The Atchafalaya Heritage Area Bayou Teche Corridor
St. Landry, Lafayette, St. Martin, and Iberia Parishes

Louisiana’s famed gumbo is a spicy blend and the Bayou Teche section of the Atchafalaya Heritage Area is the geographical equivalent. Just an hour or so from urban New Orleans, this is a world apart. Spending a leisurely couple of days only whets the explorer’s appetite for more. Here, there is an intangible difference in the air, for this is the heart of Acadian Louisiana. How to understand a place that is so different from the rest of North America? Buildings here reflect strong Spanish and French influences, cypress and live oak canopies add to the romance and mystery in the air. Drive the meandering scenic byway along the bayou, spend time in the excellent National Park Service visitor centers in Lafayette and Eunice, and stroll around the region’s towns. Each is different and not to be missed. You might catch the Romero brothers playing traditional Cajun tunes under the Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville, or find a nearly extinct gadget in a fabulous hardware store in Opelousas. Mardi Gras will never be the same after seeing the Eunice Museum’s living Cajun Mardi Gras traditions. Walk into just about any crossroads café and you’ll find houdini, etouffé, and gumbo—no two recipes the same. And, beyond the towns, nature abounds. Set aside time for the unique Atchafalaya swamp, where guided tours routinely encounter alligators, wild boar, roseate spoonbills and a host of other birds. Whether in town or in nature, the people of the Bayou Teche area are friendly and proud of their heritage—and love to tell you more about it.

The Cultural Gumbo of Acadian Louisiana

LEGEND

Heritage Resources and Visitor Services

Main Street Town
Tourist Information
Airport
State Park
NPS Interpretive Center
Lodging
Dining
Public Boat Launch
Birding Opportunity

Turn the Radio On!

KBON, 101.1 FM, Eunice
Traditional (local) music—also available on the World Wide Web.

KSLO, 1230 AM, Opelousas
Cajun mixed in regular programming, Great Zydeco show Fri. and Sat. 3-5PM.

KOCZ, 103.7 FM, Opelousas
They put the C in Cajun and the Z in Zydeco.

Recommended Driving Routes

Interstate Highway
U.S. Highway
State Road
Parish Road
State Wildlife Management Area
State Wildlife Refuge
National Wildlife Refuge
Atchafalaya Swamp, other Wetlands and Marsh
Bayous & Streams
Canals & Waterways
Levee*

*The levees generally have public roadways running along the tops of them. Conditions of the levee roads vary considerably, and some are not suitable for general traffic.
Washington
The town of Washington was settled in 1720, and was a center of steamboat transportation in its heyday. Today you may stay at the Country House Inn and Breakfast or La Maison de Gabrielle. Visit the Antique School House Museum or Magnolia Hill Plantation.

Magnolia Hill Plantation
1028 Highway 190 East, Washington
Phone: 337-869-5402
The great chandelier was occupied by both Confederate and Union forces during the Civil War. The grounds are still lovely, but the landscape gardens and 3 miles of walkways are open to the public during daylight hours.

St. Martinville
The town of St. Martinville is a treasure waiting for you to discover. Follow the signs to the town, and visit the Acadian Memorial, where a thirty-footlong dragon dances at the base of the Academy in Louisiana. This memorial celebrates the names of the original Acadian exiles, an eternal flame, and a genealogy and media center add to the emotion and history of this area. Visit the St. Martinville African Museum, explore the stories and history of Free People of Color in Southwest Louisiana from 1765 to 1877.

St. Martinville African Museum
337-725-1804 or 318-729-4004

New Iberia
Welcome to the home of fictional south, Dave Robicheaux. This bayou town teases balance between wildness and domesticity. Stay at Chez Hebet or La Maison de Breff et, or the Teche Motel.

OLIVER PLANTATION
814 Bayou Courtyard, New Iberia
Phone: 337-367-0214

Bayou Courtyard
1028 Highway 190 East, St. Martinville
Phone: 337-774-5218
The last of the steamboat warehouses on Bayou Courtyard, is built by the Acadians in the 1820s. The seafood market and restaurant is on the first floor of a 19th century Creole plantation. Tours depart from the market, and can be arranged with period furnishings. The Teche House Art Gallery features the work of the Acadian artists, as seen by Alexandre Mouton. Tours available in French and German. Open daily 10AM-5PM.

ACADIAN VILLAGE
301 Contential Street, Lafayette
Phone: 337-981-2364
A collection of restored Acadian homes complete with period furnishings. The Village Art Gallery features "The Saga of the Acadians," a series by George Bankerd. Tours available in French and German. Open daily 10AM-5PM.

DE LA HOUSAYE S: THE LAOUSSOU, EXPERIENCE, SWAMP TOURS
401 Cloud Drive, Lafayette
Phone: 337-296-2650
Explore the Atchafalaya Basin by bus from the Maison de Baroussous in an authentic Cajun fishing boat.

VERMILIONVILLE
1600 Sonny Street, Lafayette
Phone: 337-233-4077
This recreated Cajun swamp lifestyle and-cooking demonstrations, live music, costumed interpreters, a nature trail, art gallery, and gift shop. Open daily 10AM-5PM.

ALEXANDRE MOUTON HOUSE AND LAFAYETTE MUSEUM
519 North Lombard Street, Lafayette
Phone: 337-234-2206
This home is the boyhood home of the son of talking Bayou Courtyard. The house is still maintained by the grandson of the creator, and offers fresh Cajun cooking. Free admission.

TAXI SOUS CAFE
135 West Main Street, New Iberia
Phone: 337-945-2439
This 19th century Creole plantation house is a treasure waiting for you to discover. Follow the town of St. Martinville is a treasure waiting for you to discover.