

LOUISIANA[®]

Feed Your Soul.



Three-time GRAMMY[®] nominee
Creole Rock and Soul artist
Sean Ardoin

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**PLAY, STAY,
THEN ADD A DAY!**

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**LOUISIANA'S
TOP TASTES**

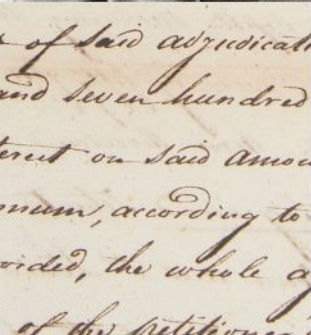
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**UNUSUAL BEDS
TO LAY YOUR HEAD**



LOUISIANA
STATE
MUSEUMS

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

**Explore
our
story!**



Monumental battles, daring aviators, powerful monarchs, great rivalries, devastating floods, celebrated artists, astonishing athletes, unique traditions, and legendary musicians—Louisiana's history is extraordinary. Discover your passion for the past at one of our nine Louisiana State Museums.

LouisianaStateMuseum.org

LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.

WELCOME TO LOUISIANA



If you're looking for a trip like no other, you've come to the right place.

Here you'll step outside of the ordinary and try new experiences, foods and adventures that will make memories to last a lifetime. You won't just hear our local jazz, Cajun and zydeco music. You'll learn to two-step with the locals. You'll catch – and eat – some of the freshest seafood in the world. You'll taste the Cajun and Creole flavors unique to our great state and the gumbo of cultures that makes us so special.

You'll hike and paddle through our state parks and sleep in our glamping tents to rise with the sun and do it all over again. You'll discover history and culture along our scenic trails and byways.

Our fun, friendly cast of local characters is waiting to welcome you to Louisiana and share all the ways you can **Feed Your Soul**.

When you're ready for a good time, you'll find it in **#OnlyLouisiana**.



**Lt. Governor
Billy Nungesser**

A handwritten signature of Billy Nungesser in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

WELCOME



LOUISIANA SUNSHINE MAGAZINE

On the Cover

Lake Charles native Sean Ardoin brings plenty of rock and soul to his Creole music, earning him three GRAMMY® nominations.

Louisiana Sunshine Magazine

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

LouisianaTravel.com

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



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REGIONS



50
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80
CENTRAL LOUISIANA



92
NORTH LOUISIANA

5 Amazing Locations for **FOOD, FUN & ENTERTAINMENT.**

If you'd like your next getaway to include world-class restaurants, thrilling gaming, state-of-the-art sports betting experience action and incredible live entertainment, you owe it to yourself to visit one of the my**choice**[®] destinations in Louisiana.



L'auberge
CASINO RESORT
LAKE CHARLES
A my**choice** destination

L'AUBERGE CASINO RESORT LAKE CHARLES

Everyone loves a good story and this Southern Gaming and Destinations Award Winner offers an experience for everyone. The casino features over 80 table games and over 1,500 of the hottest slots. Enjoy a wide variety of dining options, including a fine dining steakhouse, authentic Asian cuisine, Cajun-inspired favorites and much more. Catch some rays at the two beautiful pools and lazy river or soak up luxury at the full-service spa and salon. Or if you prefer the sporting life, hit the links at the Tom Fazio-designed Contraband Bayou Golf Club. Choose your way to stay... an exquisite room or one of the stunning suites. Stories begin at L'Auberge Lake Charles.



L'auberge
CASINO HOTEL
BATON ROUGE
A my**choice** destination

L'AUBERGE CASINO HOTEL BATON ROUGE

Unique surprises await you at this southern Louisiana retreat designed to capture the rich culture of Baton Rouge. Featuring the latest greats and your classic favorites — over 1,200 exhilarating slots grace the casino floor, combined with over 50 of the area's most exciting table games, a new Sportsbook and two smoking and gaming veranda with 3,000 square feet of open air and sweeping views of the Mississippi River. Feast on eclectic cuisines and Southern comforts, featuring the all-new Red Lotus Asian Kitchen. Dine on prime cuts of beef with perfectly paired wine or take in a game while enjoying outstanding, colossal wings. Dance the night away with DJs and rock out to area bands or see top-name entertainment at the 1,500-seat Event Center. Revitalize at the AAA Four-Diamond hotel and take a dip in the unique rooftop pool. Experience thrills and sophisticated comfort at L'Auberge Baton Rouge.

G A M B L I N G P R O B L E M ?



MARGARITAVILLE.
 RESORT • CASINO
 BOSSIER CITY, LA
 A my**choice** destination

**MARGARITAVILLE RESORT CASINO
 BOSSIER CITY**

This award-winning resort offers an island-style escape featuring nonstop gaming, electrifying entertainment, four top-rated restaurants and a first-class luxury hotel. With over 1,000 of the hottest and newest slots, you'll find the very latest themes, plus the area's best table action with 50 table games, including mini-baccarat. Savor fresh-from-the-gulf seafood and perfect steaks at Jimmy's Seafood & Steak. Enjoy traditional Vietnamese and Asian favorites at Bamboo. For a casual atmosphere, stop by the Busted Coconut pool deck bar and see fantastic shows by headline entertainers in the Paradise Theater. Stay in Margaritaville's fantastic luxury hotel, featuring a beautiful tropical pool and world-class spa. You can truly escape the everyday at Margaritaville Bossier City.



BOOMTOWN
 CASINO ★ HOTEL
 BOSSIER CITY, LA
 A my**choice** destination

**BOOMTOWN CASINO
 BOSSIER CITY**

Gracious service abounds, giving this popular Bossier City destination a hometown vibe. Get in on the action with three floors of gaming, including the hottest new slots, high limit slots and video poker. Visit 1800 Prime Steakhouse for quality prime beef, sensational seafood, and mouthwatering desserts. Relax in the unique Circular Bar at Sundance Cantina for a signature "Boomarita" or an icy cold brew. Stay awhile in a spacious deluxe king or deluxe double room with premium amenities like plush pillow top mattresses. Experience the heart of nonstop fun at Boomtown Bossier City.



BOOMTOWN
 CASINO ★ HOTEL
 NEW ORLEANS, LA
 A my**choice** destination

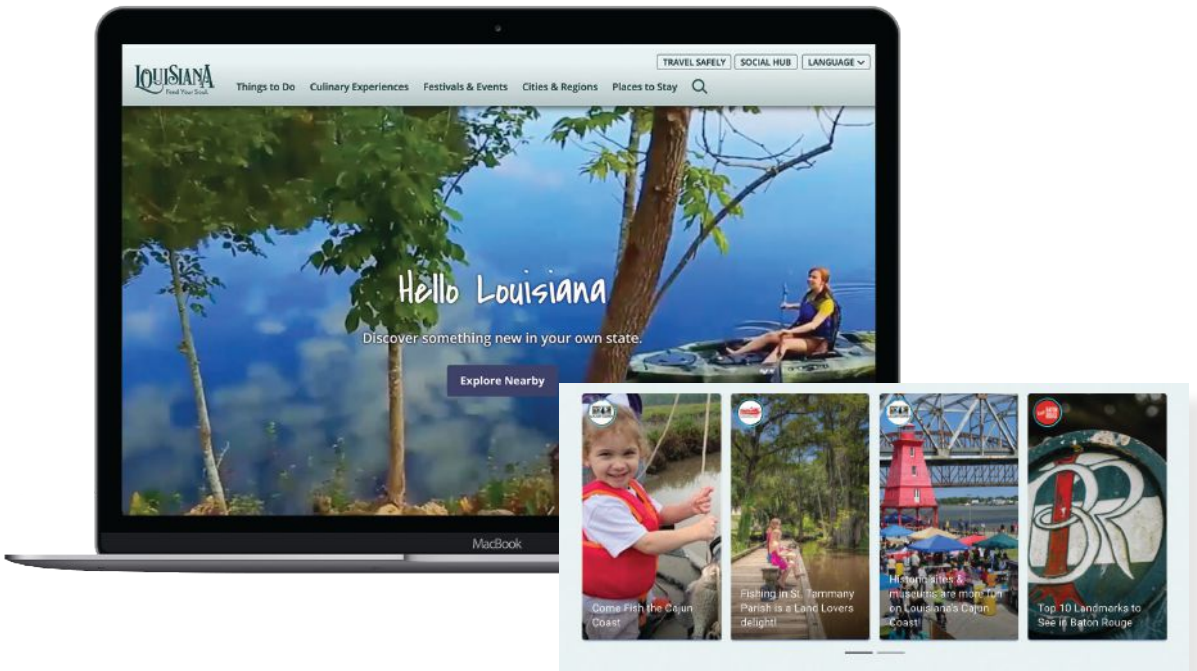
**BOOMTOWN CASINO
 NEW ORLEANS**

Located just 15 minutes from the historic French Quarter in New Orleans, this "Big Easy" destination brings the fun! Get your adrenaline pumping with over 1,000 of the newest slots and video poker games and 30 of your favorite table games. Visit the much larger, enhanced non-smoking area, the all-new Lightning Link Lounge or try your luck on one of our Electronic Table Games. Visit the brand new Sportsbook and enjoy great food and drinks while you place your bets. Sample delicious Chinese and Vietnamese specialties at Asia or swing by Bayou Market Express for a Po'Boy and a variety of New Orleans favorites. Relax and recharge at Boomtown's hotel, featuring luxuriously appointed rooms and suites. Everyone's a winner at Boomtown New Orleans!

CALL 800.522.4700

CONNECT WITH US

Reach out to plan a trip now, share your #OnlyLouisiana experiences when you visit and stay up to date on new attractions and upcoming events. It's easy to stay connected with Louisiana!



Visit LouisianaTravel.com

You'll find plenty of videos, articles and immersive content to inspire a visit, plus all the travel tools you need to plan a trip. Explore the state by theme and region, or let our suggested itineraries show you the way!

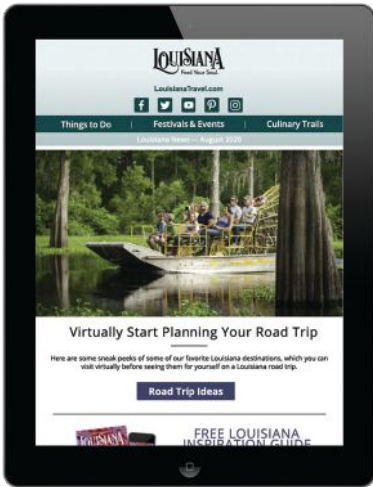
Watch our Visual Stories

Fun Along the Great River Road? Free Things to Do in Jefferson Parish? Dog-Friendly Fun in St. Tammany? Dive into our Visual Stories to see for yourself what fun awaits across the Bayou State.



Follow us on Social

Follow our **@LouisianaTravel** social channels to see what other travelers are up to and share your own experiences and photos, too. You'll learn all there is to see and do down on the bayou, along the coast and all throughout Cajun country. All in **#OnlyLouisiana**.



Sign up for eNewsletters

Receive an exciting collection of Louisiana travel ideas, upcoming events and the latest deals from our partners – all delivered free to your inbox each month. There's also a quarterly culinary edition that offers a bounty of mouthwatering content.



Join the Bayou Krewe

If you love Louisiana as much as we do, become a member of our Bayou Krewe. These ambassadors share their passion for the state's food, history, culture and outdoors – and can win prizes as they do!



@Donsseafood



@DavidNola



@bsaswampbase

For these features and more, visit LouisianaTravel.com

WELCOME

THIS IS LOUISIANA. COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.



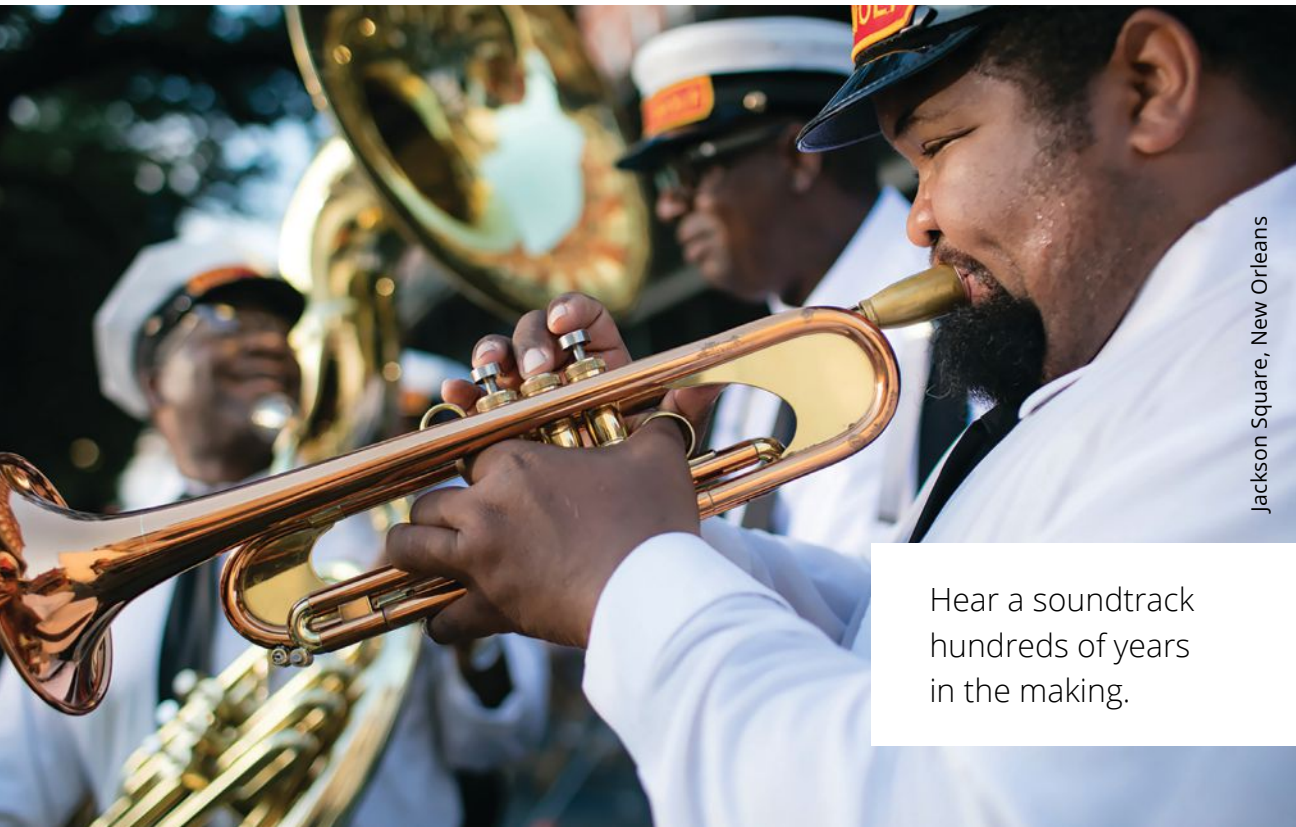
Line up for fun in a place where you don't just see "hot" spots, but also become part of the action.

TABASCO® Factory, Avery Island



Soak up a landscape that is unspoiled, unmatched.

Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville

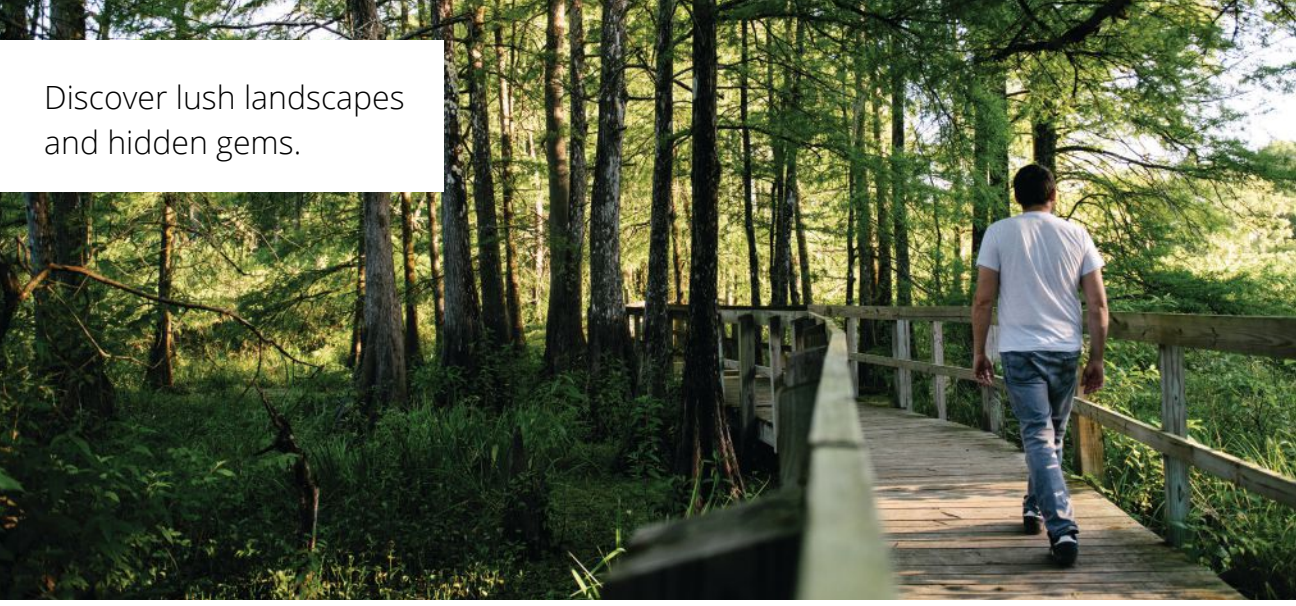


Hear a soundtrack hundreds of years in the making.

Jackson Square, New Orleans

WELCOME

Discover lush landscapes
and hidden gems.



Little Big Cup, Arnaudville

Savor signature flavors that
will not only fuel your body,
but also feed your soul.





Cypress Island Nature Preserve, Lake Martin



Explore the outdoors in a whole new way.

Lake Bistineau, Doyline



Learn all sides of the story at Louisiana's historic spaces and places.

Destrehan Plantation, Destrehan

WELCOME

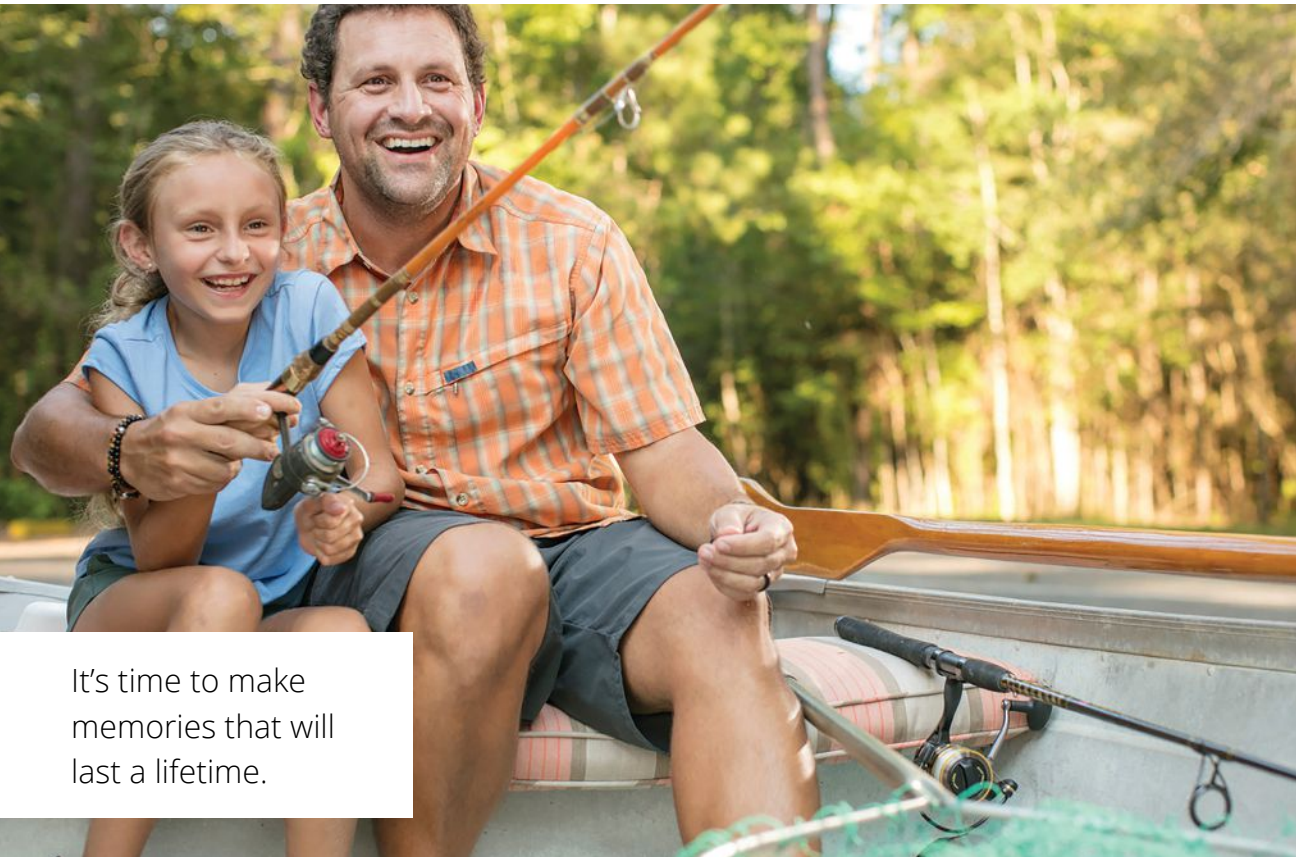
Kick up your heels, move to the beat ...



The Barn at Lakeview, Eunice



... and laugh out loud. A lot.



It's time to make memories that will last a lifetime.



Capitol Park Museum, Baton Rouge



Tickfaw State Park, Springfield



Bayou Barn, Marrero

#ONLYLOUISIANA
PICTURE YOURSELF HERE!

WHAT'S NEW IN '22!

For those who've visited before and others making their first trip, there's always something new to explore in Louisiana. Check out these recent and coming attractions!



Hérons on the Bayou,
West Monroe

Café Creole, a partnership between century-old Vaucresson Sausage Co. and the popular Treme-area Dooky Chase Restaurant – two of the oldest black-owned businesses in New Orleans – has opened at the recently restored location of that iconic New Orleans butcher. Third-generation proprietor Vance Vaucresson has joined forces with Edgar Chase IV (fourth-generation chef and grandson of the late Queen of Creole Cuisine, Leah Chase) to open the new restaurant, deli and meat market famous for its peppery sausage.

ZipNOLA on the banks of Lake Pontchartrain in LaPlace now takes guests on a half-mile zipline course offering views of the Maurepas Swamp, the historic town of Frenier, even the New Orleans skyline itself. Along the way

you'll speed through five different zips, cross two suspension bridges and spiral down a stunning cypress tree staircase – all surrounded by lush flora and fauna. An elevated seating area at the resort's base provides sweeping views to those who'd rather keep their feet a little more planted.

Tchefuncte River Charters in Madisonville is now welcoming guests aboard a new 26-foot-long, 12-passenger "party barge" offering themed cruises and tours. With a sound system, LED lights, tableside dining and canopy-covered bar, a good time is guaranteed! Themed cruises let you enjoy the sunset, moonlight and surrounding moss-draped cypress and palmettos – or you can just hop on and cruise to a waterfront restaurant.

PECANS



Cane River Pecan Company, New Iberia

WHAT'S NEW IN '22!

Savor generations of culinary traditions along the **Cajun Bayou Food Trail** in Lafourche Parish, then head west to savor impeccable food with gorgeous views at **The Max** restaurant at The National Golf Club of Louisiana in Lake Charles.

Over in Covington, **The Greyhound** offers quite the culinary ride. The former bus station turned gastropub is the newest collaboration of the same restaurateurs behind popular Del Port Ristorante.

Downtown West Monroe welcomes **Alley Park**, a new open-air gathering space hosting concerts, local events and family fun year-round. While you're here, be sure to check out the new **Hérons on the Bayou** public art initiative featuring 85 heron sculptures spread throughout Ouachita Parish.

Parc des Familles in Marrero has added a premier disc golf course ranked as one of the best in the country. The holes weave their way through a cypress swamp and there's an onsite splash park, to boot!

Cookies and pie, anyone? Local pop-up **Caroline's Cookies** has opened a brick-and-mortar location in Lafayette, while Cane River Pecan Company has broken ground on a new **Pie Bar and Pecan Museum** in New Iberia.

Stay up to date on the latest at LouisianaTravel.com

PLAY, STAY, THEN ADD A DAY!

The best of the
great outdoors is
yours in Louisiana.

Kisatchie National Forest

With rolling hills and lush forests to explore in the north, mysterious swamps and bayous in the south and everything in between, nature's bounty is on full display.

And with activities like hiking, biking, paddling, fishing and more, there are plenty of awesome places where you can play, stay, then add a day!



South Toledo Bend State Park, Anacoco

Central Louisiana: Kisatchie National Forest

Play: With more than 600,000 protected acres, you'll enjoy some of the best outdoor opportunities in Louisiana. We're talking biking, boating and 100+ miles of hiking!

Stay: The national forest offers several camping options, including the **Kisatchie Bayou Recreation Complex** with scenic views of the bayou and pine trees.

Want to explore the wilderness by day, but sleep in luxury at night? Check out nearby Alexandria, where **Hotel Bentley** offers an opulent option.

Add a Day: Head west to **Toledo Bend** for expert guides ready to show you some of the best bass fishing in the country.

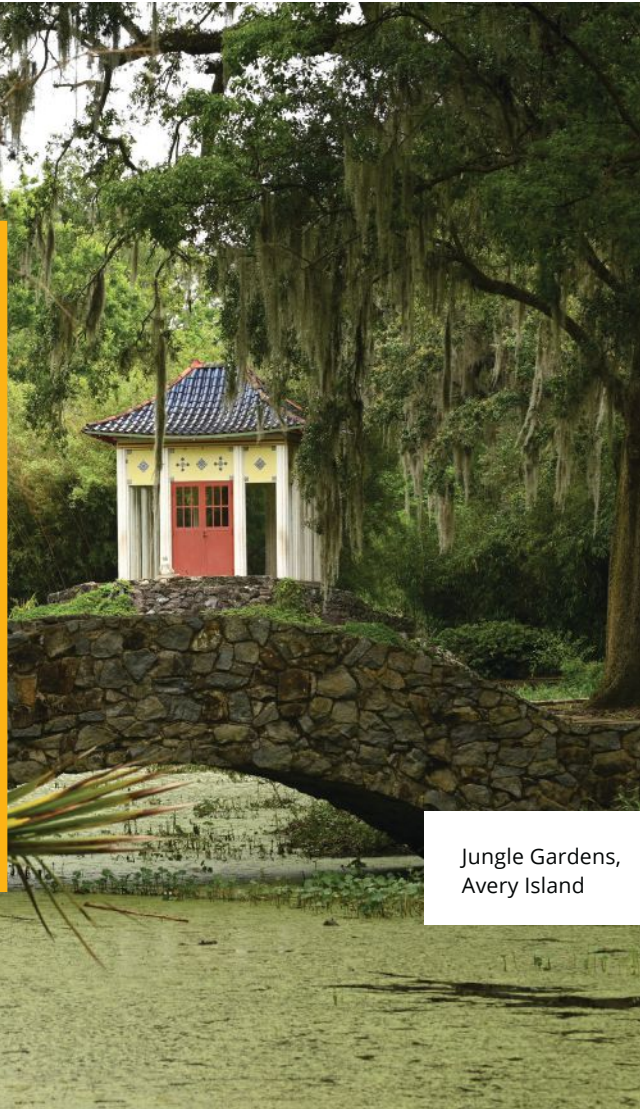
Chill Out ... Side

Take time to relax and connect with nature at some of Louisiana's most chill outdoor spots.

Pack a cool drink, then sit back and let the river do all the work at **Louisiana River Adventures** in Franklinton.

Explore the gardens of the **American Rose Center** in Shreveport, the nation's largest park dedicated to roses.

Grab a picnic and surround yourself in splendid beauty at **Jungle Gardens** in Avery Island.



Jungle Gardens,
Avery Island

South Louisiana: Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary

Play: When saltwater meets freshwater, a unique ecosystem emerges full of swamps and marshes. Nature lovers will be amazed by the abundant wildlife, including hundreds of migratory birds that call this region home. Anglers, hold on to your hats! There's freshwater fishing in lakes and bayous, the fight of redfish in brackish marshes and deep-water hunts for tuna and amberjack in the Gulf of Mexico!

Stay: For a stay with character, Louisiana's bayous offer several hospitable B&Bs, including **Dansereau House** in Thibodaux. The stunning home in the heart of the city's downtown was built in 1847 and still maintains much of its original architecture.

Add a Day: Travel west to the **Atchafalaya Basin** for outstanding birdwatching and paddling trails.

North Louisiana: Red River National Wildlife Refuge

Play: Perfect for a family hike, interpretive signs here help visitors learn about the area's protected wildlife. **Lake Caroline** is also a great place to canoe and kayak.

Stay: Bossier City offers a variety of hotels, as well as quaint B&Bs and luxurious casinos like **Harrah's Louisiana Downs**, home to one of the premier horse races in North America.

Add a Day: Milk your vacation days for all their worth. Swing over to nearby **Shreveport** where you can taste the creamiest milk, the smoothest butter and the best chocolate milk at **Morell Dairy**.

Atchafalaya Basin



Get out and play at LouisianaTravel.com/Outdoors



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



Jimmie Davis



Grand Isle



Lake D'Arbonne



Chicot

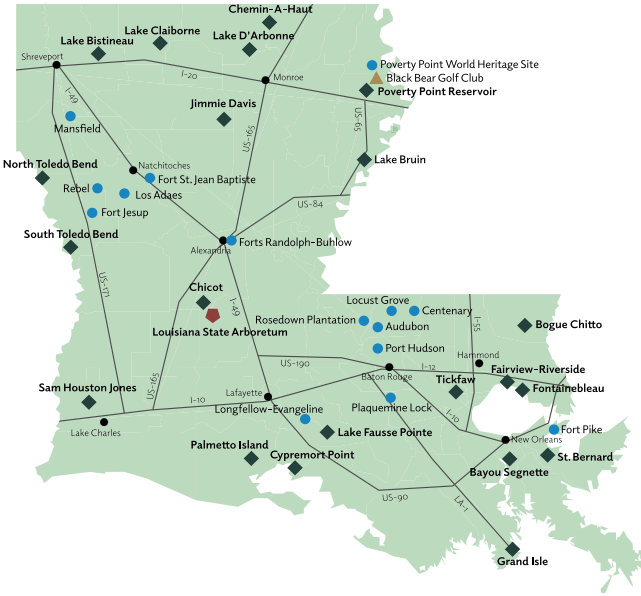


Palmetto Island



Tickfaw

- ◆ State Parks
- ◆ State Preservation Area
- State Historic Sites
- ▲ Golf Club



Bayou Segnette



Chemin-a-Haut



South Toledo Bend



North Toledo Bend



Bogue Chitto

PARKS FOR EVERY REASON ... AND SEASON

Louisiana's state parks offer some of the best ways to explore all there is to see and do here. With abundant recreation opportunities, beautiful nature preserves and unique places to stay, there is a park for any interest – and any time of year.



Jimmie Davis State
Park, Chatham

Lake D'Arbonne
State Park



Louisiana State Barks

There's a reason dogs are called "man's best friend." They go everywhere with their loving owners, including Louisiana!

Pets have always been welcomed on park trails and outdoor spaces, but cabins at 16 Louisiana state parks now offer pet-friendly accommodations as well. Imagine Fido frolicking on **Lake D'Arbonne's** trails, running through the woods of **Chicot State Park** or enjoying a picnic at **Cypremort Point State Park** followed by a stay in a cozy cabin. Bow ... WOW!

Wild Recreation

You don't have to pull the plug on comfort to camp in Louisiana. Nine state parks now offer equipped glamping sites that provide a sturdy canvas tent on a wooden platform, complete with a queen-size memory foam bed, tables, a propane heater and outdoor grill – even a portable restroom. Book single or group glamping sites along the water at **Lake Claiborne State Park** in Homer or **Jimmie Davis State Park** in Chatham.

Deep Relaxation

Chemin-A-Haut State Park in Bastrop is a natural paradise for lovers of unspoiled beauty. Wander the 503-acre site located on a high bluff overlooking winding Bayou Bartholomew for beautiful views, a peaceful hike and birdwatching.

History and Mystery

Fairview-Riverside State Park in Madisonville treats guests to nature trails beneath ancient oak trees and the 19th century Queen Anne-style home, Otis House. Explore the gardens and Victorian customs of the lumber baron's family that lived on this site on the National Register of Historic Places.

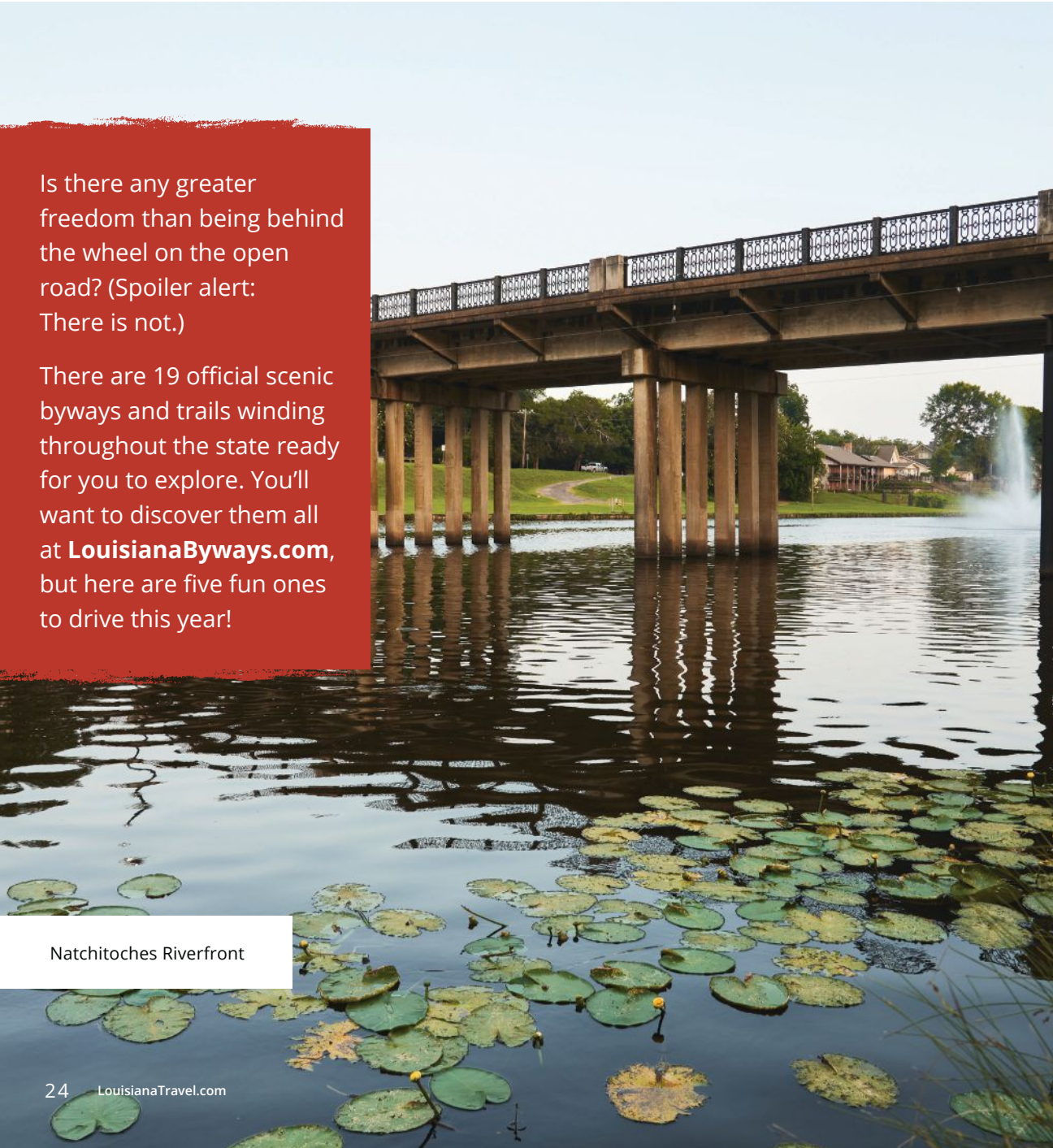
Pick your perfect park at LAParks.com

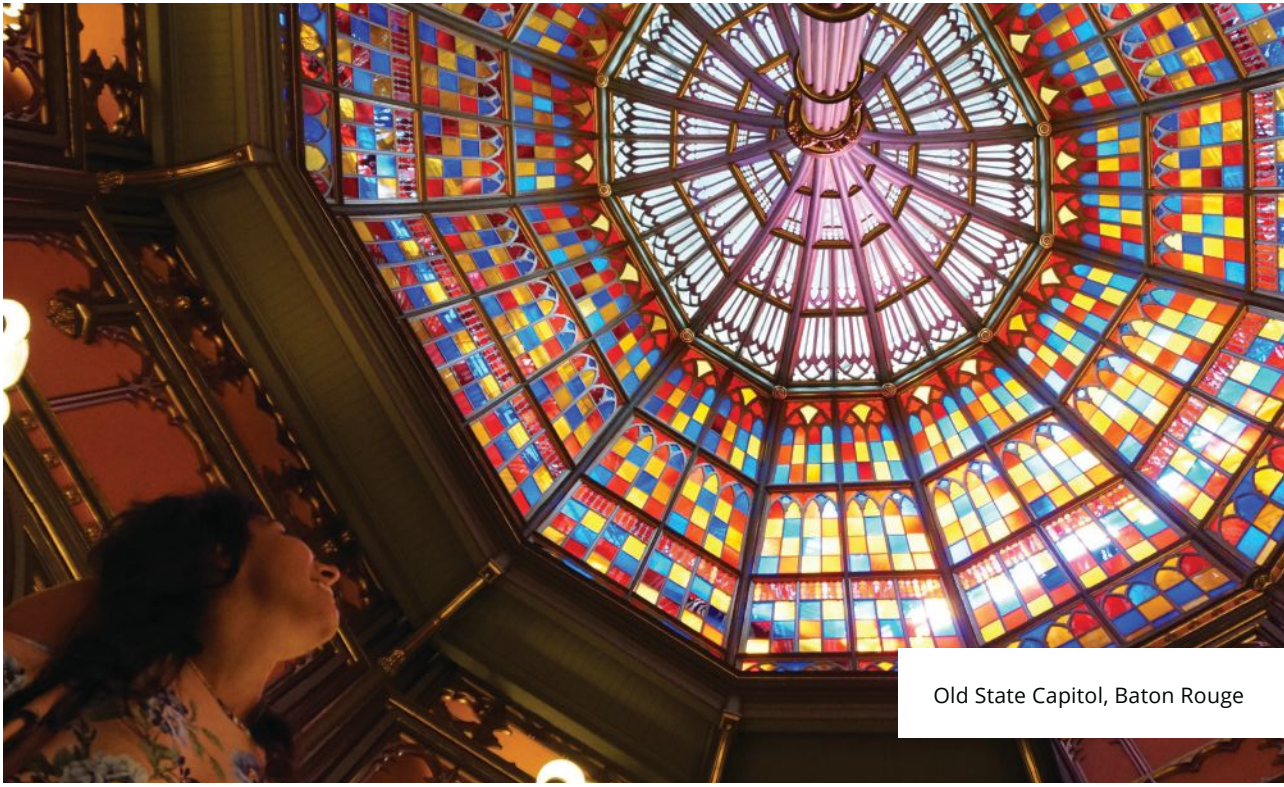
SCENIC BYWAYS: FIVE TO DRIVE

Is there any greater freedom than being behind the wheel on the open road? (Spoiler alert: There is not.)

There are 19 official scenic byways and trails winding throughout the state ready for you to explore. You'll want to discover them all at LouisianaByways.com, but here are five fun ones to drive this year!

Natchitoches Riverfront





Old State Capitol, Baton Rouge



Maison Madeleine,
Breaux Bridge

SCENIC DRIVES



1. For an off-the-beaten-path experience, travel along the 137-mile **Boom or Bust Byway**, where rural towns invite you to recharge at Southern eateries, festivals and shops. As you pass through rolling hills and fields of wildflowers, you'll see remnants of a once-prosperous lumber industry as well as modern working oil derricks. Stop in at the Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum in Oil City to learn more about the state's long relationship with energy.

2. **Cane River National Heritage Trail** puts Louisiana's Creole history on display, beginning in the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase (Natchitoches) and winding its way along the Red River to Magnolia, Oakland and Melrose Plantations. Marvel at the works of folk artist Clementine Hunter as she depicts rural farm life in the 1940s.

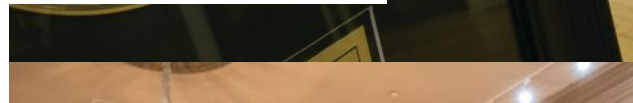
3. A drive along the 180-mile **Creole Nature Trail All-American Road** lets you experience Louisiana's diverse landscape and wildlife up close. (Be on the lookout for those gator crossings!) You'll discover four wildlife refuges, wetland walkways, small fishing villages and 26 miles of unspoiled Gulf of Mexico beaches. The views change around every bend and there are plenty of opportunities to savor fresh seafood along the way. Explore the region's mining history in Sulphur, 700,000 acres of wetlands in Cameron Parish, plentiful waterfowl at Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, shell-hunting at Holly Beach, and an exciting mix of city life and outdoor adventure in Lake Charles.

4. For the nature lover, **Bayou Teche National Scenic Byway** delivers 183 miles of adventure, including fantastic places to kayak near the Atchafalaya Swamp. The area is renowned for its birdwatching, so take your time and bring your binoculars. Traveling through the charming cities of Breau Bridge, St. Martinville and New Iberia also means you are in the heart of Cajun country. Be sure to pop into a restaurant for outstanding food and toe-tapping tunes.

5. Louisiana was literally shaped by the Mississippi River and you can follow its powerful path along the **Louisiana River Road All-American Road**. Trace such history as La Salle's exploration of Louisiana along the river, turning points in the Civil War in Lake Providence, the oldest Native American civilization in North America and the struggles of slavery at Louisiana's many plantation homes. Stop along the way to enjoy stunning views of the state's natural environment and some of the best cooking in the country.



Delta Music Museum, Ferriday



Great River Road Museum at Houmas House and Gardens, Darrow



Explore more scenic drives at LouisianaByways.com

Regional Road Trips

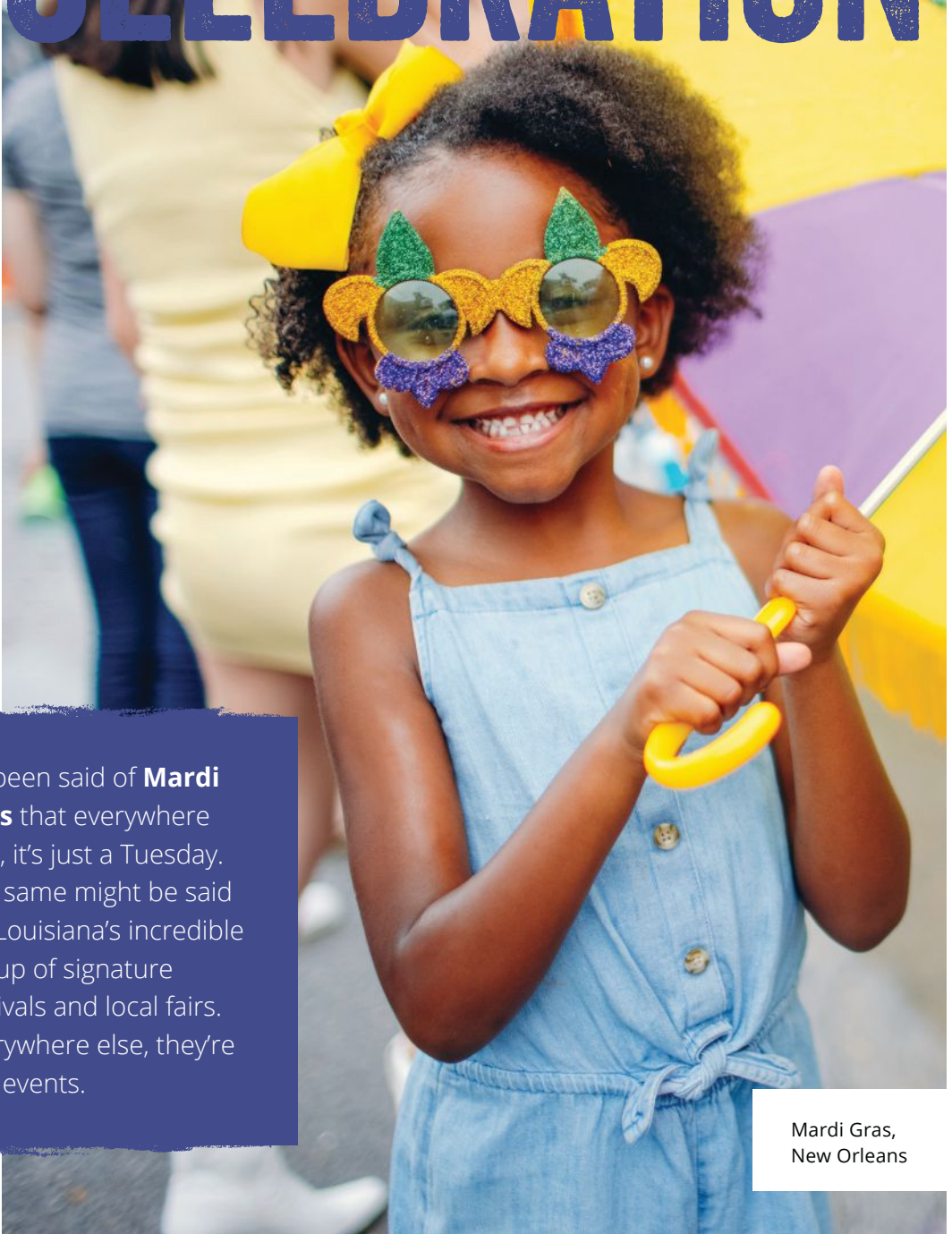
Looking for the best arts and culture in North Louisiana? Only have 24 hours in Lake Charles? We got you.

Visit LouisianaTravel.com/RoadTrip for suggested trips featuring things to see, what to eat and where to stay throughout the state. Covering topics from small-town day trips to the ultimate New Orleans vacation, you'll find a ready-made trip for you!

Meat Pie, Natchitoches

Frogmore Cotton Plantation and Gins, Frogmore

A STATE OF CELEBRATION



It's been said of **Mardi Gras** that everywhere else, it's just a Tuesday. The same might be said for Louisiana's incredible lineup of signature festivals and local fairs. Everywhere else, they're just events.

Mardi Gras,
New Orleans



Red River Balloon Rally,
Bossier City

Here, full-blown celebrations welcome you with open arms, inviting you to sing, dance, eat and drink with a passion few places can match.

You'll feel it at the **New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival**, **Festival International de Louisiane** in Lafayette and the **Tunica Hills Music Fest** in St. Francisville.

You'll revel in it at the colorful **Red River Balloon Rally** in Bossier City, the lively **Mayfest** in Leesville and the twinkling **Natchitoches Christmas Festival**.

You'll taste it at the **Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival**, **Delcambre Shrimp Festival**, **Jambalaya Festival** in Gonzales and the **Zwolle Tamale Fiesta** in Zwolle.

And you'll delight in it at offbeat events like the spooky **Rougarou Fest** in Houma, the **Sabine Freestate Festival** in Florien, the **Louisiana Pirate Festival** in Lake Charles and the **Rayne Frog Festival**.

The Traditions of Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras may not have been the same these past two years, but one certainty remains: It's still one of the most revered parties on the planet. A celebration so epic even a worldwide pandemic can't stop us from honoring its rich traditions – even though it took some innovation to mark the occasion on a smaller scale.

From colorful beads, elaborate costumes and spectacular parades to the food, drinks, music and dancing that create a celebration like no other, learn more about this signature Louisiana celebration that best embodies our expression, *"laissez les bons temps rouler."*

In other words ...

"Let the good times roll" at

[LouisianaTravel.com/MardiGras!](https://LouisianaTravel.com/MardiGras/)



Festivals Acadiens
et Créoles, Lafayette

SEARCH OUR FULL CALENDAR!

There's always a party in Louisiana – more than 400 a year, to be exact! Scan the QR code to check out our full online calendar for a schedule of fairs, festivals and signature events taking place throughout the state!



LOUISIANA'S TOP TASTES

Phenomenal food abounds in Louisiana, but you're probably not coming here for burgers or pasta, as good as they may be. This is Cajun/Creole/Southern Country, y'all, and here's a serving of some of the state's most iconic dishes!



The Lakehouse,
Mandeville

Dive into a bowl of **gumbo**, a dark rich stew of stock, meat, seafood, celery, peppers and onions – it's so popular it's the official state food. But don't confuse it with **étouffée**, a rice dish smothered with crawfish or shrimp simmered in a lighter roux, or **jambalaya**, a seasoned rice studded with chicken and smoked sausage.

Po'boys may very well be the unofficial state sandwich, a glorious handful of meat or fried seafood stuffed inside a wedge of French bread featuring a soft center and crispy crust. Created in New Orleans, the popular Superdome-shaped **muffuletta** sandwich is stuffed with Sicilian meats and cheeses spiked with a tangy olive spread.

Although **boudin** may not seem like a hand-held treat, this sausage of seasoned cooked pork, rice, onions and peppers is often a finger food for the locals. So are crispy **cracklins**, addictive little bits of pork fat and skin that are deep-fried until golden delicious.

Natchitoches is famous for its **meat pies**, fried pockets of heaven stuffed with seasoned beef and pork. (How famous? Lasyone's Meat Pie Restaurant here makes upwards of 1,000 a day!) Not into meat? A savory **crawfish pie** may be your new best friend.

And you can either start or end your day with a plate of pillowy, powdered-sugary, deep-fried **beignets**, which will turn you against plain donuts forevermore. Don't say we didn't warn you.

Trending Tables

In a state full of top-notch restaurants it's impossible to pick the best, but here are a few top tables you won't want to miss.

Yes, it's just a humble sandwich shop. But yes, **Turkey and the Wolf** in New Orleans has racked up "best restaurant" honors from Bon Appetit, Food + Wine, GQ, Eater, James Beard and more.

At **Gov't Taco** in Baton Rouge, celebrated chef Jay Ducote set out to "form a more perfect taco." Is that the Steak of the Union, the Phillibuster or Clucks & Balances? Try them all and cast your vote! This Food Network star "Beat Bobby Flay" – so you know the grub is good here.

A Food + Wine winner of "Best New Chef in the US" and former "Chopped!" champion, Cory Bahr puts an inventive spin on Southern plates at **Parish Restaurant & Bar** in his hometown of Monroe.

Savor elevated Chinese food paired with fine wines at the legendary **Lucky Palace** in Bossier City, named one of the top 100 Chinese restaurants in the country!



Gov't Taco,
Baton Rouge

For more tasty treats, visit LouisianaTravel.com/Culinary

FISHING FOR FLAVOR

From pier to plate, you'll find the tastiest seafood in the Bayou State.



Crawfish Haven, Kaplan

Louisiana's location on the Gulf Coast makes it a prime spot for some of the freshest seafood in the world.

Within its 7,700-mile-long shoreline you'll find waterways teeming with marine life that make the state not just a phenomenal fishing destination, but one of the world's premier culinary destinations for seafood lovers.

You don't have to look far to see what we mean. North and Central Louisiana's

waters are filled with delectable sac-à-lait, bass, catfish and bluegill, all of which have become the staples of Louisiana soul food. Of course, there's the Gulf of Mexico itself, which has made Louisiana the nation's second-largest seafood supplier.

Guess that's also why we have oh-so-many seafood festivals and world-renowned seafood restaurants for you to enjoy. Here's where to catch, where to enjoy and how to celebrate the best Louisiana seafood!

Dooky Chase,
New Orleans

GET TO KNOW LOUISIANA'S SEAFOOD

	Fun Facts	The Fests	Find it Here
SHRIMP	Louisiana leads all other states in shrimp landings (catches), with 102.5 million pounds of the crustaceans caught here annually.	Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival , <i>Morgan City</i> Delcambre Shrimp Festival , <i>Delcambre</i>	Herby-K's , <i>Shreveport</i> Mambo's , <i>New Orleans</i> Darrell's , <i>Lake Charles</i>
CRAWFISH	All of the crawfish grown in the U.S. — down to the last tail — is harvested in Louisiana.	Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival , <i>Breaux Bridge</i> Mudbug Madness , <i>Shreveport</i>	Crawfish House and Grill , <i>Opelousas</i> Yellow Bowl , <i>Jeanerette</i> Buckets Crawfish & Seafood , <i>Pineville</i>
FIN FISH	Almost half the catfish consumed in the U.S. comes from Louisiana, along with massive harvests of red snapper, tuna and drum.	Louisiana Seafood Festival , <i>New Orleans</i> Louisiana Catfish Festival , <i>Des Allemands</i>	Parrain's Seafood , <i>Baton Rouge</i> Waterfront Grill , <i>Monroe</i> Peche , <i>New Orleans</i>
OYSTERS	Most Gulf of Mexico oysters come from Louisiana waters, many of which are flown to fine dining restaurants throughout the U.S.	Amite Oyster Festival , <i>Amite</i> New Orleans Oyster Festival , <i>New Orleans</i>	Seaworthy , <i>New Orleans</i> Pat's Rest Awhile , <i>Mandeville</i> Drago's , <i>Metairie</i>
BLUE CRAB	Louisiana produces more than a quarter of all of these crustaceans that Americans consume.	St. Tammany Crab Festival , <i>Slidell</i> Arts & Crabs Fest , <i>Lake Charles</i>	The Blue Crab , <i>Slidell</i> Tchefuncte's , <i>Madisonville</i> Little Big Cup , <i>Arnaudville</i>
ALLIGATOR	Louisiana has the nation's highest alligator population, and is home to dozens of farms sustainably harvesting them.	Alligator Festival , <i>Luling</i> Alligator Festival , <i>Grand Chenier</i>	Cane River Commissary , <i>Natchez</i> Don's Seafood , <i>Lafayette</i> The Chimes , <i>Covington</i>

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SEAFOOD



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INNOCENCE THAT GRACED A MOVEMENT

On November 14, 1960, four six-year-old girls desegregated New Orleans schools. Ruby Bridges entered William Frantz Elementary School and Leona Tate, Tessie Provost and Gail Etienne attended McDonogh 19 Elementary School.



Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Billy Honger

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TIME FOR A DRINK, YA' THINK?

If the phrase “it’s 5 o’clock somewhere” wasn’t invented here, it should’ve been. Louisianans love to let the good times roll with a delicious libation, from classic brunch cocktails in the morning, to frosty afternoon craft beers on the water, to a one-of-a-kind nightcap in a jazz lounge. Cheers!



Wild Bush Farm & Vineyard, Bush

Kick-Start Your Day

Brunch isn’t just a boozy mid-morning meal here, it’s a part of Louisiana’s culinary culture – a care-free start to the day not to be missed.

Settle in for a feast while sipping a spicy Bloody Mary, bubbly mimosa or maybe a signature Brandy Milk Punch at **Brennan’s** in New Orleans. Cream, vanilla and nutmeg

spiked with a shot of bourbon or brandy? Yes, please!

An Afternoon Refresher

Nothing beats the heat like an icy craft beer and you can quench that thirst in Louisiana from A (**Abita Brewing Company** in Covington) to Z (**Zony Mash Beer Project** in New Orleans).

To the west, put on your **Rally Cap** in Baton Rouge before heading up to **Twenty 8 West** and **Huckleberry Brewing** in Alexandria. Northern Louisiana adds another six-pack of breweries: **Utility** in Ruston, **Flying Tiger** in Monroe and four more in Shreveport, including **Flying Heart** and **Great Raft**.

If you're feeling fruity, **Kingfish Cider** in Jefferson Parish makes tangy apple and pear ciders as one of the few solely female-owned alcohol makers in the nation.

Wine Down and Relax

Think wine is more divine? Sample Louisiana's grape harvest at **Wild Bush Farm & Vineyard** in Bush or **Landry Vineyards** in West Monroe.

When you're ready to paint the town, slip into a swanky cocktail lounge in the French Quarter, bet on casinos in Lake Charles or dive into the mysterious world of absinthe at **Pamplona Tapas Bar** in Lafayette.

Sip It at the Source

Louisiana is not only the birthplace – and best place – for some of the world's most famous cocktails, but you can also enjoy them at the very places they were invented in New Orleans.

Sip America's first cocktail – the Sazerac – at **The Roosevelt New Orleans** or savor a Vieux Carré at the spinning **Carousel Bar at Hotel Monteleone**. Brave a bold French 75 at **Arnaud's** or go for the Grasshopper at **Tujague's**.

Read the stories behind these classic drinks and see how to make them yourself at LouisianaTravel.com/culinary/louisiana-recipes!



Great Raft Brewing,
Shreveport

Toast a good time at Libations.LouisianaTravel.com

CUE THE TUNES

The streets of Louisiana are paved with music! It lives within the soul of our people, and you can feel it in the rhythm of our lives. It's no wonder so many musicians come or live here to find inspiration. After all, music not only thrives here, but lots of the music we love today was born here.



Lakeview Park
& Beach, Eunice



Blue Moon Saloon,
Lafayette

The creativity of New Orleans has been the muse of artists throughout history, and as the birthplace of jazz, it's a mecca for modern-day musicians as well. Legends such as Louis Armstrong, Fats Domino and Mahalia Jackson called Louisiana home as they honed their craft and brought the spirit of Louisiana to the world.

In addition to following the sounds of street musicians in **Jackson Square** or **Congo Square**, music lovers will also be treated to thrills at venues such as

Snug Harbor jazz bistro or the classic jazz club, **The Jazz Playhouse**.

When New Orleans rhythm meets the Cajun fiddle, you are in for a treat with Zydeco! This uniquely Louisiana genre combines the traditions of Cajun music with African-influenced percussion to create an incredibly danceable experience.

From dance halls of the bayou to festivals in the prairies, this musical journey will require your best dancing shoes.



Music Musts

Check out these musical hot spots!

Frenchmen Street in New Orleans is a musical corridor overflowing with jazz.

Folk legends like Jerry Jeff Walker have played **Enoch's Irish Pub** in Monroe.

Buck & Johnny's Zydeco breakfast in Breaux Bridge serves up Cajun fare with a side of dancing.

Catch a show at **Chelsea's Live**, the newest venue on the Baton Rouge music scene.

Blue Moon Saloon in Lafayette is a homegrown honky-tonk in the heart of Cajun country.

Buck & Johnny's,
Breaux Bridge



French Quarter,
New Orleans

Stellar Stages

Sometimes the venue makes the musical experience! Be sure to catch a show on these cool stages.

Preservation Hall – Steep yourself in tradition at this legendary New Orleans concert hall.

Dew Drop Social Club – Enjoy jazz in one of the places it was born in Mandeville, built in 1895.

Varsity Theater – Combine the charm of a 1930s movie theater with nationally known musicians for an unforgettable experience in Baton Rouge.

Feel the beat at LouisianaTravel.com/Music

A PATCHWORK OF CULTURES

So many different groups have given a piece of themselves to create the patchwork of Louisiana. It is evident in our food, music, even the way we talk. Whether you're marveling at architecture or learning a dance move, this unique blend of history and culture is unmatched.

Poverty Point World
Heritage Site, Pioneer

Native Americans were cultivating the land of Louisiana long before other cultures arrived. In fact, at **Poverty Point World Heritage Site** in Pioneer you can learn about one of the earliest known civilizations in North America with artifacts and archaeological features dating back more than 3,000 years. The **Chitimacha Museum** in Charenton preserves the heritage and culture of Louisiana's native tribes through artifacts, exhibits and films.

Enslaved Africans were brought to Louisiana beginning in 1719 to build the state's agricultural industries. Places like **Whitney**

Plantation in Edgard, **River Road African American Museum** in Donaldsonville, or **Oak Alley Plantation** and **Laura Plantation** in Vacherie stand as museums where visitors can learn the history of Louisiana's enslaved people. The resilience of Louisiana's African influence can also be found in the state's cuisine and in the rhythms of jazz.

From streets named after French royalty to the complex sauces that grace restaurant menus, European culture permeates the state. French was even the predominant language here until the early 20th century.



River Road African American Museum, Donaldsonville

HISTORY

The Spanish left their mark with iconic landmarks in New Orleans, including **St. Louis Cathedral, The Cabildo** and **The Presbytère**. Explore them, then dive into the city's past at **The Historic New Orleans Collection** museum and research center.

Cajuns are the descendants of the Acadians, a group of French Canadians who were exiled to Louisiana. The Acadian people settled among deep South Louisiana's bayous and prairies, where they developed new traditions and foodways. The Cajun spirit is alive and well in the **dance halls and festivals** of towns like Mamou, Ville Platte and Lafayette.

In St. Martinsville, don't miss the legendary "**Evangeline Oak**" tree immortalized by a famous Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poem.

And there are so many more stories that make up the state's rich history, such as a group of Filipino fishermen establishing the earliest known permanent Asian American settlement near Lake Borgne or a group of German immigrants who established a Utopian society in Minden.

There's a new story, and a new culture to explore, around every corner.



The Presbytère, New Orleans

History Happened Here

Check out these spots to be surrounded by history:

The National World War II Museum in New Orleans tells the massive story of war through interactive exhibits and epic immersive experiences.

Demonstrations and historic interpreters bring history to life at **Vermilionville**, a faithful recreation of Louisiana life in the late 1800s.

Take a guided mansion tour through 250 years of history on a former sugarcane plantation that has been restored to its antebellum grandeur at **Houmas House and Gardens** in Darrow.

Marvel at stories of tribulation and triumph at sites along the Louisiana Civil Rights Trail. Plot your path at **LouisianaCivilRightsTrail.com**.

Explore the past at LouisianaTravel.com/Culture

UNUSUAL BEDS TO LAY YOUR HEAD

Sure, you can settle into a swanky hotel, cozy cabin or historic B&B during your stay in Louisiana. Or, you can sleep in a former jail or asylum, Civil War stockade, floating cabin and more!

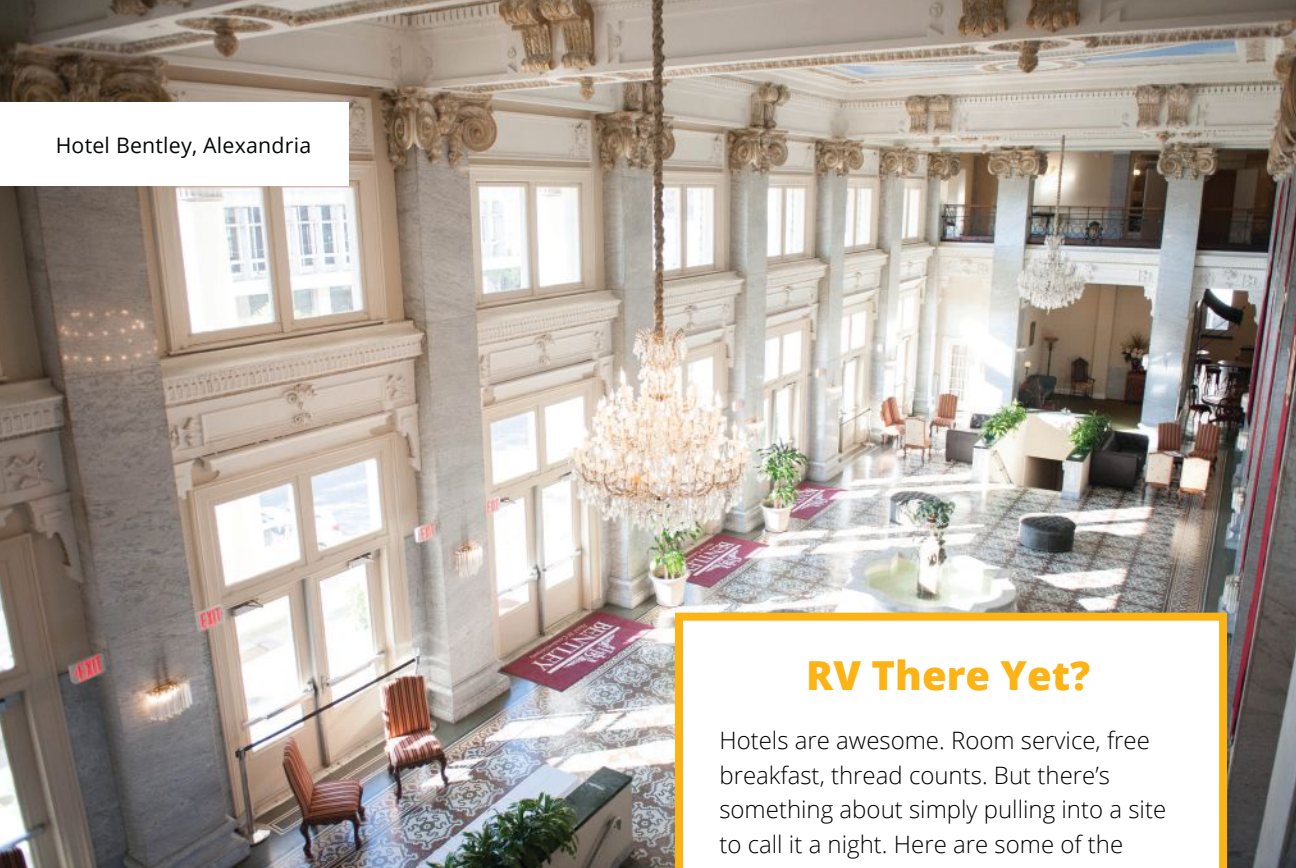
Inn at the Old Jail,
New Orleans



If you're looking for a unique place to sleep at night, Louisiana has you covered! (See what we did there?)

The Stockade Bed & Breakfast in Baton Rouge may be tucked along a tree-lined street now, but it's also on the site of a former Civil War stockade on the National Register of Historic Places. The hacienda-style house offers five spacious rooms with private baths, gourmet breakfast and a wildlife habitat.

In Alexandria, book a stay at the elaborate **Hotel Bentley**, which (as legend has it) was built by an eccentric businessman in 1907 when he was denied a room at a nearby hotel. On Shreveport's "grand avenue" of historic homes, lovely **Fairfield Place Bed & Breakfast** offers a serene oasis with lush courtyards, private baths and a fresh-baked breakfast each morning.



RV There Yet?

Hotels are awesome. Room service, free breakfast, thread counts. But there's something about simply pulling into a site to call it a night. Here are some of the state's top RV spots.

Betty's RV Park in Abbeville has been named one of the "top 25" and "most fun" RV parks in America.

Nationally rated bike trails and RV sites sit alongside the lake at **Lincoln Parish Park** in Ruston.

Reunion Lake RV Resort in Ponchatoula features resort amenities like a lazy river, pool, tiki bar, mini golf, amphitheater, fitness center and more.

Tree-lined **Pine Crest RV Park** near the coast in Slidell is a family-favorite nature escape not far from the sights and sounds of New Orleans.

Between Baton Rouge and Lafayette, **Cajun Palms RV Resort** offers 300+ RV sites, with easy access to both cities and several wildlife areas.

More offbeat accommodations await at "haunted" **T-Frere's Bed & Breakfast** and the **Blue Moon Saloon** – a combination bar, music venue and hostel – both in Lafayette.

You can always count on a little something extra in New Orleans and that rings true for the city's hotels as well. Built as a police station and jail 120 years ago, you might say the **Inn at the Old Jail** has been checking in "guests" since 1902. But never fear, those cells have since been replaced by gorgeous Queen Anne-style rooms.

The city's boutique **Hotel Saint Vincent** was founded as an infant asylum, rooms at **The Higgins Hotel New Orleans** are inspired by the stories of WWII soldiers and guests swear they hear ghosts roaming the halls of **Bourbon Orleans Hotel**, a former orphanage.

Find unique accommodations at LouisianaTravel.com/Places-to-Stay



St. Charles Streetcar, New Orleans



SOUTH LOUISIANA

In South Louisiana, we don't just make history, we create legends. Our food, like our music, makes you dance. The expression "joie de vivre" defines us.



The Myrtles Plantation, St. Francisville



Explore the Region!

Southern Louisiana vacations aren't about getting "away," but getting "to" all the fun things there are to see and do in this lively part of the state.

For more than 300 years – with all her beads, beignets, crawfish boils and brass bands – the wrought-iron wonderland of **New Orleans** has had the world worshipping at her colorful shotgun stoop. Like Louis Armstrong once sang, "What a Wonderful World!"

Take the **Great River Road** to Baton Rouge and climb to the top of the art deco **Louisiana State Capitol** for an astonishing view of the Mississippi River. On a plantation tour, be inspired by stories of the Slave Revolt of 1811, the original Civil Rights march.

Around **Lafayette**, pull over for boudin balls and cracklins, plus plenty of Cajun and Zydeco music. Fly through a swamp on an airboat, then head west toward **Lake Charles** and hit a casino. Wherever you go in South Louisiana, you'll hit the jackpot.

Explore more at
LouisianaTravel.com/Cities-Regions



Baton Rouge Area

Find outdoor adventure in the city at **BREC Bluebonnet Swamp**, then get your fill of history, art and culture at several museums. Afterward, branch out to explore **False River Historical Trail** in Pointe Coupée Parish or **Tunica Hills Wildlife Management Area** near St. Francisville. Hungry? Fill up at **Bergeron's Boudin & Cajun Meats** in Port Allen.

River Road Area

Connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans, this is where you can follow the **Andouille Trail** and explore plantations. Historic Donaldsonville is home to charming riverfront restaurants and Sorrento offers boutiques in **Cajun Village**.

Northshore Area

Discover charming towns and outdoor fun like exploring the **Global Wildlife Center** in Folsom, tubing on the **Bogue Chitto River** or biking **Tammany Trace**. Afterwards, savor the diverse flavors of Covington, Mandeville, Slidell and Madisonville.

Greater New Orleans Area

Wander the historic **French Quarter** to taste why New Orleans earns its reputation as a top dining spot. Enjoy shopping on **Magazine Street**, then explore **Audubon Nature Institute** or **City Park**. Ride the streetcar to museums, gardens, attractions and more. Follow the **Jefferson Parish Oyster Trail** and book a fishing trip in Jean Lafitte or Barataria.

Lake Charles Area

This mix of cosmopolitan comforts and backcountry adventure is situated around southwest Louisiana's largest city. The **Imperial Calcasieu Museum** offers cultural programs throughout the year, while the nearby **Charpentier Historic District** features spectacular Victorian homes.





Bogue Chitto State Park,
Franklinton



Audubon Aquarium of the
Americas, New Orleans

Lafayette Area

Dive into food, music and history that are uniquely Louisiana. Soak up public art downtown and explore the **Lafayette Science Museum**, the **Acadiana Center for the Arts** and the **Acadian Cultural Center**.

New Iberia-Morgan City Area

Bayou Teche runs through downtown New Iberia, where you'll find its museum, lush **Rip Van Winkle Gardens** and charming historic buildings. Another blast from the Cajun past here is **Jeanerette Bicentennial Park and Museum**. In Morgan City, watch the sun set over the **Atchafalaya Swamp**. Learn more about two different aspects of the state's rich history at the combo **Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum** in Patterson.

Houma-Thibodaux Area

In this region rich in history and natural beauty, explore the heart of Bayou Country in Houma and see the swamps at their wildest with airboat swamp tours at places like **Greenwood Gator Farm**. Afterwards, entertain the kids at **The Bayou Country Children's Museum** in Thibodaux.



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LOUISIANA

Northshore

St. Tammany Parish



St. Tammany Parish, the Louisiana Northshore, is nestled along the northern shores of **Lake Pontchartrain**, less than an hour from New Orleans, Baton Rouge and the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Since the 1800s, the Northshore has been a getaway destination; steamboats brought New Orleanians across the Lake to large resorts in Mandeville, Abita Springs, and Covington.

Today, visitors come for soft adventure and 80,000 acres of green spaces and waterways, as well as for the area's great Tammany Taste culinary and cultural scenes, picturesque towns and feel-good vibe. Many come for boat tours of the **Honey Island Swamp**, **fishing charters** in Slidell and **kayak adventures on the bayou**. Others love the sophisticated feel of historic downtown Covington, a charming district with **galleries, shops,**

museums, and more than 25 **restaurants** within walking distance of the boutique Southern Hotel and B&Bs.

In Mandeville, visitors can find charming B&Bs a short walk from the stunning Lake Pontchartrain sunsets, shops in cottages, and waterfront restaurants serving fresh Gulf seafood. Or, in Abita Springs, they enjoy the lively taproom and tastings at **Abita Brewery**, bike riding on the **Tammany Trace**, and exploring **Farmers Markets**. In Slidell, find exquisite **shopping centers, boutique stores** in Olde Towne, a multitude of lush **parks** to explore, **public art murals**, and fresh seafood served waterside.

Request our award-winning, **Explore the Northshore inspiration guide** for planning insights on all-things to do, see, and experience in St. Tammany Parish, the Louisiana Northshore!
LouisianaNorthshore.com/Guide



10 Free Things to Do

St. Tammany Parish boasts plenty of priceless activities that don't cost a thing. Enjoy the Mandeville lakefront, Tammany Trace, fresh samples at Farmers Markets, birdwatching trails, and more.
LouisianaNorthshore.com/Free



10 Ways to #TammanyTaste

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10 Can't Miss Festivals

We celebrate everything on the Louisiana Northshore including seafood fests, musical performances, Mardi Gras, holiday happenings, shopping extravaganzas and more joie de vivre.

LouisianaNorthshore.com/Festivals

10 Things to Do on a Day Trip

Make memories of a lifetime by hatching a baby alligator (in-season), exploring Fontainebleau and Fairview-Riverside state parks, setting sail on Lake Pontchartrain, and more fun things to do.

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New Orleans

Meanwhile, back in the Big Easy ...

Check out these new hotel openings in Louisiana's largest city.

- The city's first **Four Seasons** property is now open in the former World Trade Center building along the Mississippi riverfront. The 34-story development houses 341 rooms, plus luxury condos, two restaurants, a spa, rooftop bar and more.
- **One11**, the first hotel to open in the city's French Quarter in 50 years, is now welcoming guests. Located inside a former sugar factory, it offers plenty of sweet amenities.
- Offering tradition with a twist, the new **Kimpton Hotel Fontenot** features a flamboyant Peacock Room for fun gatherings, plus Gospel Coffee and Boozy Treats to fuel you up.
- **Virgin Hotels New Orleans** in the Warehouse District features more than 200 rooms with multiple dining and drinking options, a rooftop pool and lounge, gym and event spaces.



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West Baton Rouge
 Museum, Port Allen

A Tour Back in Time

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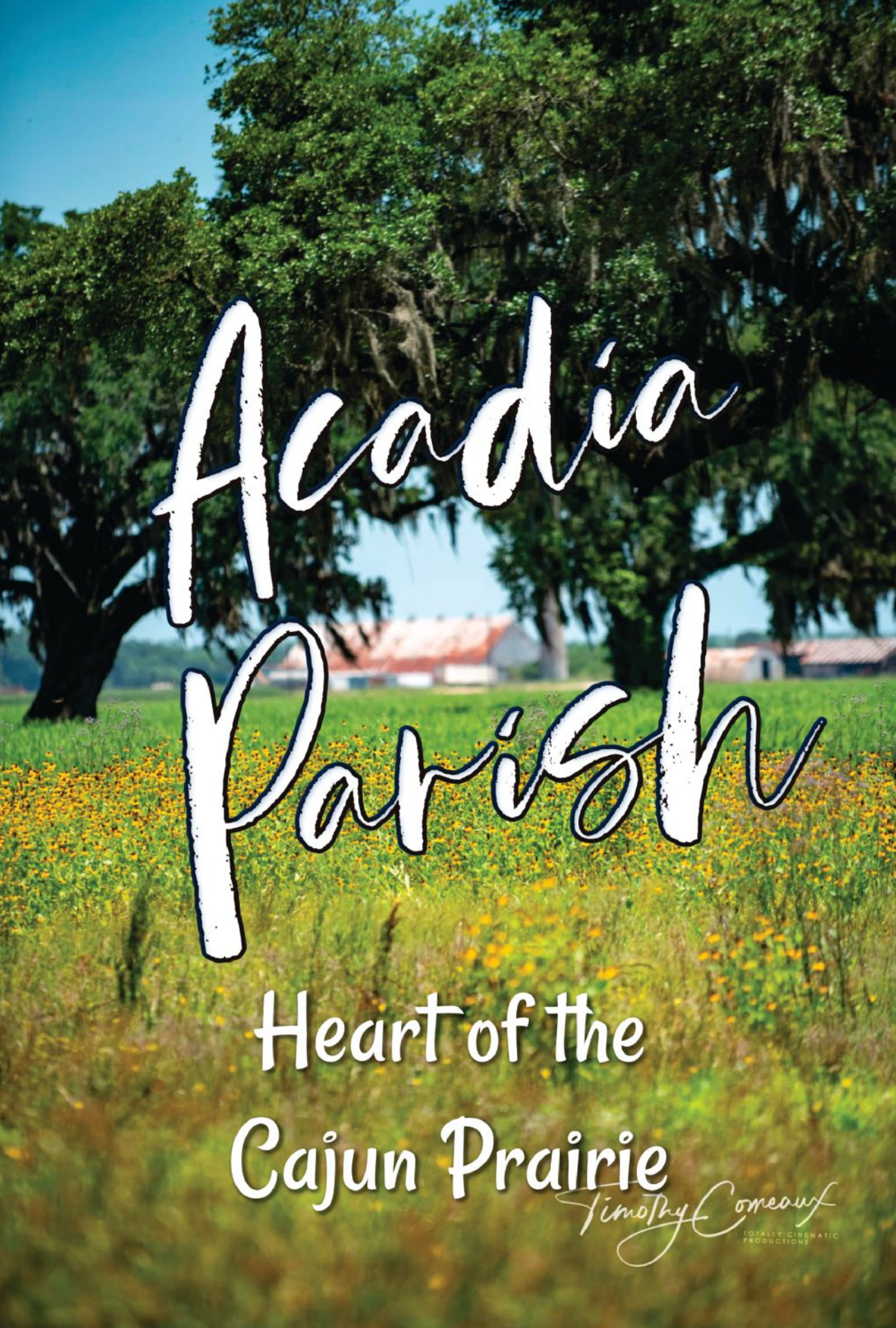

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A scenic landscape of a prairie. In the foreground, a field of yellow wildflowers is in bloom. In the middle ground, there are several large, mature trees with dense green foliage. In the background, a few buildings with red roofs are visible under a clear blue sky.

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Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville

A Bit of History

The massive body of water between New Orleans and Louisiana's Northshore is teeming with outdoor activity. Whether on a kayak, paddleboard or sailboat, **Lake Pontchartrain** is the perfect playground to enjoy a day on the water.

Check into the cabins at **Little River Bluff** in Folsom for a cozy overnight stay just steps away from the **Tchefuncte River**.

Then explore the urban outdoors in New Orleans. Pick up a kayak and an expert guide at **Kayak-iti-Yat** and paddle through **Bayou St. John** for a unique view of the city.

An Authentic Cajun & Creole Experience

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- National Historic District
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New Orleans Jazz Museum, New Orleans

Must-See Museums

In New Orleans, you'll find treasures like the experiential pop-up **JAMNOLA** and the **New Orleans Jazz Museum**, as well as smaller but equally fascinating attractions like the **New Orleans Pharmacy Museum**. (Don't miss the jar of live leeches!)

One of your favorite stops will be the **Backstreet Cultural Museum** in Tremé, where you can see colorful and elaborate hand-sewn Mardi Gras Indian costumes.



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Your first stop is the I-10 Visitor Center at Exit 64 to get local and state info, a hot cup of coffee, and clean restrooms.

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Steel Magnolia House, Natchitoches



CENTRAL LOUISIANA

Few have captured the essence of Central Louisiana like “Steel Magnolias” writer Robert Harling. The memory of these classy, sassy people – and their proud traditions – will stay with you always.



Explore the Region!

After a visit to Central Louisiana, you'll long recall the simple yet meaningful images of folk artist Clementine Hunter, who once lived at **Melrose Plantation** near Natchitoches. You'll imagine Generals Eisenhower and Patton planning World War II strategies at the **Hotel Bentley** in Alexandria. And you'll dance a little, remembering rock-n-roll legend Jerry Lee Lewis, whom you got to know a little better at the **Delta Music Museum** in Ferriday.

You'll pause in memory of outlaw Leather Britches Smith, immortalized at **Merryville Museum**, and for two men hung for their crimes in the stairwell at **The Gothic Jail** in DeRidder.

You'll reflect on times past at **Oakland Plantation**, part of the **Cane River National Heritage Area**. You'll swell up with pride, remembering the sac-à-lait you caught on **Toledo Bend Lake**. You'll warm your heart at **Chimp Haven**, the world's largest chimpanzee sanctuary, in Keithville. And last, but perhaps most, you'll picture those epic sunrises from your cabin at **Cypress Bend Resort**.



Explore more at
LouisianaTravel.com/Cities-Regions



Melrose Plantation,
Natchitoches



Kaffie-Frederick General Mercantile, Natchitoches





Rock Chapel,
Mansfield



Toledo Bend-Lake Country Area

Toledo Bend Reservoir is the largest manmade lake in the South and this area is home to outstanding nature preserves and state parks. Area accommodations range from luxurious hotel suites to rustic lakeside cabins.

Natchitoches Area

As Louisiana's oldest city and first French colony, Natchitoches retains its European charm, culture and architecture. Wander throughout its **National Historic Landmark District**, shop around, dine downtown overlooking the riverfront, then settle into a cozy B&B.

Alexandria-Marksville Area

As Central Louisiana's largest city, Alexandria packs a ton of fun. Play at the **Alexandria Zoo**, get creative at **River Oaks Square Arts Center** and visit the state's oldest standing structure at **Kent Plantation House**. In Marksville, pair local craft beer with Cajun fare at **Broken Wheel Brewery** and its **Fresh Catch Bistreaux**.

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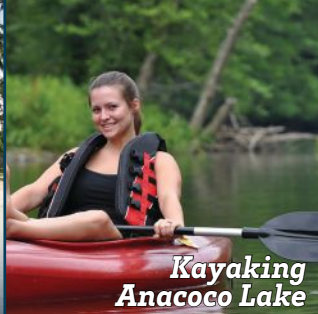
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A Sweet Treat

Louisiana gets a lot of press for its zesty Cajun and Creole food – and rightly so. But those in the know won't miss out on the homemade pies.

Some say they ought to change the name of the town of Lecompte to “Lea”compte after **Lea's Lunchroom**, where they famously bake nine delicious varieties of pie each and every morning. (Pecan is their bestseller, but try the bumbleberry, too.)

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Fab Festivals

Spice things up by celebrating the region's rich Spanish and Indian heritage (and food!) at the **Zwolle Tamale Festival**, or revel in holiday charm at the **Natchitoches Christmas Festival** along the Cane River.

There you'll enjoy a parade, arts and crafts, local delicacies (pro tip: try a Natchitoches meat pie) and live entertainment, plus a laser show and rousing fireworks display. Afterwards, the lights along the Cane River are switched on and continue to twinkle into the new year.



Delicious Dishes

When you book a trip to Louisiana, be sure to pack your stretchy pants. Here are 10 great tastes you simply must try while you're here!

1. Gumbo with potato salad
2. Roast beef po'boy
3. A classic muffuletta
4. Chargrilled oysters with French bread
5. Crawfish bread
6. Alligator bites
7. Grillades and grits
8. Jambalaya
9. Shrimp Creole
10. Boiled crawfish

Only Louisiana

Who's almost as entertaining as a Louisiana musician? The state's colorful politicians, of course!

Join Huey P. Long, Edwin Edwards and others back "on the stump" at the **Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame** in Winnfield's historic **L&A Railroad Depot**.

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ATTRACTIONS

Discover the real Louisiana with its small-town museums, fabulous festivals, outdoor recreational opportunities, centuries of history, culture, stories, and legends, and the people who make it all come to life.

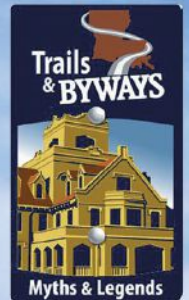
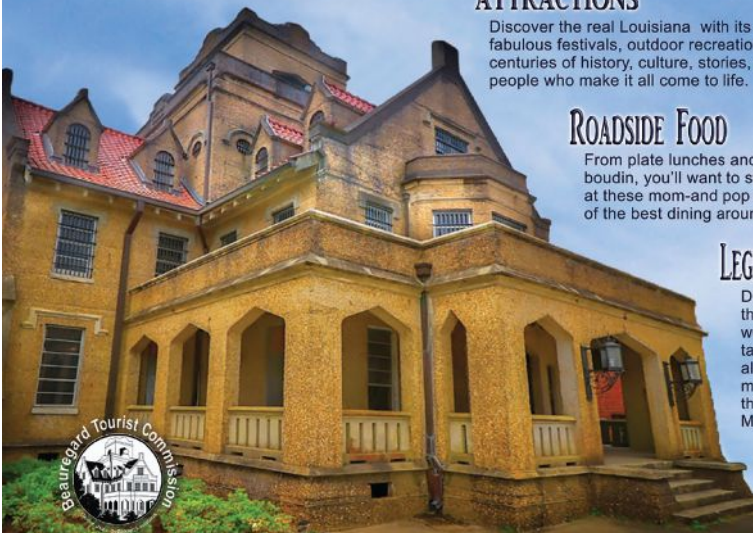
ROADSIDE FOOD

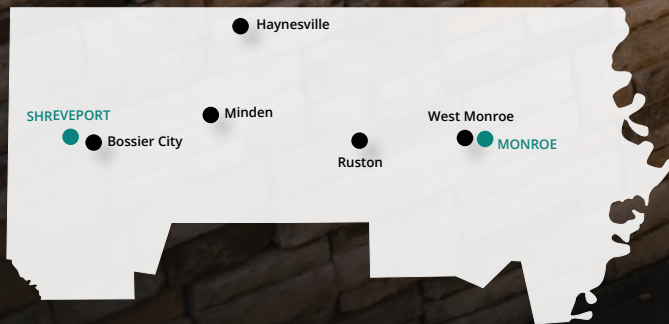
From plate lunches and poboys to boudin, you'll want to stop along the way at these mom-and-pop stops with some of the best dining around.

LEGEND & LORE

Discover the real Louisiana, along this 181-mile long drive through western Louisiana based on tall tales, and true stories. 22 kiosks along the way relate these fabled myths and true sagas. Visit one of the remaining jewels of the No Man's Land like the old Gothic Jail.

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Shreveport - Bossier City

A man and a woman are walking hand-in-hand on a stone walkway overlooking a river. The man is wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and dark pants. The woman is wearing a green cardigan over a white top and blue jeans. In the background, there is a large steel truss bridge and a white riverboat on the water. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with warm lighting.

NORTH LOUISIANA

North Louisiana is a mixture of big cities, big fish and even bigger personalities. It's a slice of Southern charm, as sweet and juicy as a Ruston peach.



Mitcham Farms, Ruston



Explore the Region!

Monroe's **Biedenharn Gardens**, built by the guy who first figured out how to bottle Coca-Cola, is several attractions in one. Here you can tour a historic home, formal English gardens, a Coca-Cola museum and a Bible museum. Still not tired? If you're a Duck Dynasty fan, **Duck Commander the Tour** in West Monroe should also be at the top of your list.

Can't have enough tchotchkes? Visit **Antique Alley** in the **Cottonport Historic District** before heading east to **Southern Heritage Air Foundation Museum** in Tallulah, where you can take to the skies in an open-cockpit biplane. Got the kiddos with you? Try the splash pad at breathtaking **Lake Bruin State Park** in St. Joseph.

In Ruston, stroll through the enchanting historic district but don't leave without paying your respects at the **North Louisiana Military Museum**, honoring those who served from the Civil War to the War on Terror. Explore more of the region's past at the **Dorcheat Historical Museum** in Minden, then pop by **Mitcham Farms**, a sweet place to shop for peach products, gourmet foods, local art and unique gifts.

In Shreveport and Bossier City, sit down at one of the shiny new machines at a casino. Visit the Remingtons and Russells at the **R. W. Norton Art Gallery**, then stop and smell what's blooming at the **American Rose Center**.

Explore more at
LouisianaTravel.com/Cities-Regions



Antique Alley, West Monroe





Monroe-Ruston Area

West Monroe personifies old-time Southern life with its historic district, while Monroe across the **Ouachita River** adds restaurants and nearby outdoor attractions. Full of charm itself, Ruston is famous for its peaches.

Shreveport-Bossier City Area

There's always something brewing in the downtowns and taprooms of Shreveport and neighboring Bossier City, both cities flanking the **Red River**. Fascination and family fun await at **Gators & Friends Alligator Park & Exotic Zoo** in Greenwood.



Gators & Friends Alligator Park & Exotic Zoo, Greenwood



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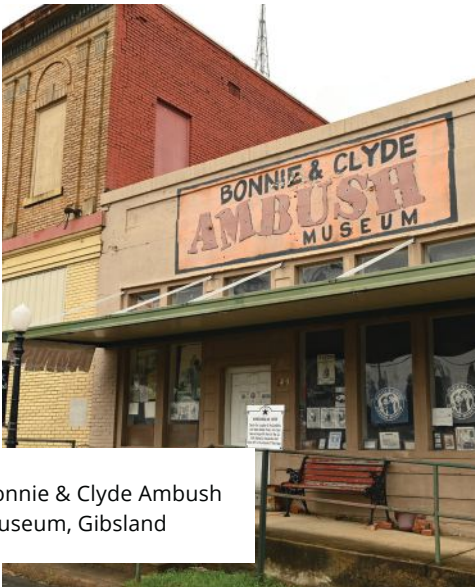


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Bonnie & Clyde Ambush Museum, Gibsland

Must-See Museum

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow met their end in a stolen V8 Ford, killed in a police ambush near Gibsland, Louisiana. In 2005, the **Bonnie & Clyde Ambush Museum** opened in this small town, in what used to be Ma Canfield’s Café.

Minutes before the ambush, the couple ordered a fried baloney sandwich and BLT to go. They say Bonnie died holding her half-eaten sandwich.

Only Louisiana

Before ceasing operation in the mid-2000s, Shreveport’s **Orlandeaux’s Café** was the oldest continuously operated African-American business in the U.S. During the Civil Rights Era, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy came here for their famous stuffed shrimp and gumbo.

Known over the years as Freeman & Harris Café, Pete Harris Café and Brother’s Seafood, it was reopened by family members in 2018 as Orlandeaux’s Café. It and its previous iterations have been serving Shreveport guests “Just the Way You Like It” since 1921.



Kisatchie National Forest

Explore the Outdoors

Teddy Roosevelt and Joseph Pulitzer loved to hunt in this part of Louisiana, now made famous by “Duck Dynasty.” Not that much has changed since the president and the publishing magnate pitched their tents here.

The magic of the **Kisatchie National Forest** and several **Louisiana State Parks** here is legendary. Go hiking, biking, horseback riding, birdwatching or kayaking. There are trophy-size bass with your name on them, too.

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