EXPERIENCE:
LOUISIANA’S COLLEGE TOWN

EXPLORE:
GREAT OUTDOOR ADVENTURES
Located in North Louisiana, Ruston & Lincoln Parish is known for its bustling college-town atmosphere, 18-block historic downtown district, thriving arts culture, and incredibly sweet peaches. The area is home to Louisiana Tech University and Grambling State University, and offers a variety of shopping opportunities, culinary experiences, and outdoor adventures.

Come explore Ruston’s many arts & cultural events, get active in nationally-recognized Lincoln Parish Park, enjoy live outdoor concerts in downtown Ruston, or visit a historical attraction like the Louisiana Military Museum and the Eddie G. Robinson Museum. With so much to enjoy all year long, it’s easy to discover why Ruston & Lincoln Parish is known as Louisiana’s College Town.
Welcome to Louisiana’s College Town! The CVB team invites you to explore Ruston & Lincoln Parish and see what our part of Louisiana has to offer. Whether you’re here for business, pleasure, or a little bit of both, we encourage you to take part in area events, dine like a local, and have a few adventures while you’re in town.

Ruston & Lincoln Parish has always been a great place to visit, but with new restaurants, attractions, growing outdoor and recreational activities, lively downtown district, and cultural events all year long, there’s always something new to discover!

Be sure to stop by the Visitors Center located at 2111 North Trenton Street while you’re in town. Our coffee is fresh, our water is cold, and we’d love to hear about your plans in Ruston & Lincoln Parish!

Travis Napper
CVB President/CEO

Welcome to Ruston
Discover why Ruston-Lincoln Parish is known as Louisiana’s College Town. The area is known for its thriving downtown district, rich arts scene, and energetic atmosphere. Ruston is also home to a variety of shops and restaurants, multi-use sports complex, and the south’s sweetest peaches.
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As the Reconstruction Era began following the Civil War, the piney hills of North Central Louisiana that had been spared from wartime destruction was carved from surrounding parishes to form a new parish in 1873, and then named for President Abraham Lincoln. Word spread to Lincoln Parish that the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific Railroad would soon run across North Louisiana, linking the Deep South with the Wild Wild West. For Robert E. Russ, Lincoln Parish’s sheriff from 1877 to 1880, it was a dream come reality to have people live in the area. Russ donated 640 acres to the town; and by 1884, Ruston, short for Russ Town, was incorporated.

As the town took shape, new churches, businesses, civic organizations, and schools were established. In 1890, the Louisiana Chautauqua was chartered, laying the community’s foundation in education. Louisiana Tech University was founded in 1894, and Grambling State University in 1901 becoming cornerstones upon which the area strongly stands to this day.

EXPLORE THE LINCOLN PARISH MUSEUM

Venture back and see the story of Ruston told through a collection of countless pictures and artifacts. On the National Register of Historic Places, the Lincoln Parish Museum, also known as the Kidd-Davis House, was donated in 1975 by Mary Olive Davis Green and Charlotte Davis Parrot. The house was constructed in 1886 for the Milton B. Kidd family and sold in 1921 to Robert Wesley Davis.

The museum’s “Walls that Talk” exhibit includes seven murals showcasing vignettes from Lincoln Parish History, along with voice recordings of parish citizens telling the stories.

Lincoln Parish Museum
609 N Vienna St
Ruston, LA 71270
JOURNEY TO PAST MILITARY WARS

Relive 150 years of military history through the lives of local heroes and unknown enemies at the Louisiana Military Museum. The museum displays a massive collection of arms and artifacts, unique to the area, chronicling United States conflicts from the Spanish-American War to Desert Storm and today’s war on terror. It features an expansive weapons collection, as well as personal items such as diaries, Bibles and flight jackets.

VISIT: WWW.NLMM.LA

LOUISIANA MILITARY MUSEUM
201 Memorial Drive in Ruston
(318) 251-5099
Locate the best spots for outdoor adventures, things to do, local cuisines, entertainment and much more!

🌟 Visitor Center: 2111 North Trenton St., Ruston, LA 71270

**Outdoor Adventure**

1. Garland Gregory Hideaway Park  
2. Lincoln Parish Park  
3. Grambling City Park  
4. Rock Island Greenway  
5. Ruston Sports Complex

**Attractions**

1. 2High Trampoline Park  
2. Eddie G. Robinson Museum  
3. Lincoln Parish Museum  
4. Louisiana Military Museum  
5. I-20 Escape  
6. The Alley of Ruston  
7. Ruston Farmer’s Market  
8. Louisiana Tech University  
9. Grambling State University  
10. Soaring Spirits Ziplines  
11. Mitcham Farms Peach Orchard

**Dining**

1. Beau Vines Steakhouse  
2. Brister’s Smokehouse  
3. Dawg House Sports Grill  
4. La Bamba Mexican Restaurant  
5. Log Cabin Grill & Market  
6. Mi Casa Taqueria  
7. Ponchatoula  
8. Portico Bar & Grill  
9. Railway Coffee  
10. Parish Press  
11. Raw  
12. Roma Italian Bistro  
13. Sundown Tavern  
14. Teriyaki Grill  
15. Social Bites  
16. Utility Brewing  
17. Uptown Downtown

**Entertainment**

1. Celebrity Theaters  
2. Dixie Center for the Arts  
3. The Revelry of Ruston  
4. Floyd L. Sandle Theatre  
5. Howard Center for the Performing Arts  
6. Stone Theatre

**Accommodations**

1. Best Western Plus  
2. Country Inn & Suites  
3. Courtyard by Marriott  
4. Days Inn  
5. Fairfield Inn & Suites  
6. Hampton Inn Ruston  
7. Holiday Inn Express  
8. Motel 6  
9. Quality Inn  
10. Relax Inn  
11. Sleep Inn & Suites  
12. Super 8 Motel  
13. Travel Inn  
14. Lincoln Parish Park  
15. The Cottage

For a complete listing of attractions, shopping, dining, accommodations and upcoming events visit: expresseruston.com
WHERE TO STAY

HOTELS / MOTELS

Best Western Plus
1011 Willow Glen Dr
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 224-7499

Country Inn & Suites
1825 Roberta Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 513-9777

Courtyard by Marriott
1309 Maxwell Blvd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 254-0067

Days Inn
1801 N Service Rd E
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-2360

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
1707 Roberta Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-9800

Hampton Inn Ruston
1315 N. Trenton St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-3090

Holiday Inn Express & Suites
1312 Hospitality St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 232-1230

Motel 6
1105 N Trenton St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-0000

Quality Inn
1951 N Service Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 242-0070

Relax Inn
1300 N Trenton St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-2911

Sleep Inn & Suites
106 S Service Rd E
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 232-1100

Super 8 Motel
1101 Cooktown Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-0588

Travel Inn
1705 W California Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-3256

RV AND CAMPGROUNDS

Antique Village RV Park
3027 Martha St
Simsboro, LA 71275
(318) 247-1744

Lincoln Parish Park
211 Parish Park Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-5156

BED AND BREAKFAST

The Cottage
3102 Kavanaugh Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-1980
Louisiana Tech was ranked #1 overall college in the state and #1 in the state for best value based on graduation rates, net price and 20 year return on investment.

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1894, Louisiana Tech University is a Tier One National University located in Ruston known for its engineering and technology programs. LA Tech offers students an enriching college experience on a beautiful campus as well as opportunities to engage with the community. LA Tech is ranked #1 overall in the state by bestcolleges.com and #1 in the state for best value based on graduation rate, net price, and a 20-year return on investment. The university also excels in their athletic programs, drawing many fans into town each season, and continues to provide national exposure for the university and Ruston.

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

Located 5 miles west of Ruston is Grambling, home to Grambling State University. In addition to being one of the country's top Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), GSU is a top producer of Computer Information Science and Criminal Justice graduates. GSU is also home to the internationally renowned Tiger March Band and the “winningest” coach in NCAA Division I football, Eddie G. Robinson. The legendary coach's life and career are honored at the Eddie G. Robinson Museum located on campus.
PLACES TO EAT

Ruston is home to numerous locally-owned restaurants and eateries as well as many familiar favorites. Experience what the area has to offer by dining like a local. Options include everything from homestyle cooking, BBQ, and burgers to sushi, authentic Mexican cuisine, and more. For a complete list, visit www.experienceruston.com.

RESTAURANTS

Beau Vines Steakhouse
Steaks, seafood, Sunday brunch
2647 S Service Rd W
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-1008

Brister’s Smokehouse
BBQ favorites, specialty: scatterload sandwich
1420 Cooktown Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 513-9966

Dawg House Sports Grill
Burgers, wings, bar & grill
102 N. Homer St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 513-1188
Johnny’s Pizza
Louisiana favorite, pizzas, muffulettas
1109 Cooktown Rd. &
2029 E Kentucky Dr,
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-1006
(318) 224-7014

La Bamba Mexican Resturant
Delicious Mexican cuisine
207 N Service Rd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-4219

Log Cabin Grill & Market
Extensive menu, breakfast
1906 Farmerville Hwy
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-8023

Mi Casa Taqueria
Authentic Mexican & Latin cuisine, open late
202 W Louisiana Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 224-7062

Nana’s Soulfood
Old-fashioned southern home cooking
301 Minden St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 224-7028

Ponchatoulas
New Orleans style cuisine, specialties:
Crawfish Shirley & Stuffed Catfish
109 E Park Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 254-5200

Utility Brewing
Beer & pizza, outdoor seating, family-friendly
206 N Vienna St
Ruston, LA 71270

Food Trucks
Grown and Grazed
Serves breakfast & lunch, local ingredients
93 E Railroad Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 791-7057

Tacos the Guero
Authentic Mexican dishes, tacos,
103 N Service Rd E
Ruston LA 71270
(801) 710-3417

Coffee, Snacks & Sweets
Eskamoe’s Frozen Custard
Frozen custard and specialty desserts, snack items
1913 E Kentucky Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 513-9696

Parish Press
Coffee, beignets
1007 N Trenton St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 224-9047

Railway Coffee
Coffee, breakfast, snacks
202 W Mississippi Ave &
103 Pelican Blvd
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 678-5781

Social Bites
Cupcakes, cookies, sweets
106 W Park Ave
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 251-2483

Uptown Downtown
Sweets, breakfast, lunch
94 S Vienna St
Ruston, LA 71270
(318) 255-6771
SEE & DO

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrity Theatres
Ruston is home to Celebrity Theatres, a multiplex movie house screening first-run films and special event movie nights. Celebrity Theatres is great for families, groups, and students.

Dixie Center for the Arts
Located in historic downtown Ruston, the iconic Dixie Theatre has a calendar filled with concerts and live performances, plays, films, and much more.

The Revelry of Ruston
The Revelry is home to live music and boisterous fun. Offering a variety of entertainment, the Rev is Ruston’s ultimate concert venue with two stages and three fully-stocked bar areas. Past performances include Gary Allen, Eli Young Band, Pat Green, Travis Tritt, & more.

Live Music at Local Restaurants
Sundown Tavern, Ponchatoulas, Portico Bar & Grill, Utility Brewing

FAMILY AND GROUPS

2High Trampoline Park
This indoor trampoline park offers a ninja course, dodgeball and basketball courts, open jumping with airbags, and even a soft-play area for toddlers!

The Alley of Ruston
This entertainment space offers a 12-lane bowling alley, restaurant and bar, arcade and much more! Located inside the Ruston Sports Complex. Opening June 2019.

I-20 Escape
Book your next group adventure in Ruston’s escape room! Each room is designed to provide a challenging experience where communication and teamwork are the keys to the exit.

OWL Center
The Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center (OWL) is 800 acres of rolling hills and beautiful facilities. The Owl’s programs are designed to encourage teamwork, family bonding, character development, and most of all, fun! Bring your group out for rope challenge courses, mazes, and more.

Soaring Spirits Ziplines
Thrill seekers and outdoor lovers alike are in for a special treat with this exhilarating zipline experience. Perfect for groups, families, and individuals!

Ultra Zone Paintball
Bring friends and family to battle in the paintball arena. It’s sure to be an action-packed adventure for your next group outing!
RUSTON MURALS

Spend some time appreciating the arts and culture of the area with a tour of Ruston’s public art. Located in downtown Ruston, near the historic Dixie Theatre is a colorful and geometric mural, perfect for photo ops. Another mural painted onto the Ruston Farmers Market building portrays the area’s appreciation for local producers and makers. The Rock Island Greenway mural, located in an underpass of the interstate, depicts a scene to inspire healthy and active lifestyles. And another mural located at the Louisiana Center for the Blind is painted in beautiful script and features enlarged braille.

ART SCENE

1. Dixie Center for the Arts: 212 N Vienna St., Ruston, LA 71270 (318) 255-1450,
2. Ruston Artisans: 203 W Alabama Ave., Ruston, LA 71270 (318) 254-3322
3. F. Jay Taylor Visual Arts Center: 1 Mayfield Ave., Ruston, LA 71270 (318) 257-3909
4. Dunbar Art Gallery: 403 Main Street, Grambling, LA 71245 (318) 274-2274

EDDIE ROBINSON MUSEUM

Located on the campus of Grambling State University, the Eddie G. Robinson Museum celebrates college football’s “winningest” and recognizes the outstanding contributions he made to football and to the nation. Coach Rob, a College Football Hall of Fame inductee, won 408 games, graduated 80 percent of his players, and saw more than 200 of his athletes advance to the NFL during his 57-year coaching career at GSU. Visitors to the museum can learn more about Robinson’s power life and how he touched the American population through interactive exhibits, photos, testimonials from players, and more.

VISIT: www.robinsonmuseum.com
Browse Ruston’s impressive selection of products and brands in the historic downtown district. The Fashion of Ruston offers the latest trends and classic styles from New York and Los Angeles with personalized service. Chartreuse Pear, located in downtown’s beautiful carriageway, has an eclectic mix of home décor, gifts, custom bedding, and more. For the little ones, downtown Ruston provides a chance to shop only organic and handmade clothing at Garden Baby or timeless children’s fashion and custom-made bows at The Children’s Shoppe. Keep your home up-to-date with furnishings from Trenton Interiors & Co., located in the iconic Roger’s Furniture building, and Townsend House Gifts.

Located just off Interstate 20 is Beehive Outlet. This shopper’s delight offers a wide selection of trendy clothes, accessories, purses, shoes, and home décor. And don’t leave Ruston without a trip to Mitcham Farms Peach Store for sweet peach treats, products, and gifts!

**ANTIQUES SHOPS**

**My Happy Place Vintage Market**  
2372 Highway 33  
Ruston, LA  
(318) 224-7058

**Park Avenue Antiques**  
102 W Park Ave  
Ruston, LA 71270  
(318) 255-8501

**Vintage & Vogue**  
103 N Trenton St  
Ruston, LA 71270  
(318) 224-7074
### ART & HOME DECOR

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chartreuse Pear</td>
<td>210 W Park Ave</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-7327</td>
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<td>Fine Line Supply Co.</td>
<td>201 N Trenton St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 202-5932</td>
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<td>Trenton Interiors &amp; Co.</td>
<td>111 N Trenton St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-7698</td>
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### FASHION BOUTIQUES

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<tr>
<td>Beehive Outlet</td>
<td>213 N Service Rd E</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 513-2899</td>
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<td>Cricket’s Grace Boutique</td>
<td>108 S Trenton St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 245-0526</td>
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<td>Dussé Boutique</td>
<td>108 N Vienna St</td>
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<td>(318) 278-1285</td>
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<td>200 N Vienna St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 224-9146</td>
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<td>Patton’s Downtown</td>
<td>126 W Park Ave</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 254-0044</td>
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<td>Patton’s Western Wear</td>
<td>814 N Trenton St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-3990</td>
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<td>Rodéo Boutique</td>
<td>116 W Park Ave</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 251-0990</td>
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<td>The Children’s Shoppe</td>
<td>109 N Trenton St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 251-9599</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Fashion of Ruston</td>
<td>208 W Park Ave</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-2525</td>
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### GIFT SHOPS

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<tr>
<td>Mainstreet Exchange</td>
<td>122 N Trenton St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(985) 467-9851</td>
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<td>Mitcham Farms Peach Store</td>
<td>1007 Woods Rd</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-3409</td>
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<td>Sue Paperie</td>
<td>112 W Park Ave</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 232-2436</td>
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<td>Townsend House Gifts</td>
<td>410 N Bonner St</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-3350</td>
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### SPORTS WEAR

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<td>FanBase</td>
<td>110 W Park Ave</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 202-5614</td>
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<td>Official</td>
<td>215 N Trenton Street</td>
<td>Ruston, LA 71270</td>
<td>(318) 255-0003</td>
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### LOOKING FOR MORE SHOPPING?

Ruston Farmers Market is located at 220 E Mississippi Avenue in downtown Ruston. Stop by each Saturday for locally grown foods and handmade works!

More at: [www.experienceruston.com](http://www.experienceruston.com)
Looking for the perfect family outing, a couple’s retreat, or just a place to relax? Lincoln Parish offers many opportunities for outdoor adventures and is centrally located to three state parks.

**DISCOVER MORE FUN**
Located within 30 miles from Ruston and Lincoln Parish

- **Jimmie Davis State Park**
  1209 State Park Rd
  Chatham, LA 71226
  (318) 249-2595

- **Lake Claiborne State Park**
  225 State Park Rd
  Homer, LA 71040
  (318) 927-2976

- **Lake D’Arbonne State Park**
  3628 Evergreen Rd
  Farmerville, LA 71241
  (318) 368-2086
FAMILY ACTIVITIES

If you're looking for the best places to swim, play & have fun with the entire family!

LINCOLN PARISH PARK  With a 30-acre lake for swimming, boating and fishing; a white, sandy beach; cozy picnic areas; winding walking paths and mountain bike trails; Lincoln Parish Park has something for everyone. Also located inside the park, is Legacy Park, a boundless playground for children of all abilities. The barrier-free playground is handicap accessible and contains many unique features so that everyone has an opportunity to play. Campgrounds feature RV spots with full hookups at each site and primitive camping spots with access to electricity and WiFi.

ROCK ISLAND GREENWAY  Ruston’s Rock Island Greenway is a shared-use walking, running, and cycling path. This linear park spans across the city and connects neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and recreational areas. The greenway is the first of its kind in the area, providing a safe and scenic route for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as encouraging active and healthy lifestyles. The “RIG” also offers an opportunity to view some of Ruston’s public art with a mural painted in the I-20 underpass.

JAMES LAKE BIRDING TRAIL  An outdoor paradise, this birding trail is one of Louisiana’s best locations to see a wide variety of birds. Guests can view these magnificent creatures from three locations – the viewing platform, the bridge, or the lake’s wooden walking trail.
**SPRING**

**Railroad Festival**
Celebrate the arts and music of Louisiana with this annual concert in downtown Ruston. Shop local makers and artists during the day then move down to Railroad Park for live entertainment, food trucks, and drinks all night long.

**Rock the Railroad**
Families and friends gather together in Railroad Park on select Friday nights for live music, food trucks, and beverages. Lawn chairs and picnic blankets are welcome as you settle in for a night of entertainment!

**Ruston Fashion Week**
This weeklong celebration of Ruston’s thriving retail community features festive parties, extended shopping hours, designer trunk shows and visits, and much more.

**SUMMER**

**Dog Days of Summer**
Welcome incoming LA Tech freshmen to Ruston and take advantage of extended downtown shopping hours and free live music in Railroad Park.

**Juneteenth Heritage Festival**
This annual festival commemorates the ending of slavery in the United States with week-long events and celebrations.

**Louisiana Peach Festival**
Each summer, Ruston is filled with live music, children’s activities, and fun festival vendors. Plan a trip to the Peach Festival to enjoy all this plus deliciously sweet peaches and peach treats!
**FALL**

**ARToberfest**
This annual fundraiser for the North Central Louisiana Arts Council brings out the best-of-the-best homebrewers. Enjoy a night in scenic downtown Ruston with live entertainment, drinks, and food trucks.

**Loyal Blue Weekends**
Each home game for LA Tech football is a Loyal Blue Weekend! Come out for three days filled with live music, downtown festivities, tailgating, football, and local dining in Louisiana’s College Town.

**Ruston Makers Fair**
Celebrate the arts culture of the area with the opportunity to shop the works of local artists, makers, and creators of all kinds. Spend the entire day shopping local and enjoying live music and food trucks.

**WINTER**

**Christmas in Downtown Ruston**
Experience beautifully lit downtown Ruston, an artificial ice skating rink, decorated shop windows, holiday plays, and cheerful music!

**Holiday Arts Crawl**
Visit downtown galleries and shops with works from local artists and knock out your Christmas list with unique, hand-crafted gifts.

**Lincoln Lights Up the Pines**
Make your way to Lincoln Parish Park the first weekend of December for this drive-thru Christmas lights display!

**Mardi Gras Ball**
Laissez les bon temps rouler with Krewe of Allegro! This event celebrates Louisiana’s favorite time of year and supports the local arts.

**YEAR-ROUND**

**Big Creek Trade Days**
This flea market-style shopping experience has something to offer for everyone. One weekend a month, come browse hundreds of vendors with home décor, handmade furniture, antique & vintage items, clothing and more!

**Ruston Farmers Market**
Each Saturday is a chance to shop and support local producers. Ruston’s farmers market not only offers fresh produce and meats for purchase, but also live entertainment, cooking demonstrations, children’s activities, breakfast made on-site with market items, local coffee, and more!