

# LOUISIANA<sup>®</sup>

Feed Your Soul.



YEAR OF MUSIC 2024

**OFFICIAL INSPIRATION GUIDE**

Find Your Louisiana  
[ExploreLouisiana.com](https://www.ExploreLouisiana.com)

# EXPLORE HOUMA

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FAIRVIEW-RIVERSIDE STATE PARK, MADISONVILLE

# WELCOME TO LOUISIANA!

If you're looking for new, exciting adventures and enough memories to last a lifetime, you'll find them in **#OnlyLouisiana**.

Here, no two trips are alike. Whether it's our great outdoors where you can paddle, hike or bike through cypress trees, live oaks and bayous, or through a culinary adventure sampling our fresh, delicious seafood seasoned with classic Cajun and Creole flavors, there is something for everyone.

The sounds of Louisiana are iconic. Jazz was born in New Orleans and still drifts through the air from local musicians performing live all throughout the city. You can even get your toes tapping to the sounds of Cajun fiddles that will have everyone two-stepping on the dance floor, or get moving to some zydeco as the accordion and washboard work together to provide a unique sound.

Music is a central part of every celebration we have in Louisiana, from Mardi Gras to more than 400 festivals each year.

One thing is for certain. In Louisiana, you'll get an authentic cultural experience you won't find anywhere else in the world.

So come find your Louisiana and ...  
**Feed Your Soul.**



Lt. Governor  
Billy Nungesser

A stylized, handwritten signature of Billy Nungesser in black ink.





# IT'S THE YEAR OF MUSIC IN LOUISIANA!

THE KREWE OF PUSH MOW, ABITA SPRINGS

Louisiana is celebrating a year of music throughout 2024. As the birthplace of jazz, Cajun and zydeco, music is one of the defining characteristics of the Bayou State.

Louisiana has also had powerful impacts on the blues, country, rock, R&B, swamp pop, hip-hop, gospel and more. You name it, we're dancing to it.

In fact, Louisiana is even credited with giving the prestigious GRAMMY Award its name. State resident Rosejaye Elizabeth Danna submitted that entry in a contest by The Recording Academy to name the ultimate award in music. And in 1959, Louis Prima became the first Louisiana artist to win a GRAMMY. The rest is history, and each year Louisiana artists are nominated by the dozen across a variety of musical genres.

So this year, it's time to sing about Louisiana's amazing musical talents. As you read on to get inspired to "Find Your Louisiana," you'll learn more about the culture that feeds creativity, Louisiana's impact on music and even what some local artists consider can't-miss experiences.

Ready for more? Visit [LouisianaMusicTrail.com](https://LouisianaMusicTrail.com) or simply scan the code to explore Louisiana music on this brand-new trail!







# Cajun Spirit, Creole Soul

St. Landry Parish is a rural-heritage destination located in South Central Louisiana. Symbols of the region's culture are present everywhere—from a miracle site, folk art, and inspiring architecture to our music, food, and the local brewery!

1 Hour West of Baton Rouge  
Ici on parle français



For additional info visit  
[CajunTravel.com](http://CajunTravel.com)  
337.948.8004

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MELVILLE | OPELOUSAS | PALMETTO | PORT BARRE | SUNSET | WASHINGTON

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES AND SCHEDULES ON LOCAL ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS.

## An Authentic Cajun & Creole Experience



- Creole Heritage Folklife Museum
- Le Vieux Village Heritage Park
- Louisiana Orphan Train Museum
- National Historic District
- Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center

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# WHAT'S INSIDE



## Louisiana Official Inspiration Guide

The Honorable Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor  
Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

[ExploreLouisiana.com](https://www.exploreLouisiana.com)

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*Please check destination and event websites or call ahead to confirm openings, closings and postponements.*



## ON THE COVER

Louisiana Cajun-pop artist  
Amanda Shaw  
Photo: Bobby Childs

d.b.a., NEW ORLEANS



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BORD DU LAC PARK, LAKE CHARLES

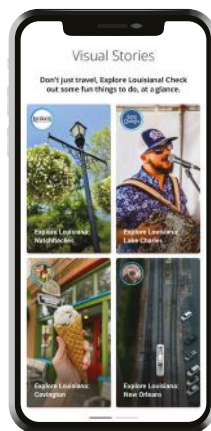
# CONNECT WITH US

Whether you're still planning your Louisiana vacation, or need trip inspiration while you are here, it's easy to stay up to date on the latest attractions and events around the state!



## VISIT [EXPLORELOUISIANA.COM](https://www.exploreloisiana.com)

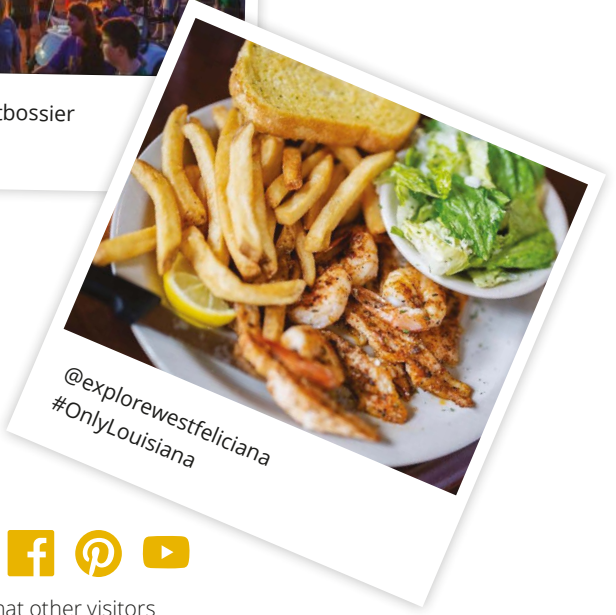
Full of engaging articles, photos, videos, itineraries, events and, oh, so much more, this is your one-stop shop to plan your trip.



## WATCH VISUAL STORIES

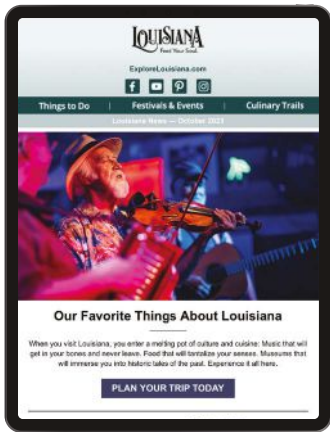
Looking for unique places to visit and neat things to see and do? See our collection of fun video reels – then pack your bags!





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**LEGENDARY  
MUSICIANS**



**CHAMPION  
ATHLETES**

Louisiana's history  
reads like a great  
work of fiction.

**EXPLORE  
OUR STORY**



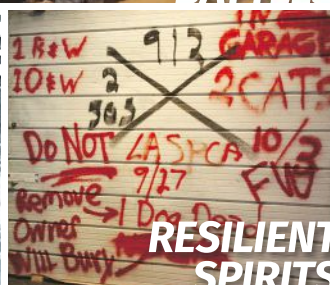
**LOUISIANA  
STATE  
MUSEUM**



**MONUMENTAL  
BATTLES**



**INSPIRING  
ADVOCATES**



**RESILIENT  
SPIRITS**



**CELEBRATED  
ARTISTS**



**DARING  
AVIATORS**



**UNIQUE  
TRADITIONS**

Ten museums, a million stories, one incredible state.  
Discover your passion for the past.

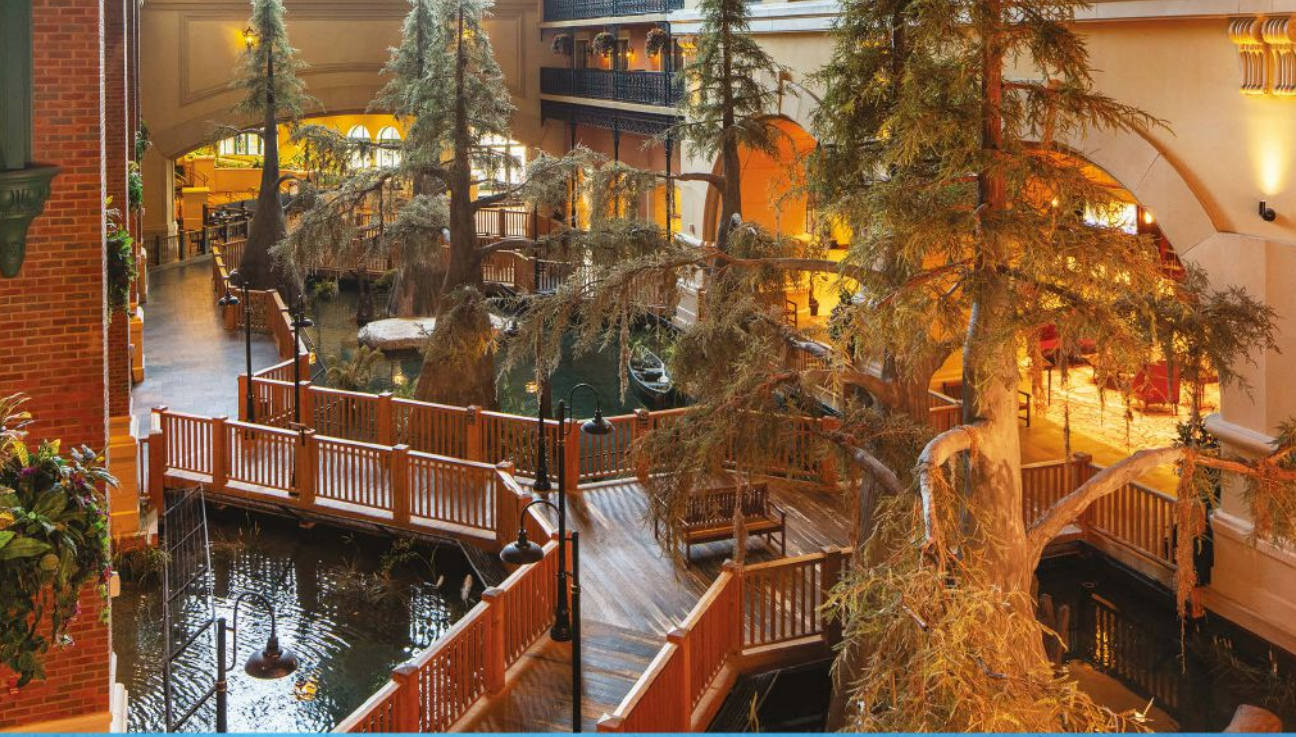
[LouisianaStateMuseum.org](http://LouisianaStateMuseum.org)



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
BILLY NUNGESSER

**LOUISIANA**  
Feed Your Soul.  
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## ESCAPE THE ORDINARY.

Paragon Casino Resort is known as Louisiana's top casino resort destination. Paragon features a world-class selection of slots, table games, poker and sports betting, along with an impressive lineup of amenities and attractions such as a live alligator habitat, renovated rooms, 18-hole championship golf course, luxurious spa, delicious dining options, movie theater, child care and more! Make Paragon Casino Resort your complete resort destination. Book your getaway today!

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HOW WE  
PLAY**

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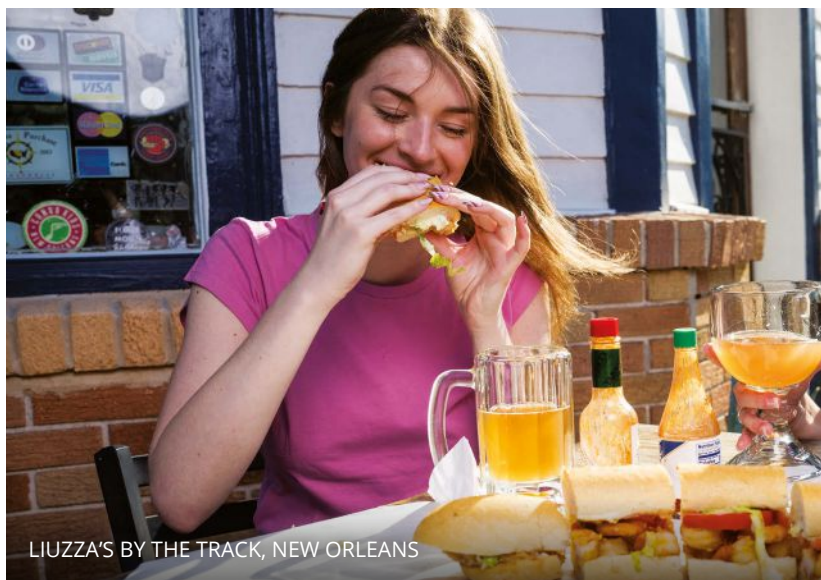
# EXPLORE YOUR LOUISIANA!

Big and small. Fast and slow.  
City and country. Spicy and sweet.  
You can choose your own adventure  
in the Bayou State.



FRENCH QUARTER, NEW ORLEANS

SAVOR  
THE SIGHTS,  
SOUNDS AND  
FLAVORS THAT  
SURROUND YOU.

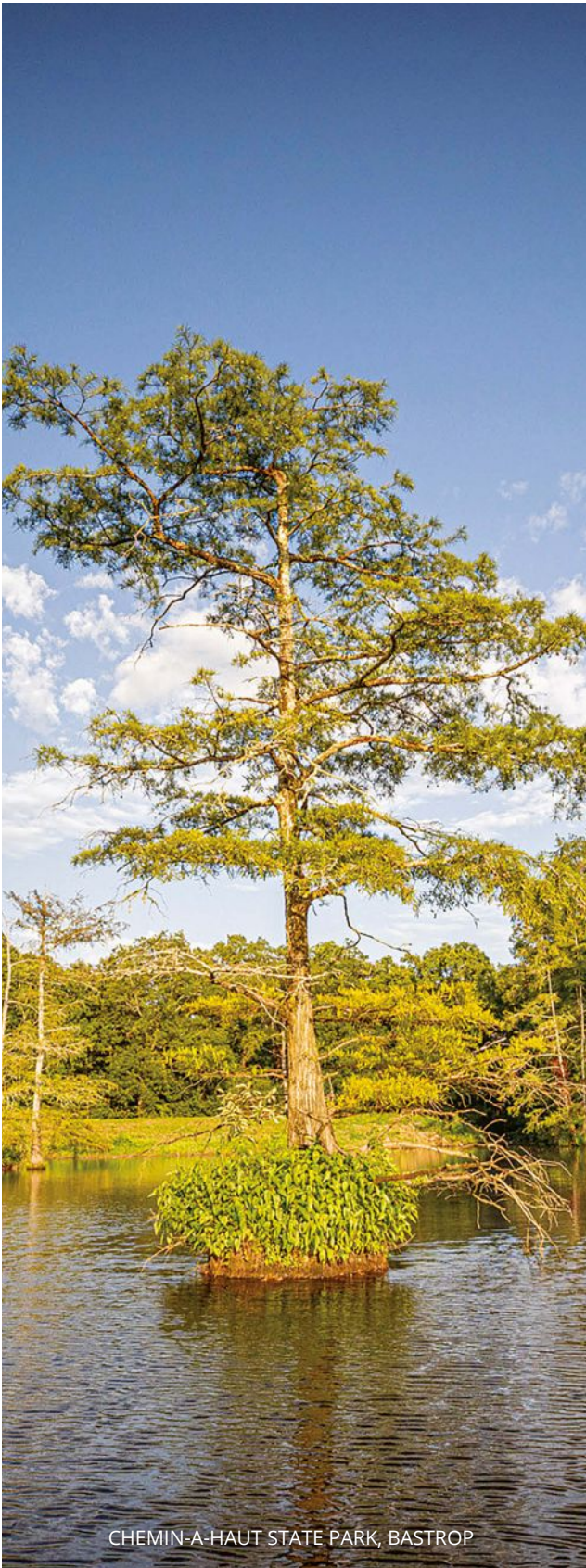


LIUZZA'S BY THE TRACK, NEW ORLEANS





MELROSE PLANTATION, NATCHEZ



CHEMIN-A-HAUT STATE PARK, BASTROP









MANSFIELD STATE HISTORIC SITE



BAYOU BARN, MARRERO



WELCOME

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at [ExploreLouisiana.com!](https://www.exploreLouisiana.com)



JIMMIE DAVIS STATE PARK, CHATHAM



BLUE MOON SALOON, LAFAYETTE





KREWE OF KINGS, NEW ORLEANS



FISHING, LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN





FONTAINEBLEAU STATE PARK, MANDEVILLE

# WHAT'S NEW IN LOUISIANA

Whether you're returning for another visit or planning your first trip, Louisiana always has something new to discover! Check out these recently opened and coming attractions.

## FOOD & DRINK

Follow your taste buds to nearly 40 flavorful stops on the **Shrimply Delicious Food Trail** in Louisiana's Cajun Coast and score a free T-shirt along the way. Then head north to quench your thirst in Ascension Parish, home of the **Sweet Spot Cocktail Trail**, to sample signature libations and enter to win prizes from May through July.

Get lucky when you stop by Emeril's new restaurant, **Emeril's Brasserie**, at Caesars New Orleans, where you'll experience classic French dishes with a signature Creole twist. For a totally radical dining experience look into **Hungry Eyes**, a new '80s-themed restaurant in the city.

Play a hand at **L'Auberge Casino** in Lake Charles and grab a bite at the new location of famed chef Aarón Sánchez's **Johnny Sánchez** for traditional Mexican cooking in a modern atmosphere.

Plan a fun date night or brunch at **Trio's** in Alexandria and toast the new location's fun, chic atmosphere with a refreshing cocktail.

From one end of the state to the other, enjoy new offerings in Louisiana's craft-brewing scene. Find flavorful pies at **Victory Pizza** inside popular Flying Tiger Brewery in Monroe, or embrace your passion for craft beer at **Adopted Dog Brewery** in Lafayette, where your pooch is most certainly welcome.

At **Thirsty Farmer** in Calhoun, you can taste unique wines all cultivated on-site. For spirits of a different kind, stop by West Monroe's **Two Warriors Meadery**, a veteran-owned spot with award-winning honey wine made from local ingredients. Nearby **Seventh Square Coffee** will perk you up with caffeine paired with family-friendly entertainment like



Mario Kart/Smash tournaments, board game nights and latte art throwdowns.

Wish you could take some Creole food home? Visit **Tony Chachere's** new retail location in Opelousas to enjoy the authentic and unforgettable flavors of Louisiana in your kitchen.

## FAMILY FUN

Want to learn about Louisiana history? Discover how **Layton Castle** in Monroe evolved from a Creole cottage to a Southern castle on 5 acres of historical grounds with a wine house, bottle museum and carriage house.

Head to North Louisiana to enjoy the expanded **East Bank District** in Bossier City. This lively spot offers local music at Hurricane Alley Live, fun at Bayou Axe Throwing, brews at the Beauxjax Crafthouse and snoballs at Streetcar Station.

Immerse yourself in new worlds as a zombie hunter or pirate of the high seas at the Omniverse VR Arena at **Lake Area Adventures** in Lake Charles. The 35,000-square-foot adventure facility also boasts a ropes course, airpark and aquatics center for hours of action-packed fun.

## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Looking for places to go in your RV? The new luxury **Tiger's Trail RV Resort** has opened in Baton Rouge with amenities such as a lazy river, an outdoor bar, and a pond with kayak and paddleboard rentals.

At the newly renovated **Margaritaville RV Resort** in Breaux Bridge you'll find a little piece of paradise, whether you're glamping in style or setting up your RV for an extended stay.

Get off the beaten path and take a trip to the only state park on the Gulf of Mexico, newly reopened **Grand Isle State Park**, a haven for outdoor activities from inshore and blue-water fishing to birding and kayaking.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

If you love food, Baton Rouge is the place to be in March for the **Louisiana Red Beans & Rice Heritage and Music Festival**, complete with a live cook-off, craft and food vendors, and a lineup of Louisiana entertainment.

Downtown West Monroe rocks out with live music, vendors and a can't-miss rubber-duck drop at the **Ouachita Riverfest**, now in its second year.

### EXPLORE MORE!

Always be in the know on new attractions and events at [ExploreLouisiana.com](http://ExploreLouisiana.com).



FLYING TIGER BREWERY, MONROE





MUSIC



# THE SOUNDTRACK OF LOUISIANA

FRED'S LOUNGE, MAMOU

A symphony of diverse, historical and iconic sounds,  
Louisiana is known for its music!

After all, it's the birthplace of jazz, Cajun, swamp pop and zydeco, and has inspired genres from gospel to rock. Its artists are just as unique: Performers like Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, Jon Batiste, Lainey Wilson, Tim McGraw, Chubby Carrier and Lil Wayne are joined by a new crop of up-and-coming stars who are still writing the state's musical history.

Better still, you can hear it pretty much everywhere – from main stages to side streets, from the Superdome to speakeasys, from riverfronts to honky-tonks. No matter your musical taste, there's a memorable experience waiting just for you.





BUCK & JOHNNY'S, BREAUX BRIDGE



MUDBUG MADNESS, SHREVEPORT



ROCK 'N' BOWL, NEW ORLEANS

## CAJUN CLASSICS

Cajun music dates to the 1700s, when Acadian settlers took root in Southwestern Louisiana. The unmistakable genre centers around accordions and fiddles, often inspiring *fais do-dos*, or Cajun dance parties.

**Prejean's** in Lafayette offers live zydeco brunches every Sunday, while **Buck & Johnny's** in Breaux Bridge boogies down five days a week. Catch zydeco tunes on Saturday mornings at **Fred's Lounge** in Mamou, or tune into their radio show that originated in 1962.



## JAZZ & BLUES

Marked by instrumental and improvisation techniques, jazz can be found at **The Spotted Cat Music Club** on famed Frenchmen Street. Known locally as “The Cat,” this New Orleans club provides a quintessential jazz experience in a buzzy atmosphere. The **21<sup>st</sup> Amendment Bar** at La Louisiane, a speakeasy in the French Quarter, pays homage to the Prohibition Era with craft cocktails and live jazz.

**Dew Drop Jazz & Social Hall** in Mandeville is a historically Black social-club-turned-bar with a history as vivid as its music. For a taste of the blues, which are lyric-based and experience-driven, visit **Teddy’s Juke Joint** in Zachary. The owner, Teddy, is known to sit on a “throne of music” while spinning rhythm and blues records for the crowd.

## GOSPEL

Gospel has influenced generations of Southerners, giving language to their joy and grief. The **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival’s** famed Gospel Tent has been around as long as the festival has, and is a beacon of Black communal life in New Orleans. **Antioch Baptist Church** in Shreveport has a history as rich as the gospel music played there on Sundays. Built in 1866, this church was the first Black-created church in the city and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Mahalia Jackson Theatre for the Performing Arts**, named after the Civil Rights activist and “Queen of Gospel,” frequently offers live music performances. If you’re in Louisiana during the summer, the quiet river town of Gonzales hosts an annual **Gospel in the Park** festival.



ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, SHREVEPORT







THE SPOTTED CAT MUSIC CLUB, NEW ORLEANS



NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL, NEW ORLEANS



## HIP-HOP

Hip-hop's literary roots run deep, so it's no surprise that Louisiana has produced artists like Juvenile and Lil Wayne. Hear other hip-hop artists at clubs like **Republic NOLA** in downtown New Orleans. On the other side of the state, Shreveport's **Let the Good Times Roll Festival** unites Black culture and music, including hip-hop, in a lively setting.

## ROCK, POP & MAINSTREAM

Artists flock to Louisiana for a chance to play its world-class, historical venues. Catch a show at **The Saenger Theatre** in New Orleans, which exudes Golden Age luxury and has hosted acts such as Prince and Ringo Starr, or check out **The Fillmore** or **The Toulouse Theatre**, both near the French Quarter.

If you're in the capital region, see a show at **Chelsea's Live**, which boasts top-notch artists and a famous neon marquee in Baton Rouge. Also famous for its house-made whiskey, **The Grouse Room** in Lafayette hosts rock shows several nights a week.



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL FESTIVAL, SHREVEPORT

Flickr / Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau





BRITNEY SPEARS EXHIBIT, KENTWOOD MUSEUM

## A MEDLEY OF MUSEUMS

Louisiana's rich music history is worth a deep dive. Visit these museums and exhibits for an immersive musical experience!

Once a historic hardware store in downtown Lafayette, the **Louisiana Music Museum** will house generations of stories on Acadiana's diverse musical heritage when it opens this year. It also serves as a Cajun and Creole dance hall, keeping the legacy of Louisiana dance halls alive for years to come.

The free **Delta Music Museum** in Ferriday showcases 29 blues, gospel and country artists.

Celebrate the history of jazz at the **New Orleans Jazz Museum** before road-tripping to the **Kentwood Museum** in Kentwood to experience the unconventional **Britney Spears Exhibit**.



DELTA MUSIC MUSEUM, FERRIDAY





MARDI GRAS



# THE MAGIC OF MARDI GRAS

KREWE OF HIGHLAND, SHREVEPORT

Line up the marching band, it's time to talk Mardi Gras. Grab a bite (or two!) of king cake and join us on a journey through a world of vibrant colors, infectious rhythms and delectable flavors during Carnival in Louisiana.

## RICH HISTORY & HERITAGE

Begin your exploration in New Orleans and peek behind the curtain of Mardi Gras with a trip to **Mardi Gras World**, **The Cabildo** and **The Presbytère**. These attractions offer a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creation of Mardi Gras floats, stunning costumes and the masked characters that have become synonymous with the season.

Continue your journey in Baton Rouge at the **Capitol Park Museum**, where exhibits showcase the origins and history of Mardi Gras in Louisiana.

## REGIONAL CELEBRATIONS

Did you know you can experience Mardi Gras in every corner of the state?

In South Louisiana, immerse yourself in the grandeur of New Orleans parades, including those of renowned super krewes like **Endymion**, **Bacchus** and **Orpheus**. In Baton Rouge, you can't miss the vibrant presence of giant pink flamingos – the beloved mascots of **Spanish Town Mardi Gras**, one of the largest parades in the state's capital city.

The Lafayette region is host to several celebrations, including the **Krewe of Bonaparte** or **Courir de Mardi Gras**,

Krewe of Highland / Jeremy Hernandez



where costumed men and women on horseback travel the countryside to beg residents for ingredients for a gumbo, culminating in a communal pot. Lake Charles is known for family-friendly celebrations like **Main Event**, which boasts more than 60 participating krewes in one parade on Mardi Gras Day.

Central Louisiana offers its own charm with the **Krewe of Dionysus** in Natchitoches, where the parade is a celebration of local culture and community spirit. In North Louisiana, join the revelry in Shreveport at the vibrant **Krewe of Highland** parade, known for its unusual throws and lively atmosphere.

## A FEAST FOR THE SENSES

No Mardi Gras experience is complete without indulging in the delectable culinary treats that accompany these festivities. Head to **Magic Grill** in West Monroe, where you can savor the unique flavors of the Mardi Gras King Cake Burger, which replaces the usual bun with slices of king cake. In Evangeline Parish, join the locals for a community gumbo feast in Mamou, where the flavors of Cajun cuisine come alive. Don't miss the chance to stop by **Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant** in Natchitoches to grab a traditional Louisiana meat pie, a portable delight perfect for enjoying along the parade route.

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: MARDI GRAS EDITION

These Carnival fast facts will have you sounding like a Mardi Gras pro in no time.

#### **Purple, Green and Gold:**

These are the official colors of Mardi Gras: purple stands for justice, green represents faith and gold signifies power.

**King Cake:** This iced cinnamon bread covered with purple, gold and green sprinkles is the iconic taste of Mardi Gras. If you get a slice with the toy baby in it, it's your turn to buy the next cake!

**Floats and Krewes:** These vessels carry krewes (groups of paraders) along the parade route. Floats vary in décor and style, depending on the parade.

**Specialty Throws:** These are the shoes, coconuts, plungers and pretty much anything else that are decorated and tossed at parades.

### MARDI GRAS VIDEOS!

Why wait to get a little taste of the action? Snap this QR code now to see Mardi Gras videos, reels, recipes and more.



MARDI GRAS WORLD, NEW ORLEANS





# CELEBRATIONS, BIG & SMALL

FRENCH QUARTER FESTIVAL, NEW ORLEANS

In a state steeped in culture and tradition, festivals are a natural expression of communal belonging and identity. From huge blowouts to local carnivals, Louisiana offers no shortage of shared joy. Check out a few of the best festivals to attend below!

## FOOD & DRINK

No matter what region of the state you're exploring, the food here shines. Whether you're sinking your teeth into warm, gooey crawfish bread or spooning up hot and spicy gumbo, these festivals encourage you to connect to Louisiana's culinary roots.

The **New Orleans Bourbon Festival** in March celebrates that smoky spirit. In April, sample sandwiches at the **Acadiana Po-Boy Festival** in Lafayette or all manner of strawberries at the **Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival**. The **Baton Rouge Soul Food Festival** brings a helping of Southern fare to palates in May. The **Natchitoches Meat Pie Festival** in September celebrates a Louisiana staple.

## ART & CULTURE

Louisiana's art and culture abound through its festivals. In March, explore the **Tennessee Williams & New Orleans Literary Festival**, or walk the plank at **Pirates of the Pontchartrain** each April in Hammond.

The Hammond Regional Arts Center hosts an art market and the **Brew Arts Festival**, a celebration of the craft brews that make South Louisiana a top stop for beer enthusiasts. Later that month, admire regional art or watch folklife demonstrations at Columbia's **Louisiana Art & Folk Festival**, the longest-running arts festival in the state.



## HERITAGE & HISTORY

In a state as diverse as Louisiana, it's no wonder residents hold a special reverence for heritage and history.

Tremé, the oldest historically Black neighborhood in the United States, hosts the **Tremé Creole Gumbo & Congo Square Rhythms Festival** each March in New Orleans. It's a celebration of Black joy and ancestral traditions made complete with lectures and live music. Also in March are the **Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival** honoring the culture, music and food of Sicilian settlers in Tangipahoa Parish; the **Lafayette Holi Festival** celebrating the Acadian Hindu community through vivid displays of color; and the **Louisiana Lao New Year Celebration**, which celebrates the region's Southeast Asian population.

Founded by Spanish settlers, New Iberia holds **El Festival Español de Nueva Iberia** each April, where attendees can compete in a traditional "Running of the Bulls" race or sample tasty paella.

## LIVE MUSIC

No event roundup could be complete without naming a few of Louisiana's live music festivals. After all, the same state where Cajun and zydeco were born also calls Louis Armstrong its own.

In April, visit Church Point for **Cajun Woodstock**, a celebration of Cajun, zydeco and country grooves. The **Baton Rouge Blues Festival** pays homage to a distinctly Southern genre, while the **French Quarter Festival** fills New Orleans with dozens of stages across all genres. The **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival** (Louisiana's largest!) presents the soulful sounds of jazz artists, while **NELA Fall Bluegrass Festival**, held in Oak Grove in September, hands guitar-pickin' artists the mic.



MEAT PIE, NATCHITOCHEs

## WEIRD & WONDERFUL

Louisiana's lovable oddities are plentiful, especially when it comes to festivals.

In May, explore the **Poke Salad Festival** in Blanchard, which highlights the pokeweed plant. This regional green, used most often for salads, even inspired the one-hit-wonder, "Polk Salad Annie," by Louisiana native Tony Joe White.

Mansura's **Cochon de Lait Festival** in May celebrates a culinary delicacy, roast suckling pig, through smoked pork dishes and an unforgettable greasy-pig-wrestling contest.

In the fall, Abbeville cracks more than 5,000 eggs for the **Giant Omelette Celebration**, where over 50 pounds of butter and a 12-foot skillet are used to create this ginormous dish.





# A SYMPHONY OF FLAVORS

THE BLIND TIGER, SHREVEPORT

From traditional dishes like gumbo and po'boys to more adventurous options like fried alligator and frog legs, there's something for every palate in Louisiana.

Cajun and Creole culinary traditions influence the lion's share of Louisiana cuisine, and here's the simple secret of telling the difference between the two: Creole cuisine uses tomatoes, whereas Cajun dishes do not. (You're welcome!)

You won't venture far into Louisiana cuisine without a mention of the Holy Trinity, a combination of onions, bell peppers and celery that forms the foundation of many dishes here. Discover the magical alchemy of spices and ingredients that steadily build flavor in classic dishes like gumbo, a hearty and savory stew; jambalaya, a flavorful rice dish; and etouffee, a succulent seafood sauce smothering fluffy rice.

The great thing is, you can enjoy them all while exploring renowned restaurants

that have left their mark on Louisiana's culinary landscape or discovering hidden gems cherished by locals.

In New Orleans, don't miss legendary **Commander's Palace**, where award-winning cuisine and elegant ambiance create an unforgettable dining experience. In Baton Rouge, **Mansurs on the Boulevard** serves up elevated dishes that embody the essence of Louisiana's flavors.

In Lafayette, make a stop at **Olde Tyme Grocery**, a local favorite famous for mouthwatering po'boys. Venture to Lake Charles to experience the exquisite flavors of **La Truffe Sauvage**, a fine-dining restaurant where Louisiana-French dishes take center stage and showcase the creativity of our state's culinary talents.



For a taste of Alexandria's culinary scene, visit **Spirits Food & Friends**, where you'll be treated to a fusion of flavors in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. In Shreveport, savor the deliciousness of **Orlandeaux's Cafe's** stuffed shrimp.

Hungry yet? The only thing you need to bring on your trip to Louisiana is your appetite. We'll take care of the rest!

## SAVE ROOM FOR DESSERT!

Slay your sweet tooth with Louisiana's iconic desserts.

Savor the pillowy goodness of beignets (deep-fried pastries, generously dusted with powdered sugar) at **Café Du Monde** in New Orleans, **Coffee Call** in Baton Rouge and **Caster & Chicory** in West Monroe.

Sink your spoon into bread pudding, a decadent dessert often accompanied by a luscious sauce, at **The Blind Tiger** in Shreveport and **Pujo St. Café** in Lake Charles.

Savor the showstopping Bananas Foster – a flaming dessert that combines bananas, brown sugar and rum – at renowned establishments like **Brennan's** in New Orleans, **Bon Temps Grill** in Lafayette or **Half Shell Oyster House**, with locations in Covington, Baton Rouge and Lafayette.



COMMANDER'S PALACE, NEW ORLEANS



CAFÉ DU MONDE, NEW ORLEANS

## CHECK OUT OUR RECIPES!

Snap this QR code to let the good times (and mouth-watering) roll.





## SEAFOOD



# THE FRESHEST CATCH: LOUISIANA SEAFOOD

DRAGO'S, BATON ROUGE

Seafood is always in season in Louisiana!

Dive into ready-to-peel crawfish during springtime, savor briny oysters during the cooler months, delight in juicy shrimp in the summer and indulge in plump crabs in the fall.

From fried and boiled to raw and grilled, there are countless ways to enjoy Louisiana seafood. Treat yourself to classics like fried shrimp, perfectly crisped with golden-brown batter. Feast on seasoned seafood boils, where aromatic spices infuse every bite. Tantalize your taste buds with fresh oysters or enjoy the smoky flavors of grilled or blackened fish.

Visit **Drago's** in Baton Rouge for renowned charbroiled oysters, or share a colossal seafood platter piled with fried shrimp, oysters, soft-shell crab and catfish at **Deanie's Seafood** restaurant and market in Metairie.

For boiled delights, dive into piles of Louisiana-caught shrimp at **Big Al's Seafood** in Houma, or enjoy waterfront views while peeling crawfish at **Steamboat Bill's on the Lake** in Lake Charles.

Mason Thibo



Louisiana's coastal towns offer unforgettable dining experiences, of course. Along with your meal, **Today's Ketch Seafood & Restaurant** in Chalmette also features a market where you can order frozen seafood to enjoy when you get back home.



## SEAFOOD BOIL

### INGREDIENTS

- 12 quarts water
- 1/3 cup canola oil
- 4 yellow onions, halved and unpeeled
- 6 celery stalks, halved crosswise
- 4 lemons, unpeeled and quartered
- 8 whole garlic cloves
- 5 bay leaves
- seafood boil seasoning
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup sea salt, or to taste
- 2-3 lbs. small red-skinned potatoes, unpeeled
- 4 artichokes (optional)
- 24 live Louisiana blue crabs
- 6 ears of corn, husked and halved crosswise
- 6 lbs. large shrimp, with heads attached

FIND SEAFOOD RECIPES!



### PREPARATION

1. Pour the water into a large stockpot. Add the oil, onions, celery, lemons, garlic, bay leaves, boil seasoning mix and salt, then bring to a boil over high heat. Boil for 10 minutes.
2. Add the potatoes and artichokes and boil for 5 minutes. Add the crabs and boil for 15 minutes.
3. Add the corn and boil for 5 minutes. Add the shrimp and boil for 1 minute.
4. Turn off the heat and let the mixture stand for 5 minutes.
5. Using tongs or a skimmer, retrieve the seafood and vegetables from the pot and serve them warm atop several large sheets of newspaper or parchment paper, or transfer to a large serving platter. Can be served chilled or at room temperature. Carefully use a knife to crack the shells.



# Don't accept imitations.

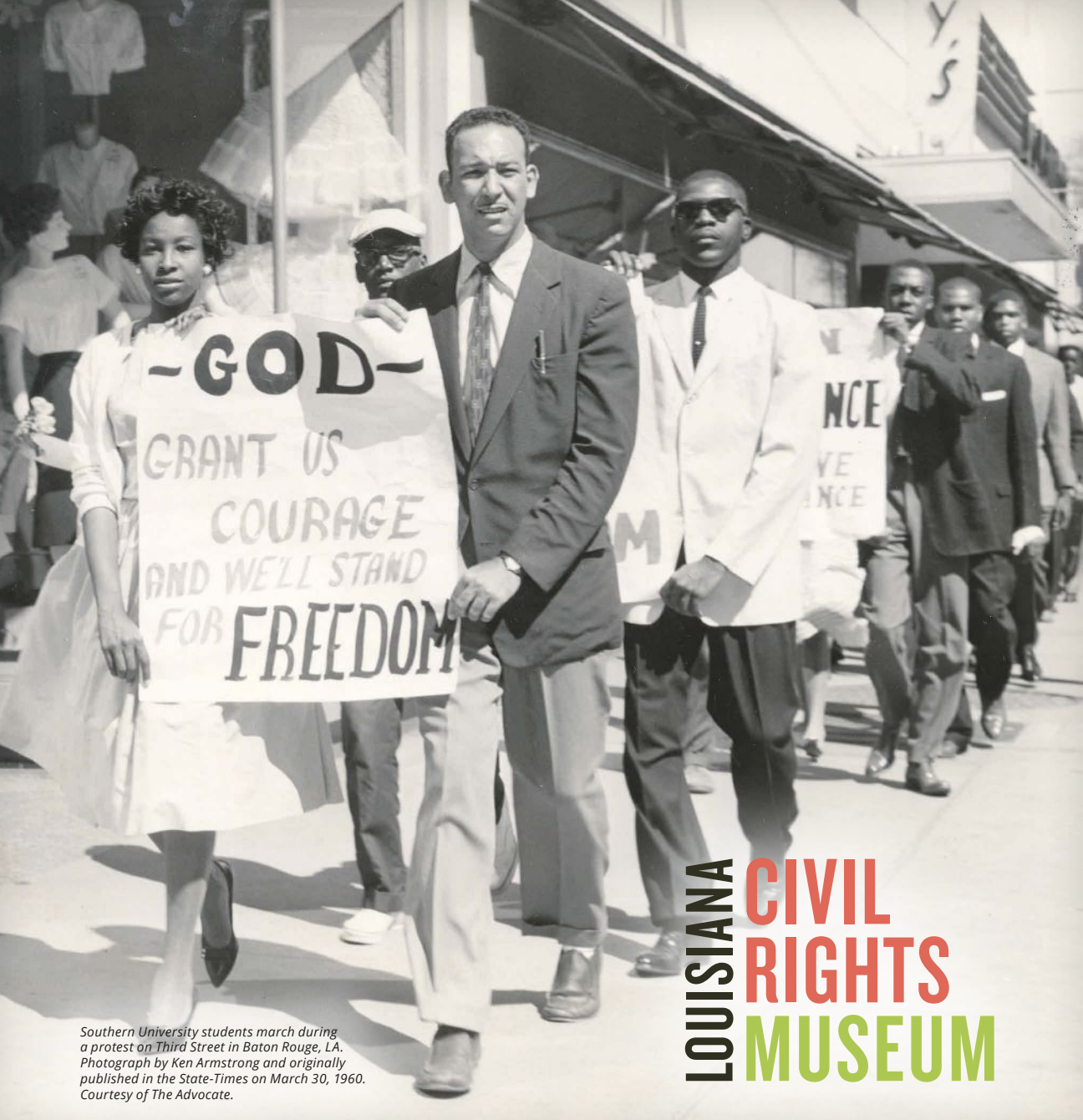
**Demand Louisiana seafood.**

Learn more at  
[LouisianaSeafood.com](http://LouisianaSeafood.com)



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
BILLY NUNGESSER





**LOUISIANA** CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

*Southern University students march during a protest on Third Street in Baton Rouge, LA. Photograph by Ken Armstrong and originally published in the State-Times on March 30, 1960. Courtesy of The Advocate.*

*Learn about the past and be inspired to create a better future.*



Open Tuesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Admission is \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors, active military & students, and FREE for children ages 6 & under.

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center  
Just Inside the Julia Street Entrance  
900 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA



LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM

[LouisianaCivilRightsMuseum.org](http://LouisianaCivilRightsMuseum.org)



## LIBATIONS



# A TOAST TO GOOD TIMES: LOUISIANA LIBATIONS

Fruity wines, bold rums and hoppy beers – Louisiana offers them all. So raise a glass at these beloved wineries, breweries and distilleries as you learn about the state's spirited past and present.

## BREWERIES

Sip a blonde ale at Mandeville's **Chafunkta Brewing Company**. In Baton Rouge, **Cypress Coast Brewing Company** pours up crisp lagers and hazy IPAs, while **Huckleberry Brewing Company** in Alexandria fills glasses with hearty stouts and summer shandies. Enliven your senses with the colorful **Miel Brewery and Taproom** in New Orleans, where this brewery's playful branding fits perfectly on cans of seltzer, nitro coffee and zero-proof mocktails.

## DISTILLERIES

Louisiana's history with rum dates to the 1700s. Today, you can savor a nectary glass at **1827 Spirits**, a boutique rum distillery in Vidalia, or at **Sugarfield Spirits** in Gonzales. If you prefer vodka, try a cucumber-infused glass at **Seven Three Distilling Company** in New Orleans. Before you head home, pick up a blueberry or amaretto liqueur to add to your bar cart at Baton Rouge's **Laissez Versez**.

MIEL BREWERY AND TAPROOM, NEW ORLEANS

From top left: Miel Brewery and Taproom, Landry Vineyards

## WINERIES

Louisiana's humid, subtropical climate is well-suited for growing muscadines and other red and white grapes. It's easy to find rich and fruity merlots, like the cherry and French oak-infused pour at **On Cloud Wine Winery** in Shreveport. **Kickapoo Twist Winery & Vineyard**, a farm-to-table winery, pairs wine with lush landscapes in Gloster. In Bush, **Wild Bush Farm + Vineyard** offers a monthly wine club complete with pinks and reds to sip. If you'd prefer a fruit-forward glass (think: blackberry or peach), check out **Thirsty Farmer Winery** in Calhoun.

## TOURS & TASTINGS

Explore the methods behind the magic on a brewery or winery tour!

In New Orleans, visit **Faubourg Brewing** for a lesson on beer or **NOLA Distillery** for the inside scoop on spirits.

Craft beer enthusiasts will love **Crying Eagle Brewing Company** in Lake Charles or **Utility Brewing Company** in Ruston.

Wannabe sommeliers can enjoy a stroll and tasting at West Monroe's **Landry Vineyards**.



LANDRY VINEYARDS, WEST MONROE

### QUENCH YOUR THIRST!

Snap this QR code to learn more about Louisiana's luscious libations.





OUTDOOR  
ADVENTURE



ATCHAFALAYA BASIN LANDING AIRBOAT SWAMP TOURS, HENDERSON

# THE CALL OF THE WILD

If you're seeking an escape from the ordinary, explore adrenaline-pumping outdoor activities in Louisiana. From high-speed airboat tours through the swamps to soaring through the treetops on zip lines, adventure enthusiasts have found their paradise.

Take a fascinating airboat tour through Louisiana's swamps and awe-inspiring scenery with **Honey Island Swamp Tours** in Slidell, **Jean Lafitte Swamp and Airboat Tours** in Marrero and **Atchafalaya Basin Landing Airboat Swamp Tours** in Henderson. These tours let you feel the wind rush through your hair as you navigate intricate waterways. You'll also get up close and personal with captivating wildlife, including majestic alligators that call the swamps home.

Take your fun to new heights at ziplines and adventure parks throughout the state. At **Toledo Bend Family Adventure Park** in Zwolle, make a splash on new serpentine and racing water slides before dipping into the lazy river. Zip lining and gators, anyone? Experience the rush of flying above local wildlife in

the Maurepas Swamp at **Zip NOLA** in LaPlace. Embark on a thrilling adventure at **Gators and Friends Adventure Park** with an exotic-animal petting zoo.

ATV parks throughout the state provide various rental options, terrains and obstacles for thrill-seekers. Get dirty at **Muddy Bottoms ATV & Recreation Park** in Sarepta, with more than 5,000 acres of trails and off-road terrain. At **Tower Trax ATV Recreation Park** in Roseland, explore more than 2,600 acres of diverse off-roading trails suitable for all skill levels. **Throw Dat Dirt ATV Park & Trail** in Baton Rouge brings the excitement with more unique terrain, trails and obstacles.

When you're ready to answer the call of the wild, there's no better place than in Louisiana's great outdoors.

From top left: Atchafalaya Basin Landing Airboat Swamp Tours, Zip NOLA, Throw Dat Dirt ATV Park & Trail





ZIP NOLA, LAPLACE

## SEE YOU LATER, ALLIGATOR!

Get up close and personal with alligators at **Gator Chateau** in Jennings. On your tour, you'll learn everything there is to know about alligators and their importance to Louisiana's ecosystem.

Don't miss your chance to hold a baby alligator or take a turn feeding them. You may even get to see a gator dressed in theme for the next holiday or big game!

After your visit, have a picnic at one of the pavilions while the little ones enjoy the playground. With free admission, Gator Chateau is a must-visit destination for families and wildlife lovers alike!



THROW DAT DIRT ATV PARK & TRAIL, BATON ROUGE

## GET WILD OUTSIDE!

Snap this QR code to find places to play in Louisiana's vast outdoor playground.





OUTDOOR  
RELAXATION



# THE SOOTHING SOUNDS OF NATURE

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST, CENTRAL LOUISIANA

From scenic bayous to expansive golf courses, Louisiana invites you to explore the quieter side of its terrain.

For those seeking a slower pace, the state's nature trails offer an invitation to explore the wilderness on foot. Discover the serenity of locations like **Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area** in St. Francisville, **Driskill Mountain** in Bienville Parish and **Kisatchie National Forest** in Rapides Parish – all inviting you to wander through lush forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats.

For nature enthusiasts, birding and wildlife watching offer a sense of connection and awe. Louisiana's abundant species provide a playground for both activities.

Visit **Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge** in Lacombe,

**Indian Bayou Area** in Krotz Springs, **Peveto Woods Sanctuary** in Cameron and **Bodcau Wildlife Management Area** in Benton to witness the beauty of Louisiana's enchanting inhabitants.

More relaxation awaits at Louisiana's plentiful natural treasures, including nature reserves in **Cane River** and the preserve at **Jean Lafitte National Historical Park**.

Tee off in a golfer's paradise amid picturesque landscapes across the state. The reopened course at **Cypress Bend Resort** offers sweeping views of Toledo Bend Lake, while **The Island Golf Course** in Plaquemine turns every swing into a moment of tranquility.



Explore the sights, sounds and calming beauty of Louisiana's waterways at your own pace. You'll find dozens of kayaking and paddleboarding opportunities that provide a front-row seat to unforgettable landscapes. Paddle through the serene **Bayou Bartholomew** or **Chemin-A-Haut**, both in Northern Louisiana, or kayak along **Whiskey Chitto Creek** in Central Louisiana and **Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge** farther south in New Orleans.

Extend your stay wherever you play by reserving a cabin or campsite at a nearby state park. You can immerse yourself in nature at **Bayou Segnette State Park** in Westwego, **Lake Fausse Pointe State Park** in St. Martinville or **Bogue Chitto State Park** in Franklinton.



**GET A LITTLE R & R!**

Snap this QR code to see where you can soak up the sights and sounds of nature.



**CHILL OUT IN FOLSOM**

Pamper yourself with tranquility and wellness at **Little River Bluffs Nature Preserve and Retreat**, a serene sanctuary for relaxation and rejuvenation in Folsom.

Become one with nature as you explore miles of scenic trails while taking in the breathtaking views of rolling hills and the

meandering **Little Tchefuncte River**, one of the last clean artesian rivers in all of southeastern Louisiana.

Find your inner peace by swimming amid beautiful surroundings, biking or hiking nearby trails or recharging in cozy cabins nestled in the woods.





# PICK YOUR PARK

LAKE BRUIN STATE PARK, ST. JOSEPH

Adventure awaits in one of Louisiana's many state parks. From horseback riding to paddleboarding, there's an outdoor retreat with everyone in mind. Choose your own below!

## BOATING & FISHING

Situated on the sandy shores of Lake Pontchartrain, **Fontainebleau State Park** in Mandeville is an excellent spot for sailing. Freshwater anglers will appreciate waterfront views at **South Toledo Bend State Park** in Anacoco or **Lake Bruin State Park** in St. Joseph.

## CANOEING & KAYAKING

Grab a canoe or kayak for a peaceful paddle near the Gulf of Mexico in **Cypremort Point State Park**. In Madisonville, a canopy of oak trees offers shade in **Fairview-Riverside State Park**, while **Poverty Point Reservoir State Park** provides a long, open stretch of water to venture through.



## CAMPING

Whether you prefer to rough it outdoors or camp with more comfort, Louisiana's state parks can accommodate. **Sam Houston Jones State Park** in Lake Charles is where campers can sleep beneath tawny longleaf pines. Ville Platte's **Chicot State Park** has cabins near a forest of Magnolia trees, which scent the air in spring. The colorful cabins at **Tickfaw State Park** in Springfield offer a bright boost of joy.

## HORSEBACK RIDING

The equestrian trails at **Chemin-A-Haut State Park** in Bastrop trace a bluff overlooking Bayou Bartholomew. **Lake Bistineau State Park** in Doyline offers hardwood forest vistas reminiscent of a storybook, while trails in Franklinton's **Bogue Chitto State Park** run parallel to rolling landscapes, cypress-tupelo swamps and upland forests.

## WILDLIFE VIEWING

Watch for birds or deer at Westwego's **Bayou Segnette State Park**, just minutes from New Orleans. For a beachier landscape, walk the nature trails at **Grand Isle State Park**, where waterfowl roam. Those who prefer guided trails will enjoy the **Louisiana State Arboretum State Preservation Area** in Ville Platte.

### ACCESS FOR ALL

All-terrain track wheelchairs have arrived in Louisiana!

These electric-powered chairs, now available at several **Louisiana State Parks**, are specially designed to be used on designated park trails not suitable for conventional wheelchairs.

You can reserve them online at [LStateParks.com/All-Terrain-Chair](https://www.lastateparks.com/).

## WATERFRONT WONDERS

Picture this: You're floating peacefully on a lake warmed by the summer sun. Nearby, your loved ones are splashing playfully with one another. This scene is classic Louisiana.

Simply grab a canoe or kayak and see for yourself at **Palmetto Island State Park** in Abbeville, **Lake Claiborne State Park** in Homer, **Lake D'Arbonne State Park** in Farmerville or **Jimmie Davis State Park** in Chatham.

## EXPLORE STATE PARKS!

Learn about these gems and more at [ExploreLouisiana.com/State-Parks](https://www.ExploreLouisiana.com/State-Parks).



BOGUE CHITTO STATE PARK, FRANKLINTON

## RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Book a cabin. Reserve a campsite. Purchase a park pass. Just scan the QR code to get started.







Lake Claiborne



Lake Bistineau



Lake Bruin



Sam Houston Jones



Fontainebleau



Cypremort Point



Fairview Riverside



Lake Fausse Pointe



St. Bernard



Poverty Point Reservoir



Louisiana is a place of natural beauty with our own unique blend of cultures and experiences. To preserve this, we've set aside 21 Louisiana State Parks that stretch from the shores of Lake Pontchartrain and the swamps of Acadiana to the pine forests and hills of the Sportsman's Paradise.

There is a park or state historic site for everyone to enjoy nearby. So let's hit the trails or catch a big one because the best travel experiences make you feel more alive and bring us closer together.

[www.LAStateParks.com](http://www.LAStateParks.com)





Jimmie Davis



Grand Isle



Lake D'Arbonne



Chicot



Palmetto Island



Tickfaw



Bayou Segnette



Chemin-a-Haut



South Toledo Bend



North Toledo Bend



Bogus Chitto



DRIVES



# BEAUTIFUL DRIVES

FLYWAY BYWAY

As writer John Steinbeck once said, the lure of the open road never goes out of style. In Louisiana, these five byways offer routes threaded with gorgeous scenery, historical homes, native wildlife and incredible restaurants.







GOTHIC JAIL OF DERIDDER



## MYTHS & LEGENDS BYWAY

Based on true stories, ghosts and tall tales, this 181-mile drive through southwest Louisiana is like pulling a never-ending thread of mystery. The flat terrain was once a haven for pirates and outlaws. Albeit simple, the view is gorgeous: You'll pass blackberry farms, azaleas, dogwoods and mayhaws.

**EAT:** Faustos Family Restaurant in Kinder, Cecil's Cajun Kitchen in Deridder

**SEE:** Gothic Jail of Deridder, Merryville Museum and Burkes Log Cabin in Merryville

**EXPLORE:** Kisatchie National Forest, Clear Creek Wildlife Management Area and West Bay Wildlife Management Area



LACASSINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, LAKE ARTHUR



## FLYWAY BYWAY

There's a reason this route is called the Flyway Byway. The 55-mile route in southwest Louisiana winds past rice fields and crawfish ponds that house more than 160 species of migratory birds. Keep your eyes peeled for them along the way and be ready to pull over for a more immersive birding experience.

**EAT:** Darrell's of Jennings, Boudin King Restaurant in Jennings

**SEE:** Zigler Art Museum in Jennings, Welsh Museum in Welsh

**EXPLORE:** Lacassine National Wildlife Refuge in Lake Arthur



## BEAUTIFUL DRIVES



### HISTORIC U.S. 80 BYWAY

The Historic U.S. 80 Byway in northern Louisiana stretches 113 miles from Ruston (home to sweet and juicy peaches) to the Mississippi state line. You'll pass through open fields, lush landscapes and peaceful cities waiting to be explored.

**EAT:** Mitcham Farms in Ruston, Delta Biscuit Company in Monroe, Big Momma's Fine Foods in Monroe

**SEE:** Biedenharn Museum & Gardens in Monroe, North Louisiana Military Museum in Ruston

**EXPLORE:** Poverty Point World Heritage Site in Pioneer, D'Arbonne Wildlife Refuge



POVERTY POINT WORLD HERITAGE SITE, PIONEER



### ZYDECO CAJUN PRAIRIE SCENIC BYWAY

If you're the first to grab the mic at karaoke night, enjoy the 283-mile Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway, which pays tribute to the music of south Louisiana. The views are serene, ranging from crawfish farms to sweet potato fields. There's also no shortage of music history here: Depending on which loop you choose, you'll pass through Mamou, the "Cajun Music Capital of the World," and Opelousas, home of the zydeco genre.

**EAT:** Frosto in Crowley

**SEE:** Louisiana Swamp Pop Museum in Ville Platte, Le Vieux Village in Opelousas, Louisiana Orphan Train Museum in Opelousas

**EXPLORE:** Louisiana State Arboretum in Ville Platte



LOUISIANA ORPHAN TRAIN MUSEUM, OPELOUSAS

Louisiana Orphan Train Museum





## CAJUN CORRIDOR

Here's to you, freshwater friends. The 34-mile Cajun Corridor highlights south Louisiana's abundant waterways, which are home to fresh shrimp, crawfish and oysters. Culturally, this short byway reflects the state's French and Acadian influences, while the views (sugarcane fields, cattle and rice farms) highlight its prime industries.

**EAT:** Suire's Grocery & Restaurant in Kaplan, Riverfront: A Louisiana Grill in Abbeville

**SEE:** Acadian Museum in Erath, Abbeville Cultural & Historical Museum

**EXPLORE:** Palmetto Island State Park, White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area

### SNAP & FRAME IT!

These social media photo-ops are worth their own road trip!

The **Giant Strawberry Statue** in Ponchatoula pays homage to the beloved fruit, which the city honors with its own festival.

Houma's larger-than-life **Giant Shrimp Boots** highlight Louisiana's distinct wetlands culture.

If you're in Lafayette, pose as the **Lafayette "Y"** for a sweet and simple memory to take home.



WHITE LAKE BIRDING TRAIL, GUEYDAN






# TUNE IN TO LOUISIANA HISTORY

LAURA PLANTATION, VACHERIE

From ancient Native American civilizations to the influences of French colonialism and the legacy of African American contributions, a treasure trove of historical significance awaits.

## EXPLORING CULTURAL HERITAGE

Delve into the roots of Louisiana's distinct heritage, where Native American tribes, French and Spanish settlers, Creoles and Cajuns, and enslaved people from Africa have shaped the state's history.

Discover Native American contributions at **Capitol Park Museum** in Baton Rouge, where immersive exhibits take you on a voyage through time. Learn about the state's diverse tribal communities and explore local museums dedicated to each tribe at the **Chitimacha Museum** in Charenton and the **Tunica-Biloxi Museum** in Marksville.

Uncover the enduring legacy of French and Spanish influences in

Louisiana's historical landscape by wandering through New Orleans' iconic **French Quarter**, where echoes of the past color every corner. Immerse yourself in the heritage of the Canary Islanders at **Los Isleños Museum and Historic Village** in St. Bernard.

During your visit, experience the fusion of Creole and Cajun cultures that makes the state truly unique. From toe-tapping music to mouthwatering cuisine, the traditions of these vibrant communities are intertwined in the fabric of Louisiana. The **Creole Heritage Folklife Center** in Opelousas brings Creole culture to life through captivating exhibits and demonstrations.



## PLANTATIONS: THE FULL PICTURE

While exploring Louisiana's complex history, be sure to walk away with a comprehensive view of its plantation past. **Whitney Plantation** in Wallace focuses exclusively on the experience of enslaved individuals. Through guided tours, personal narratives, exhibits and restored slave quarters, visitors get insight into the harsh realities of slavery.

**Magnolia Mound** in Baton Rouge features a meticulously restored French Creole house dating back to the late 18th century. Visitors can explore the historical grounds, including the plantation house, slave quarters and surrounding gardens to gain an understanding of the daily lives of both the plantation owners and the enslaved individuals who worked the land.

In Vacherie, **Laura Plantation** is renowned for incorporating historical documentation into its vibrant storytelling. Visitors can take guided tours of the property and learn about the lives of enslaved individuals who lived and worked on the plantation.

These sites serve as educational platforms, fostering dialogue and reflection on the significant contributions, hardships and resilience of those who shaped Louisiana's history.

## JAZZ & MUSIC LEGACY

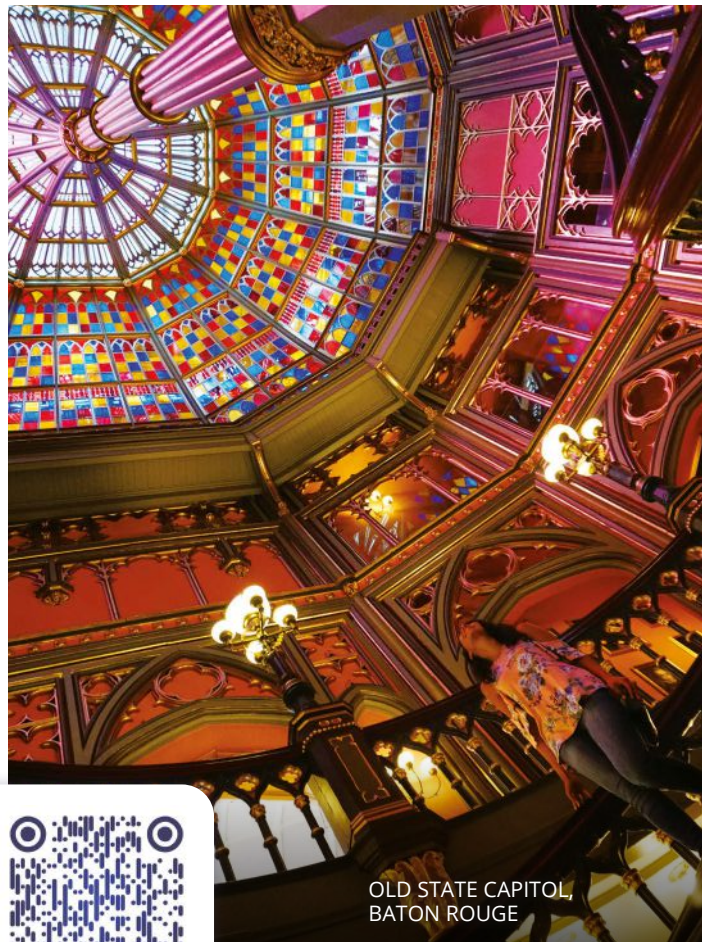
No exploration of Louisiana's history is complete without embracing its musical legacy. Stop by **Treme's Petit Jazz Museum** to experience the soulful rhythm of its historic neighborhood. In Eunice, head to the **Cajun Music Hall of Fame & Museum** to learn more about Cajun music heritage.

## MUSEUM MUSTS

One of the best ways to discover Louisiana's rich history and cultural heritage is through its diverse lineup of museums.

For those with peculiar interests, regale in the captivating tales of Bonnie and Clyde at the **Bonnie & Clyde Ambush Museum** in Gibsland. For grandeur, visit **Louisiana's Old State Capitol** in Baton Rouge, a majestic building filled with a kaleidoscope of stained glass that once housed the Louisiana legislature. For more history, delve into fascinating stories at **The National WWII Museum** in New Orleans.

All told, nearly 200 museums offer a glimpse into Louisiana's fascinating past, from local and hidden gems to the grand institutions that have stood the test of time.



OLD STATE CAPITOL,  
BATON ROUGE

### SEE INTO THE PAST!

Scan the QR code below to explore video clips from several must-visit museums.





## ACCOMMODATIONS



BLUE MOON SALOON & GUESTHOUSE, LAFAYETTE

# ACCOMMODATIONS THAT SING

Explore the heart of Louisiana's music scene and stay in a place that keeps you right in the beat of the action.

Visit a world-famous honky-tonk, then settle into its onsite guesthouse. Unwind in a historical inn near Frenchmen Street, the epicenter of live music in New Orleans. Enjoy breakfast in a cozy B&B in southwest Louisiana after a night in the heart of Cajun Country.

One of America's premier venues for roots music, the **Blue Moon Saloon & Guesthouse** in Lafayette is a true honky-tonk meeting place, where folks from all walks of life converge. Visit the saloon on Wednesday nights for a Cajun jam and dance party, then settle into your room for the night.

Visit the **Louisiana Cajun Mansion Bed & Breakfast** in Youngsville to reignite your relationship with music. It's just minutes from downtown Lafayette's music clubs, but also offers "Cajun Day Trips" that dive into Louisiana's music history.

Book a hotel nearby to listen to live music at **Buck & Johnny's** in Breaux Bridge, enjoy Saturday morning (yes, morning!) dance parties at **Fred's Lounge** in Mamou or visit the **Cajun Music Hall of Fame & Museum** in Eunice.

At more than 100 years old, **The Remington** hotel in Shreveport is home to **The Remington Garage**, a live music venue where local artists play. During the holidays, the venue is especially packed for long-awaited dance parties.

Built in 1883, **The Columns** hotel hosts weekly concerts in New Orleans. Its intimate mahogany bar touts James Beard-nominated mixologists and "late-night curiosities," such as after-hours wine tastings, often set to a soundtrack of live jazz or blues.





DIXIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS, RUSTON

## JAM & GROOVE!

Ready for live music? Visit these iconic concert halls.

For big-name performers, head to the **Orpheum Theater** in New Orleans.

Catch regional and national artists at the **Shreveport Municipal Auditorium**, the actual place where Elvis was rumored to have first “left the building” after a stunning performance on the Louisiana Hayride.

**Varsity Theatre** in Baton Rouge offers current music in a vintage venue.

A place that debuted silent films in 1928, the **Dixie Center for the Arts** in Ruston now prides itself as the “home and heart of the arts” in north-central Louisiana.



Shreveport Municipal Auditorium

SHREVEPORT MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

## GIVE IT A REST!

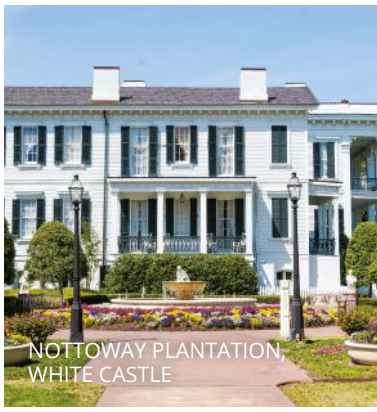
Scan the QR code to find a variety of diverse accommodations.



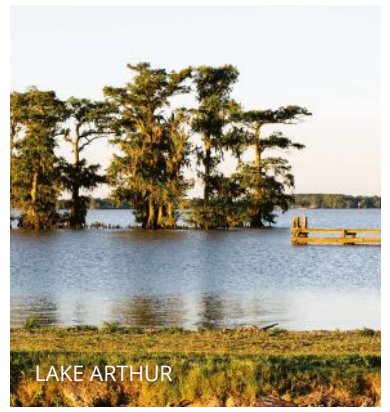




LIBERTY CENTER, EUNICE



NOTTOWAY PLANTATION,  
WHITE CASTLE



LAKE ARTHUR

# SOUTH







# LOUISIANA

Big cities and bayous. Rich history and culture. Phenomenal music and food. You'll find quintessential Louisiana experiences all throughout the southern part of the state.





# South Overview

With her creative culture and fascinating history, **New Orleans** is a place like no other. Tennessee Williams called her a “fairytale city,” but the good news is the magic extends far beyond the parish line.

Farther up the Mississippi on the **Great River Road** you’ll find plantations, where you can see firsthand what life was like. Not just for the sugarcane barons, but for the enslaved people to whom America owes so much of its music, food and culture.

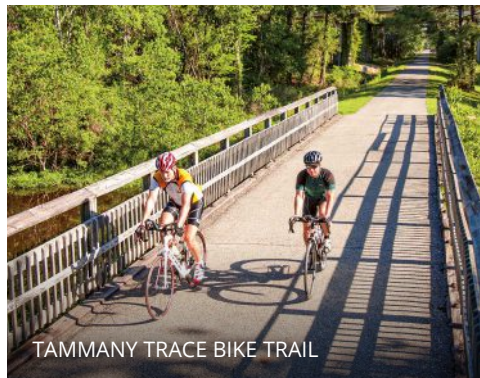
**Baton Rouge** also has a story or two to tell, especially at the **Louisiana State Capitol**, guarded by stone gargoyles. Not far away in **Lafayette**, you can learn how to do the two-step and eat tray upon tray of crawfish like a real Cajun.

And farther west in **Lake Charles**, you can experience wildlife on the **Creole Nature Trail** and find even more excitement at three casinos.



## EXPLORE MORE!

[ExploreLouisiana.com/Cities-Regions](https://ExploreLouisiana.com/Cities-Regions)



TAMMANY TRACE BIKE TRAIL



ST. LOUIS CATHEDRAL, NEW ORLEANS



CHAUVIN SCULPTURE GARDEN, CHAUVIN



... DISCOVER THE ...

# FRENCH MARKET<sup>®</sup> DISTRICT

SHOPPING ♦ RESTAURANTS ♦ EVENTS



## SIX HISTORIC BLOCKS OPEN DAILY!

Visit our boutique shops, farmers markets, and flea markets for clothing, jewelry, confections, arts & crafts, home decor, children's toys, unique gifts, souvenirs, and more!

 French Market New Orleans  FrenchMktNOLA

**LEARN MORE @ FRENCHMARKET.ORG**





AUDUBON AQUARIUM, NEW ORLEANS

## GREATER NEW ORLEANS AREA

For a city more than 300 years old, there's a whole lot of "new" to discover in New Orleans. Both the **Audubon Aquarium** and the **Audubon Insectarium** have undergone extensive renovations and, just across the way, **Vue Orleans** offers fascinating cultural exhibits and 360-degree views of the city.

While you're here, take a ferry ride to Algiers to take in the **American Jazz Walk of Fame**. Return at sunset for mind-blowing views or, better yet, stay on the West Bank at **Casa Pelican B&B**, which offers cooking classes with your stay!

There's new and then there's the Vieux. The Vieux Carré, the **French Quarter**, is home to world-famous restaurants and music venues, plus **St. Louis Cathedral**, **The Cabildo** and **The Presbytère** in **Jackson Square**. Art, food, drinks, history, architecture, street entertainers – it never gets old.

And neither does a streetcar ride up St. Charles Avenue, shopping on Magazine Street, or a visit to **The National WWII Museum** or **Music Box Village**. A fishing trip in **Jean Lafitte** or **Barataria** should also be on your itinerary.

## TOP MUSIC FESTIVALS

### NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans is famous for its **Jazz & Heritage Festival**, but it's only one of 130 or so musical events in the city every year.

Music lovers are also treated to the **French Quarter Festival**, said to be the largest free showcase of Louisiana music in the world. Another major fest is the **Mid-City Bayou Boogaloo**, a neighborhood party that includes boating and rafting on Bayou St. John. Come splash along with the music!

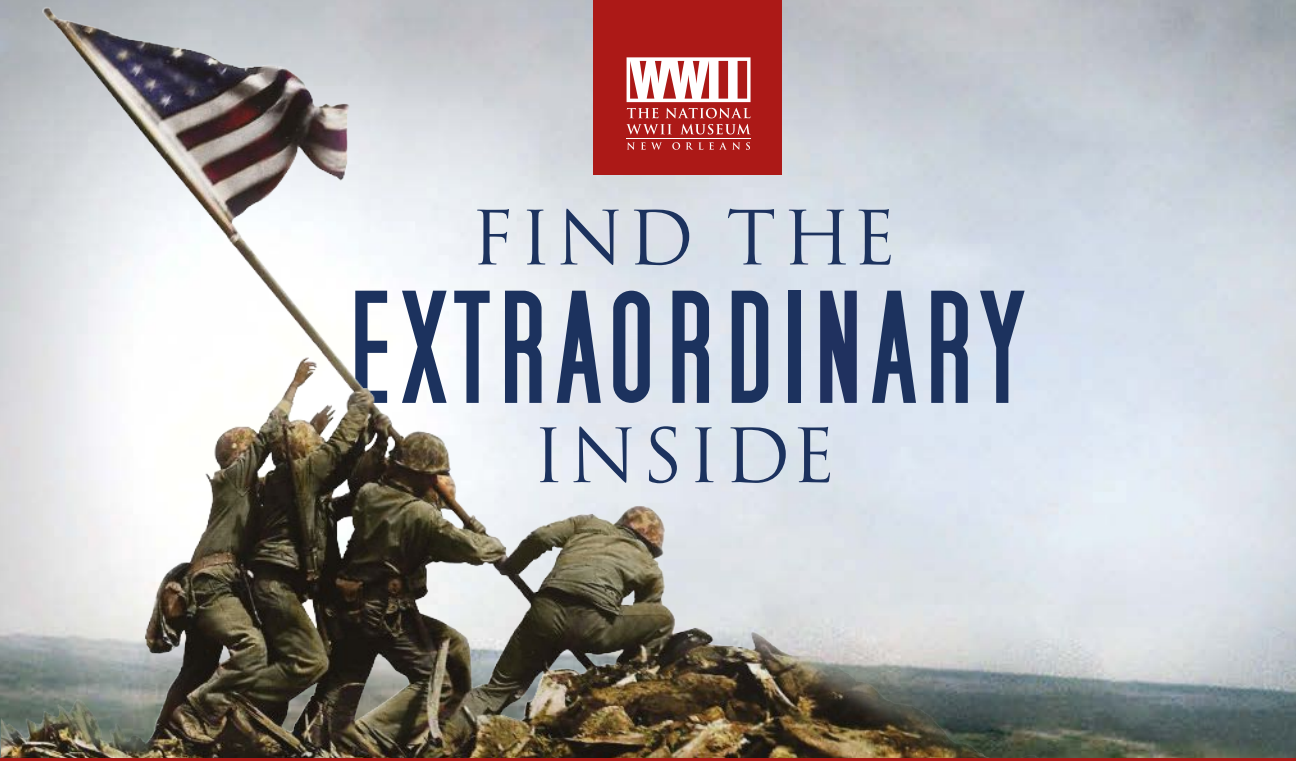
Every August, **Satchmo Summerfest** honors New Orleans' own Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong at the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint. Along with music on two stages, the festival includes a Jazz Mass and Second Line Parade.

And in the fall, those in the know gather at Lafayette Square Park for the **Crescent City Blues & BBQ Festival**. While it's kind of hard to get the blues with all that great barbecue around, we try our best.



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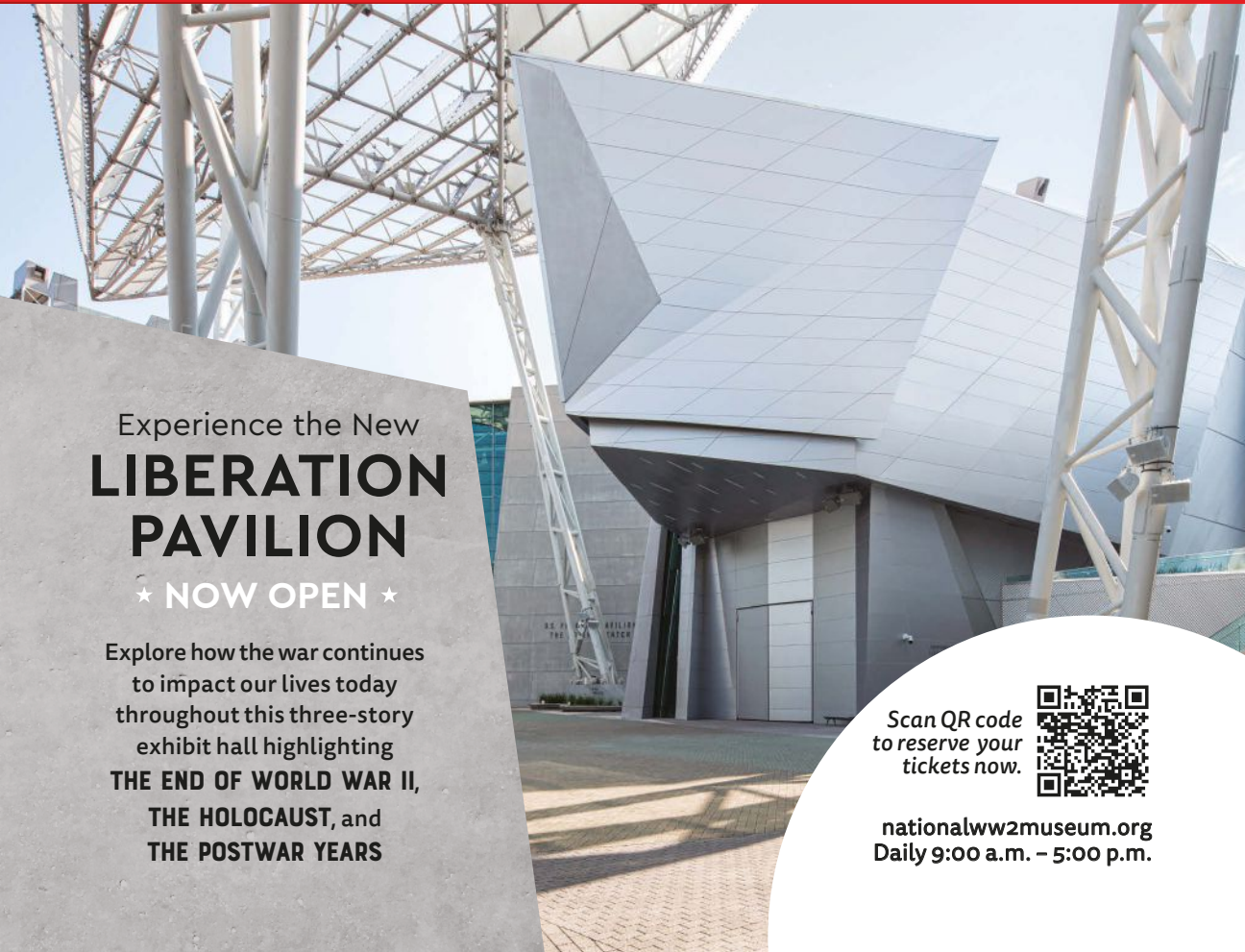
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## BEST PLACES TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

### NEW ORLEANS

Jazz was born in New Orleans and it never stopped growing up here. Along with other music forms, it flows out of the doors of French Quarter venues like the **Bourbon Street Drinkery**, **Jazz Playhouse**, **Fritzels European Jazz Pub** and **Preservation Hall**, dedicated to the preservation of jazz, America's only original art form.

On Frenchmen Street, take your pick of performers at clubs including **d.b.a.**, **The Spotted Cat**, **Blue Nile** and **Snug Harbor**. Uptown, **Tipitina's** has been the place to go since 1977, when Professor Longhair entertained crowds here. And locals and visitors alike can't get enough of the Steinway piano at the **Bayou Bar** inside the Pontchartrain Hotel, once a drinking den for Frank Sinatra and Truman Capote.

Of course, street musicians also perform throughout the French Quarter, particularly on **Royal Street**, **Jackson Square** and the **French Market**. If you're lucky, you'll bump into a brass band along the way as well!

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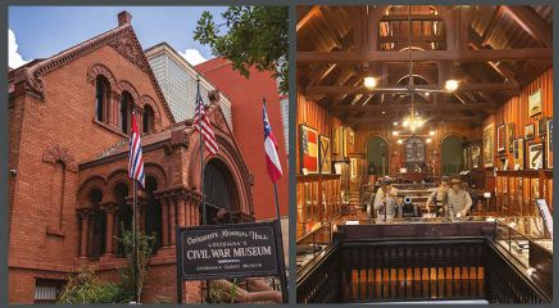
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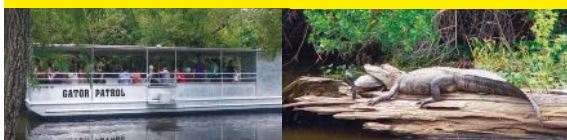
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## BEST PLACES TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

### SOUTH LOUISIANA

South Louisiana doesn't miss a beat. A band is always playing somewhere.

In the Lafayette area, you can get your music fix at **The Ruins Lounge**, **Rock 'n' Bowl**, **Whiskey & Vine**, **Hideaway on Lee** and **The Freetown Boom Boom Room** – and that's just for starters!

Baton Rouge is a college town and that means there's live music everywhere. Catch a show at **Phil Brady's Bar & Grill** or the **Manship Theatre**, a non-profit venue for theater, film, music, dance and performing arts. Not far from Baton Rouge is **Teddy's Juke Joint** in Zachary or the **Magnolia Café** in St. Francisville, where the only thing as good as the music is the food. In Houma, **The Music Cove** and **The Pour House** are where it's at.

On the Northshore, **Abita Springs Opry** presents "Louisiana Roots Music" six times a year, and **Ruby's Roadhouse** in Mandeville is always rockin'. Located in a rustic, 100-year-old building, Ruby's is one of the last remaining roadhouses in America.

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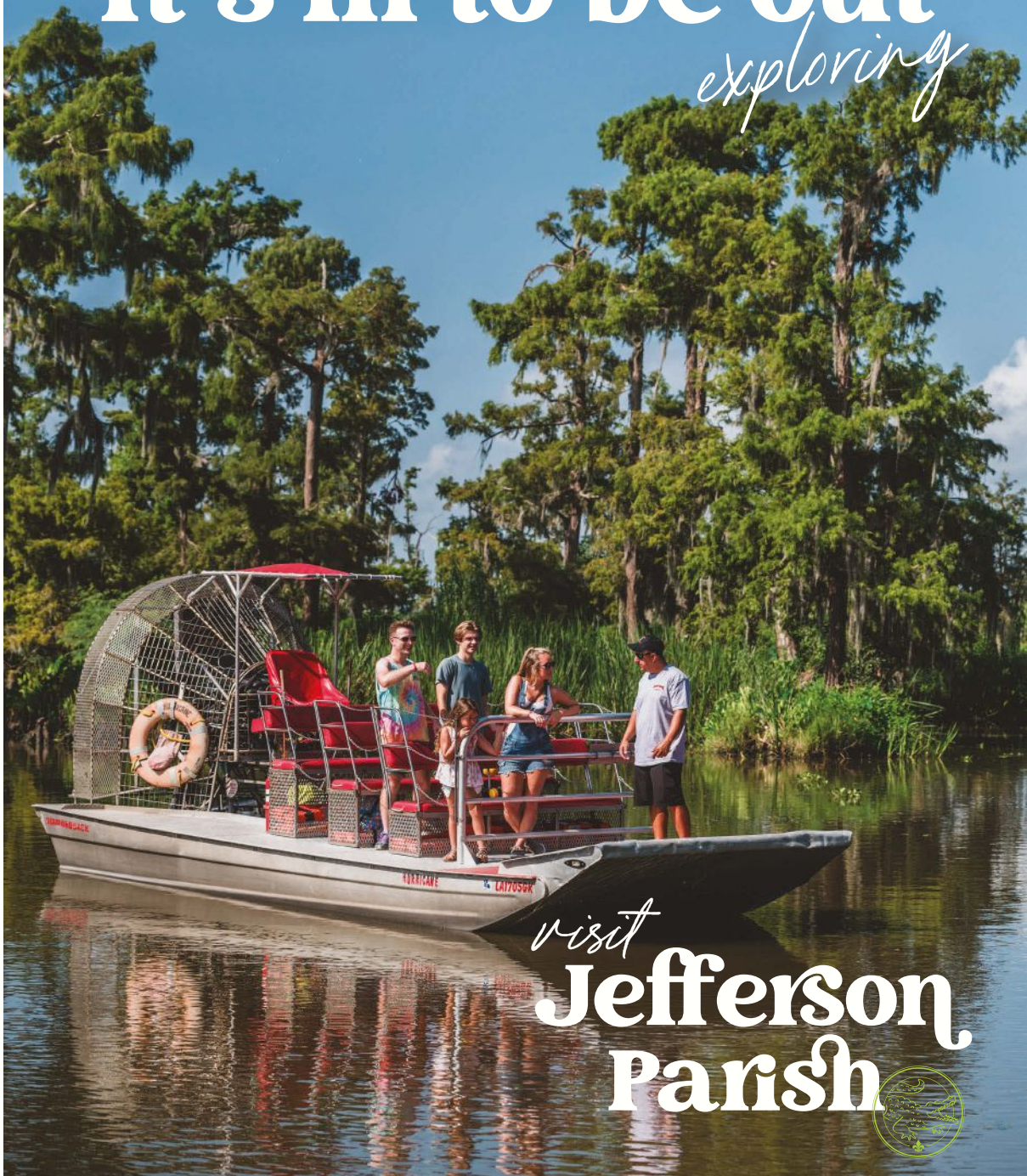


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## MY FAVORITE SPOTS IN NEW ORLEANS

### MIA BORDERS

While AXS called powerhouse singer/songwriter Mia Borders “a chanteuse of the highest order,” Mia will tell you she’ll always just be a New Orleans Uptown girl at heart.

“Whether you’re in the Tremé listening to music or in the Irish Channel at the parade,” she said, “you can immerse yourself in rich culture and heritage.”

More specifically, here’s what she likes to do most in her hometown:

- Get wet and wild with her niece and nephews at the **Cool Zoo**.
- Dine out at **14 Parishes Jamaican Restaurant** or **Three Muses**.
- Head to the main stage at **French Quarter Fest** right on the river.



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## NORTHSHORE AREA

New Orleans may be known as the Big Easy, but the Northshore elevates “taking it easy” to a whole new level. On the Mandeville lakefront, sip or savor at **Pat’s Rest Awhile, Rips on the Lake** or **Old Rail Brewing**. On the Madisonville riverfront, **Tchefuncte’s** is calling.

In **Covington**, you can go lunching or antiquing in a cuter-than-cute historical downtown. Have little ones in tow? Find out which came first – the alligator or the egg – at the **Insta-Gator Ranch and Hatchery**.

In **Slidell**, you can learn about the Honey Island Swamp Monster on **Dr. Wagner’s Honey Island Swamp Tours**. Afterward, treat yourself to something sweet at the **Old Town Slidell Soda Shop**.

Speaking of sweet, the charming town of **Abita Springs** is yours to explore. The **Abita Brew Pub, Abita Mystery House** at the **UCM Museum** and the **Tammany Trace** bike trail await. And you can get your daily water in by paddleboarding or canoeing on **Bayous Cane, Castine** and **Lacombe**, or the **Bogue Falaya River**.



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## BATON ROUGE AREA

It doesn't have to be game day at **Louisiana State University** for Baton Rouge to be bursting with excitement.

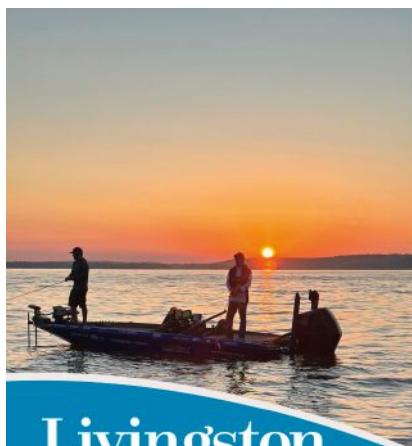
At LSU, you can visit the **Mike the Tiger Habitat**, a lush sanctuary for the school's living, breathing, roaring mascot. Then round out your stay with a visit to the **LSU AgCenter Botanical Gardens, Rural Life Museum, Louisiana Art & Science Museum** or antiquing at the **Pink Elephant**.

Love a good ghost story? Be sure to make time for the castle-like **Old State Capitol** as well.

Baton Rouge also has great one-of-a-kind restaurants. **Pelican to Mars** is a wonderful pet-friendly bar (the tiki-inspired drinks are only for humans though). **KOK Wings and Things** has a new expanded location in **Electric Depot**. Whether it's Taco Tuesday or not, **Barracuda** taco stand is not your typical Mexican joint. And you don't have to be a vegetarian or vegan to love the healthy menu at **MJ's Café**.



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FESTIVAL INTERNATIONAL DE LOUISIANE, LAFAYETTE

## TOP MUSIC FESTIVALS SOUTH LOUISIANA

A music festival in South Louisiana is like an all-you-can-eat buffet. It's a great way to taste a little bit of everything all at one time. Cajun, jazz, swamp pop, zydeco, folk, gospel, rock 'n roll, the blues – fill up your plate and come back for seconds!

The day after they wrap up in Lafayette, folks are already looking forward to next year's **Festival International de Louisiane** and the **Mamou Cajun Music Festival**.

Covington is known for the **Bluesberry Festival**, Thibodaux for the **BBQ, Bourbon and Blues Festival**, St. Francisville for the **Tunica Hills Music Festival** and Gonzales for the **Swamp Pop Music Festival**. Plus, there's the **Bogalusa Blues & Heritage Festival**, **Lebeau Zydeco Festival**, **Grand Isle Music Fest** and the **Ebb & Flow Festival** in Baton Rouge.

Lake Charles is also an awesome festival city. Both the **This is Home Fest** in front of the Old Courthouse in May and the **Cajun Music & Food Festival** at Burton Complex in July are great excuses to indulge your love for Louisiana music.

Spread out a blanket, dab on some sunscreen and come join the fun. It's always festival time in South Louisiana.



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## SOUTH LOUISIANA MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

### TANK AND THE BANGAS

Ever since New Orleans became New Orleans it has been inspiring musicians, especially homegrown ones like Tarriona "Tank" Ball, front woman for **Tank and the Bangas**.

In 2017, the group's unique blend of funk, soul, hip-hop, rock and spoken word won NPR's Tiny Desk Contest, and they were nominated for Best New Artist at the 2020 GRAMMY Awards. Altogether, they have released three studio albums – Thinktank (2013), Green

Balloon (2019) and Red Balloon (2022).

Tank told [gogirlmagazine.org](http://gogirlmagazine.org), "I go to Germany, Japan, anywhere and I feel like I bring New Orleans with me." While Tank and the Bangas have gigs all around the world, you can still catch them in New Orleans at **Jazz Fest** and venues like **Tipitina's**.

### EXPLORE MORE!

[tankandthebangas.com](http://tankandthebangas.com)



NEW ORLEANS JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL



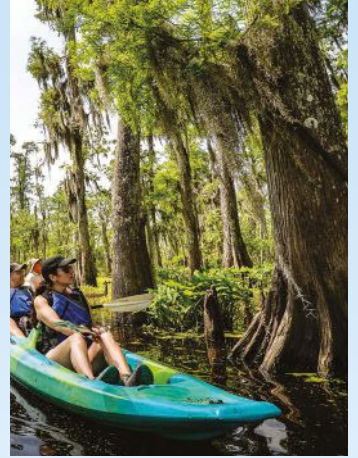
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## RIVER ROAD AREA

Take a stroll through historical homes like **Oak Alley**, **Laura**, **Nottoway** and **Houmas House and Gardens**, the latter of which is also home to the **Great River Road Museum**. The **River Road African American Museum** in Donaldsonville offers a unique perspective on life in the Old South with exhibits on slavery, freedom, resilience and reconciliation.

A stroll through **Historic Donaldsonville** should be on your to-do list, as should a stop at the **Fort Butler Commemorative Site** and **The Cajun Village** in Sorrento.

On the **Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail**, you'll get to see how water influences lives and landscapes. And don't leave without shopping for the latest fashions at **Tanger Outlets**.



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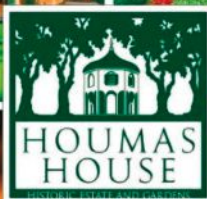
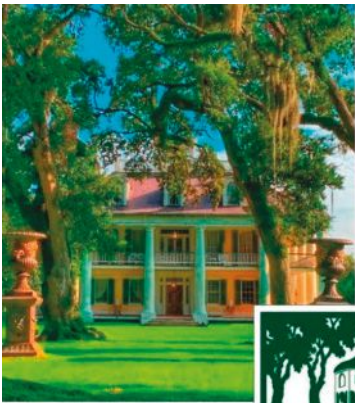
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Love visiting old churches? **St. Joseph Co-Cathedral** in Thibodaux is spectacular inside and out. The Rose Window is modeled after the iconic Rose Windows that were saved after the fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

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## MY FAVORITE SPOTS IN SOUTH LOUISIANA

T.K. HULIN

Swamp-pop star **T.K. Hulin**, “the Voice with a Tear,” was born in St. Martinville and resides today in Jeanerette. At age 16, T.K. made his solo debut with the hit, “I’m Not a Fool Anymore,” then followed that up with successes like “As You Pass Me By (Graduation Night)” and “Alligator Bayou.”

T.K.’s family once owned the Yellow Bowl in Jeanerette, which he claims served just about the best crawfish étouffée around. These days, when he’s not on stage at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, the Baton Rouge Blues Festival or the Jambalaya Festival in Gonzales, here are some of his favorite places to escape:

- Enjoy a meal at **Don’s Seafood Hut** in Lafayette.
- Dig into a plate of crawfish at **Pat’s Fisherman’s Wharf** in Henderson.
- Relax on his own front porch on **Bayou Teche**.



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## LAFAYETTE AREA

You can't truly experience Cajun culture unless you venture into the Lafayette area. There, both **Vermilionville Living History Museum & Historic Village** and **Acadian Village** provide a better understanding of what it means to be Cajun – and why this culture deserves to be preserved. In St. Martinville, pay a visit to the mighty **Evangeline Oak**, a symbol of the hope and young love between Evangeline and Gabriel, the Cajun Romeo and Juliet.

If you're planning to come to this part of Louisiana, you'd better come hungry. Pick up some boudin balls and cracklins at a gas station, but don't stop there. **Cajun Food Tours** will keep the culinary adventures rolling.

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CAJUN ZYDECO FESTIVAL, NEW ORLEANS

## SOUTH LOUISIANA MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT LOST BAYOU RAMBLERS

Lafayette gave birth to the GRAMMY Award-winning **Lost Bayou Ramblers**, a progressive band rooted in Cajun traditions.

They were founded in 1999 by brothers Andre and Louis Michot, but the last 5 years have been big ones. The band appeared on Jack White's American Epic, made contributions to the Oscar-nominated film "Beasts of the Southern Wild" and received a GRAMMY award for their album "Kalenda."

The Lost Bayou Ramblers say they stand at the "crosscurrents of Louisiana culture by

inhabiting the gray area between Cajun and Creole." World Café says they are a "revved-up version of Cajun music, shot through with punk energy and psychedelic fuzz."

Check the musical lineups at your favorite Louisiana festivals this year to catch them if you can!

### EXPLORE MORE!

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History is on display year-round both at **Bayou Teche Museum** and **Shadows-on-the-Teche**. At the latter, discover “**The Second Side**” exhibit, a rich archive of oral histories of African Americans in Iberia Parish.

Hungry? Hit **Landry’s Cajun Seafood & Steakhouse**, then have live music for dessert at **Pelicans on the Bayou**.

Music, history, adventure, food and fun all come together along the mystically beautiful **Cajun Coast**, home of the largest overflow swamp in the country at the **Atchafalaya National Heritage Area** along the **Bayou Teche Scenic Byway**.

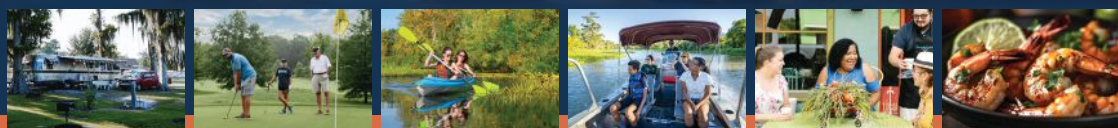
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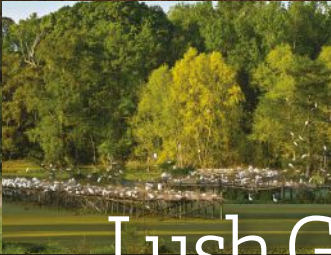


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## Historic Downtowns

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2513 Hwy. 14, New Iberia, LA 70560 • 888-942-3742 • IberiaTravel.com





## LAKE CHARLES AREA

Are you a foodie? Nature lover? History buff? You won't be able to get enough of Lake Charles.

While 40 blocks of Victorian splendor await in the **Charentier Historic District**, 400 bird species and a lot of other wildlife can be spied on the **Creole Nature Trail**. Or explore the Wetland Walkway at the **Sabine National Wildlife Refuge**, then kick off your flip-flops and wiggle your toes in the sand at **Holly Beach**.

Back in town, hit the pool, the spa or the slots at your favorite casino. Dine at one-of-a-kind eateries like **Luna Bar & Grill**, **BeauxDines'** and **Panorama Music House**, and don't go home without picking up a souvenir at one of Lake Charles' unique boutiques.



Courtesy of Visit Lake Charles / Clay Cook

HOLLY BEACH, CAMERON

## Visit *Jeff Davis Parish*

Hold a baby gator at the Gator Chateau, explore small towns and back roads on the Flyway Byway, taste local rum and Cajun cuisine, visit unique museums, join a Cajun jam, and much more!



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MEET LINDA - SHE'S A PRO AT STANDUP PADDLEBOARDING, KAYAKING, AND SWIMMING, INFUSING EVERY MOMENT WITH PURE JOY. THIS IS HOW SHE PACKS FOR JOY IN LAKE CHARLES. HOW WOULD YOU?



AS MUCH  
*Joy* AS  
YOU CAN  
PACK IN.

LAZY RIVER AT  
GOLDEN NUGGET LAKE CHARLES

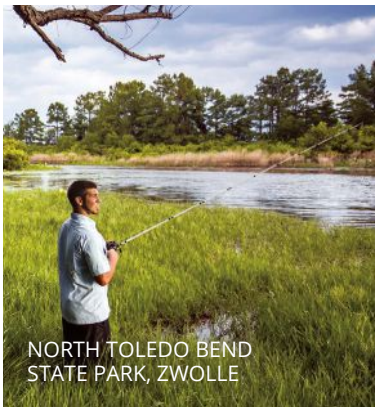
[UnpackYourJoy.com](http://UnpackYourJoy.com)

VISIT **LAKE CHARLES**  
LOUISIANA'S PLAYGROUND

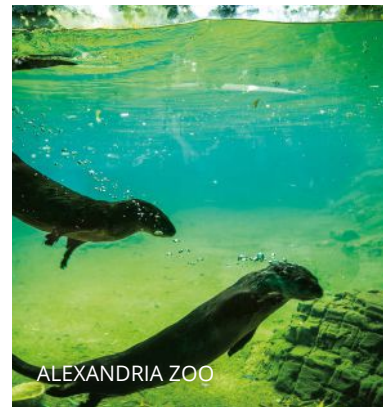




FORT ST. JEAN BAPTISTE,  
NATCHITOCHES



NORTH TOLEDO BEND  
STATE PARK, ZWOLLE



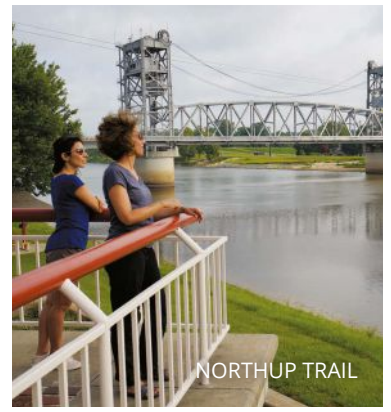
ALEXANDRIA ZOO

# CENTRAL



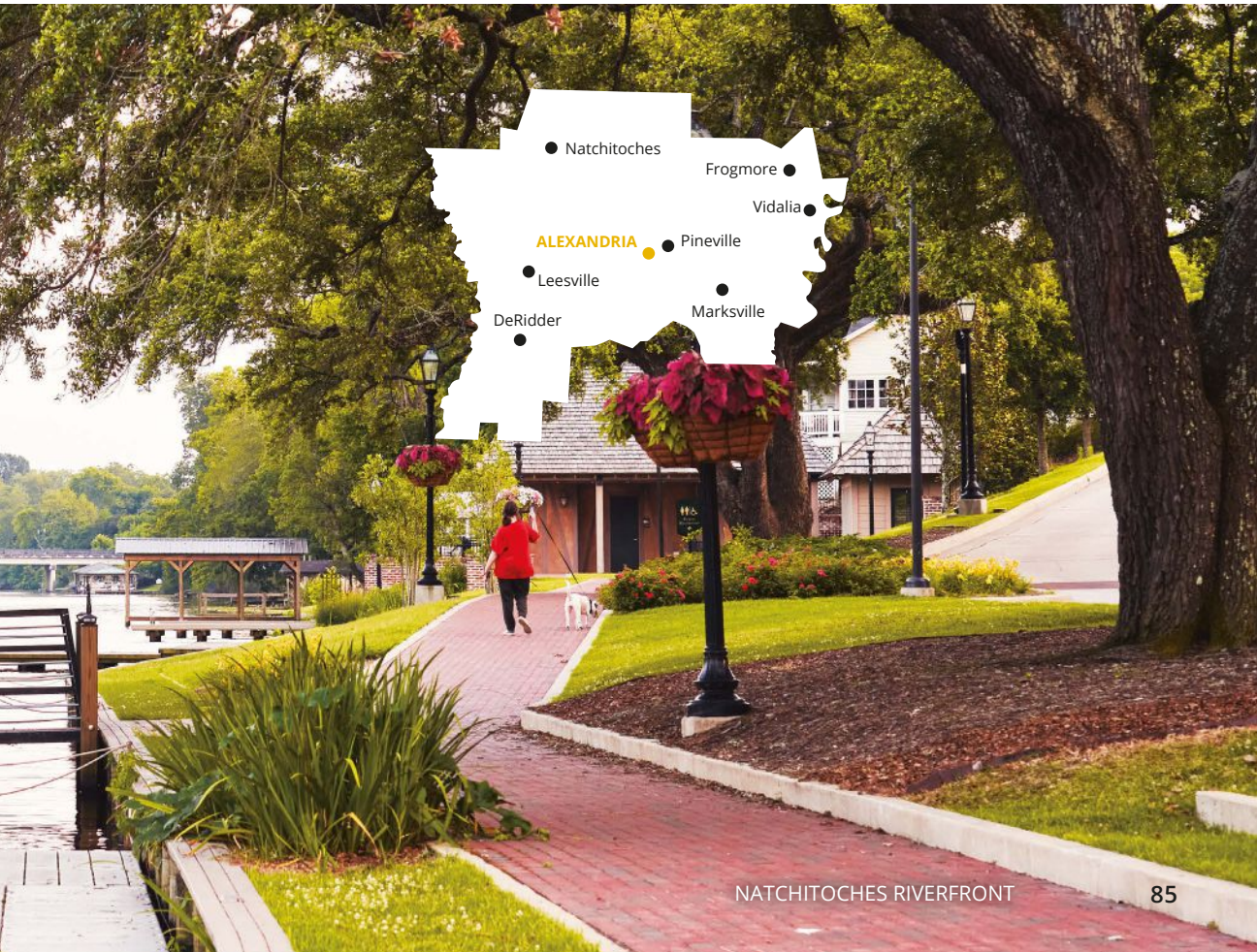
Anton Focus





# LOUISIANA

Charming towns and historic byways. Lush forests and vast lakes. Family attractions and craft beer. The heart of Louisiana beats throughout the central part of the state.





# Central Overview

**Kisatchie National Forest, Toledo Bend, Cypress Bend.** Just saying those words aloud brings a sense of peace to anyone who's ever caught a sunset or a fish in one of these magical places. And if you love fish, you can learn more about Louisiana aquatic life in Forest Hill at the **Booker Fowler Fish Hatchery**, open mid-February through mid-May, featuring 10,000 gallons of native species and some stunning hand-painted murals.

If you're a history lover, **Natchitoches** (the oldest city in the state) and **Melrose Plantation** (built for and by free Black people) will give you a story or two to add to your repertoire. Another must-see historical home in the area is **Kent Plantation** in Alexandria, built circa 1796, and you can learn more about life before the Civil War on the 83-mile **Northup Trail**. Hear the story of Solomon Northup, a free-born African American farmer and professional violinist from New York who was kidnapped and sold into slavery.

If all this exploring makes you hungry, swing into **Lea's Lunchroom**, famous for ham sammiches and homemade pies in Lecompte.



## EXPLORE MORE!

[ExploreLouisiana.com/Cities-Regions](https://ExploreLouisiana.com/Cities-Regions)



WILDWOOD RESORT, ZWOLLE



CYPRESS BEND PARK, MANY



## ALEXANDRIA-MARKSVILLE AREA

Get an introduction to this fascinating part of Louisiana at the **Tunica-Biloxi Museum**, then see how early pioneers lived at the **Hypolite Bordelon House** and cool your heels at the **Broken Wheel Brewery & Bistro**.

Over in Alexandria, enjoy family time at the **T.R.E.E. House Children's Museum** and **Alexandria Zoo**, where you can take a ride on

the Bayou Le Zoo Choo Choo or hop aboard the **Alexandria History Trolley Tour**.

Other area must-dos include the **River Oaks Square Arts Center**, where you can watch artists at work. And after seeing the vintage postcard exhibit at the **Louisiana History Museum**, you'll be texting your friends: "Wish you were here!"



HYPOLITE BORDELON HOUSE, MARKSVILLE



## Find your CENTER IN AVOYELLES

When you visit Avoyelles, you'll get Louisiana your way. A laid back stroll down a charming main street—it's here! Cultural attractions in a beautiful natural setting—that's us too! Even the thrills of a Vegas style casino with a bounty of entertainment and dining. You'll find it all and more when you find your center in Avoyelles.

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**AVOYELLES**  
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travelavoyelles.com





## TOLEDO BEND- LAKE COUNTRY AREA

Check into a cozy cabin at **Wildwood Resort** and let the fun begin at **North Toledo Bend State Park**. Go on a backwoods camping adventure with **Tack-A-Paw Expeditions**, make memories with the kids at **Toledo Bend Family Adventure Park**, and drive through miles of wildflowers on the **Toledo Bend Forest Scenic Byway**. If you golf, head to the championship links at **Cypress Bend**.

Let your journey continue on the **El Camino Real de los Tejas**, a thoroughfare from the 18th-century Spanish colonial era. Explore more Spanish culture at **Los Adaes State Historic Site** and hear a story or two at **Fort Jesup State Historic Site**, once commanded by future president Zachary Taylor, a hero of the Mexican-American War.



FORT JESUP STATE HISTORIC SITE, MANY

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[DISCOVERDESOTO.COM](http://DISCOVERDESOTO.COM)

## Spice up your life! Discover DeSoto Parish.



## OUR FAVORITE SPOTS IN CENTRAL LOUISIANA

### THE HOOCHIE DIGS

**The Hoochie Digs** – married duo Joey Wilson and Cher Marie Couvillion, known as “The Digs” for short – first took to the stage in Louisiana in 2014. Since then, they’ve released two albums featuring his music and her lyrics, folk in nature but with a hint of country seeping through.

And what’s up with that name? It came from Cher’s French grandmother, who would say “hoochie dig” in place of a name she could not recall.

When they’re not performing at places like **Fighting Hand Brewing Co.** in Pineville or **Alex River Fete** in Alexandria, their favorite things to see and do when they’re back visiting the region include:

- Ride bikes to Fort Buhlow to tour the museum and go fishing on the **Red River**.
- Grab a cup of java at **Common Grounds** or **Tamp & Grind Coffee Shop**.
- Go for a custom pizza at **Wildwood Pizza**, followed by dessert at **Atwood’s Bakery**.
- Do yoga and check out the exhibits at the **Alexandria Museum of Art**.

### EXPLORE MORE!

[linktr.ee/thehoochiedigs](http://linktr.ee/thehoochiedigs)



ALEXANDRIA MUSEUM OF ART



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[LouisianaLegendCountry.com](http://LouisianaLegendCountry.com)





## BEST PLACES TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

### CENTRAL LOUISIANA

There's nothing like live music to make you feel, well, alive.

In Central Louisiana, locals and visitors alike hang out at **Bailey's Night Club** in Marksville, a converted old theater.

**Bootlegger's** in Alexandria is a bar with a Prohibition-Era feel that specializes in music and moonshine cocktails. In Natchitoches, **Pioneer Pub, Flying Heart Brewery & Pub** and **Roque's Blues Hall** await. At **Mama's Blues Room** on Front Street, blues and zydeco are on the menu.



## HISTORIC TOURS BY DAY.

Visit the historic **Gothic Jail** by day to unlock its mysteries and marvel in its majestic architecture. Explore the nine jail cells while learning the story of the 1928 double hanging, which marks the beginning of paranormal experiences in the "Hanging Jail."

Day-time tours are offered daily on weekdays and by appointment on weekends. Adult tickets are \$10.00. Discounts are available for military and children.

## HAUNTED TOURS BY NIGHT.

Reserve your guided lantern tour of the **Gothic Jail After Dark** if you dare, where paranormal activity runs rampant and the walls hold secrets of a brutal murder, suicide, and double hanging. **Lantern Tours \$25**

Visit the Haunted Gothic Jail haunted house in October. Open on Friday and Saturday evenings, it is where ghost and mortals come to play. **Admission \$20**



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[www.beauregardtourism.com](http://www.beauregardtourism.com)



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LAND**  
HAUNTED HOUSE



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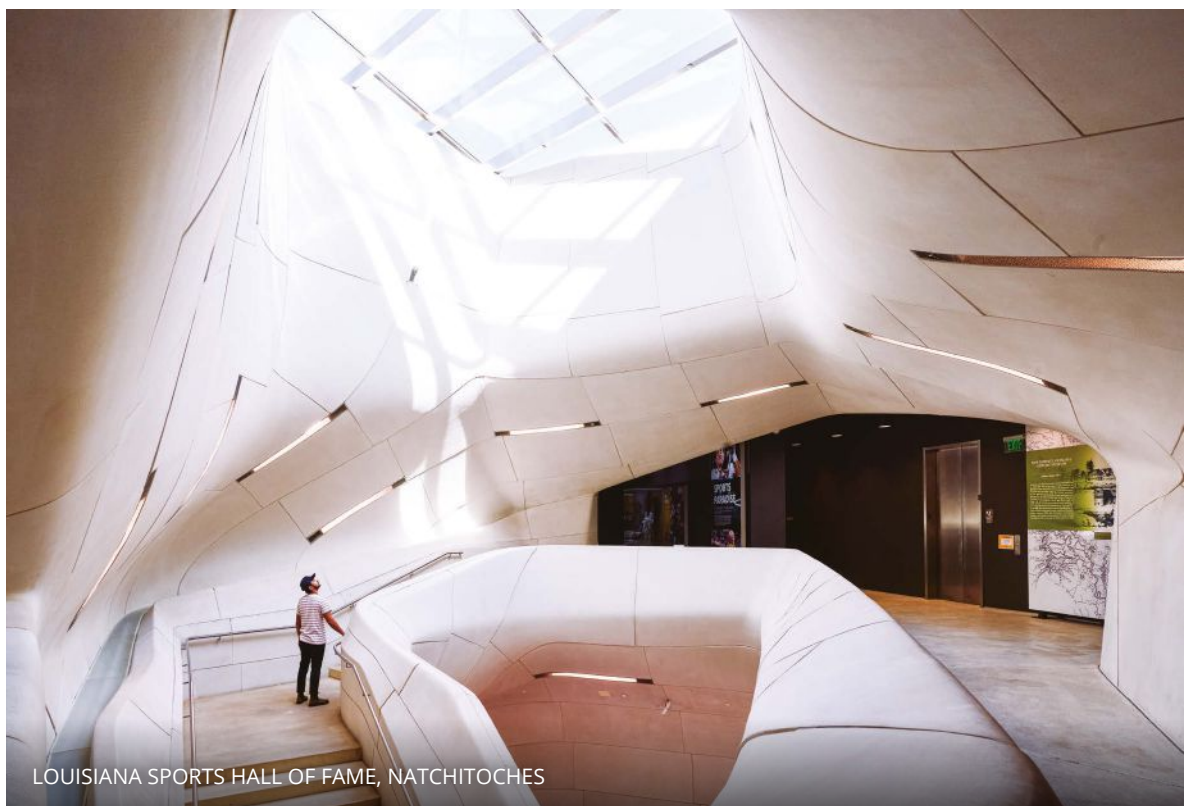
## TOP MUSIC FESTIVALS CENTRAL LOUISIANA

Visitors flock to Central Louisiana for exciting festivals showcasing local musical talent. Get your fill of tunes at the **Avoyelles Arts & Music Festival**, **Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival** and **Natchitoches Jazz Fest**.

Of course, food is a major headliner at all Louisiana festivals, too. Build your next vacation around the **Zwolle Tamale Fiesta**, **Sabine Freestate Festival** or **Louisiana Elvis Festival**, all of which feature good eats!



KAFFIE-FREDERICK GENERAL MERCANTILE STORE, NATCHITOCHEs



LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL OF FAME, NATCHITOCHEs





## CENTRAL LOUISIANA MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

### ALEX SMITH

Music came naturally to **Alex Smith**, a musician and songwriter from Alexandria whose grandfather sang and played a six-string and whose dad played bass in a four-piece zydeco band with Sonny Landreth.

In the eighth grade, inspired by the video game Guitar Hero, Smith picked up a guitar himself. This eventually led to playing in church and local bars, followed by a move to Nashville after college, where he has since opened for superstars Brett Eldredge and Uncle Kracker.

Smith's debut single, "Load It Up," hit #41 on the Billboard chart and his latest album, *Bootshake*, was released this past year.

### EXPLORE MORE!

[alexsmith5.bandzoogle.com](http://alexsmith5.bandzoogle.com)

## NATCHITOCHE AREA

Born four years before New Orleans in 1714, Natchitoches was Louisiana's original French colony. Today, you can be regaled with tales of the old days on a carriage ride, a cruise on the **Cane River Queen Riverboat** or a walking tour of the **National Historic Landmark District**.

Pick up a souvenir or two at **Kaffie-Frederick General Mercantile Store**, where they'll ring you up on a cash register from 1910. Come celebrate state greats like Archie Manning, Willis Reed, Shaquille O'Neal, Chanda Rubin and many others at the **Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame**. Take a time-out to meditate in the chapel at **Fort St. Jean Baptiste**.

For a trip to remember, mosey down the **Cane River National Heritage Trail Scenic Byway**, which will wind its way into your heart.



Explore the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase. Find centuries of history, culture, and natural landscapes, ready to be explored by foot, car, or boat.

CELEBRATE. DISCOVER. EXPLORE.

# Louisiana's

**OLDEST CITY**









800-259-1714 • [www.Natchitoches.com](http://www.Natchitoches.com)   

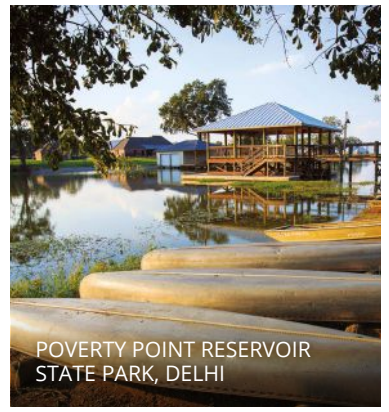




FAIRFIELD MANOR, SHREVEPORT



NORTHEAST LOUISIANA  
CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, MONROE

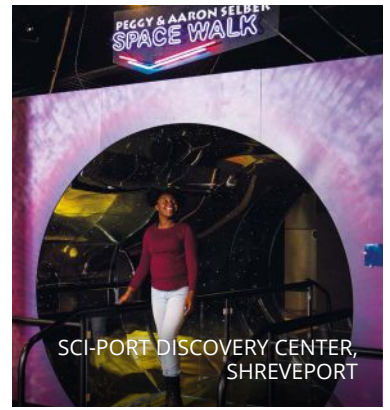
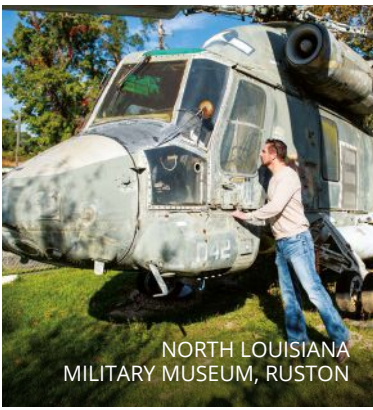


POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR  
STATE PARK, DELHI

# NORTH

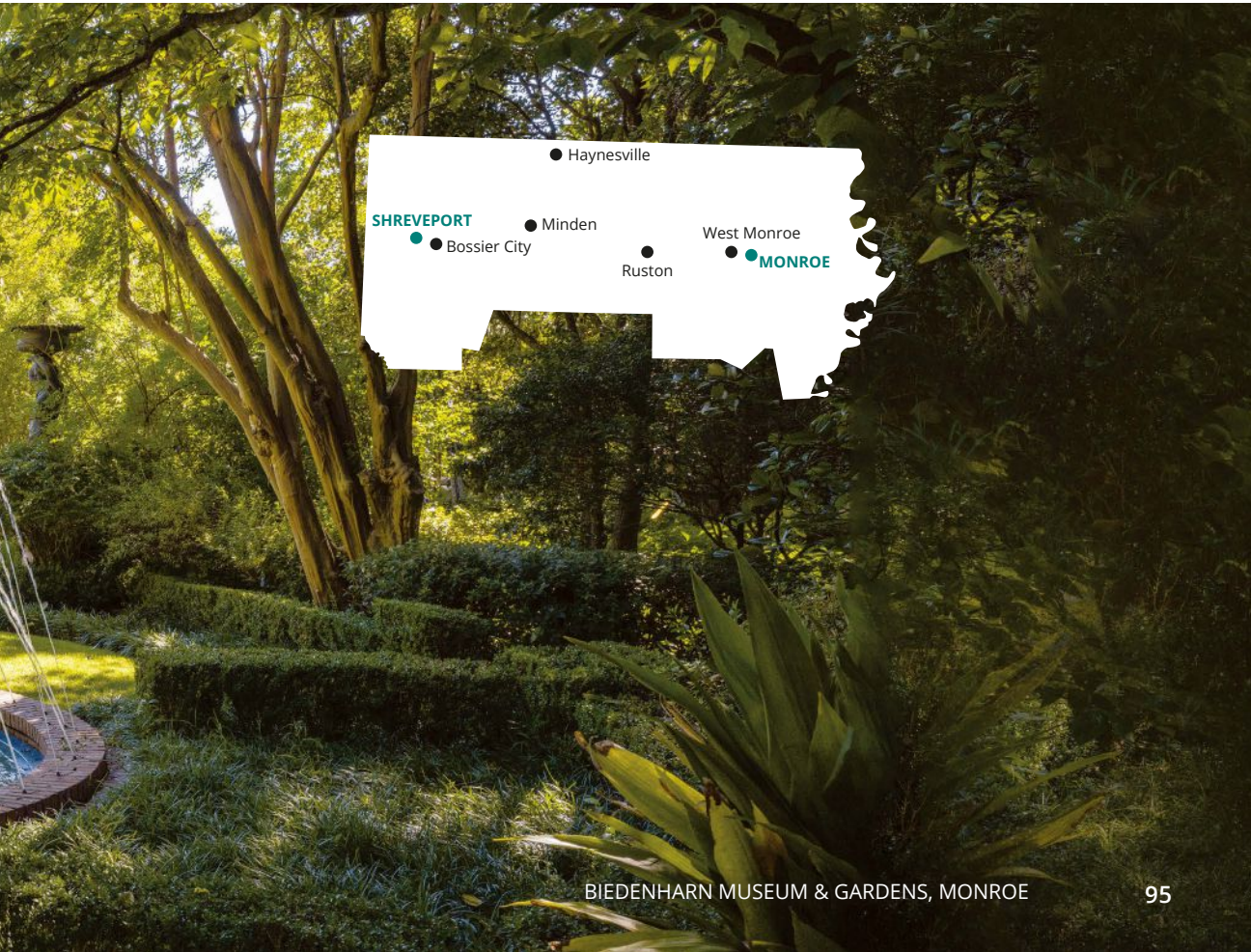






# LOUISIANA

Sister river cities and lively festivals. Plentiful parks and mountain trails. Gardens, galleries and art. The northern part of the state is a top spot for vacation fun.





# North Overview

North Louisiana is the big outdoors and big-hearted locals who love to share it all with you.

Hunting, fishing, hiking and kayaking are on the agenda here in magical places like **Lake Claiborne State Park** near Homer, **Lincoln Parish Park** in Ruston and Bienville's **Driskill Mountain Trail**, Louisiana's "highest" point at a whopping 535 feet above sea level.

Big-time fun is easy to find here as well. In Shreveport and Bossier City, you can enjoy world-class wining, dining and gaming. Get up close and personal with Remingtons and Russells at the **R.W. Norton Art Gallery**. Find out why a rose isn't just a rose at the 118-acre **American Rose Center**.

In the Monroe-Ruston area visit **Biedenharn Museum & Gardens**, where you can tour formal English gardens, a historic home, a Coca-Cola museum (Biedenharn was the original bottler of Coke) plus a museum with an original 1611 King James Bible and a page from a 1454 Gutenberg Bible.

If you love art – looking at it and creating it – check out the **Masur Museum of Art** and then take a class at **Ruston Artisans**.



## EXPLORE MORE!

[ExploreLouisiana.com/Cities-Regions](https://www.exploreLouisiana.com/Cities-Regions)



AMERICAN ROSE CENTER, SHREVEPORT



COCA-COLA MUSEUM, MONROE





# WHERE FRIENDS GATHER TOGETHER.

Looking for all-day thrills, weekend chills, or maybe a mix of both? Ruston and Lincoln Parish have just what you're looking for! Here's to sharing in nostalgia in the making.

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES!  

[ExperienceRuston.com](https://www.ExperienceRuston.com) 318.255.2031

For the  
*Planner*  
of the  
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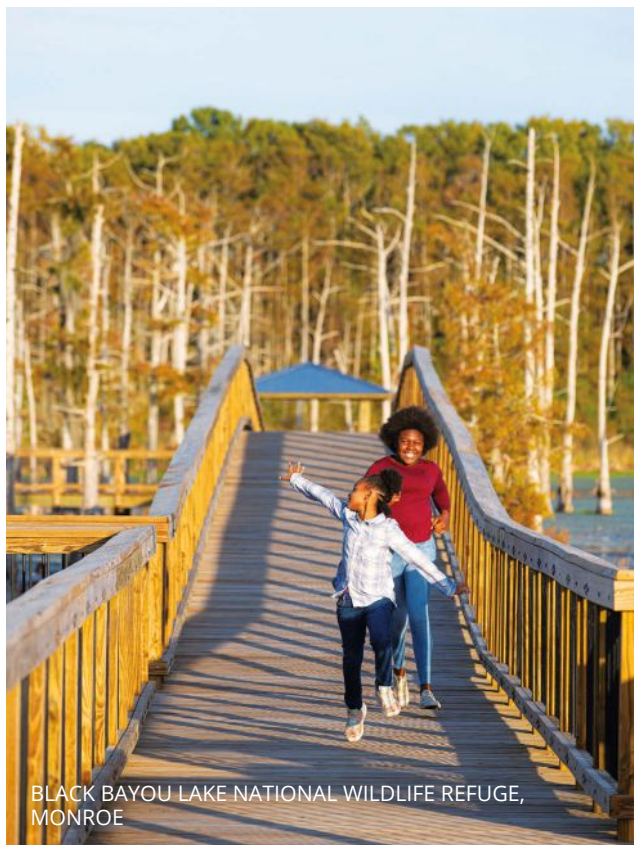




## MONROE-RUSTON AREA

While pristine **Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge** in Monroe draws outdoor lovers, this part of Louisiana is a history lover's paradise as well. At **Chennault Aviation and Military Museum** in Monroe, you can learn how a small crop-dusting business evolved into massive Delta Airlines.

Traveling with the kiddos? At Monroe's **Northeast Louisiana Children's Museum**, little ones 3 and under can visit Baby Bayou to dive into a touch-and-play experience that will stimulate their senses – and tire them for a nap! And be sure to get in a walk, run or bike ride at Ruston's **Rock Island Greenway**, named after the rail line Johnny Cash once sang about.



BLACK BAYOU LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE,  
MONROE

## NORTH LOUISIANA MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

### JAMES BURTON

While there are fewer than 300 residents in the tiny town of Dubberly, millions of people know the name of guitar great **James Burton**, who has been called “one of the best guitar players to ever touch a fretboard.” A member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Burton is ranked number 19 on Rolling Stone’s list of the “100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time.”

Self-taught when he was still a teenager, Burton was part of the staff band for the “Louisiana Hayride” radio show in Shreveport.

Since then, this homegrown talent has recorded and performed with everybody who’s anybody, including Ricky Nelson, Elvis Presley (he was leader of Presley’s TCB Band), Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Glen Campbell, John Denver, Gram Parsons, Emmylou Harris, Roy Orbison, Elvis Costello, Vince Gill and so many others.

### EXPLORE MORE!

[james-burton.net](http://james-burton.net)

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[MONROE-WESTMONROE.ORG](http://MONROE-WESTMONROE.ORG)





RED RIVER REVEL FESTIVAL, SHREVEPORT

## BEST PLACES TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

### NORTH LOUISIANA

In Shreveport, take in big-name entertainers and some who soon will be at **Louisiana Grandstand**, formerly the Shreveport Opry. Then hop on over to **J.O.S.H. Lounge**, where the name stands for jazz, old school and heritage.

In Bossier City, follow the tunes to **1931 Lounge** inside Horseshoe Casino or head to **Beauxjax Crafthouse** in the East Bank District, a newly renovated entertainment area.

**The Revelry** in Ruston is home to “loud music and boisterous fun,” and you’ll never forget the music you heard at **Enoch’s Irish Pub and Café** in Monroe – or their Blarney Stone Blue Cheese Burger!

## TOP MUSIC FESTIVALS

### NORTH LOUISIANA

Shreveport contributed to American music for years with the “Louisiana Hayride” music show and we’re still rockin’ and rollin’ up here on the Red River at events like **Highland Jazz & Blues Festival**, **Red River Revel Festival** and the **Kegs & Corks Craft Beer, Wine and Music Festival**.

And around Monroe, music lovers are slathering on sunscreen for the **Ouachita RiverFest**, **Northeast Louisiana Celtic Festival** and **New Music on the Bayou**.

## The Biedenharn Museum & Gardens

Coke Museum • Bible Museum  
Historic Home & Gardens



Home of 5¢ Cokes in glass bottles  
from antique Coca-Cola machines.  
Groups ask about the Taste of Louisiana Tour.

[bmuseum.org](http://bmuseum.org)

The Biedenharn  
Museum & Gardens

2000 Riverside Drive • Monroe, LA  
Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 5 pm • 318-387-5281





GREAT RAFT BREWING, SHREVEPORT

## SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER CITY AREA

When Nashville said no to Hank Williams and Elvis Presley, the “Louisiana Hayride” said yes. Learn all about it at the “Louisiana Hayride” exhibit at **Shreveport Municipal Auditorium**. And speaking of stars, you can fly through them at the Sawyer Space Dome Planetarium at **Sci-Port Discovery Center**.

At the **Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum**, learn how these infamous bank robbers met their end. Afterward, head over to **Great Raft Brewing** to sip brews with names like Reasonably Corrupt and Amber Waves of Pain.

If where you stay is as important as where you go, then follow the scent of fresh-baked blueberry muffins to **Fairfield Manor**, Shreveport’s first bed and breakfast.



SHREVEPORT MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

## MY FAVORITE SPOTS IN NORTH LOUISIANA

### A.J. HAYNES

Singer/guitarist/activist **A.J. Haynes** fronts the rock-and-soul band Seratones, whose newest album, *Love and Algorithms*, has been called “a cosmic meld of soul and Afrofuturist funk.”

Before her music career took off at local clubs like Bears and Strange Brew, A.J. was a middle school and high school teacher in Shreveport. She also gave music lessons and still organizes music events for the youth in her hometown at the Renzi Arts & Education Center.

When she has a bit of free time, here’s what she loves to see and do in North Louisiana:

- Grab a Calaverita margarita at **Ki’ Mexico**.
- Dine on stuffed shrimp at **Orlandeaux’s Cafe**, the oldest continuously operating African American family-owned restaurant in the U.S.
- Do yoga at **Humm** or **Bloom Yoga** – both have great teachers!

### EXPLORE MORE!

[seratones.com](http://seratones.com)



A man with a beard and a woman are sitting at a wooden table in a restaurant, smiling and eating. The man is wearing a light blue polo shirt and the woman is wearing a pink top. They are both holding forks with food on them. In the background, other people are seated at tables, and there is a colorful mural on the wall that says "LOVE LIGHT".

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OF US.

*Shreveport  
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# COUPONS & DEALS

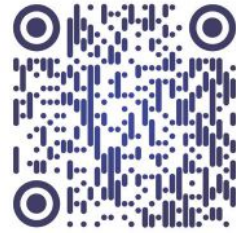


ANTIQUÉ ALLEY, WEST MONROE



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NEW ORLEANS

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NEW ORLEANS

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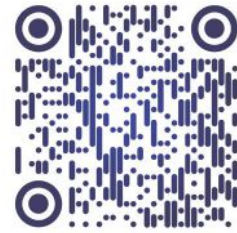
\$2 off general admission adult tickets and \$1 off general admission student tickets. Not valid with any other discounts. Expires 12/31/24.

945 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-528-1944 • nationalww2museum.org



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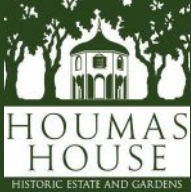


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