Standing at the crossroads of yesterday and tomorrow, West Baton Rouge Parish is a study in contrast: the smallest Parish in Louisiana, it is also the gateway to Louisiana's Capital City and is the home of one of the nation's largest and busiest deep sea ports.

Residents and visitors here enjoy the best of both worlds: the peaceful, relaxed lifestyle of a small town and the attractions and conveniences of a booming metropolitan area.

The Parish has lived out its colorful past under four separate flags: the United States, the Confederacy, France and Spain, as well as a brief period of self-rule when the territory known as West Florida rebelled under Spanish rule in the early 1700's and became an independent country for seven months! Much of the historical flavor of West Baton Rouge is preserved today in its stately plantation homes, sugar mills and other points of interest. The West Baton Rouge Museum (located in the restored Old Courthouse) traces the customs, culture and history of the area, and boasts an original slave cabin once owned by Governor Henry Watkins Allen, the last Confederate governor of Louisiana. Port Allen, the Parish seat, was named after Governor Allen, and his statue (executed by famed Louisiana sculptor Angela Gregory) watches over the museum grounds.

The visitor to this area will find West Baton Rouge a comfortable and convenient place to stay. Many excellent accommodations offer comfortable family lodgings at surprisingly affordable prices: big city convenience without big city expense.
A sense of history and enduring values underlies West Baton Rouge's lifestyle. Local residents find the area ideal for rearing children and maintaining a relaxed, comfortable home life, without sacrificing the cultural and economic benefits of a forward-looking metropolitan area.

The Port of Baton Rouge is located here, and offers employment to thousands of workers. The fourth largest port in the nation, it handles over 76 million tons of goods and commodities annually, ranging from grain and foodstuffs to paper products, chemicals, manufactured goods, bulk ores and petroleum products, representing an economic value running to the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sightseers will find many exciting attractions. The West Baton Rouge Museum houses an abundance of exhibits and artifacts, including a large relief map of the Parish, an art gallery and a fully restored 1840's bedroom. The Museum also features special shows and traveling exhibits throughout the year. The Cinclaire Central Sugar Factory, in the heart of the sugarcane plantation country, is one of the South's oldest sugar mills — established in 1878 — and continues in daily operation.

And there is much more to delight the senses: the colorful Port Allen cemetery, the 1907 wood-frame St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, located in Brusly, and a magnificent River Overlook in Port Allen, where the Baton Rouge skyline towers gracefully above the mighty Mississippi river, flowing timelessly at your feet.

Capture the best of past and present, the best of large and small. Visit West Baton Rouge — Louisiana's BIG little Parish.