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Explore Louisiana North!

Howdy, bon jour, hola and hey ya'll from central and north Louisiana. The diversity of the area is everything a traveler is looking for with 5 golf destinations on Louisiana's Audubon Golf Trails, host to the famous BassMaster Classic (2009 & 2012) legends and myths;



Casino Luck in North Louisiana

music and culinary adventures wait at every turn in the road.

We encourage you to visit www.exploreloouisiananorth.com and plan your adventure today.

Beginning in the northwest region along Interstate 20 on the border of Texas and Louisiana, Shreveport is a mixture of spicy Cajun attitude, Mardi Gras excitement and wide open Texas spirit.

Shreveport/Bossier City located on the Red River and home to Barksdale Air Force Base, American Rose Center, Louisiana Boardwalk and where Elvis Presley began his career at the Louisiana Hayride and the Municipal Auditorium.

Five riverboat casinos along with horse racing offer alluring bright lights and fast-paced gaming action. A destination with endless shopping options, dynamic attraction, national sporting and cultural events, this is Louisiana's Other Side.



Melrose Plantation

Continue traveling east on I-20 about 30 miles and you'll discover the good nature of Webster Parish part of the area known as "Sportsman's Paradise," where fishing, hunting, boating, and other natural pursuits can be had in an abundance. Year-round mild climate let's you enjoy the outdoors anytime. This rural area is big on their German heritage with festivals, offering bagpipes, bake sales, bluegrass music and timber sports are a few of the reasons to celebrate with big family-style festivals. It's not just peaceful waterways, experience thrilling stock car racing at its finest when you visit when you visit this part of Louisiana.

Harrah's Louisiana Downs Casino Get off the beaten path and exit at Arcadia to shop for antiques; learn about their colorful past as the final resting place of 1930s infamous outlaws, Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. The state of Louisiana is not known for its mountains, however, something in the state deserves the distinction of being the highest point, and that honor falls to the majestic Driskill Mountain, standing at a whopping 535 feet above sea level. Driskill is located only a few miles off I-20.

and

Racetrack Continue east on Interstate 20 to Ruston the Peach Capital of Louisiana. They celebrate this annual event on the 4th weekend of June. You'll also find one of the best mountain bike trails in the south. Home of Louisiana Tech University, visitors can learn and play at the Idea Place and Planetarium or evoke memories and nostalgia at the Louisiana Military Museum and honor Grambling's legendary football coach at the Eddie G. Robinson Museum.

Continue your journey eastward along Interstate 20 to visit the northeast corner and the Place Where People Meet, Monroe-West Monroe. Home to North Louisiana's largest shopping mall the landscape of this area is dotted with chic boutiques and over 70 locally owned restaurants. Overlooking the beautiful Ouachita River, this area is home to the first bottler of Coca-Cola, Joseph Biedenharn where you can still enjoy a nickel Coke while you tour the magnificent home and gardens. Visit the area that trained the World War II Flying Tigers and follow the beginning of Delta Airlines. Because this is Sportsman's Paradise you will not be disappointed at the raw, untouched nature at the National Wildlife Refuge and the natural habitats located around this Northeast Louisiana area.



Antiques Storfront

A visitor can crisscross all over this part of Louisiana and find something interesting at every fork in the road but we're heading south along Highway 15 to the Stars & Stripes Capital of Louisiana!!! This small community located east of Monroe is one of the most patriotic cities in America and proudly displays over 400 American flags during patriotic holidays but like every Louisiana community you'll find the food and in Winnsboro it is all about the pond-raised catfish industry and their annual Catfish Festival in April salutes this culinary delight with one of the largest one-day festivals in the state. Not bad for a community of only around 6,000.



Cypress Bend Golf Resort

We're heading for the banks of the mighty Mississippi River and a destination proud of their musical heritage with the Delta Music Museum, Country Music Showcase every month and outdoor venues for hunting, recreation and relaxation. Explore the many lakes and bayous and well as three wildlife areas.

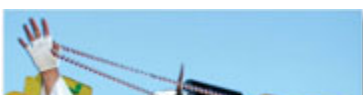
We'll begin traveling west on a network of scenic routes and byways threaded throughout ten Central Louisiana parishes used by pioneers to settle the west after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Pioneers traversed woods, rivers, streams and hills to settle the west, while others traveled from Mexico across the trails into the states to the east.

Venturing west along Highway 84 to a little cotton picking and ginning at Frogmore, the only historic and modern working cotton plantation in the South and a 'must see' destination to explore life and times in the South from the early 1800s through modern times

Still traveling west, we explore a rural agricultural part of the state. Abandoned and working oil wells dot the landscape as well as pine and hardwood of the Kisatchie National Forest that covers most of Central Louisiana with over 600,000 acres of varying terrain and waterways.

Crawfish

The home of Louisiana politics is in the colorful community of Winnfield, home of the Louisiana Political Museum and three Louisiana governors. Continuing west, travel 30 miles to Natchitoches, Louisiana's original French settlement and the oldest continuing settlement in the entire Louisiana Purchase Territory.



Founded in 1714 by a French Canadian explorer, Natchitoches thrives as a historic, cultural destination. In all of Louisiana, no other place as unique as



Mardi Gras Celebration

the Cane River Country exists. Natchitoches is the beginning of the El Camino Real de los Tejas, a National Historic Trail, the area includes a National Heritage Area, National Park, a collection of historic Creole plantations and State Historic Sites. This vibrant community is internationally known for their world famous Christmas Festival and offers monthly festivals that celebrate their culture, music and cuisine throughout the year.

Traveling west on Highway 6 about 55 miles along the El Camino Real to Toledo Bend Lake Country located on the border of Louisiana and Texas. This 186,000 acre lake is home to really ‘big’ fish; over 800 RV slots, resorts, cabins and marinas line the shores and one of Louisiana’s finest golf courses on the Aubudon Golf Trail. Louisiana’s state park at Hodges Gardens is available for year around viewing of 700 acres of woodland beauty. Take a moment to explore a little Civil War history and some extraordinary cuisine in the famous Zwolle tamale and their salute to this culinary treat every October. Historically this region was known as “No Man’s Land” during colonial times and shares numerous legends and stories of this interesting period of U. S. history.

Hugging the shores of the Sabine River we hitch a ride on Highway 171 south, still following Louisiana’s scenic byways to the largest military installation in Louisiana, Fort Polk, home to the great Louisiana maneuvers and where some of the greatest leaders in our nation's history trained for World War 2 in the 1940s. Ft. Polk is currently home to the Joint Readiness Training Center.



Mansfield Historic Battle Site

Leesville, located deep in the heart of Kisatchie National Forest and the old Neutral Strip was created when both Spain and the U.S. claimed this part of Louisiana. Rich in folklore the history of this area looks back on a time when it was the Western Frontier of the United States.



Fountain

We circle back east onto Highway 28 to the Heart of Louisiana. Located on the banks of the Red River is the thriving community of Alexandria /Pineville. Savor the unique gumbo of fun and entertainment in this area with a true cultural experience and venue of museums ranging from art, history and military. Travel back in time with a visit to Kent House, a Creole plantation built in 1796 and experience Colonial life at one of the oldest structures in the state of Louisiana. You’ll want to play a round of golf on another one Louisiana’s Aububon Golf Trail clubs at Oak Wing. Get outdoors and explore the trails of the Kisatchie Wilderness and Recreation

areas and go wild at Central Louisiana’s #1 family attraction, the Alexandria Zoo.

Journey south to the region known as still being strong in its French influence and heritage and home to the Tunica Biloxi Tribe, Avoyelles Parish. This Central Louisiana community boasts the “Pearl of Louisiana” with the Paragon Casino Resort and another celebrated golf course on the Aububon Golf Trail, must sees in this area include the Prehistoric Indian Museum and mounds at the State Historic Site.

We encourage you to continue your journey and explore all regions of Louisiana North on www.exploreloouisiananorth.com



Front Street in Natchitoches, LA

