

Louisiana



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LOUISIANA

discover Louisiana best by car



SCENIC TOURS

Every state in the Union abounds with areas well worth visiting for their magnificent scenery, recreational opportunities or historic interest. These scenic tours have been designed by the Shell Oil Company to emphasize these features. Whether your visit in the state will be long or short, plan to include one or more of these scenic tours as part of your trip.

For more complete detail refer to the state map on other side.

Tour by Mobile Tourist

TOUR 2

Verdant Uplands and Coastal Plain
435 Miles

This tour begins in Shreveport, the thriving industrial and recreational center of northwest Louisiana, and travels from the hilly, wooded west Louisiana uplands to the edge of the Gulf Coastal plain, and up through the valley lands along the Calcasieu and Red Rivers. Included are historic sites, spectacular gardens and many parks and outdoor sports areas.

Leave Shreveport, southward on US 171 for Mansfield, a quiet town which was the scene of a significant Civil War battle. It was here that the Southern battle plan, in which 15,000 Confederates engaged 40,000 Federals, was devised under a large oak on Polk Street. The Mansfield Battle Park State Monument is comprised of a 44-acre section of the battlefield, a museum and monuments.

Continue on State 175, east of the city, and proceed to the town of Bossier Hill, where the Mansfield battle was concluded. The Federal troops fell back to this position and fought the Confederates again. Both sides withdrew from this, the last Civil War battle fought in the state of Louisiana.

Continue on State 175 to Many, a pleasant town which still retains



Sam Houston State Park

TOUR 3

New Orleans and the Bayous
404 Miles

All the festive, color and sound of New Orleans' annual Mardi Gras is not lost after the gala celebration. Some of the world's finest jazz can be heard almost any night year round in the famed French Quarter. Leave the heart of this colorful city to start this fascinating tour into the uncaptured Bayou Teche country where life is flavored with French speech and manners.

Southeast of New Orleans, on US 90, are the flat marshlands crisscrossed by water channels so characteristic of southern Louisiana. Houma is a shrimp-canning and fishing center at the junction of several bayous, and beyond, still on US 90, is Morgan City, the shrimp capital of Louisiana and famous for its colorful festival when the shrimp fleet is blessed. Stop at Franklin, too, to see Oaklawn Manor which reflects the beauty of early plantation house architecture in a setting of live oaks said to have been growing when Columbus discovered America.

Continue on US 90 to New Iberia, "Queen City of the Teche," noted for having one of the finest antebellum mansions in the state, "Shadow-on-the-Teches." Built in 1851-54, it is magnificently furnished with period pieces. A short excursion southwest on State 329 leads to Avery Island, the peak of a gigantic salt dome rising above the surrounding marsh.

The salt has been mined since Civil War days. The island is also a populous bird sanctuary, and the Jungle Gardens provide exotic spectacles from around the world.

State 31 leads to St. Martinville, where the Acadian French refugees from Canada first landed in the early 1800's. The descendants of these people have retained the Acadian dialect and culture in this area—hence the name "Cajun Country." The community is also famous for being the setting of Longfellow's tragic poem "Evangeline," and the famous Evangeline Oak where the unhappy lovers met can be seen near the restored home of Aunt Avonmore, Evangeline's stable here. The home is now a museum with exhibits that tell about the life of early Acadian settlers. The Longfellow-Evangeline State Park preserves the pioneer atmosphere of those early days, and for the modern wayfarer there is a craft shop, recreation building, swimming pool and campsite.

Leave St. Martinville on State 56 westward and, proceed, via US 90, to Lafayette, which is several towns in one: a traditional Louisiana French community, a modern oil industry center, and a college town. The magnificent house of Governor Alexander Monson, one of the oldest homes in town, has been restored as a museum featuring colorful Mardi Gras costumes and a doll collection.

Opelousas, a town founded in the 18th century by the French as a trading post, is recalled by following US 167. Its history has included an era as district capital under the Spanish and a brief time as state capital during the Civil War.

Travel eastward on US 190, crossing the Atchafalaya River at Krotz Springs, and turn onto State 28 at Livonia. This drive picks up

a part of the Great River Road, skirting a portion of the False River, which is a former bend of the Mississippi. Now, fishermen find it to be a rewarding lake yielding fine catches.

Cross the Mississippi on the ferry to reach St. Francisville with its elegant 19th-century houses, Fairview, Rosewood, The Cottage, and Abbot Villa Gardens. Near the center of town are two beautiful buildings—the Grace Church, an example of English Gothic built in 1868, and Audubon Hall which was built in 1849 and is probably the oldest building in town.

US 61 joins with State 966 which then leads to the Audubon Memorial State Monument. Here is Oakley House, converted into a museum and set in a beautiful 100-acre wildlife sanctuary. John James Audubon worked here on his book, "Birds of America."

Return to US 61 and follow it into Baton Rouge, whose principal sights are Louisiana State University and the State government complex with one of the Nation's few skyscraper state capitals.

Leave Baton Rouge on US 190 and cross a landscape of fields and pine woods to Hammond, the "Strawberry Capital of America." From March through May the town and countryside are a beehive of activity as the berries are picked. The annual Strawberry Festival also takes place during this time.

Continue on US 190 into Covington, a popular residential resort, and turn southward to join with the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, whose twenty-four miles make it the world's longest. After traversing this vast and beautiful lake, the Causeway connects with Interstate 10 leading back to the heart of exciting and historic New Orleans.



French Quarter

TOUR 1

Levee, Delta and Forest
380 Miles

Beginning in the heart of Louisiana at Alexandria, this tour features a scenic section of the famous Great River Road through the fertile Mississippi Delta with its cypress-topped lakes and stately woods.

Leave the Alexandria-Pineville area on US 165 and turn east onto State 8 at Dulac. Continue to Trout and join with US 84 east to Ferriday to pick up the Great River Road (US 65) traveling northward.

This is some of the loveliest countryside in Louisiana: vast umbrella-like trees of deep green and shaded landscapes that seem like paintings of another time. Note that the Mississippi flows at a higher level than the land. Without levees, floods would be an ever-present danger. The town of Waterproof derives its name from a "waterproof" hilltop that was the only dry spot during one early flood. The curiously shaped "lakes" along here are ancient river cutoffs. Many old homes in this region were built, Maple Grove, McLeod, The Bure, Waverline, and General Zachary Taylor's home near Waterproof, and Marylande near St. Joseph, a restored steamboat port on State 128. At Newellton, on State 4, are the Dutch Gardens with broad fields of tulips and an authentic Dutch windmill.

North in Tallulah, a shady-laned cotton town surrounded by lakes and bayous that offer fine fishing, hunting and sightseeing. Lake Providence, further north, is a fishing and water sports center. From here, take State 2 across Bayou Macon through Oak Grove to Mer Rouge to connect with US 165 to Ruston, an old town whose development has been relatively recent, keyed to industry rather than agriculture. Papermaking is the most noticeable local enterprise here.

US 165 crosses the Ouachita River to Monroe, the largest city in northeast Louisiana. Between Monroe and Ruston, on US 80, the hilly, timbered country of the northeast changes to flat valley lands of farms, dairies and peach orchards. Ruston is also the site of Louisiana Polytechnic Institute.

From Ruston take US 167 south through land rich both in farm soil and timber. Winfield is significant primarily for its modern history. Its most noted, and still controversial, citizen was Huey P. Long, former governor and senator. The site of his birthplace is marked, and there is a memorial park to his brother, Earl K. Long, who also was governor.

South of Winfield, US 167 passes through Kianthe National Forest and the Gamblin National Wildlife Management Preserve in one of the great early timber regions of Louisiana which made many fortunes. Continue through Rayville, a town named for its founder, a turn-of-the-century lumberman, back to Alexandria on the banks of the Red River.



Mississippi River Scene

PUBLIC RECREATIONAL AREAS

STATE PARKS AND MONUMENTS

LOUISIANA	AREA	ACRES	ESTABLISHED	RECREATION	BOATING	FISHING	HUNTING	SWIMMING	TRAIL	VIEW	CLIMATE
ADAMS	ADAMS	1,000	1900								
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NATIONAL FOREST RECREATION AREAS

LOUISIANA	AREA	ACRES	ESTABLISHED	RECREATION	BOATING	FISHING	HUNTING	SWIMMING	TRAIL	VIEW	CLIMATE
ADAMS	ADAMS	1,000	1900								
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NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARKS

LOUISIANA	AREA	ACRES	ESTABLISHED	RECREATION	BOATING	FISHING	HUNTING	SWIMMING	TRAIL	VIEW	CLIMATE
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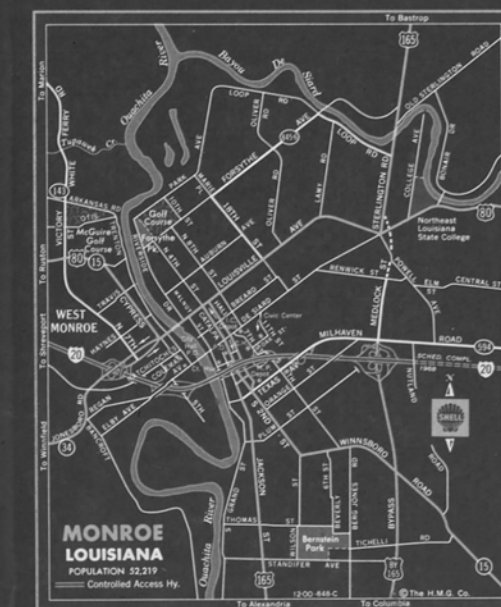
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