The seat of Louisiana's colorful political life is also home to numerous entertaining and informative museums and cultural facilities. Explore the historic charming inns. Dance the night away to the great local music, and sample from the abundant restaurants.

Baton Rouge
2161 Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge
This 1791 French Creole house sits on the site of Huey Long's assassination in 1937. The austere twenty-seventh floor that overlooks the Mississippi River was Long's bedroom. Open daily 10AM-4PM.

THE OLD ARSENAL MUSEUM
959 Third Street, Baton Rouge
Constructed in 1809, this National Register building was once a garrison that played an important role in the defense of Baton Rouge. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10AM-4:30PM, Sunday 1-3PM.

LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL
100 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge
Housing the Center for Political and Governmental History, the restored Old State Capitol offers tours and interactive exhibits. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10AM to 4:30PM.

LOUISIANA'S OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION
502 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge
The mansion built by the infamous Huey Long is now restored and offers the opportunity to learn about the Kingfish and other colorful Louisiana governors. Open Tuesday through Friday 10AM to 4:30PM.

U.S.S. KIDD & NAUTICAL CENTER
18005 Sidney Road, Grosse Tete
Visit a World War Two Hero, the meticulously restored destroyer U.S.S. Kidd, now dry-docked on the bank of the Mississippi River. Open daily 9AM-5PM.

Grosse Tete
DAVID'S COTTAGE CAFE AND BED & BREAKFAST
244 Lafayette Street, Port Allen
Local cafe and unique little houses in peaceful surroundings. Specializing in steaks and seafood, the City Cafe also has a sugar mill at work. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10AM-4PM, Sunday 1-3PM.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Port Allen Tourism Commission, 225-344-2930 or 504-664-8971.

Plaquemine
Only a 15 minute drive from Baton Rouge, but feels like a world away. Visit to the great plantations, restaurants, and historic neighborhoods of Plaquemine.

PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE
57730 Main Street, Plaquemine
Phone: 225-687-7158
When the Plaquemine locks were completed in 1909, passage between the Mississippi and Bayou Plaquemine became possible. The facilities include the locks, original lockhouse, and a visitor's complex. Open daily 8AM-5PM.

PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE
57735 Main Street, Plaquemine
Phone: 225-687-7157
An 1848 neoclassical building that incorporates Doric columns, original Cypress beams, and brickwork. Exhibits include 19th century artifacts and images of the Plaquemine area. Open Tues-Sat 10AM-4PM.

The Indian mounds on the campus of LSU were built 450 years before the construction of the great Egyptian pyramids.

Did you know?
Folk legend says that the name of Baton Rouge comes from a pole stained with the blood of fish and animals that served as the dividing line between the territories of the Bayougoula and Houmas Indians. It is from this "red stick" that the explorer Iberville christened the city "Le Baton Rouge."

During Huey P. Long's term as governor during the Great Depression, he cajoled the state legislature into approving construction of a skyscraper new State Capitol. It cost $5 million, took only 14 months to complete, and at 450 feet, is the tallest state capital building in the United States. Long was assassinated in its corridors in 1935, and is buried on the Capitol grounds.
THE ATCHAFALAYA HERITAGE AREA
BETWEEN TWO RIVERS
East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville Parishes

Baton Rouge beckons to followers of politics, football, history and culture. Two colleges—Southern University and LSU—have given the nation many exciting fall Saturdays. And, Huey Long and other colorful figures have given Louisiana politics a place in the nation's history. Spend a leisurely day exploring the campuses, capitol and museums, before crossing the Mississippi River on the I-10 bridge. South and west of Baton Rouge, the landscape of sugar cane is ever present. Huge fields of swaying cane stretch for miles. The flat vistas are punctuated occasionally by tall brick stacks of cane mills, where the sweet juice is pressed from the cane. For 200 years, sugar plantations have been a major part of the region's culture. Explore how by visiting a 19th century sugar planter's home and slave cabin at the excellent West Baton Rouge Museum in Port Allen.

Highway 77 south is one of Louisiana's best scenic drives, meandering through swamp and cane fields, and the occasional settlement. Along it, distinctive Creole and Acadian house forms continue to be expressed even in modern residential development. Plaquemine's large tree-shaded historic district includes a main street of shops and restaurants, as well as numerous residences of varied scale. In the center of the downtown, climb the levee for a view of the Mississippi and a look back at the huge Plaquemine Lock, where ships once entered Bayou Plaquemine.

South of Plaquemine, intrepid explorers who find their way to White Castle are in for a treat. Nottoway Plantation is perhaps the largest antebellum house in the nation. Its scale has to be experienced—just the excellent one at its restaurant. Standing on the second floor balcony and imagining the Mississippi River at flood level, one gets a strong sense of man's battle with nature in the land between two rivers.

Recommended Driving Routes

State Wildlife Management Area
State Wildlife Refuge
National Wildlife Refuge
Atchafalaya Swamp, other Wetlands and Marsh
Bayous & Streams
Canals & Waterways
Levees*

*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.