ALEXANDRIA
PINEVILLE
AND SURROUNDING AREAS

RAPIDES
AVOYELLES
AND
NATCHITOCHES
PARISHES

Louisiana
a dream state

MARSHALL
In the middle of Louisiana, where three parishes (counties) meld together into one fascinating settlement, there's a lot of name-calling.

That's because in these three parishes -- namely Rapides, Avoyelles and Natchitoches -- there's a lot of names which fit the people and the scenery.

One name is "ethnically unique"....just because you can go 30 miles in any direction from Alexandria and find four different cultures; the Acadian French to the south; the Indians to the east; the Franco-Africans to the north and the Spaniards to the west.

Another is "historically rich"....because people like U. S. Grant, William Tecumseh Sherman and George Armstrong Custer lived and fought on this land before, during and after the Civil War....because Generals like Mark Clark, George C. Patton and Dwight D. Eisenhower planned their World War II strategy here....and because characters like Jim Bowie and Jean Lafitte got rich while involved in various shady transactions in this area.

And they call our food "culinary magic"....because we roast a suckling pig over the fire for two days and call it "cochon de lait"....because our Natchitoches Meat Pies are world-famous....and because our cuisine has a special touch that other places cannot match.

Eisenhower planned their World War II strategy here....and because characters like Jim Bowie and Jean Lafitte got rich while involved in various shady transactions in this area.

They call our music "culturally varied"....just because we can conjure up a foot-stomping western tune, or a French band, or a Black spiritual group at the snap of a finger, on our way to the disco.

But we don't mind being called names. Just so you call us. Call us if you like plantation homes, old churches, battlegrounds. We can show you how to pick cotton, thresh pecans, chew sugar-cane or brand cattle.

Contact the Alexandria-Pineville Conventions/Tourist Commission, Post Office Box 992, Alexandria, Louisiana 71301. Telephone 318/442-6671.

We can provide you a tour your group will remember. We guarantee.
Alexandria-Pineville, two cities located across Red River from each other, were settled in the early 1700's by French and then by Spanish. Outposts developed because at this point all transportation by water stopped due to a limestone ledge across the river. This obstruction caused falls, or rapids, from which the parish got its name. Rich lands brought wealth in the 1800's, but they also brought destruction during the Civil War as both blue and gray fought for our agriculture riches.

Today, this heritage makes Central Louisiana different, and delightful, and a wonderful place to visit. Come see us!
CENTRAL LOUISIANA
WHERE THE PRESENT MEETS THE PAST
RAPIDES
AVOYELLES AND NATCHITOCHES
PARISHES