

# 19

## LOUISIANA BYWAYS

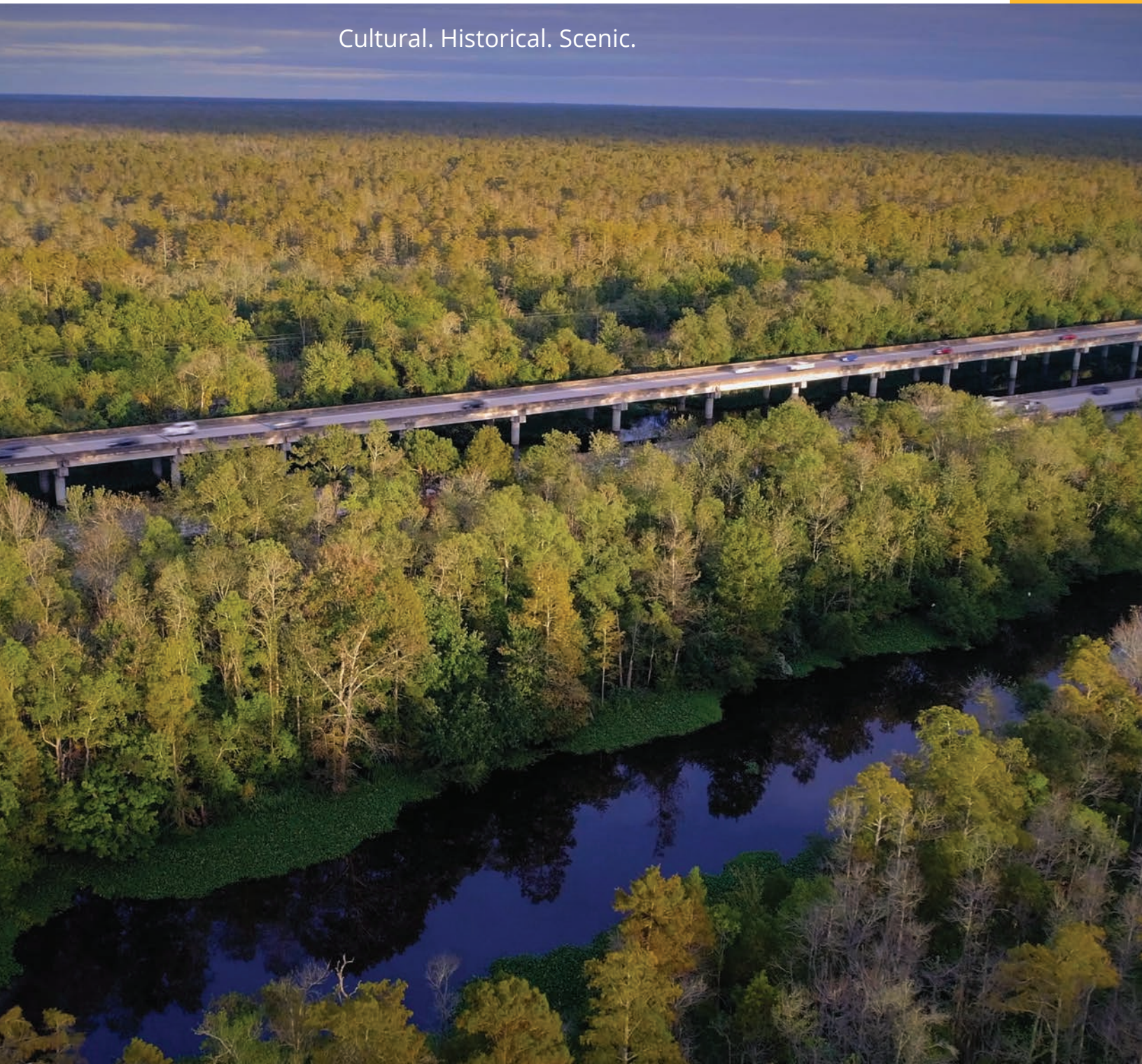
VISITORS GUIDE





# LOUISIANA IS FULL OF STORIES

Cultural. Historical. Scenic.



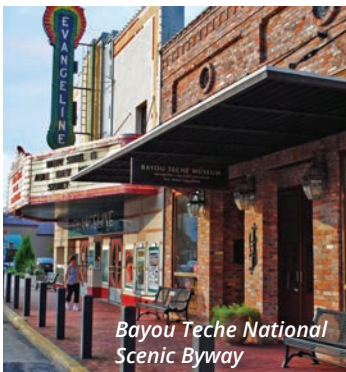


## CONTENTS

<b>WELCOME</b>	<b>5</b>
Map	6
The Backstory of the Byways	8
<b>LOUISIANA BYWAYS</b>	<b>9</b>
1 Bayou Teche National Scenic Byway	9
2 Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway	10
3 Cajun Corridor	10
4 Cane River National Heritage Trail	11
5 Creole Nature Trail All-American Road	11
6 Historic US 80	12
7 Flyway Byway	13
8 Longleaf Trail	14
9 Louisiana Colonial Trails	15
10 Louisiana River Road All-American Road	15
11 Myths and Legends Byway	15
12 San Bernardo Byway	16
13 Southern Swamps Byway	16
14 Toledo Bend Forest Scenic Byway	16
15 Tunica Trace Byway	17
16 Wetlands Cultural Trail Byway	17
17 Zydeco Cajun Prairie Byway	17
18 Northup Trail	18
19 Zachary Taylor Parkway	19



*Southern Swamps Byway*



*Bayou Teche National Scenic Byway*



*Longleaf Trail Byway*



*Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway*





*Louisiana River Road All-American Road*



*Southern Swamps Byway*



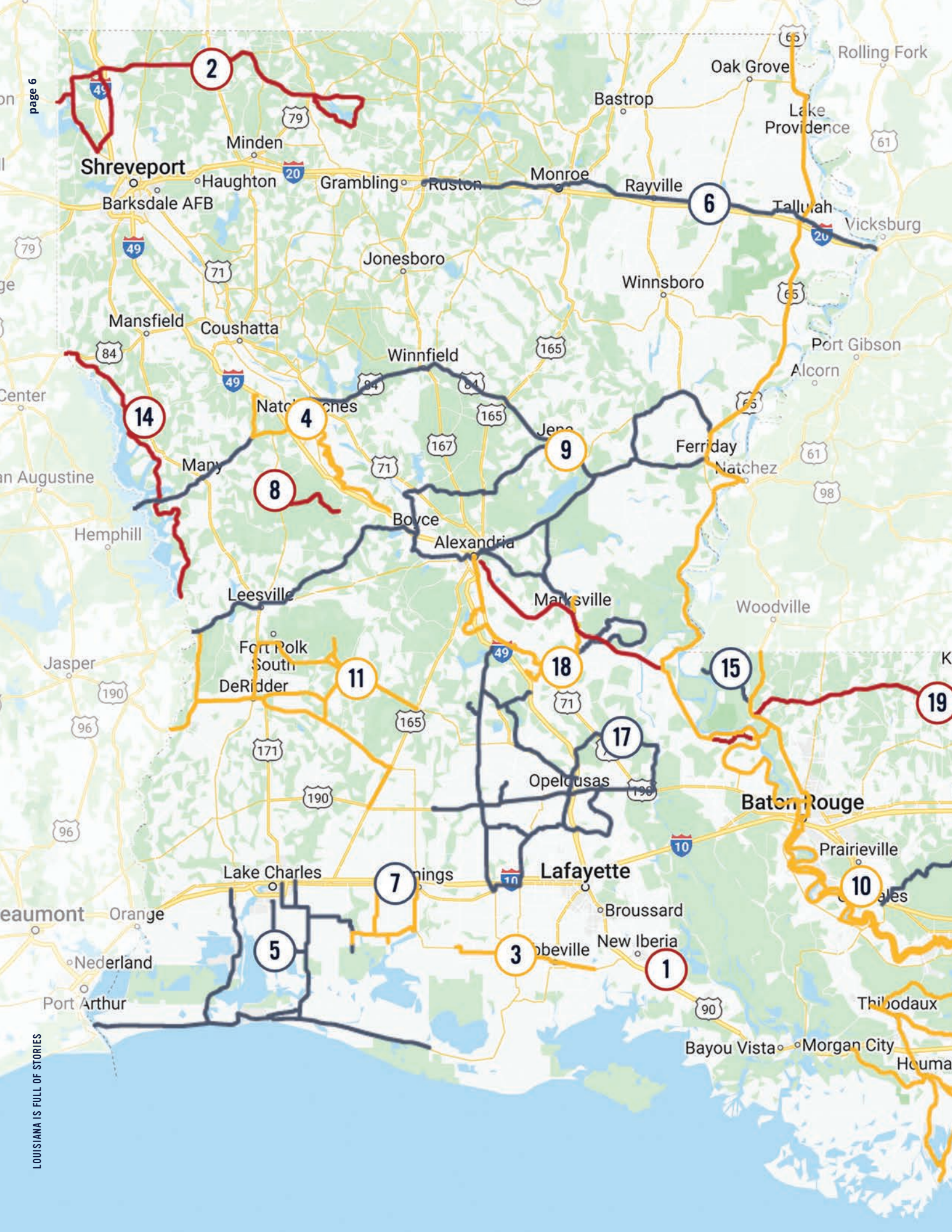
*Flyway Byway*

## WELCOME

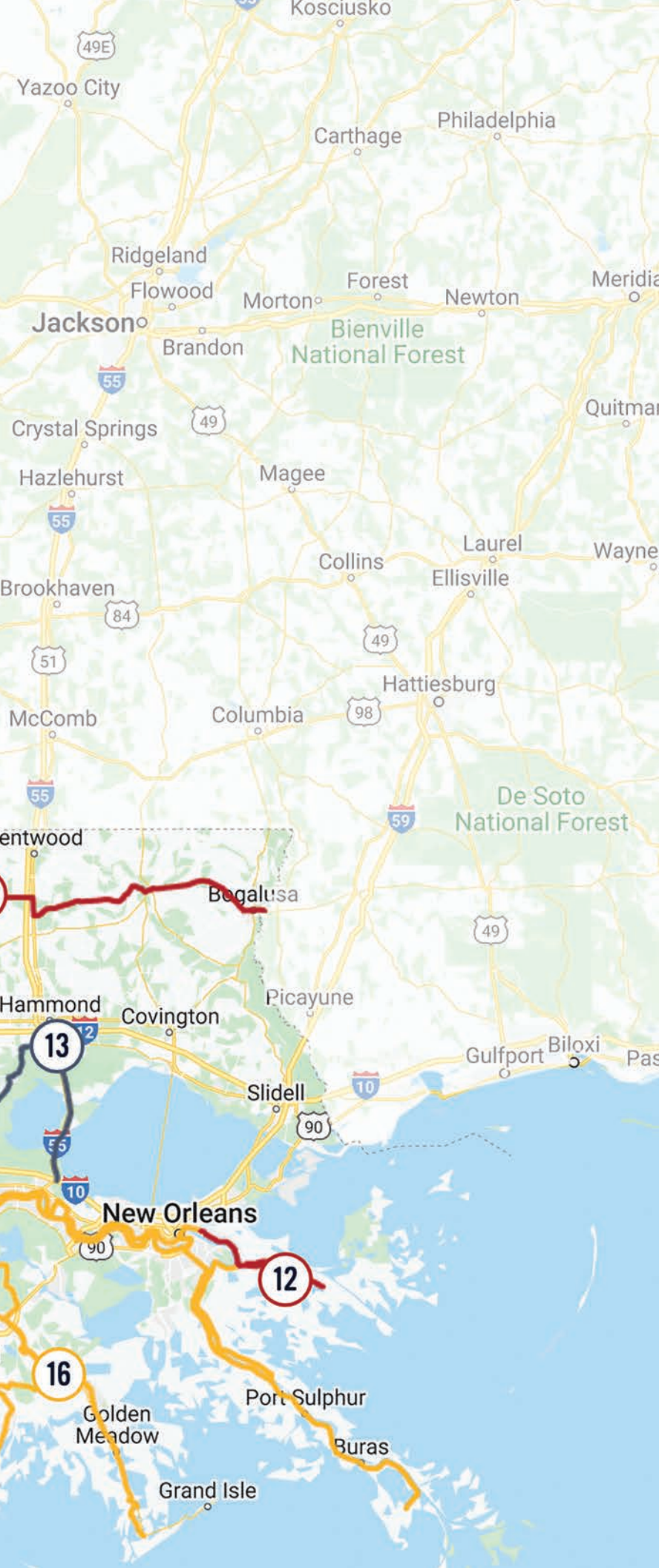
The Louisiana Trails & Byways network takes visitors on 19 adventurous road trips through the state's culture, geography and history. Make the most of your journey with maps and insider information that highlight noteworthy experiences along each – just visit [LouisianaByways.com](http://LouisianaByways.com) or one of the state's welcome centers for statewide byway maps or to print individual trail maps.

**19 BYWAYS.  
COUNTLESS  
STORIES.**









SCAN THIS QR CODE -  
[LOUISIANABYWAYS.COM](http://LOUISIANABYWAYS.COM)

Visit Louisiana Trails  
& Byways online at  
**LouisianaByways.com**,  
where you'll find detailed  
descriptions of each route  
and stops along them.  
You can also get free printed  
versions of maps at any of  
Louisiana's Welcome Centers.

LOOK FOR THESE SIGNS  
ALONG EACH BYWAY





## LET'S GO.

Phenomenal cuisine, inspiring music, unforgettable history and spectacular scenery make up the 19 trails and byways in the Louisiana Byways network.

Southern and soul food along the trails in the north and central Louisiana, along trails in north and central Louisiana, Cajun classics in the south and southwest corners of the state, and delicious Creole dishes galore await intrepid travelers.

And that's just one aspect of the experience. You'll hear the sounds of Louisiana music -- including country, zydeco and Cajun -- as you crisscross the state. You can even experience jazz -- in the city where the genre was born!

History? Louisiana has a few thousand years of it worth learning about. Discover stories of Native American, British, African, French, Spanish, German, and Italian groups that make the state one of the most culturally diverse you'll find anywhere.

Between each stop, take time to enjoy the kinds of views you'll find nowhere else. Crawfish farms and rice fields in the Cajun Prairie, more than 700 miles of Mississippi River vistas in the eastern part of the state, freshwater lakes up north and Gulf-front beaches in the south, and the unmistakable architecture of New Orleans' French Quarter are just some of the scenic highlights.

19 Byways. Countless stories. We look forward to you joining us on a ride to discover the riches of the Bayou State.



# LOUISIANA BYWAYS



1



**Bayou Teche National Scenic Byway** 183 miles – Hugging the western edge of the Atchafalaya Basin and following the scenic (and kayaker-friendly) Bayou Teche, this byway passes through some of Cajun Country's most notable towns and landscapes. Visit the Wedell-Williams Aviation and Cypress Sawmill Museum (a Louisiana State Museum) in Patterson, the American Indian-focused Chitimacha Museum in Charenton, or walk through history in Franklin's, Beaux Bridge's and Morgan City's gorgeous neighborhoods. Dine on authentic Cajun cooking in New Iberia and taste Louisiana's spicy side with a visit to the TABASCO® headquarters on Avery Island.





**Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway** 137 miles – Dramatic ups and downs in the oil and gas, lumber, transportation, farming and entertainment businesses over the years produced both the best and the worst of times in northwestern Louisiana, a region known for its rolling hills, tall pines, beautiful lakes and bayous. Oil derricks are reminders of the state's longtime ties to the energy industry, and are memorialized at the Louisiana State Oil and Gas Museum (located, appropriately, in Oil City). Fields of cotton and tranquil cattle pastures reflect the ongoing importance of agriculture, and the area's cultural history is honored at the Germantown Colony Museum in Minden. Not far from Shreveport, communities with names like Plain Dealing and Shongaloo that dot the area preserve a small-town, relaxed way of life.



**Cajun Corridor** 34 miles – The Cajun Corridor Byway runs through the self-proclaimed “most Cajun place on Earth” and provides the best places in the state to enjoy fresh shrimp, crawfish and oysters. The drive covers gently sloping terrain highlighted with allées (alleys of shade trees) and cheniers (coastal ridges covered with stands of oak trees). Sugar cane fields dot the horizon, and cattle graze near the marshlands. Towns with lilted names such as Maurice, Abbeville and Delcambre, reflect the influences of French and Acadian (Cajun) settlers who founded them. Local museums pay tribute to the rich heritage of the area and residents here speak French, just as their ancestors did.





4



**Cane River National Heritage Trail** 71 miles – 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, ending at Cloutierville, once the home of writer Kate Chopin. Views along the way include plantation homes, Creole architecture, historic landmarks and Cane River Creole National Park, along with graceful Southern magnolias and live oaks that flourish on the river’s red-soil banks.



5



### Creole Nature Trail All-American Road

207 miles – Louisiana’s prairies, marshes and shores teem with wildlife, and a drive along this byway gives visitors a chance to experience nature’s bounty up close. Signs along the route mark favorite spots for alligator crossings — though the so-called King of the Swamp is not the only wildlife you’ll see. Boardwalks at stops throughout the Creole Nature Trail guide visitors through marshes with more than 400 migratory bird species. This spectacularly scenic, remote terrain includes four wildlife refuges and 26 miles of Gulf of Mexico beaches. Untouched wetlands and small fishing communities await visitors. Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point — a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana’s unique culture.





**Historic US 80** 113 miles – US 80 was one of the early American auto trails, connecting motorists from Georgia to California. On this byway, you'll find rustic vistas, acres of farmland and northeast Louisiana's largest city, Monroe, known for fine Southern restaurants, Antique Alley, Biedenharn Gardens and the Chennault Aviation & Military Museum. Ruston is synonymous with peaches. Find plenty in season at Mitcham Peach Farms and others. Also, visit Ruston's 18-block historic district. Nature and history lovers can stop at Lake D'Arbonne State Park for spectacular scenery and fishing, while Poverty Point UNESCO World Heritage site holds secrets to civilization from 3,400 years ago.







**Flyway Byway** 55 miles – This byway takes visitors on a scenic loop through Jefferson Davis Parish, offering a quick getaway to enjoy the countryside while experiencing the area's natural beauty and local wildlife. Paddle the waterways or bike an extreme trail to the beautiful, historical Lorrain Bridge. Shop in small towns and taste some of the best food in all of Louisiana, and venture past rice fields and crawfish farms that have come to define this special part of the state. The Flyway Byway was named for the migratory bird path through the region, which is home to more than 160 species — bring your binoculars. In Jennings, you'll find the family-friendly educational center known as Gator Chateau — you can even hold a baby alligator!



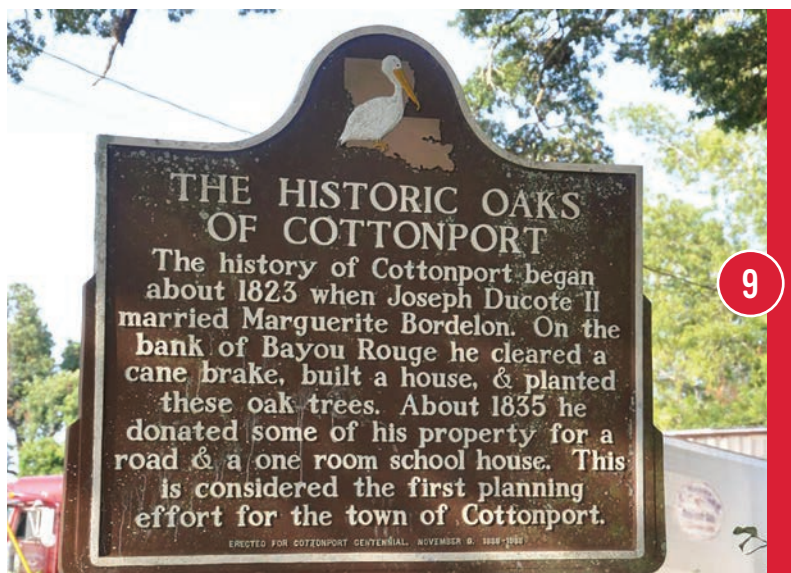


**Longleaf Trail** 17 miles – Nestled within the hills of central Louisiana’s Kisatchie National Forest, the Longleaf Trail covers some of the most varied terrain in the state. Elevations range from 80 feet to 400 feet above sea level, and the topography is rugged by Louisiana standards. You’ll want to stop at the frequent turnouts to get a good view of the mesas, buttes, sandstone outcrops and, of course, the trees that gave the trail its name. Longleaf pines, known as “super trees,” are a dominant feature. Bike, hike and horseback ride through the pine forests of Caroline Dornon Hiking and Horse Trail, and once you’ve worked up an appetite, grill out at a campground and bed down at one of Kisatchie National Forest’s RV campgrounds, cabins or tent sites.

8







9



### Louisiana Colonial Trails 484 miles

– Discover the legends and locations that continue to provide lore and opportunity on Louisiana Colonial Trails, a cultural crossroads that once included

fortifications from Indian tribes, Spain, France and the early American western frontier. Remnants of them still dot this landscape, which also included parts of the El Camino Real and Old San Antonio Road that linked the original colonies to Mexico and the West. Prehistoric tribes left behind tools and pottery. Settlers migrating west found a land of opportunity. Plantation owners made fortunes in cotton. Travel this region to see where generations of settlers from across the Americas and Europe once called home.



10



### Louisiana River Road All-American Road 773 miles

– Paralleling the mighty Mississippi, the Louisiana Great River Road spans hundreds of miles, countless historic milestones and centuries of history. The byway runs alongside the

Mississippi river, ending in the town of Venice on the Gulf of Mexico. Plantation homes, museums, ancient oaks, elegant restaurants and seafood joints – you'll see it all on this byway that runs alongside the levees that overlook the river. This byway is part of the federally designated Great River Road Byway that stretches from the Mississippi River's headwaters and crosses through 10 states.



11



### Myths and Legends Byway 181 miles

– Louisiana's Myths and Legends Byway is a drive into the stories, tall tales and life of a gunslinger named Leather Britches Smith. The byway travels through a region settled by the Atakapa and Coshatta Indians.

Known as "No Man's Land," this area was also a disputed border between France, Spain and the United States. With each country laying claim but the area not belong to any of them, a period of nationless lawlessness set in until the 1840's. Sawmill towns came later, and DeRidder is the largest among them. Top DeRidder sites include the Gothic Jail (or "Hanging Jail") and the Beaugard Parish Museum, housed in an old railroad depot in the historic district. Farther afield, find southwest Louisiana's oldest permanent settlement, Sugartown; the Leatherwood Museum in Oakdale, and the Museum of the New Llano Colony, a late 19th century Utopian community that survived more than 20 years in the "piney highlands of west Louisiana."





### San Bernardo Byway 36 miles –

Like much of the area, St. Bernard Parish reflects a French and Spanish past, but also strong in this region are influences of the Isleños people from the Spanish Canary Islands. Natives of those islands were drawn here more than two centuries ago by the fertile soil and plentiful trapping and fishing; their descendants populate the area today. As you follow this byway, you'll discover their influences, along with such sights as plantation homes and working fishing villages, plus the historic site of the last great battle of the War of 1812, the Battle of New Orleans.

12



### Southern Swamps Byway

69 miles – This byway gives visitors a look at the natural beauty of the state's wetlands. View awesome scenery up-close at Tickfaw State Park. Drive through the Maurepas Swamp and dine on seafood at legendary Middendorf's Restaurant in Akers. Ponchatoula is the main city on this byway, with notable stops including antique stores — the town is nicknamed "America's Antique City," after all. Hammond has Kliebert's Turtle & Alligator Farm and the Tangipahoa Parish African American Heritage Museum. At the byway's south end, you'll find Sorrento, home to the historic Cajun Village, where shops sell locally made souvenirs and foods.

13



### Toledo Bend Forest Scenic Byway

78 miles – The largest manmade lake in the South, Toledo Bend Reservoir, is surrounded by some of Louisiana's most impressive pines and hardwoods. In fact,

Toledo Bend is so renowned for its fishing, that it was named Best Bass Lake by Bassmaster magazine two years in a row. The byway parallels the reservoir and encompasses many parks, golf and fishing resorts, marinas and outlooks where visitors can drink in the scenery and spot eagles and blue herons. The rolling byway is especially lovely in the spring and summer, when the wildflowers and native blooming trees add their color. Cyclists can take advantage of the byway's 26 miles of bicycle trails. Bring your camera; you'll find a lot to photograph.

14







15



**Tunica Trace Byway** 20 miles – Rugged and winding, this byway near the Louisiana/ Mississippi border was once an important route for Indians, early explorers and settlers. Today, the Tunica Trace Byway gives travelers a sample of the hills,

forests, winding roads and open green spaces that make this section of Louisiana so special. Notable spots include scenic St. Francisville, a charming historic city where you'll find B&Bs, cafés and restaurants. Get up close to history with many historic plantation tours offered in the area. At the end of the byway is the Louisiana State Penitentiary, where you will find the Angola Museum — the only prison museum in the country operated within an active prison.



16



**Wetlands Cultural Byway** 282 miles – Serving as a buffer between the country's coastline and the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana's wetlands are a national treasure. This southeastern Louisiana drive is an ideal way to see towns and villages where shrimping, trapping and farming have been ways of

life for hundreds of years. Attractions along the byway include the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Thibodaux, which features a trove of Cajun artifacts. The Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building in Lockport showcases historic, homemade south Louisiana watercraft. See where the wild things are by visiting Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge, learn about the region's sugar-producing history at Southdown Plantation in Houma or head to Thibodaux, home to Laurel Valley, which is the largest surviving 19th and 20th-century sugar plantation and get down to weekly Cajun music jam sessions at the Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum in Houma.



17



**Zydeco Cajun Prairie Byway** 283 miles –

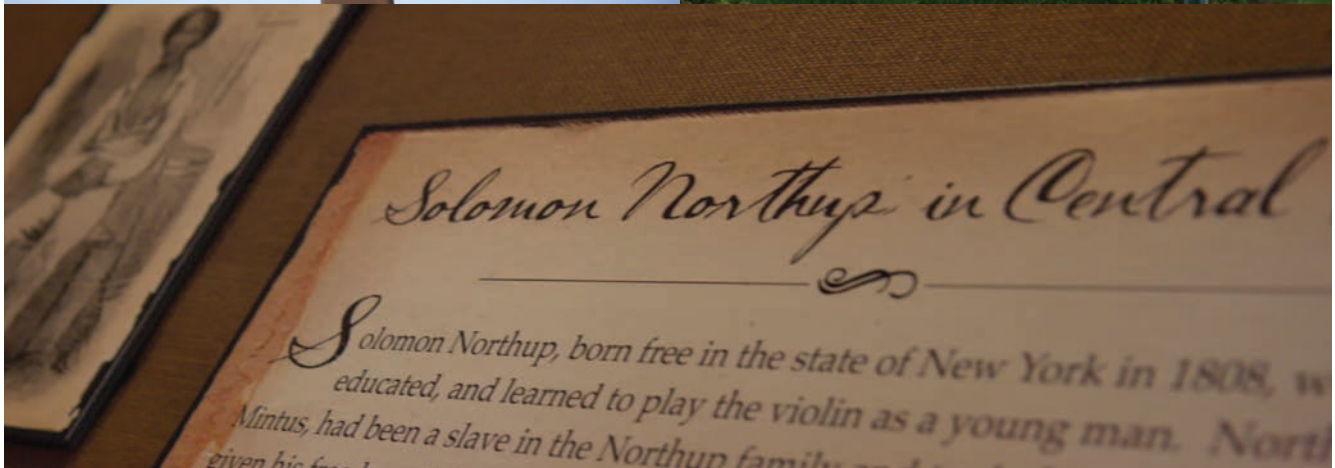
The Zydeco Cajun Prairie Byway pays tribute to the music of south Louisiana, touching many iconic music spots while ambling through serene, rolling countryside that is

home to crawfish farms and rice fields. Music is the main attraction to this byway, and you'll see exactly why at places such as the Louisiana Swamp Pop Museum in Ville Platte, the Cajun Music Capital of the World (Mamou) and the Zydeco Capital of the World (Opelousas). Check out the J.D. Miller Music Museum in Crowley, whose namesake founder spent decades recording zydeco, Cajun and country albums by some of the genres' best performers. Learn more about the region's history (musical and otherwise) at the Prairie Acadian Cultural Center in Eunice and the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum in Opelousas.





**Northup Trail** 83 miles – The Northup Trail takes visitors along Solomon Northup’s 12-year journey as a slave in Louisiana. Originally from New York, Northup was kidnapped, sold as a slave in New Orleans and arrived in Alexandria in 1841, where he remained until legally regaining his freedom at the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse in 1853. The trail follows his path through Rapides and Avoyelles parishes and visits sites such as the Red River Landing, where Northup disembarked the steamer Rodolf, the Epps House, the Bunkie Depot and the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse. The novel “Twelve Years a Slave” was made into a movie that won the Best Picture Oscar in 2013.







**Zachary Taylor Parkway** 203 miles – Zachary Taylor Byway connects Bogalusa to Pineville, crossing three other Louisiana Byways on its 203-mile trek. Joining the Colonial Trails Byway, Louisiana military history includes Fort St. Jean Baptist, Fort Randolph and Buhlow that speak to the state's vast history of international intrigue. The corridor connects visitors with historical sites, plantations and cultural events from Louisiana's easternmost border to Alexandria in the central part of the state.





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Toledo Bend Forest Scenic Byway