop and restrooms. Admission is free.

Make Sure to Experience

Festivals: The City of Minden celebrates its German heritage on Jan. 23, 2016, with the Fasching Karneval and Parade. Fasching is the German version of Mardi Gras. A full day of activities will be on the schedule for this festival in historic downtown Minden featuring all things German with food, fun and entertainment. The Fasching is from 10 a.m. until dark with the parade beginning at dusk. The 15th Annual Scottish Tartan Festival held April 2, 2016, at the Scotland Farms celebrates the Scottish culture and heritage through living history exhibits, Scottish cattle herding, demonstrations of the Highland games, bagpipe music and more.

Openings and Accolades

New Signage for the Northwest Louisiana Film Trail: Installed in downtown Minden, the signs identify a numbered location of a movie corresponding to the map in the brochure. Each sign will give a brief write-up about the movie and will have a QR code. When scanned with a free QR reader application, a film clip will be downloaded on your mobile phone or iPad showing the movie trailer and a scene from the movie filmed at that location.



WEST BATON ROUGE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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West Baton Rouge is “On the River, On the Way” to adventure. Let the family-friendly, conveniently located hotels be your home while you experience an Atchafalaya swamp tour, majestic plantations, the capital city, museums, shopping and golf, or attend one of the award-winning festivals. Visit Moby, the 15-foot alligator at the West Baton Rouge Tourist Center. Stay in West Baton Rouge and be on your way to all points anywhere in Louisiana.

Three Reasons to Visit

Location: West Baton Rouge offers easy access to all Louisiana destinations.

Small-Town Atmosphere with Big-City Amenities: This town offers family-friendly accommodations.

Family-Friendly Activities: West Baton Rouge has award-winning festivals, top-rated attractions and a breathtaking view of the mighty Mississippi River.

Make Sure to Experience

West Baton Rouge Museum: This is the only museum in the nation that features the history of sugar agriculture from the slavery period through the civil rights era. The 4-acre campus includes seven structures depicting life on a sugar cane plantation.

Openings and Accolades

Kite Capital of Louisiana: West Baton Rouge recently received designation as the Kite Capital of Louisiana because of the award-winning Kite Fest Louisiane, the only festival of its kind in the state.

The Port Allen Lock Visitor Center: This is the newest attraction in West Baton Rouge. Visitors of all ages can experience the hands-on process of locking vessels in and out of the Intracoastal Waterway through the Port Allen Lock.

Reflections of the Season: This 24-day December holiday festival on the West Baton Rouge Tourist Center grounds was rated a Top 20 Event for December 2014 by the Southwest Tourism Society. It includes thousands of lights, wagon rides, ice fishing, snow nights, crafters, vendors, decorated display rooms, a singing reindeer, Santa Claus and more.



WEST FELICIANA PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION

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Soothing to the soul, St. Francisville is the perfect getaway just north of Baton Rouge. Visit antebellum homes, gardens, galleries and antique and gift shops. Enjoy the abundant nature, wildlife and rolling hills in the picturesque countryside. Then relax after a full day in one of the beautiful bed-and-breakfasts, inns or hotels.

Three Reasons to Visit

Plantations: Five plantation homes are open daily for touring, and two are state historic sites. Plantation life began here in the 1790s with The Cottage and The Myrtles. In the early 1800s came Greenwood, Rosedown and Oakley plantations. Each home is unique with original parlor furnishings, original outbuildings, ghosts and formal gardens. Oakley Plantation became the home to John James Audubon and where he began his *Birds of America* series.

Outdoors: Abundant with wildlife, St. Francisville is located in the rolling Tunica Hills and offers hiking at Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge, home to the largest baldcypress tree in the U.S. Biking is also a favorite—enjoy a leisurely ride along our roads or the challenging off-road trail, The Beast. Play golf at The Bluffs, an Arnold Palmer course, or visit one of the many gardens.

History: West Feliciana is where history comes alive. The Mississippi River borders St. Francisville's Downtown Historic District where you can stroll the walking tour, shop or dine. Civil War sites, historic churches and cemeteries will bring you back in time. The West Feliciana Historical Society Museum will take you on a journey from Bayou Sara to St. Francisville.

Make Sure to Experience

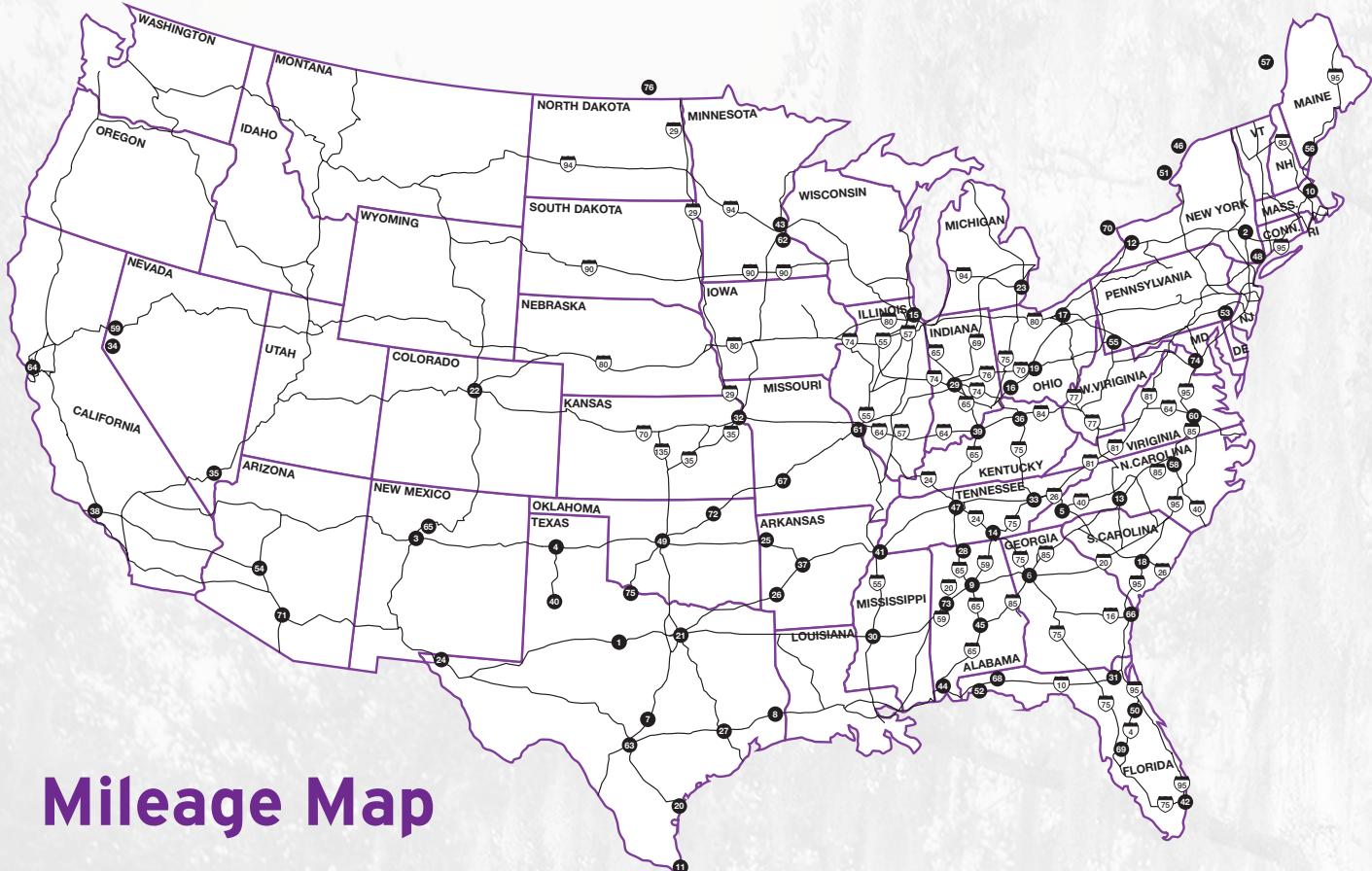
St. Francisville's Annual Audubon Pilgrimage: Proudly preserving its sense of place, St. Francisville's Annual Audubon Pilgrimage in March proves history can be fun. Enjoy lively re-creations of old-time skills, historic homes, colorful gardens and exciting nighttime activities for the whole family.

Openings and Accolades

Bayou Sara Kayak Rentals: Paddling Bayou Sara is a refreshingly unique experience. It's one of only two tributaries that enter the Mississippi River in Louisiana from the east. The bayou's swift moving waters differ greatly from the typical cypress-laden swamps of south Louisiana, and they are frequently clear enough at its upper end to see the stream's sand and clay bottom. Guided and nonguided rentals are offered.

West Feliciana Historical Society Museum and Visitor Center: Meet some of the strong pioneer women who managed plantations in the 19th century and learn how they survived in a new exhibit at the West Feliciana Historical Society Museum. Find out how the community came together when the Rosedown Baptist Church was threatened. See some great artifacts from St. Francisville's past. Open a drawer full of history and discover something you probably did not know about West Feliciana Parish. It's all new at the West Feliciana Historical Society Museum on Ferdinand Street.

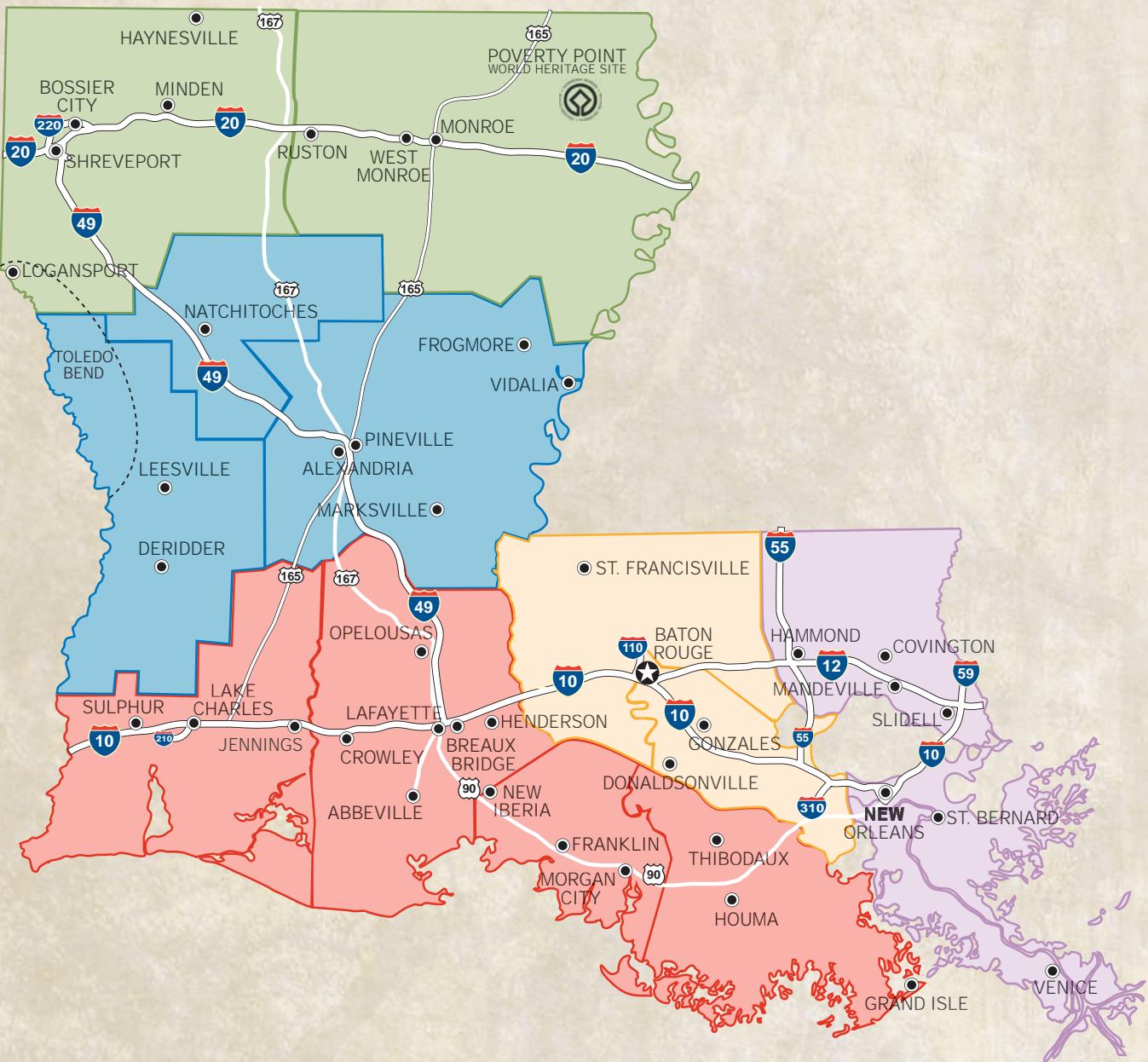
Awards: *Fodor's Travel* voted St. Francisville one of the 20 Best Day Trips in the U.S.



Mileage Map

	Alexandria	Baton Rouge	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Monroe	New Orleans	Shreveport
1 Abilene, Texas	495	613	583	510	469	692	371
2 Albany, New York	1463	1421	1475	1547	1406	1392	1505
3 Albuquerque, New Mexico	980	1098	1068	855	954	1178	855
4 Amarillo, Texas	697	814	784	723	670	894	572
5 Asheville, North Carolina	772	730	785	856	702	672	801
6 Atlanta, Georgia	556	514	568	640	499	470	598
7 Austin, Texas	358	428	376	302	407	508	308
8 Beaumont, Texas	163	191	136	63	264	268	210
9 Birmingham, Alabama	430	406	462	533	360	350	459
10 Boston, Massachusetts	1564	1522	1576	1648	1507	1493	1606
11 Brownsville, Texas	618	646	591	521	720	724	625
12 Buffalo, New York	1297	1288	1351	1445	1252	1261	1271
13 Charlotte, North Carolina	814	773	828	898	744	715	843
14 Chattanooga, Tennessee	577	553	608	680	507	497	606
15 Chicago, Illinois	901	909	972	1042	857	928	858
16 Cincinnati, Ohio	856	847	909	1003	811	820	830
17 Cleveland, Ohio	1105	1096	1159	1253	1060	1069	1079
18 Columbia, South Carolina	765	723	777	849	708	671	807
19 Columbus, Ohio	922	917	971	1020	832	903	904
20 Corpus Christi, Texas	468	497	441	371	569	574	474
21 Dallas, Texas	314	432	402	359	288	531	191
22 Denver, Colorado	1078	1189	1156	1085	1048	1269	956
23 Detroit, Michigan	1111	1103	1165	1259	1066	1076	1086
24 El Paso, Texas	950	1013	958	902	925	1105	828
25 Fort Smith, Arkansas	390	510	480	465	348	597	266
26 Hope, Arkansas	214	335	305	290	156	443	92
27 Houston, Texas	244	272	217	146	345	350	250
28 Huntsville, Alabama	527	504	559	632	459	448	558
29 Indianapolis, Indiana	772	792	846	870	682	805	749
30 Jackson, Mississippi	177	151	205	275	120	179	219
31 Jacksonville, Florida	727	610	665	735	720	552	818
32 Kansas City, Kansas	687	788	777	800	623	924	607
33 Knoxville, Tennessee	686	662	718	790	617	607	716
34 Lake Tahoe, Nevada	2059	2177	2147	2121	2030	2256	1935
35 Las Vegas, Nevada	1558	1676	1646	1636	1613	1857	1517
36 Lexington, Kentucky	793	785	847	941	748	758	768
37 Little Rock, Arkansas	263	348	354	361	180	418	196
38 Los Angeles, California	1754	1817	1762	1707	1729	1910	1632

	Alexandria	Baton Rouge	Lafayette	Lake Charles	Monroe	New Orleans	Shreveport
39 Louisville, Kentucky	749	740	803	897	704	713	723
40 Lubbock, Texas	667	785	755	710	641	885	544
41 Memphis, Tennessee	368	379	441	512	327	398	343
42 Miami, Florida	1062	945	1000	1070	1055	887	1154
43 Minneapolis, Minnesota	1106	1224	1197	1240	1051	1318	1058
44 Mobile, Alabama	319	202	257	327	311	144	410
45 Montgomery, Alabama	417	361	415	487	360	306	459
46 Montreal, Canada	1726	1702	1757	1846	1673	1663	1693
47 Nashville, Tennessee	549	534	588	647	459	520	531
48 New York, New York	1384	1360	1415	1487	1314	1304	1413
49 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	476	587	567	515	442	667	354
50 Orlando, Florida	824	707	762	832	816	649	915
51 Ottawa, Canada	1669	1645	1700	1772	1599	1588	1622
52 Pensacola, Florida	378	261	316	386	370	203	469
53 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	1308	1284	1339	1411	1238	1228	1337
54 Phoenix, Arizona	1302	1402	1350	1276	1279	1482	1180
55 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	1142	1140	1196	1290	1097	1106	1116
56 Portland, Maine	1709	1686	1741	1816	1643	1632	1742
57 Quebec City, Canada	1901	1877	1932	2021	1848	1837	1867
58 Raleigh, North Carolina	928	886	940	1012	871	846	970
59 Reno, Nevada	2005	2123	2093	2032	1979	2202	1880
60 Richmond, Virginia	1065	1023	1077	1149	1008	983	1107
62 St. Louis, Missouri	654	662	725	754	554	681	570
63 St. Paul, Minnesota	1065	1149	1156	1150	981	1201	968
64 San Antonio, Texas	444	473	418	347	514	550	415
65 Santa Fe, New Mexico	931	1042	1006	935	908	1122	809
66 Savannah, Georgia	817	703	758	829	747	645	846
67 Springfield, Missouri	503	605	593	603	415	662	409
68 Tallahassee, Florida	548	436	490	562	545	381	644
69 Tampa, Florida	836	718	773	844	827	660	926
70 Toronto, Canada	1366	1357	1419	1490	1266	1328	1340
71 Tucson, Arizona	1264	1327	1272	1201	1238	1405	1139
72 Tulsa, Oklahoma	492	610	579	546	457	689	360
73 Tuscaloosa, Alabama	376	352	407	478	306	294	405
74 Washington, D.C.	1169	1145	1200	1270	1099	1087	1198
75 Wichita Falls, Texas	457	575	545	484	431	654	332
76 Winnipeg, Canada	1528	1629	1618	1615	1440	1687	1420



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