Central Louisiana Visitors Guide

Alexandria, LA

You can see Louisiana from here!

Alexandria Pineville Area
Convention and Visitors Bureau

www.louisianafromhere.com
1.800.551.9546
Welcome to Central Louisiana!

Alexandria and Pineville sit on opposite banks of the Red River in central Louisiana. This river brought people of many cultures to settle here. Its steady flow sustains us and ties us to our past. Our river is still a port of commerce, but also provides beauty and recreation. Whether you want to stroll through the Riverpark, fish the oxbows or ski down to the sandbars, it all happens on the Red. We also boast the state's only National forest – Kisatchie – filled with trails and streams as well as several scenic lakes, all providing a variety of outdoor activities in a setting only nature can provide.

Cultural and family activities abound here in the heart of Louisiana. Whether you enjoy theater, dance, museums, music, history, ballgames or the zoo – we've got it all. Central Louisiana has something for everyone – from rodeos to ballet – from gumbo to sushi – whatever your taste may be. You can spend the morning shopping our unique shops, have a lunch of great southern BBQ or French cuisine, spend the afternoon enjoying the zoo or area plantations, stop in at a funky coffee shop, browse for antiques and enjoy a fine dinner filled with flavors from our diverse blend of cultures. Then lay your head to rest in a place where presidents have slept or a bed and breakfast overlooking a cotton field – the possibilities are endless.

Central Louisiana has plenty to offer, but our true treasures are our people – proud of our heritage, in love with the beauty of our land, loyal to home and family, friendly and full of southern hospitality - ready and willing to help you enjoy your stay here in the heart of Louisiana.

Population
Rapides Parish - 127,000

Crops produced:
- Soybeans
- Cotton
- Corn
- Sugarcane

Climate: Sub-tropical
Average Annual Temp - 65°
Winter - upper 40s
Spring - low 60s
Summer - low 80s
Fall - low 60s

Major industry:
- Military
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Education

SPECIAL THANKS TO
- Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu & the LA Office of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
- Arts Council of Central Louisiana
  Randy Bernhard, Executive Director and Chairman of the Central Louisiana Marketing Committee
- The Central Louisiana Marketing Committee
- The Cities of Alexandria and Pineville
- KJA Communications Group, Inc.
- Jigsaw Advertising
- Everyone who purchased space and worked to make this project successful!
It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Alexandria.

I am sure you will find this guide to be very useful in exploring what Alexandria has to offer. I hope you will take some time to see the many sites and sounds of Alexandria.

President John F. Kennedy once said, "Things just don't happen, they are made to happen." This statement accurately describes what has taken place in our city.

Helping to solidify our position as a regional trade center, I-49 now runs through downtown, the Port of Alexandria has expanded and the England Industrial Airpark has and will continue to attract national acclaim as a model of base reuse. And, our beautiful Riverfront Convention Center houses one of the largest contiguous exhibit spaces in the state.

The essence of Alexandria is found in the people who live here and make it a truly exciting and enjoyable place to visit. I am sure that the welcome you receive will demonstrate how privileged we are to have you as our guests. Coupled with our unique location in the heart of Louisiana, Alexandria is an experience not to be missed.

On behalf of the citizens whom I am privileged to represent, again I welcome you to the "Crossroads" of Louisiana.

Edward G. Randolph, Jr.
Mayor, City of Alexandria

Welcome Visitors and Conventioneers to the City of Pineville.

Our city is a family-friendly community located in the heart of Louisiana. It's the kind of place in which you'd like to raise your children. It's also a city that is experiencing tremendous growth resulting from teamwork, persistence and commitment.

Pineville's unique character is rooted in its history. Downtown Pineville still boasts much of its heritage with buildings built before the turn of the century, cemeteries that date back to the 1700s, and the only museum in the state that focuses on city government. At the same time, newer contemporary developments show our city's pride in our future. Our new KCS underpass and Office of Motor Vehicles on Main Street are examples of that pride, and has added to our commitment to downtown revitalization. We are also proud to be the home to Louisiana College, consistently ranked by US News and World Report as one of "America's Best Colleges."

I invite you to browse through our web site www.pineville.net. You'll find a city "Open for Business," committed to economic development, committed to partnerships, and most importantly... a city strongly committed to the future.

Thank you for visiting the City of Pineville.

Clarence R. Fields
Mayor, City of Pineville
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Working
for you

Downtown Rocks outdoor concert series, ArtWalk art and music festival, water sports on the Red River, a round of golf on a beautiful 18-hole course, and family fun in our neighborhood mini-parks are just some of the ways we are... Working for You.

CITY OF PINEVILLE

“Open for Business,” committed to economic development, committed to partnerships, and most importantly... a city strongly committed to the future.

Louisiana College dates to 1906. Students pursue Bachelors of Arts, Music, Science and General Studies degrees through 45 areas of study. Several pre-professional programs are also offered.

Kees Park is a newly restored park and playground which includes several play areas on padded surfaces and the most up to date equipment. A wonderful place to bring your family for a picnic or to just play for a few hours.

Buhlow Lake is known across the country as one of the fastest lakes in the world. It is a great location for fishing and boating. Join the City of Pineville on July 3rd for "Fireworks Over Buhlow".

Pineville Old Town Hall Museum is the ONLY museum in the state of Louisiana dedicated to city government, and is open for tours.

For more information about these and other area attractions, contact City Hall @ 449-5650.
Dear Visitor:

Louisiana is a land of infinite variety, and great experiences. Nowhere is this more evident than in central Louisiana. Here you will find hills and bayous, prairies and the rich Red River Delta, each with its own history and traditions.

More so than any other destination in the state, this area is a meeting point – the uncontested center of the State – Alexandria/Pineville/Rapides Parish.

In central Louisiana, guests and residents enjoy a treasured, peaceful lifestyle. Here we celebrate our diversity through food, fun, family and festivals. We love to open our doors to a place where the world stops when you sit down with old friends and where southern hospitality is the rule, not the exception.

Visitors can enjoy fine restaurants, quality accommodations, art, theater, music, historic homes, family attractions, and recreation areas beyond comparison. A place where you can find the church of your choice to visit and know that you will be warmly welcomed. We invite you to explore all that Rapides Parish in Central Louisiana has to offer.

Thank you for visiting central Louisiana, where you can see all that Louisiana has to offer from here!

Ezra Reed
President, Rapides Parish Police Jury


Alexandria International Airport is proud to announce the arrivals (and departures) of regional jets. Go wherever you want and get there in a quieter, smoother, faster plane! Plus, we combine this jet service with our competitive prices, 28 major airline flights daily and convenient location.

AEX...start your trip here.
In Alexandria/Pineville you can truly see Louisiana from here. In only about two hours you can reach nearly all major metropolitan areas of the state. Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, Shreveport, Natchez, Mississippi are easily within two hours and in only another hour you can reach New Orleans.

### Louisiana Cities with Driving Distances

<table>
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<th>City</th>
<th>Alexandria</th>
<th>Baton Rouge</th>
<th>Hammond</th>
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A long and rich history awaits your discovery in Central Louisiana.

Beginning in 1723, the French established the Post Du Rapides high on a bluff in Pineville to guard the portage around two falls, which gave their name to the small settlement. Native Americans, trappers, soldiers, and daring merchants passed through this wilderness trading with the Spanish to the west. Those Spanish acquired Louisiana in 1763 and for the next forty years managed a growing number of colonists in the Red River Valley.

Following the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Americans poured into the region and just two years later, Alexander Fulton laid out the city of Alexandria. Fertile soils encouraged cotton and sugar cane agriculture, which made this area a hub in the state's commercial transactions before the Civil War. A large Union army and navy came up the river in 1864 making this area a key part of the Red River Campaign. Following the war, the area recovered slowly with more railroads and the lumber industry being added to the agricultural economy. By the time of World War I, Alexandria-Pineville had become a crossroads of commerce again and a significant meeting place between North and South Louisiana.

Only a year before America entered into World War II, the U.S. Army selected Central Louisiana for its largest military maneuvers ever. Several hundred thousand troops and a command staff that included future heroes of the war, Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, and Marshall practiced the strategy and tactics that would lead to victory. The training camps, airfields, roads, and other transformations grew during the war and continued to have a profound influence for decades afterwards. The Alexandria-Pineville area contains numerous historic sites, museums, special programs, and residents who are ready to share their fascinating history. Take time to learn more about the growth and development of this region.
2004 Events

February
“Taste of Mardi Gras”
318-793-4570
Children’s Mardi Gras Parade
318-427-1754
Alexandria Mardi Gras Parade
318-448-7021

March
Czech Festival
318-443-5023
Brown Bag Outdoor Concerts
318-445-5225
Nursery Festival (Forest Hill, La. - 3rd Weekend)
318-748-6803
Southern Forest Heritage Museum Machine Shop Day
(Long Leaf, La. - 3rd Weekend)
318-748-8404

April
Riverfest Heritage & Arts on the Red (family oriented
festival centered on music, dance, cuisine and fine arts)
318-443-4718
Dogwood Festival
318-442-9546
Spring Downtown Rocks Concerts
318-445-5225
Zoobilation (outdoor concert & dinner at Zoo)
318-473-1143 ext 10
Jazz on the Red (outdoor jazz concert, Alexandria, La.)
318-445-5225
Spring Brown Bag Outdoor Concerts
318-445-5225

May
Spring Downtown Rock Concert Series
318-445-5225
Cochon de Lait Festival (Mansura, La.)
1-800-833-4195
Tunica-Biloxi Indian Pow Wow (Marksville, La.)
1-800-833-4195

June
LA Corn Festival
(Bunkie, La.)
1-800-833-4195
Melrose Arts & Crafts Festival (Natchitoches, La.)
1-800-259-1714
Loggers & Forestry Festival (Zwolle, La.)
1-800-358-7802

July
Natchitoches/ NSU Folk Festival
1-800-259-1714

Cont’d.

September
Alexandria Zoo: Louisana Weekend
318-473-1143
Cotile Trade Days (Cotile Lake)
318-442-9546
Fall Brown Bag Outdoor Concert
318-445-5225

October
Amicus Club Rodeo
318-442-9581
A Very Merry Market (Jr. League of Alex. Holiday Market)
318-443-6975
Fall Downtown Rocks Concert
318-445-5225
West LA Forestry Festival (Leesville, La.)
1-800-349-6287
Rapides Parish Fair
318-442-9581
Tamale Fiesta (Zwolle, La.)
1-800-358-7802
Zoo Boo (Halloween trails – Alexandria Zoo)
318-473-1143
The Pie Festival (Lea’s of Lecompte, La.)
318-776-5178
Southern Forest Heritage Museum Machine Shop Day
3rd Weekend
318-748-8404

November/ December
LA Pecan Festival (Colfax, La.)
318-442-9546 (November)
Sugar Day Festival (Kent House)
318-487-5998 (November)
Heart of Louisiana Trail of Lights (Christmas Light Trail)
318-442-9546
Holiday Magic (City of Alexandria Christmas event)
318-445-5225
Festival of Lights (Natchitoches, La.)
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July
Natchitoches/ NSU Folk Festival
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Cont'd.

Uncle Sam Jam Weekend (4th of July Celebration)
318-442-9546
Amicus Club Rodeo
318-442-9581

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Founded in 1926, the Alexandria Zoological Park boasts approximately 200,000 visitors annually.

A variety of special events and educational programs are held throughout the year offering musical entertainment, featured guests, and fun, educational activities for all ages.

Over 500 amazing animals native to Africa, Asia, Australia, South America and North America are exhibited in environments resembling their natural habitats.

Opened in September 2003, the naturalistic African Lion exhibit features an African hut replica and a safari jeep photo opp. See the impressive rock formations and 17' waterfall as you view these large cats up close in several locations.

You can see Louisiana from HERE! The award-winning Louisiana Habitat Exhibit highlights Louisiana's wildlife, architecture, industry and culture. Otters, alligators, snapping turtles and fish can be viewed swimming underwater!

Whether riding the miniature train, feeding hundreds of koi fish, or getting nose-to-nose with the river otters, a world of wonder and adventure awaits you at the Alexandria Zoo. It's a jungle in there!

Admission: $3 Adults, $2 Children 4-12 yrs., $1.50 Senior Citizens 65 and older & handicapped persons. Train: $1.50 per person. Group rates are available. Please call.

ZOO HOURS: 9 am - 5 pm daily (Closed only Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day)
GIFT SHOP open daily from 9 am - 5 pm; The Palm Cafe open daily

The Alexandria Zoo is owned and operated by the City of Alexandria, Louisiana. The Alexandria Zoo has been an accredited member of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association since 1986.
ARTS COUNCIL OF CENTRAL LOUISIANA
1101 FOURTH ST., SUITE 201, ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 318 443-4718
www.louisiana-arts.org

Welcome to Central Louisiana and to all the arts activities we have to offer. From live performances to visual arts and crafts, you can fill your stay here with many cultural opportunities, including our own Performing Arts Series which features professional touring artists.

Our symphony, ballet and community theatre groups, as well as many individual performers and artists create and perform year-round. And be sure to visit the River Oaks Square Arts Center to see and talk with resident artists and craftsmen at work in their studios. Also, the grand opening of Alexandria’s 600-seat Coughlin-Saunders Performing Arts Center will take place in August 2004. For info, call 318 443-4718

FROGMORE COTTON PLANTATION & GINS
11054 HWY 84, FROGMORE, LA 71334 318 757-2453 OR 318 757-3333 BUS. OF frogmore@bayou.com www.frogmoreplantation.com

COTTON, THEN & NOW at the historical and ultra-modern 1800-acre working cotton plantation.

Comprehensive guided tour of plantation system and slave culture. Eighteen antebellum buildings, 1884 steam gin, slave row and new computerized gin. French, German. Located 20 minutes west of Natchez MS. Golfcart for handicapped. Disc/MC/V.

Call for tour dates & times.

LOUISIANA MANEUVERS & MILITARY MUSEUM
CAMP BEAUREGARD, PINEVILLE, LA 71301 318 641-5733 FAX 318 641-5851

Housed in a replica of WWII barracks at Camp Beauregard, the Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum gives tribute to the soldiers and civilians of the Louisiana Maneuvers. Exhibits feature Maneuvers’ era arms, uniforms and equipment, as well as an extensive collection of artifacts from Colonial Louisiana through Desert Storm.

Please call Museum for hours of operation.

RIVER OAKS SQUARE
1330 MAIN ST., ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 318 473-2670 OR 318 487-8002 www.riveroaksartscenter.com

River Oaks Square Arts Center is a contemporary visual arts and fine crafts center with over 30 individual studios, two galleries and a gift shop. River Oaks is comprised of two facilities — our 15,000 square-foot Studio Annex Building and our historic Bolton Home.

River Oaks Square is available for rent for private parties, meetings or special events.

SOUTHERN FOREST HERITAGE MUSEUM
77 LONG LEAF RD., P.O. BOX 101, LONG LEAF, LA 71448 318 748-8404 www.forestheritagemuseum.org

22 miles south of Alexandria, between Forest Hill and Glenmora off Hwy. 497.

Early 20th Century sawmill complex and town on 57 acres. Guided walking tours of several buildings, steam logging and railroad equipment, and operating machine shop. Long Leaf, Louisiana originated in 1892 and was once home to over 1000 people. Exhibits, theater, and gift shop are in the commissary. Available by reservation are a rail motorcar ride and covered picnic tables. Open daily, 9 am to 4 pm; final tour at 3:30 pm. Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Admission charged.

DELTA MUSIC MUSEUM
218 LOUISIANA AVE., FERRIDAY, LA 71334 318 757-9999 www.sec.state.la.us/delta

Enjoy the stories of the three famous cousins JERRY LEE LEWIS, MICKEY GILLEY, and JIMMY SWAGGART regarding their "growing up" years in Ferriday. View the lifestyle of the Mississippi River Delta region musical legends CONWAY TWITTY, PEE WEE WHITTAKER, AARON NEVILLE and others. Div. of the LA. Sec. of State Office.

Hours: Monday - Saturday, 9 am - 4 pm

FAMILY PLAYHOUSE
1101 FOURTH ST., STE. 201, ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 318 442-6500 FAX 318 484-4499 www.familyplayhouseorg

Looking for great family entertainment? Family Playhouse raises the curtain on creativity and fun. Year-round productions of musicals and plays feature the talents of the brightest stars in our area.

Admission Fees:
Students & Senior $5; Adults $10. Group Rates Available

TREE HOUSE CHILDREN’S MUSEUM
1403 THIRD ST., ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 318 619-9394 FAX 318 619-9395 www.kidstreemuseum.org

Enter a world of discovery, imagination and fun! Children and adults alike explore the world around them through hands-on interactive exhibits.

Hours: Tues. - Fri., 9 am - 2 pm; Sat., 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: $3, under 2 years free; Group rates available.

CITY PARK PLAYERS
2 SYLVESTER ST., ALEXANDRIA, LA 71301 318 442-1800 FAX 318 484-4499 www.cityparkplayers.org


See also:
Loyd Hall Plantation and Bed & Breakfast, page 37
Hodges Gardens, page 46
The CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Emergency Department serves Central Louisiana by delivering prompt, safe, high-quality healthcare. The Cabrini E.R. provides care to the ill and injured of all ages. The main Emergency Department serves to care for the more emergent/urgent patients. Specialists are on-call to facilitate services for patients needing more intense, specialized care.

**Experience Excellence**

The CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Emergency Department serves Central Louisiana by delivering prompt, safe, high-quality healthcare. The Cabrini E.R. provides care to the ill and injured of all ages. The main Emergency Department serves to care for the more emergent/urgent patients. Specialists are on-call to facilitate services for patients needing more intense, specialized care.

**Take time for yourself... indulge at one of the area's spas**

**Beverly Hills One**
1312 Peterman Drive
Alexandria, LA.
318 442-8267

**Body, Soul & Spirit Spa**
3805 Halsey Street
Alexandria, LA
318 449-1266

**Laura's Day Spa & Gifts**
5528 Jackson Street
Alexandria, LA
318 442-3855

**The Nest Spa Retreat & Wellness Center**
8645 Hwy 165 South
Alexandria, LA
318 443-3322

**Personal Best Spa**
1707 Metro Drive
Alexandria, LA.
318 442-1951
Alexandria Mall -
Masonic Drive at the South Traffic Circle
Dillard's, Mervyn's, SteinMart, Gap, The Limited,
Express, JCPenney, American Eagle Outfitters,
Motherhood Maternity, Victoria's Secret, and much more!

(Adjacent to Alexandria Mall)-
MacArthur Drive
Old Navy, Michael's, Bath & Body Works, Marshall's,
PetSmart, AA Western Store, I-HOP, and minutes from

Union Station- wide variety of unique local shops
Metro Drive
Roly Poly Sandwiches, Sugarless Shack, Bella Grace,
Personal Best Spa, My Masterpiece, and near El Chico
and Chuck E Cheese's.

Specialty Shops -
Ala Mode Bistro & Boutique
4104 Jackson St., Alexandria
Bella Grace
1707 Metro Drive, Alexandria
e tc ... By Downs
2800 Jackson St., Alexandria
Florita's
2371 MacArthur Drive, Alexandria
Gabriella's Shoe Salon
1339 Peterman Drive, Alexandria
Little Cajun Shop
740-A MacArthur Drive, Alexandria
Miss Lily's Antiques
1900 Rapides Ave., Alexandria
My Favorite Things
4118 Jackson Street, Alexandria
Pour Vous
1303 Southampton Dr., Alexandria
Rick Ferguson Flowers & Gifts
1241 Texas Ave., Alexandria
Rive Gauche
3208 Jackson St., Alexandria
Roger Johns
3216 Jackson St., Alexandria
Sandra's Hill-Harris Gifts
1504 Metro Drive, Alexandria
Stems Floral Design & Gifts
200 DeSoto St., Alexandria
Terra Home
1355 Peterman Drive, Alexandria
Wags Rags
1343 Peterman Drive, Alexandria
Located on the Red River in Pineville, the Fort Randolph / Fort Buhlow State Historic Site is a joint cooperative effort of the Red River Waterway Commission, Department of Health and Hospitals, and Office of State Parks. Once complete, the site will serve as a regional hub for the historical interpretation of the Red River Campaign, Bailey's Dam, the burning of Alexandria, and the construction of Forts Randolph and Buhlow.

Visitors will be able to learn about Bailey's Dam, a marvel of engineering that saved the Union Fleet from certain destruction during their retreat down the Red River. The dam is no longer visible due to the elevated level of the Red River, but an overlook of the river will mark the location of the dam.

Visitors will also be able to tour the earthwork forts built by the Confederate Forces. Construction began on both forts in September of 1864 as a response to the Union Fleet's Red River Campaign, and as a defense against the potential subsequent activities of the Union forces on the Red River. Both forts were completed in the early months of 1865, and were adequately armed with heavy cannons and field artillery, and manned by over 800 men. However, the war in Louisiana came to an end without a shot being fired from either of the forts.

Scheduled to open Summer 2005, this facility will serve as a Central Louisiana destination for Civil War enthusiasts interested in exploring a currently unknown part of arguably the most important event in American History.

The Red River Waterway features an abundance of recreational opportunities for families and individuals young and old. You'll find a host of exciting recreation sites offering areas for camping, hiking, biking, picnicking, boating, fishing and virtually every outdoor recreational activity possible.

Expansive sites feature picnic tables, cooking grills, scenic overlooks, playgrounds, hiking and nature trails plus overnight facilities, boat ramps and docks.

Recreation areas have been carefully designed and constructed to provide you with the finest opportunities for family fun available anywhere. Most sites are handicap accessible and are strategically located to allow you a choice of facilities regardless of your location.
Located in the heart of Louisiana, Paragon Casino Resort is a land-based casino resort where guests have the opportunity to enjoy the excitement of non-stop gaming, the convenience of holding meetings in the Mári Center and ample accommodations all in one location.

As one of Louisiana's largest land-based casinos, Paragon Casino Resort offers Vegas-style action with over 2,300 slot machines and a variety of table games. Guests are encouraged to join the Paragon Preferred Players Club which allows members to earn valuable rewards.

The Mári Center is a 30,000 square-foot, multi-purpose facility capable of accommodating large or small groups. The experienced staff is ready to assist in the planning of a wide variety of events from training seminars and lectures to banquets and conventions.

Paragon Casino Resort Hotel conveniently adjoins the casino while Paragon RV Resort is within walking distance with shuttle service provided. Furnished cabins and chalets are also available for added privacy. RV Resort amenities include an outdoor swimming pool, children's play area and laundry facilities.

Several diverse restaurants, each with its own unique atmosphere, offer a variety of scrumptious main course dishes to satisfy every taste.

Located a few steps away from the casino is Tamahka Trails Golf Club. This world-class golf club offers a full-service club house with a pro shop, grill and lounge. Practice facilities, driving range and golf lessons are available.

Paragon Casino Resort offers a child care facility fully supervised by child care professionals. For teens, the Arcade features a large selection of state-of-the-art video games that will keep them entertained for hours.

For more information on the casino, accommodations, meeting facilities or golf club call 1-800-WIN-1-WIN.
Alexandria Levee Park
Located on the river in downtown City of Alexandria.

Buhlow Lake
Boating and fishing are two popular activities. North of Alexandria on Hwy. 165 (City of Pineville).

Cotile Recreation Area
Features fishing, water skiing, boating and swimming; approximately 2,000 acres of water and camping areas. 100 spaces with hookups for campers and tents. Facilities include toilets and picnic tables. Boyce, 14 miles north of Alexandria. 318-793-8995

Dogwood Auto Tour
A 10-mile tour through pine forest areas rich with white flowering dogwoods blossoming in the spring. Also includes hiking trail and picnic areas. LA Hwy. 8 at Pollock.

Indian Creek Recreation Area
A 90-acre area featuring trailer sites, water, electricity, bath houses and picnic areas. Woodworth, 10 miles south of Alexandria off Hwy. 165. 318-487-5058

Kincaid Recreation Area
Features campsites, boat ramps, dock, toilet and shower facilities. Swimming, boating, skiing and fishing are also available. Off Hwy. 28 West of Alexandria. 318-793-9427

Kisatchie National Forest
This 600,000-acre national forest includes the Kincaid Lake Recreation Area, Valentine Lake Recreation Area, and the Wild Azalea Trail. 2200 Shreveport Hwy., Pineville. 318-473-7160

Rodemacher Lake
Enjoy some of the state's best fishing. Near Boyce off I-49.

Saline-Larto Complex
Spread over four parishes, this recreation area is good for fishing, boating, and family fun. Deville. 318-466-5776

Valentine Lake Recreation Area
A 227-acre area with 34 camping units, swimming, fishing, boating and paddle boats. Off Hwy. 28 W., west of Alexandria in Gardner. 318-793-9427

Best Western Motel
6 Electrical hook-ups. 2720 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria. 318-445-5530 *No Dump Facilities

Country Living Campgrounds
18 Campsites, electricity, water, dumpsite, store, & gift shop. Hwy. 28 East in Pineville. 318-442-9801

Fish'n Heav'n RV Park
31 sites, 40 ft. site width, laundry, public phone, ice, patios, fire rings, wood. Boating, electric motors only, 5 row boat rentals, pond fishing. 318-445-6981

Rapides Parish Coliseum
40 Campsites, electrical hook-ups, dump station. Hwy. 28 West. 318-442-9581

Red Oak Campground
10 hook-ups. From Alexandria, 18 miles north on Hwy. 165. 318-765-3493

Stuart Lake Recreation Area
Camping/ 7 units, swimming, fishing, drinking water, sanitary facilities, interpretive hiking trail and open air amphitheater. From Alexandria, 14 miles north on Hwy. 165, right on Hwy. 8. 318-765-3554 *Tents Only
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Diamond Grill is situated in historic
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The original structure was built in
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C. A. Schnack's Jewelry Store
which began business in 1865
moved into this beautiful example
of Art Nouveau / Art Deco Architecture where it would
remain for the next 66 years. After the empty building was
purchased by attorney Mike Small and developer Buddy
Tudor, grandson of the structure's original builder, a deci-
sion was made to return this building to service in the form
of a mid to high-end casual dining establishment which
could be enjoyed by both the community as well as visitors
to Central Louisiana.

Diamond Grill will open in the summer of 2004 in downtown
Alexandria. Please join us for our unique take on
New Creole Cuisine and superb service in a visually rich
historical setting. The building features twenty-two foot
ceilings, original chandeliers, ornate plaster, dramatic stair-
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Also included is ample banquet and meeting space. Our
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Diamond Grill provides a special
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a boutique hotel,
and OakWing Golf Course, part of
the Audubon Trail.

2 minutes from the Airport - 7 minutes from MacArthur Dr.-
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Dinner served. Tuesday-Saturday 5:30pm-10:00pm.
Brunch served Sunday 11:00am-2:30pm
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For Online Reservations visit www.OpenTable.com
Our restaurant is located on beautiful Kincaid Lake. We invite you to “feel welcome” and enjoy the rustic atmosphere and the beautiful view of Kincaid Lake. As you glance at your menu, make a selection from the list of traditional Louisiana foods prepared our own special way, including steaks, seafood, catfish, crawfish, oysters, alligator, gumbo, Heart Healthy menu choices, and more. For a complete menu, log on to our website: www.tunkscypressinn.com

Visit our Oyster Bar where you can enjoy oysters on the half shell or a complete meal from the restaurant, while sitting on the water. The Oyster Bar offers live music nightly, so you and your friends can dance the night away.

Come in and enjoy the “restaurant with a view” open 6 nights a week for dinner.
The Audubon Golf Trail was named for naturalist/artist John James Audubon who, enchanted by the natural beauty of Louisiana, painted a number of his famous bird studies here. Coincidentally, all the courses on the trail are members of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary for Golf Courses, a program dedicated to protecting the environment and preserving the natural heritage of the game of golf.

Central Louisiana is home to three Audubon Golf Trail courses: OakWing Golf Club in Alexandria, Tamahka Trails in Marksville, and Cypress Bend in Many. Not only do these courses offer a challenging 18 holes but also a beautiful natural environment for play. OakWing is Louisiana's newest addition to the Audubon Golf Trail.

Today, Louisiana boasts a trail as unique as the state itself. The Audubon Golf Trail gives new meaning to our nickname, “Sportsman's Paradise.”
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NEW ORLEANS TIMES PICAYUNE

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Parc England Boutique Hotel, just minutes from the airport with the fabulous Bistro on the Bayou next door.”
LARRY RICHARDS,
DEAN OF ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE & DESIGN UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Adjacent to OakWing Golf Course, a member of the Audubon Golf Trail, our impressive facility accommodates meetings for parties from 4 - 400. Located between Hwy. 28 and I-49 in England Industrial Air Park and in the proximity of Alexandria International Airport/ General Aviation makes Parc England very accessible — no matter where you are.

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The Holiday Inn is located in the heart of downtown Alexandria. It is adjacent to the Riverfront Center and one block from the Alexandria Museum of Art. We are located at exit 85 from I-49. We are a full service hotel with 173 guestrooms, restaurant, and lounge. We also have 13,000 square feet of meeting space.

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Tyrone Plantation was built in 1843 as the big house for a 3200-acre cotton plantation by George Mason Graham, known as "the father of Louisiana State University." All plans for the organization and operation of the University were devised by Graham here. William Tecumseh Sherman, hired as the first Superintendent for the school, was a guest many times at Tyrone, before he left to serve the Union in the Civil War. This historic property offers a unique and beautiful setting for four bed and breakfast rooms, large weddings and receptions, as well as small group seminars and luncheons. Located 7 miles NW of Alexandria and convenient to all area attractions and restaurants, Tyrone is just minutes from I-49. Exits 94 and 90 and the Alexandria International Airport.

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10) You Can See Louisiana From Here!

CONTACT THE ALEXANDRIA/PINEVILLE AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU TO HELP PLAN YOUR NEXT MEETING.
Nestled on the banks of the Red River in downtown Alexandria, the Riverfront Center contains more than 93,000 square feet. The facility is designed to serve large conventions, events and trade shows. There is ample parking in the 500 space parking garage and several surface lots that surround downtown. The Riverfront Center is connected by enclosed climate controlled walkways to two hotels with more than 350 rooms. The 40,860 square feet of exhibit space includes the 5,000 square feet Pre-Function Area, and may be divided into as many as four sections. The outdoor exhibit area is 12,150 square feet. Visit our website and take a virtual tour of our facility. The perfect place for your next event ... Call us soon!

A recent tax survey conducted by Bloomberg Personal Finance magazine, May 2002, stated, "Louisiana is high in rankings again. This time we have received an “A” in wealth-friendliness for retirees. This annual tax survey ranks Louisiana 4th in allowing our retirees to maintain their wealth intact. It also ranks Louisiana 9th in the same survey based on family income. As we strive to make Louisiana an ideal place for retirement, central Louisiana is improving community by community and we are also making it a great place to live, work, visit, do business and retire.

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Coldwell Banker White Real Estate Relocation Agents, referred to as “The A Team”, are members of the Cendant Mobility Broker Network. These agents are trained in the highest quality referral management system offered, which enables them to provide unparalleled relocation assistance. With 1,700 corporate clients throughout the world, Cendant Mobility assists in annual transfers of more than 100,000 employees.

“The A Team”

![Leona Swanson](image1)
![Prissy Reap](image2)
![Sherry Choate](image3)

![Martha Bradford](image4)
![Debbie Brown-Ranson](image5)
![Al Struck](image6)

![Kelly Ducote](image7)
![Winston Roberts](image8)
![Bobbie Stephenson](image9)

As a local real estate professional, Relocation Agents are ambassadors for our city and area, telling the transferees reasons why it's a great place to live. Providing concrete statistics on our area's demographics, cost of living, and educational system is very important to these buyers.

Coldwell Banker was ranked by J.D. Power and Associates as having the “Highest Overall Satisfaction for First Time Home Buyers and Sellers Among National Full Service Real Estate Firms.” No other national real estate firm can make these claims!

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The Winn Chamber of Commerce invites you to experience historic Winnfield, home to 3 of Louisiana's governors, as well as the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame. The Louisiana Forestry Museum and the Winn Parish Museum are also here. You can shop for antiques and collectibles in the downtown area, or visit the restored Louisiana & Arkansas Railroad Depot and Warehouse, circa 1908.

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Visit historic sites, the Museum of West Louisiana, stroll through the National Register Historic District on 3rd Street, and view the classical revival 1910 Vernon Parish Courthouse. Don't forget Vernon and Anacoco Lakes, Kisatchie National Forest, and our golf courses. All of this is Vernon Parish ... Call It Home.

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Discover the many faces of one of the most unique destinations in the entire country.

Natchitoches Historic Landmark District
Established by the French in 1714, Natchitoches is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase Territory. The enchanting 33-block downtown district features more than fifty historic homes and buildings, outstanding Louisiana dining, and great shopping. Guided streetcar tours and walking guide-maps are available.

The Cane River Plantation Tour
This 35-mile long river landscape is one of the most beautiful stretches of plantation country in the South. Established by Congress in 1994 as the Cane River National Heritage Area, it includes numerous historically significant plantations, outstanding examples of centuries-old Creole architecture, and the reflection of a time and culture unique in all the country.

Attractions of Special Interest
Enjoy the historic fort sites, the exciting Bayou Pierre Alligator Park, a year-round calendar of festivals and fairs – including the famous City of Lights festival at Christmas – and for nature lovers, the 600,000-acre Kisatchie National Forest. Overnight in our many fine hotels or one of over forty outstanding Bed & Breakfast Inns.

Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau
www.natchitoches.net

Spend the day along the Cane River
Natchitoches, Louisiana, is located 45 minutes north of Alexandria/Pineville just off of I-49. Natchitoches is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase Territory (1714). Unique food, diverse architecture, the 33-mile Cane River Lake meandering through the center of the city, a Historic Landmark District, plantation homes, and historic Fort St. Jean Baptiste give visitors a look at what used to be, and history alive today.

- Tour Fort St. Jean Baptiste
- Tour Bayou Pierre Alligator Park
- Lunch (contact CVB for suggestions)
- Tour Cane River National Heritage Area:
  - Magnolia Plantation
  - Melrose Plantation
  - Kate Chopin House
  - Oakland Plantation

Daily Tour Information Available
LOUISIANA AT ITS BEST...

• Travel east to Frogmore Plantation, an 1800-acre working cotton plantation. Hear the complete story of cotton - then and now. View cotton plantation and ginning techniques from the 1790s through today; rare antique steam gin; 1800s work ethic and slave culture; furnished slave cabins; overseer's dogtrot; barns; etc. Also, see a high tech cotton farming and computerized gin.

• Go south to Loyd Hall, an English plantation and Bed & Breakfast. Tour or stay overnight at this 640-acre working cotton and sugarcane plantation. Search for Civil War bullets, hear enchanting ghost stories and learn about the actual growing process that takes place each season. Relax amongst dancing ferns that surround the patio corridor.

• While in the area, visit the Southern Forest Heritage Museum, an early 20th Century sawmill and town complete with commissary, located on 57 acres. Guided walking tours view several buildings, pieces of steam logging and railroad equipment and an operating machine shop. A gift shop and theatre, showing old films on logging and forestry, are in the commissary.

• The next day should include the arts district overlooking the Red River. Be sure to browse the studios where you will find a variety of art, including sculpture, painting and pottery at River Oaks Arts Square and the wonderful collections at the Alexandria Museum of Art. Visit noted Harlem Renaissance author Arna Wendall Bontemps' boyhood home.

• Also, don't miss the opportunity to experience a bit of living history at Kent Plantation House. This French-Creole style plantation is Central Louisiana's oldest standing structure, complete with outdoor kitchen, slave cabins, blacksmith shop and sugar mill.

• Travel a bit further down Bayou Rapides to Tyrone Plantation, built in 1840 by George Graham. He was the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Louisiana Seminary of Learning (later Renamed LSU and moved from Central Louisiana to Baton Rouge.)

A STEP BACK IN TIME...

Washington, LA is one hour south on I-49 toward Lafayette, LA. Known as the third oldest settlement in Louisiana, this town has a strong sense of its rich history. Visit Washington for a taste of the past with the many antique shops, the Antique School Mall and Old School Cafe. Shop for rare antiques and unique gifts. Tour homes and cemeteries of the past. Then sit down to delicious Louisiana cuisine at the Steamboat Warehouse.

• Tour of Washington Museum
• Tour Voorhies Woodworks
• Shop Antique School Mall
• Lunch at Old School Cafe
• Tour of Historic Homes and B & B's
• Tour Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Old Church Landing Cemetery, Hebrew Rest Cemetery, and Cedar Hill Cemetery
• Dinner at Steamboat Warehouse Restaurant

For a map or more information contact the Washington Museum & Tourist Information center at (337)826-3627

DANCE THROUGH BLUEGRASS AND COTTON COUNTRY

Frogmore is 45 minutes east on Hwy. 28/84 toward Natchez, MS. Take a look at plantation and cotton gins of today and yesteryear at Frogmore Plantation and Cotton Gins. Both the historical and modern tour give visitors a glimpse of the cotton ginning process from start to finish. Then travel on to Ferriday for some great tunes at the Delta Music Museum. Hear the unmistakable sounds of Jerry Lee Lewis and other great Louisiana musicians!

• Tour Frogmore Plantation and Cotton Gins
• Tour Delta Music Museum
• Travel to Natchez, MS
• Lunch (contact welcome center for suggestions)
• Tour/Orientation at Natchez Welcome Center
• City Tour of Natchez
• Tour of Natchez Homes
• Afternoon Break (coffee and dessert)
• Shopping in downtown Natchez

For more information contact U.S. 84 State Welcome Center (318) 336-7008