You're invited to “experience” Opelousas. Once you've met its people, tasted its charm, its beauty, its food, its hospitality and its “Joie de Vivre” ... you will return!

Fairs, festivals, and special events are held in Opelousas throughout the year. A visitor could probably find a *fais-do-do* or some celebration just about any week ... in fact, if you would like a celebration, just ask. It can be arranged!

Lawyers' Row in Opelousas—Buildings constructed prior to the Civil War.

Old City Market/City Hall—built in the 1880s.
As you enter the Gateway to Acadiana—Louisiana's Cajun Country—you are in for a truly memorable visit, an enchanting discovery of rich history, culinary delights, fascinating cultures and wonderful people!

Settled by the French about 1720, the District of Opelousas has been the heart of a great territory for centuries. This city, once the capital of Louisiana during the Civil War, takes its name from the Opelousa tribe of Indians who lived in the area many years before the first Spanish and French pioneers arrived. Since that time people of many diverse nationalities, cultures, religions and ethnic backgrounds have come together in this “melting pot” of Louisiana creating a Cultural Gumbo.

Opelousas is the Yam Capitol of the world and the annual Yambilee is celebrated in the city each October.

Historic sites and places of interest
- St. Landry Catholic Church (#1) and Archives, St. Landry Catholic Cemetery (#2), (318) 942-6552.
- Michel Prudhomme Home (#4)

Opelousas is the Birthplace of Zydeco—the late Clifton Chenier, King of Zydeco, was born in the city, and the annual Zydeco Festival is held each September in nearby Plaisance.

Internationally known Cajun Chef Paul Prudhomme is from Opelousas as is Tony Chachere, who created the famous Tony Chachere Creole Seasoning.

- Mt. Olive Baptist Church (#6)
- *St. Landry Lumber Company (#7)
- *Estorage Home (#9)
- Holy Ghost Catholic Church (#18)
- Lou Ana Foods (#22)— call for the Lou Ana Tour, (318) 948-6561
- Creole Foods (#34)—Call for a tour appointment, (318) 948-4691
- The *Old City Hall - (#41), the *St. Landry Parish Court House & Square (#48), and the *Old Post Office Building (#49) in the *Opelousas National Historic District
- Fireman's Museum (#54)—(318) 948-2544
- Jim Bowie Museum (#63) and Acadian Tour Information Center (#63) on Highway 190 East, (318) 948-6263
- Slim’s Y Ki Ki, famous Zydeco dance hall, (318) 942-9980
- Toby’s Little Lodge—Featuring live Cajun music—dancing and a live French radio show, (318) 948-7787

Other Points of Interest in St. Landry Parish:
- Savoie’s Sausage Kitchen Tour—(318) 942-7241
- Chretien Point Plantation (#81)—located between Sunset and Opelousas
- Washington, LA, 6 miles to the north. A national historic district
- Grand Coteau, LA, 6 miles to the south. A national historic district

Your visit to this historic city, the place Jim Bowie called his home and the seat of Imperial St. Landry Parish, will be a unique experience ... “the south of the South” ... a place you will always remember. For information, contact the Opelousas Tourism and Activities Committee, P.O. Box 712, Opelousas, LA 70571, (318) 948-4731, or the Opelousas-St. Landry Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 109, Opelousas, LA 70571, (318) 942-2683.

* Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Story by Carola Ann Andrepont