

ITINERARY | Natchitoches, LA

Experience the charm of the original French colony in Louisiana. Natchitoches (Nack-a-tish) was established in 1714, and retains its European flavor through its architecture, heritage and lifestyle. Chances are, the thing you'll love most, (aside from the famous meat pies) is the charming 33-block Landmark historic district - a shopper's paradise and a bed & breakfast lover's dream. The Natchitoches area offers numerous attractions, museums, Creole plantations, a National Park, and year around festivals including the Festival of Lights, Louisiana's premiere holiday destination.

EXPLORE | Los Adaes State Historic Site

Los Adaes, the symbol of New Spain in Louisiana, was once the capital of Texas and the scene of a unique cooperation among the French, the Spanish and the indigenous Native Americans. An area rich in archaeological finds, it thrives today as one of Louisiana's most intriguing state historic sites. Built to counter any further French intrusion into Spanish territory. 6354 Hwy. 485, Robeline | 318-352-8072 | <https://www.canerivernha.org/fort-st-jean-baptiste-los-adaes-state-historic-sites>

EXPLORE | Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site

Experience the French Colonial life as you are guided through the fort by costumed interpreters. The full sized replica of Fort St. Jean Baptiste, is located on Cane River Lake (formerly the Red River), a few hundred yards from the original fort site, set up by Louis Antoine Juchereau de St. Denis in 1714. Nearly 2,000 treated pine logs form the palisade and approximately 250,000 board feet of treated lumber went into the construction of the buildings.

155 Rue Jefferson, Natchitoches | 318-357-3101 | <https://www.canerivernha.org/fort-st-jean-baptiste-los-adaes-state-historic-sites>



LUNCH/DINNER | Historic District Dining

All historic district restaurants locally owned and operated serving authentic Creole, Cajun and Southern dishes. All restaurants in Louisiana are smoke free. Call for group reservations.



EXPLORE | Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum

Discover the dazzling state museum complex in historic downtown Natchitoches. The Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame's collections celebrate more than 300 sports achievements through exhibits and interactive media. The Northwest Louisiana History Museum journeys through unique cultural traditions from early native-American civilizations to the present. Named *Top Global Architecture* Project in 2014, the building evokes the region's natural resources.



SHOPPING | National Historic Landmark District

At the heart of Natchitoches is the enchanting historic hub showcasing over 300 years of Louisiana French colonial history. The downtown district serves as a shopping and dining paradise. You can find everything you're looking for including antiques, home décor, books, local art, kitchenware, clothing, souvenirs, tasty treats and much more! Each shop has its own special Southern Charm.



EXPLORE | Grand Ecore Visitor Center

Discover exhibits educating and informing the public about the Water and the Corps of Engineers' role in development,

preservation, and enhancement of the water resources in the region, as well as the geology, paleontology, and Native American cultures of the region. Also known for the role it played during the Civil War as a Confederate outpost guarding the Red River from Union advancement.

106 Tauzin Island Road, Natchitoches, | 318-354-8770 | <https://www.canerivernha.org/grand-ecore-visitor-center>

EXPLORE | Cane River Heritage Trail

A Louisiana Scenic Byway

www.canerivernha.org; #ExploreCaneRiver; facebook (@CaneRiverNHA); Instagram (caneriver_nha)

Once a primary channel of the Red River, the Cane River is now an oxbow lake bordered by corn and soybean farms, thick stands of sugar cane and pecan orchards. The Cane River National Heritage Trail begins in charming Natchitoches, which many recall as the setting for the film "Steel Magnolias." Tracking the river the trail winds through rich farmland and pretty towns. It ends at Cloutierville, once the home of writer Kate Chopin. Along the way, views include plantation homes, distinctive Creole architecture and historic landmarks, along with graceful Southern magnolias, crepe myrtles, chinaberry trees and live oaks that flourish on the river's red-soil banks. Here's a sample of what you'll find:

Melrose Plantation

Built by the family of Marie Therese Coincoin, who was born to slaves and eventually attained her freedom. The plantation became an agricultural powerhouse as it passed through several owners. Clementine Hunter, a cook who worked for Melrose's owners in the 1940s, became known for her primitive paintings reflecting life in rural Louisiana. At the time of her death in 1988, Hunter's paintings hung in museums around the country.

3499 Hwy. 119, Melrose | 318-379-0055 | www.melroseplantation.org



Cane River Creole National Historical Park: Oakland Plantation

The park encompasses Oakland Plantation and portions of Magnolia Plantation, and displays buildings, equipment and personal items that reveal much about the lives of early planters and the slaves who worked the land. The park displays more than the traditional "big houses" associated with plantations; slave cabins, corn cribs and overseers' documents paint a fuller picture of the plantation economy. *Free Admission

4386 Hwy. 494, Natchez (LA) | 318-352-0383, ext. 316 | www.nps.gov/cari/index.htm



St. Augustine Catholic Church

A historic Roman Catholic Church and cemetery and is the cultural center of Cane River's historic Créole community. Established as a mission church in 1829, by the freed slave Nicolas Augustin Metoyer, St. Augustine is celebrated as the first church built by and for free people of color in Louisiana. The church and cemetery are on the National Register of Historic Places. Because of its significance to Catholic and Créole history, St. Augustine also is listed on the Louisiana African American Heritage Trail.

2250 Hwy. 484, Natchez | 318-379-2389



Cane River Creole National Historical Park: Magnolia Plantation

The park encompasses Oakland Plantation and portions of Magnolia Plantation, and displays buildings, equipment and personal items that reveal much about the lives of early planters and the slaves who worked the land. The park displays more than the traditional "big houses" associated with plantations; slave cabins, corn cribs and overseers' documents paint a fuller picture of the plantation economy. *Free Admission

*Detour required. Leave St. Augustine to Hwy. 1 South then turn on Hwy. 119 North
5549 Hwy. 119, Derry (LA) | 318-352-0383, ext. 316





Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
780 Front Street, Suite 100
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457
318-352-8072 | 800-259-1714