DeSoto Parish

Gateway to Toledo Bend
DeSoto Parish, a diamond in the forest, is a perfect destination for Civil War buffs and sportsmen.

In the center of the parish lies the Mansfield Commemorative Area, site of the last major Confederate victory in the Civil War, where fewer than 9,000 Confederate soldiers defeated an army of 36,000 Union soldiers. Visitors to this state-owned commemorative area will find monuments, a museum and extensive library, all of which serve to illuminate this significant battle and its place in history.

History buffs will also want to see the “Dry Line Boundary” marker, located 100 feet off FM 31 in DeSoto Parish. It is the only granite survey post denoting the international boundary agreed upon in 1841 between the Republic of Texas and the United States. Visitors may also visit the grave of the only survivor of the Alamo at the old Ferguson Cemetery.

On the southwest edge of the parish, Toledo Bend Reservoir has achieved a national reputation for its excellent fishing. The mammoth, 196,000-acre lake is a sportsman’s delight with an abundance of black bass, striped bass, crappie and catfish.

And, in the eastern portion of the parish, Smithport Lake and Clear Lake, offer fine fishing as well as breathtaking scenery of waterfowl and moss-laden cypress trees in a lake teeming with fish. Visitors shouldn’t be surprised to even see an alligator on Smithport.

DeSoto is also known for its historic churches. Among them two circa 1850s churches at Keatchie, the Presbyterian and Baptist Churches, at Carmel, the quaint Rock Chapel built by 19th Century monks, All Saints Episcopal on the Allenale Plantation and Christ Memorial Episcopal Church in Mansfield.

And for festivals, DeSoto offers five of them: Mansfield’s Toledo Crossroads Festival and the Pioneer Days celebration; Logansport’s River City Fest and its Frontier Days; and Keatchie’s Heritage Days.

Step back in history. Visit DeSoto Parish, Louisiana’s diamond in the forest.
DIRECTORY

Meeting Facilities: Two motels with a total of 113 rooms, 2 meeting rooms, each with a capacity of 50 persons. Two auditoriums with a capacity of 250 and 700. Best Western Inn - Highway 84 West, Posado Toledo Motel - Washington Ave.

Recreation/Attractions: Toledo Bend Reservoir, Mansfield State Commerative Area and Museum; Battle of Pleasant Hill Park; site of Mansfield Female College, first college for women west of the Mississippi; site of Keatchie College; the Mansfield Cemetery; Grove Hill Cemetery.

Dinning: Six restaurants featuring homestyle meals, one serving Chinese/American.

Major Events: Toledo Crossroads Festival (Mansfield); River City Fest (Logansport); Heritage Days (Keatchie); Frontier Days (Logansport).

Transportation: U.S. 171 and 84, I-49. DeSoto Parish Airport has two runways capable of handling light jets. Continental Trailways bus service.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Logansport Frontier Days
Logansport, Louisiana, DeSoto Parish

Toledo Crossroads Arts & Crafts Festival
Mansfield, Louisiana, DeSoto Parish

River City Fest
Logansport, Louisiana, DeSoto Parish

Mansfield Pioneer Days
Mansfield, Louisiana, DeSoto Parish

Keatchie Heritage Day
Keatchie, Louisiana, DeSoto Parish

For further information contact:
DeSoto Parish Tourist Bureau
P.O. Box 1327
Mansfield, Louisiana 71052
(318) 872-1177

For more information on DeSoto Parish and its festivals, contact the DeSoto Parish Tourist Commission at (318) 872-1177.