

Annual Festivals & Events

✿ Held the Friday before Mardi Gras, the **Downtown Mardi Gras Celebration** offers live entertainment, folk art and food. On **Mardi Gras**, the **Half-Fast Crew of Frank's Parade** rolls through the downtown district. 800-424-5442.

✿ **Music & Market** celebrates the spring and fall bounties of fresh, homegrown produce with local musical talents. Held on Fridays 5:30 – 8:30 during spring and fall. 800-424-5442

✿ The **Juneteenth Folklife Celebration** is an African American cultural event highlighting its contributions to Southwest Louisiana through food, folk art demonstrations, music and liturgical. Held the Saturday before Father's Day. 337-945-5064

✿ Opelousas is designated Zydeco Music Capital of the World and the **Original Southwest LA Zydeco Music Festival** is held each Labor Day weekend. 337-942-2392 or zydeco.org

✿ **Zydeco Breakfast** – Before heading to the Original Southwest LA Zydeco Festival on Labor Day weekend, stop by the heart of downtown Opelousas for live music and breakfast items available at nearby cafes. 800-424-5442

✿ **Cemetery Tours: Voices from Our Past** – Held the second and third weekends in October, local actors bring historical characters to life through tours at the St. Landry Church Cemetery. 337-942-8318

✿ **Holy Ghost Creole Bazaar & Festival** is held the first full weekend in November, this festival celebrates Creole culture. 337-948-2732

✿ **Lighting of the Nativity Scene & the Oaks** This annual holiday tradition is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day on the grounds of the historic St. Landry Parish Courthouse Square.

✿ **Lighting of the Village** is held the first Friday in December. Celebrate the Christmas season with children's activities, carols and a visit from Papa Noel at Le Vieux Village. 800-424-5442

✿ **Children's Christmas Parade** – Held the second Thursday in Dec., this annual holiday event features colorfully lit Christmas themed floats, marching bands, costumed characters and of course everyone's favorite, Santa Claus! 800-424-5442, cityofopelousas.com

✿ **La Table Française** – Held the last Wednesday of the month at Le Vieux Village, attendees are invited to grab a cup of coffee and join in on Louisiana French conversation. 337-948-6263

✿ **Delta Grand Theatre** – Located in the heart of downtown Opelousas, this historic theatre hosts a variety of productions throughout the year. 337-407-1806 or deltagrandtheatre.com

✿ **Opelousas Little Theatre** stages year-round quality productions. opelousaslittletheatre.com

Our Heritage

Visit Opelousas and discover our unique culture, our rich history and our *Joie de Vivre* (joy of life) that makes us Louisiana's authentic Cajun and Creole destination!

Opelousas, Louisiana's **third oldest City**, was established by the French in 1720. In 1765, the **Acadians** (Cajuns) arrived in the Opelousas area and the Spanish established a garrison here in the mid-18th century. A strong **Creole** influence can still be felt in this old city.



Jim Bowie, famed hero of the Alamo, lived in Opelousas before moving to Texas to join the fight for Texas independence.

Opelousas became the capital of Confederate Louisiana for almost a year in 1862, and the city has the oldest remaining **Governor's Mansion** in the state.

The cultural mosaic here produced the exotic and sought-after **Cajun** and **Creole** dishes like etouffee', jambalaya, boudin and cracklins. You can dine where world-famous chefs Paul Prudhomme, Tony Chachere and Eula Savoie learned their culinary skills. After dinner, put on your dancing shoes and move to the beat of zydeco, **Cajun** or **swamp pop** at our many music venues and dance halls. Here, our heritage is celebrated every day!



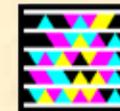
Take a step back in time, step into a culinary experience or dance the two-step. Whatever your taste, Opelousas is...

Perfectly Seasoned.



4 Hours East of Houston & 2 Hours West of New Orleans

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Email us: tourism@cityofopelousas.com

1720 ✿ 2020

Opelousas

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Attractions

🌸 The Opelousas National Historic District,

located in the heart of Old Opelousas, showcases more than 175 years of architecture, ranging from Greek Revival to Art Deco. Visit the 300+ year old Jim Bowie Oak and our courthouse square, or stroll down brick sidewalks dating back to the early 1800s



while exploring our **Historic District**. Stop by the visitor's center for a free driving and walking map.

🌸 Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center –

This museum showcases various objects and artifacts relating to the history and culture of the city. Learn about the Native Americans, Cajuns, Creoles, African Americans, and the French and Spanish. Discover the area's important role in the Civil War and learn about famous Opelousas residents. 337-948-2589.

🌸 **Fireman's Museum** – Memorabilia and artifacts related to Opelousas Hope, Hook and Ladder Fire Co. #1, one of the oldest volunteer fire companies in the city. It is housed in the company's former building which also serves as Fire Sub-Station 3. Free and open to the public. 337-948-2542.



🌸 **Creole Heritage & Folklife Center** – Learn about the rich heritage of the Creoles of Color people of Southwest Louisiana 337-945-5064.

🌸 **Le Vieux Village** – French for the Old village. This historical park and museum is a collection of buildings from Opelousas and St. Landry Parish, dating from the 1700s to the early 20th century.



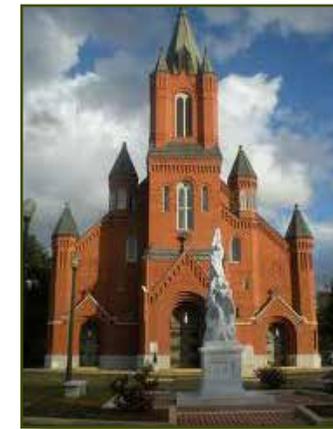
The village includes one of the oldest Creole homes west of the Mississippi River the Mississippi River, the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum, and a Zydeco Music exhibit. There's even a chapel for weddings! For free guided tours and info: 1-800-424-5442.

🌸 **Louisiana Orphan Train Museum** – Housed in a former Union Pacific Depot, this museum honors the inspiring story of abandoned and homeless children who were rescued from the streets of New York and became known as the Orphan Train Riders that traveled to Louisiana between 1873 and 1929. 337-948-9922 or laorphantrain.com.

🌸 **Historic Michel Prudhomme House** – Believed to be the oldest structure, circa 1770, still located in its original location in St. Landry Parish, and is a fine example of French Colonial architecture. During the Civil War, the home was used to house Union officers. Available for tours, meetings and receptions by appt. 337-942-8011.

🌸 **Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino** – Offers some of best Vegas-style gaming action with more than 1,600 slots and exciting Thoroughbred and Quarter horse racing where the announcer yells, "Ils sont partis!" – French for "They're off!" Enjoy live music and concerts. 1-866-472-2466 or evangelinedowns.com

🌸 **Historic Churches and Cemeteries** – The St. Landry Catholic Church was established by French



Capuchin friars in the mid-1700s. Other churches include Louisiana Memorial United Methodist Church, Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Mt. Olive Baptist Church and Little Zion Baptist Church. Cemeteries include St. Landry Catholic and Myrtle Grove.

🌸 **Historical and Genealogical Research** – Opelousas is a treasure trove for historians and genealogists. The area's records date back to the French and Spanish colonial eras. The documents located at the St. Landry Parish Courthouse and St. Landry Catholic Church rival those of New Orleans, Mobile and Natchitoches.

🌸 **Public Art** – Discover downtown and explore unique public art including the Acadian to Cajun mural, Zydeco Capital of the World mural, Seven Brothers Oak mural, St. Landry Parish History from the 1800s mural, and Fiddle Mania – large fiberglass and metal fiddles decorated by local artists. Opelousas is also home to a certified Cultural District, so be sure to take advantage of tax-free purchased original art.

🌸 **For Sportsmen and Nature Lovers**, Opelousas is part of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and nearby Thistlewaite Wildlife Management Area. These sites provide opportunities for biking, hunting, fishing and paddling!



🌸 **RV Camping** is available at Opelousas South City Park. The Park features 67 sites with water, electric hook-ups and dump station.