



LOUISIANA'S LEGEND COUNTRY

adventure in Vernon awaits

Visitor's Guide

Visit
Louisiana's
Legend
Country
and gather
tales you will
love to tell!



On the
Myths &
Legends Byway.

LouisianaLegendCountry.com · 800-349-6287

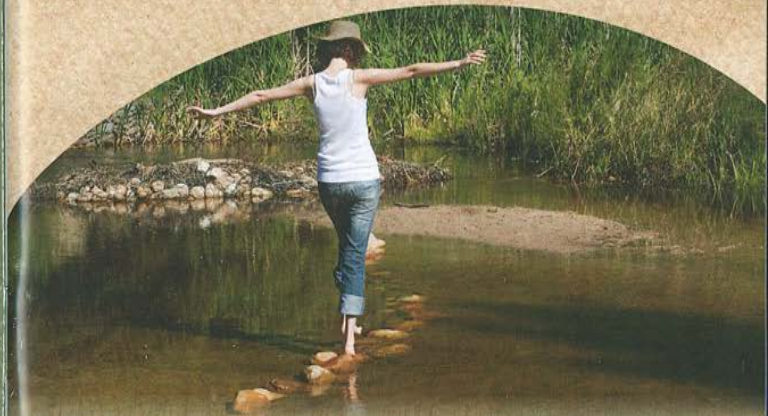
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Here in Vernon Parish you will find hills, creeks and bayous, prairies and pinelands, each rich in history and tradition. Whether you are a nature lover hiking in Kisatchie National Forest, fishing on our beautiful lakes and rivers, or a history buff scouting Civil War sites, you will love the time spent in Vernon Parish.

Visitors to Vernon Parish will find quality accommodations, good restaurants, historic homes, and cultural events where Southern hospitality lives on.

Vernon Parish is proud to be the home of Fort Polk and the Joint Readiness Training Center.

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Dining

Louisiana is known for its culinary masterpieces, and Vernon Parish is no exception. We boast fine-dining, mom-and-pop eateries, casual dining and even convenience stores offering delicious, Louisiana dishes that are worthy of seconds! We also feature restaurants with an international flair. Don't forget the delectable crustacean, the crawfish, when they are in season or icy sno-cones to cool you off during the summer. We have a saying in Louisiana that we don't just eat to live, we live to eat. Come take a taste for yourself!

 Indicates Roadside Food Location

ANACOCO

Anacoco Mercantile

Plate Lunches, Sandwiches, Pizza, Hand-dipped Ice Cream

1678 Front St.

Anacoco • 337-238-0611

E & N Kwik Stop

Fried Chicken, Burgers, Fried Deli Foods

4556 Main St.

Anacoco • 337-238-4435

Ole 7 Bridges Café

6047 Hwy. 111

Anacoco • 337 238-3170

Sno-Cone Haven

Open April - October - Snow Cones, Concession Foods

1632 Front St.

Anacoco • 337-208-1648

CRAVENS

Cravens Handi-Stop

Plate Lunches, Burgers, Fried Deli Foods

9242 Hwy. 10

Cravens • 318-358-3540

DERIDDER

Catfish Hut

181 Catfish Hut Rd.

DeRidder • 337-462-2266

FLORIEN

Pirate's Cove Cajun Café

1567 Caribbean Dr.

Florien • 318-565-4467

FORT POLK

Hickory Smoke House

Bldg. 1975, Alabama Ave.

Fort Polk • 337-537-8900

Huddle House

7323 Utah Ave.

Fort Polk • 337-535-4754



Mulligan's

Bldg. 352, 1321 Corps Rd.

Fort Polk • 337-531-7668

Mustard Seed

1152 Entrance Rd.

Fort Polk • 337-537-1933

Mucho Mexico Restaurant

488 Entrance Rd.

Fort Polk • 337-537-9444

Strike Zone Snack Bar

Bldg. 1457, 2087 9th St.

Fort Polk • 337-531-6273

Warrior Community Center

Sunday Brunch Only

1321 Corps Rd.

Fort Polk • 337-531-4440

HORNBECK

E & N Kwik Stop

Fried Chicken, Fish, Pizza

1153 Hammond St.

Hornbeck • 318-565-0011

LEESVILLE

Back to Nature

Health food, Fruit Smoothies, Coffees

613 South 5th St.

Leesville • 337-238-9888

Bailey's Bakery

Donuts, Cakes, Breakfast

1208 South 5th St.

Leesville • 337-238-7800

Battered Men's BBQ

1402 S. 5th St., Ste. B

Leesville • 337-208-8445

BJ's Diner

1505 South 5th St.

Leesville • 337-238-4663

Buffet City

1782 South 5th St.

Leesville • 337-238-9939

Checkers

1708 S. 5th St.

Leesville • 337-238-1011

Chil Factor Frozen Yogurt

11275 Lake Charles Hwy.

Suite B

Leesville • 337-238-0071

China Wok Buffet

1801 Lake Charles Hwy.

Leesville • 337-392-1118

Cuore Coffee

810 S. 3rd St.

Leesville • 337-404-4164

Dairy Queen

194 Alexandria Hwy.

Leesville • 952-830-0200

Diego's Burrito Bar

853 Entrance Rd.

Leesville • 337-653-6366

El Chile Verde

1308 S. 5th St.

Leesville

elchileverdeleesville.com

El Flamingo Mexican Restaurant & Bar

Inside Motel 6,

3080 Colony Blvd.

Leesville • 337-392-0050



Jack's All Ya Need 
Breakfast, Deli, Chicken, Pizza
1305 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-239-6009

Kentucky Fried Chicken
1102 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-392-9827

Fatboy and Skinny's
303 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-404-3933

Festival Tacos
Sun-Thu, 11am-9pm
Fri-Sat, 11am-11pm
11934 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville · 337 404-4089

Fox Stop 
Plate Lunches, Burgers, Fish Dinners
23566 Hwy. 8
Leesville · 337-286-5600

Fox's Pizza Den
99 East Union
Leesville · 337-392-4949

Gilbert's Pizza
853 Entrance Rd.
Leesville · 337-404-4091

Hana Japanese Steakhouse
1404 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-239-2886

Hazel's Tea Parlor
700 South 3rd St.
Leesville · 337-378-9080

J & T Crawfish Hut
Crawfish In Season
[Mid-December-June/July]
1305A South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-238-3520

L & L Tails
Crawfish In Season
[Mid-December-June/July]
191 Alexandria Hwy.
Leesville · 337-239-0071

Leesville Donuts
Donuts, Kolaches, Breakfast
410 North 5th St.
Leesville · 337-404-3939

Little Korean Kitchen
1804 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-238-9725

Marble Slab Creamery
Ice Cream
2501-C McRae Ave.
Leesville · 337-238-1050
marbleslab.com

Market Basket #40
Groceries & Deli
1404 North 6th St.
Leesville · 337-238-0346

Mexico Lindo
2503 McRae Ave.
Leesville · 337-238-5671

Mudbugs Crawfish
Crawfish In Season
[Mid-December-June/July]
1115 North 5th St.
Leesville · 337-238-2870

Orient's Wok Chinese Café
1168 Entrance Rd.
Leesville · 337-537-7678

Ozan's Shaved Ice
203 W. Lula St.
Leesville

Ranch House
1110 North 5th St.
Leesville · 337-392-2262

Ray's Grocery 
Plate Lunches, Burgers,
Boudin, Meat Pies
2210 Alexandria Hwy.
Leesville · 337-238-4418

Samburger
810 South 3rd St.
Leesville · 337 378-3866

Shop Rite #65 
Fried Fish, Shrimp,
Pork Chops, Sandwiches
1402 Entrance Rd.
Leesville · 337-537-3045

Shop-a-Lott #6
Pizza, Fried Chicken, Sandwiches,
Fried Deli Items
188 Alexandria Hwy.
Leesville · 337-238-5612

Smokin' Jo's
11275 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville · 337-392-6490
Facebook.com/
SmokinJosBBQShack

Starlite Grill
Cash Only
1001 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-238-1023

Tail Gators
11497 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville · 337-238-5112

Taste of New Orleans
114 S 3rd St.
Leesville · 337-423-5102

Teriyaki Wok
1310 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-392-8866

Thadapetch Thai Restaurant
1910 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-239-6222

Wagon Master Steak House
2206 South 5th St.
Leesville · 337-239-7482

NEW LLANO

April's Sno-Balls & Snack Shack
Open April-October
New Orleans Style Sno-Balls, Snacks
103 Sartor St.
New Llano · 337-397-0444

Crawfish To Go
Crawfish In Season
[Mid-December-June/July]
101 Harper St.
New Llano · 337-239-1900



Chilis

2606 Colony Blvd.
New Llano · 337-392-8274
chilis.com

Kim's Kitchen

3010 Colony Blvd.
New Llano · 337-238-6110

Pak-a-Pig

2700 Colony Blvd.
New Llano · 337-238-0894

La Tiendita Market & Latin Cuisine

11848 Lake Charles Hwy.
New Llano · 337-423-7072

Polk Pitt Stop Truck Stop

Pizza, Wings, Grilled Boudin, Meat Pies
11411 Lake Charles Hwy.
New Llano · 337-238-2990

PICKERING

Shop Rite #64

Fried Fish, Shrimp,
Pork Chops, Chicken
14245 Lake Charles Hwy.
Pickering · 337-537-9526

PITKIN

Doodle's Stop & Go

13496 Hwy. 10
Pitkin · 318-358-3284

Main Street Diner & Beer Store

12808 Hwy. 10
Pitkin · 318-358-3783

Strother's Country Store

12819 Hwy. 10
Pitkin · 318-358-3717

ROSEPINE

McKee's Texaco

Plate Lunches [Mon-Fri],
Fried Fish, Fried Deli Foods
18461 Johnny B. Hall
Memorial Hwy.
Rosepine · 337-463-8591

Soileau's Cajun Specialty Meats

18638 Johnny B. Hall
Memorial Hwy.
Rosepine · 337-462-8484

Sweet Doughnuts & More

Donuts, Cakes
18558 Johnny B. Hall
Memorial Hwy.
Rosepine · 337-463-6610

SIMPSON

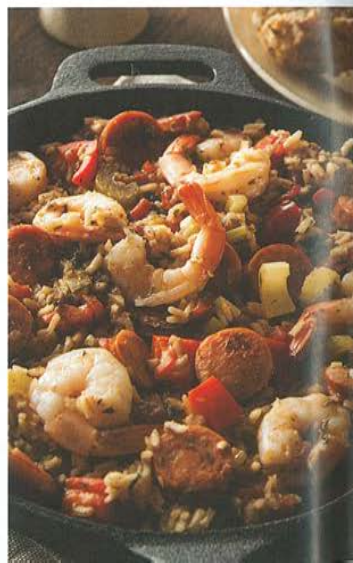
Bud's Grocery

Plate Lunches, Burgers, Pizza
7213 Hwy. 465
Simpson · 337-383-9988

SLAGLE

Slagle Mall & Deli

8785 Hwy. 8
Slagle · 337-239-7611



Shopping

Shopping in Vernon Parish, Louisiana's Legend Country, ranges from stores to find your groceries and staples as well as department stores and gift shops, to niche places where you'll find all your needs for outdoor sporting, as well as flea markets and antique shopping at its finest. This is hunting of an entirely different kind - find that perfect souvenir of your stay! Visit LouisianaLegendCountry.com for more information.



Festivals & Events

In addition to several major events throughout the year, including MayFest, West Louisiana Forestry Festival, and the Louisiana State Championship Soap Box Derby, our calendar is full of rodeos, art exhibits, heritage days, culinary cook-offs, and nature explorations!

Call the Vernon Parish Tourist Commission for dates and information – 800-349-6287

MayFest Arts & Crafts Festival

MayFest, winner of the Louey Award for 2012 Festival of the Year, is an annual event held in historic, downtown Leesville the first weekend in May. It features two days of great Arts & Crafts vendors and fabulous food, Leesville Main Street merchants, and fantastic, free musical entertainment in historic, downtown Leesville.



Freedom Fest

Freedom Fest is held at Fort Polk's Honor Field each year to celebrate Independence Day. Enjoy music, food vendors, static displays, a Salute to the Nation, and the largest fireworks display in Louisiana.

Patriot Fest

Patriot Fest is a one-day music festival held at the West Louisiana Forestry Festival Fairgrounds in Leesville during the month of June. This festival features live music, Arts and Crafts vendors, and food vendors. WildfireProductions.org.



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West Louisiana Forestry Festival & Fair

The West La. Forestry Festival is held annually during the first full week of October at the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds and features rides and shows by The Mighty Thomas Carnival. Other events include, West La. Forestry Festival Queen Pageant and Junior King/Queen Pageant, 4-H Horse Show and Livestock Show, 4-H Woodsman Skills Contest, Vernon Parish Senior Citizens Day, and the Leesville Lions Club Rodeo. The festival also offers food from eight, local service organizations, exhibits, and vendors.



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Louisiana State Championship Soap Box Derby

The official Louisiana State Championship Soap Box Derby is held by the Lulu Street Racers in historic, downtown Leesville every year. The derby gives children ages 6-17 an opportunity to build their own cars based on a specific plan and race them down Third Street using gravity as their only source of power. Call for dates.



Rodeos

The Leesville Lions Club Pro Rodeo, well into its sixth decade, takes place at 7:30 p.m. on the Thursday-Saturday following the first Wednesday in October at the Vernon Parish Arena. Contestants are amateurs, as well as professionals looking to earn points for the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. The rodeo typically takes place in conjunction with the West Louisiana Forestry Festival and serves as a primary fundraiser for the Leesville Lion's Club. Proceeds from the rodeo are earmarked for the club's charitable endeavors, including the Lion's Camp for Crippled Children in Anacoco. Events scheduled for each night include bull riding, calf roping, bareback riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling and saddle bronc riding. The Lions Club Rodeo Parade, featuring floats from civic organizations, schools, businesses as well as local pageant winners, meanders through downtown Leesville at 4pm on the same Thursday the rodeo opens.



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Witch Way to Main Street

Goblins, ghouls and ghosts alike are invited to **Witch Way to Main Street** annually on Halloween evening. A trick-or-treating event for the whole family, Witch Way allows families, organizations and those who are still kids at heart the opportunity to safely trick-or-treat in the Main Street District while at the same time checking out all that Main Street has to offer. Merchants, civic organizations, and churches set up booths and pass out goodies.



September Competition

Every September in downtown Leesville, Gallery One Eleven hosts a national, juried art competition. Artists from all over the United States enter, and the accepted artwork is on display at the gallery throughout the month of September.



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Vernon Parish hosts numerous events throughout the year such as art exhibits, Heritage Days, nature explorations and more. For more information about any event or what's happening when you plan to visit, contact the Vernon Parish Tourism Commission 337-238-0783 or like us on Facebook.

Accommodations

From hotels & motels and quaint bed & breakfasts to RV parks and tent camping where you relish all our great outdoors provides, Vernon Parish, Louisiana's Legend Country, has a wide variety of accommodations to suit your lodging needs.

BED & BREAKFAST

Allen Acres Native Ventures

Allen Acres is a nature oriented Bed & Breakfast located in Cravens, LA featuring a cozy country home on 26 wooded acres near the Kisatchie National Forest and Ouiska Chitto Creek.
5070 Hwy. 399
Pitkin
337-328-2252
native@camtel.net
nativeventures.net

Country Inns Motel

102 rooms, Micro-fridge, free Wi-Fi, continental breakfast, Cable/Sat. TV, outdoor pool, Honeymoon Suite, Spacious parking, laundry on site, and a very courteous staff.
3020 Colony Blvd.
Leesville
800-256-2210 · 337-239-2122
ihg.com/hotels/us/en/
reservation

Days Inn Leesville

1910 S 5th St.
Leesville
337-238-3506
wyndhamhotels.com/days-inn/
leesville-louisiana/days-inn-
leesville/overview

HOTEL/MOTEL

Comfort Suites

11498 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville
337-404-3890 / 800-424-6423
choicehotels.com/louisiana/
leesville/comfort-suites-hotels/
la222



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Hampton Inn Leesville

136 Express Blvd.
Leesville
337-239-2929
hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/hampton-inn-leesville-ft-polk-AEXLVHX/index.html

La Quinta Inn & Suites

1308 Entrance Rd.
Leesville
337-537-8200
Wyndhamhotels.com/laquinta-leesville-louisiana/la-quinta-leesville-fort-polk/overview

Montigo Inn

1808 S 5th St.
Leesville
337-238-7860
montigoinnleesville@gmail.com

Motel 6

3080 Colony Blvd.
Leesville
337-238-9970

Redwood Motor Inn

Extended stay available.
1801 South 5th St.
Leesville
337-239-2677

Sandman Motel

Extended stay available.
11475 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville
337-239-0950

Sure Stay Hotel of Leesville

Extended stay available.
1200 North 6th St.
Leesville
877-392-1672 / 337-392-1672
surestayleesville.com



CAMPING/RV

Anacoco Lake Spillway RV Park & Grocery

40 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups,
30 & 50 Amp Outlets
Amenities: Shower House,
Washateria, Boat Launch, Swimming
Area, Grocery Store
247 Anacoco Lake Rd.
Leesville
337-392-0018

Arlington RV Park

45 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50 Amp
Outlets, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Laundry, Landscaped
Grounds, Centralized Picnic Tables,
Trash Removal, Lighted Pedestals, Pond
12932 Lake Charles Hwy.
[Hwy. 171] · Leesville
337-208-1854

Hadden's Ferry Public River Access

Primitive - May require walking
Holcomb Rd. · Anacoco

Hickory Ridge Recreational Park

Primitive, 3 RV Sites, Water Hook-ups,
20 & 30 Amp Outlets, No Sewer Hook-
ups, Concrete Pads
Amenities: Enclosed Pavilion, Shower
House, Restrooms, Fish-cleaning
Station, Public Boat Ramp, Picnic
Tables with Charcoal Grills, Dock Area
Hickory Ridge Rd. · Leesville
337-238-0324
vppjla.com/?page_id=429

Hwy. 8 Motel & RV Park

Full Hook-ups
30 & 50 Amp Outlets
Amenities: Wireless Internet,
Extended stay available
19280 Hwy. 8
Leesville
337-238-2623
highway8motelrvpark.
webstarts.com

JD's RV Park

27 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 20, 30 &
50 Amp Outlets
Amenities: Shower House,
Washateria, Restrooms, Free Wifi,
Security Lights, Fire Pit/Large
Smoker/BBQ Grill for General Use,
Pets Allowed
14916 Lake Charles Hwy.
Leesville · 337-509-0701
jdsrvpark.com

Johnson & Son's RV & Mobile Home Park

7 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50
Amp Outlets, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Laundry
13461 Hwy. 171 · Leesville
337-789-2000 · 337-401-7029

Liberty Creek RV Park

RV Camping
1745 Chaffee Rd.
Leesville · 337-653-6411



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Holiday Inn Express

122 Express Blvd.
Leesville
337-239-2122
ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/leesville/nwola/hoteldetail

Hwy. 8 Motel & RV Park

Full Hook-ups
30 & 50 Amp Outlets
Amenities: Wireless Internet,
Extended stay available
19280 Hwy. 8
Leesville
337-238-2623
highway8motelrvpark.
webstarts.com



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Kisatchie National Forest

For information visit the
Kisatchie Work Center.
1992 Hwy. 10 · Leesville
337-537-2113

Methodist Landing Campground

Primitive, 13 RV Pads, Water Hook-ups, 20 Amp Outlets, No Sewer Hook-ups

Amenities: Pavilion, Shower, Restrooms, Gated Facility, Fish-cleaning Station, Running Water, Boat Ramp, Dock, Fishing Area, Swimming Area, Covered Picnic Areas with Tables & Charcoal Grills
Methodist Landing Extension Rd.
Leesville · 337-238-0324
Fax: 337-238-0240
vppjla.com/?page_id=13

Lakeview Lodge Landing

192 Lakeview Lodge Rd.
Leesville
337-375-5134 · 337-375-5133
337-404-7197

Pecan Acres RV Park

42 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50 Amp Outlets, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Shower House, Washateria
8119 Hawks Rd. · Leesville
337-221-0579
pecanacresrv.com

Pirates Cove Marina

40 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50 Amp Outlets, Concrete Pads
Amenities: Laundry, Pet Friendly, Restaurant, Fishing/Swimming Pier, Boat Launch, Cabins, Bunk-houses
1567 Caribbean Dr. · Florien
318-565-4467

Pleasure Point Park - SRA Hornbeck

126 RV Sites, 30 & 50 Amp Outlets, No Water Hook-ups, No Sewer Hook-ups, Dump Station, Concrete Pads
Amenities: Washateria, Boat Launch, Two Piers
1190 Pleasure Point Rd.
Hornbeck
318-565-4810

Quality RV Park

58 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 20, 30, & 50 Amp Outlets, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Shower House, Washateria, Cable, Wifi, Dump Station, Dollar General Next Door, 1 Minute to South Fort Polk Gate
1381 Pitkin Rd. · Leesville
337-208-6062
rvparking.com/la/leesville/
quality-r-v-park

Sandy Creek Boat Launch

Primitive Camping
Hwy. 8 - West of Leesville
Leesville



Shady Lake RV Park

40 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50 Amp Outlets, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Shower House, Washateria, Pet Friendly, Bank Fishing Pond, Two Apartments
168 Sapphire Ln. · Leesville
337-239-4674
shadylakervpark.com

South Toledo Bend State Park

55 RV Sites, Water Hook-ups, Electrical Hook-ups, No Sewer Hook-ups, Dump Station, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Pavilion, Washateria, Boat Launch, Fishing Pier, Picnic Area, Concession Area/Gift Shop, Meeting Room
120 Bald Eagle Rd. · Anacoco
337-286-9075 · 888-398-4770
crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/parks/south-toledo-bend-state-park

Tack-A-Paw Expeditions

Primitive Camping
2340 Toro Rd. · Anacoco
337-286-9337
tackapaw.com

The Craft's RV Park

9 RV Sites · Full Hook-ups
30 & 50 Amp Outlets
Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Free Laundry, 30-day Minimum Stay
7196 Main St. · Rosepine
337-396-4405

Toledo Bend Recreation Area

Military ID Required
28 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50 Amp Outlets, Concrete Pads
Amenities: Pavilion, Shower House, Restrooms, Dump Station, Tent Camping, Yurts, Cabins, Activity Building, Swimming, BBQ Pit
1310 Army Rec. Rd.
Florien
318-565-4235 · 888-718-9088
polk.armymwr.com/
programs/toledo-bend-army-recreation-site

Toledo Bend Resort

350 Toledo Resort Dr.
Anacoco
337-286-9257

Walnut Hill RV Park

19 RV Sites, Full Hook-ups, 30 & 50 Amp Outlets, Rock/Gravel Pads
Amenities: Shower House, Washateria, Café, Pet Friendly, Ice, Fish & Game Cleaning Stations, Security Lights, 11 Cabins
1105 Walnut Hill Rd.
Leesville
337-239-6838 · 337-396-5651 · 337-658-4073



Byways & Trails

Louisiana's Legend Country is full of the trails made by outlaws and bandits as they traversed the rugged country of the disputed badlands. We have captured the spirit in trails designed to help you navigate the history of Vernon Parish.

MYTHS & LEGENDS BYWAY



181 miles of beautiful, roadway stretching through Vernon, Beauregard and Allen Parishes.

The Myths & Legends Byway is filled to the brim with exciting history. This drive celebrates the "badlands" of the disputed area between Spain and the United States. Here, many outlaws,

soldiers, bandits and heroes have laid claim to this mythical land. Preserved towns and sawmills of these settlers remain



Vernon Parish Courthouse

today and can be seen along 181 miles of beautiful roadways. Throughout the drive, kiosks provide additional insights. Some of the major sites include, the **Vernon Parish Courthouse**, **Talbert-Pierson Cemetery**, **Museum of the New Llano Colony**, the **Museum of West Louisiana** and the **Burr's Ferry Civil War Breastworks** which is also on the **Toledo Bend Forest Byway**, a 160-mile stretch traversing additional paths in the badlands and along Toledo Bend Lake.

The region included fortifications from Indian tribes, Spain, France, and the early American western front, of which remnants dot the landscape. Prehistoric tribes left behind arrowheads, tools, and pottery. Settlers migrating west found a land of opportunity. Bayous and bluffs. Alligators and bears. Outlaws and missionaries. Renegades and farmers. Gangs and heroes. Discover the livelihoods, legends, and locations that continue to provide lore and opportunity.

You're invited to create your own adventures. Enjoy the wildlife areas for hiking and sportsmanship, feel the music, travel the terrain, rummage at antique shops and flea markets, and experience and appreciate the characters and charm you'll find along our paths.

Come experience the grand adventure and scenery that shaped the culture of today. You can even pick up an Explorer's packet with games and more information at the Vernon Parish Visitor Center in Leesville.

Talbert-Pierson Cemetery

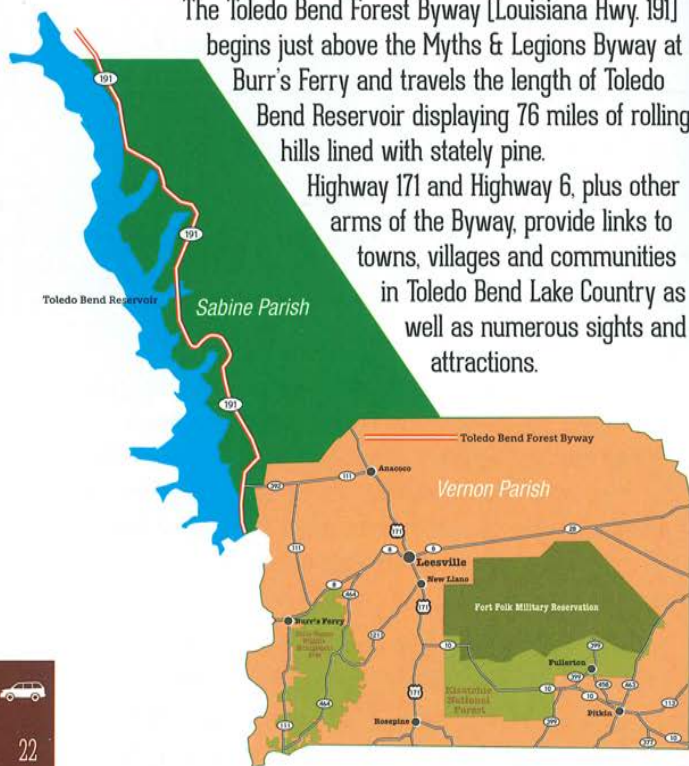


One of the many informative kiosks along the Myths & Legends Byway.

TOLEDO BEND FOREST BYWAY

The Toledo Bend Forest Byway [Louisiana Hwy. 191] begins just above the Myths & Legions Byway at Burr's Ferry and travels the length of Toledo Bend Reservoir displaying 76 miles of rolling hills lined with stately pine.

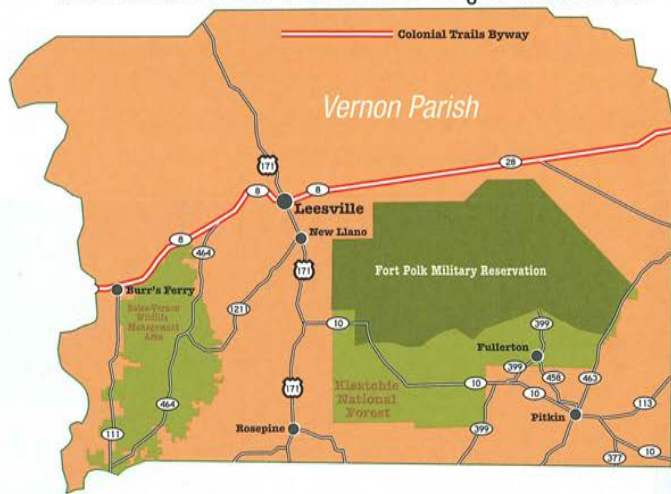
Highway 171 and Highway 6, plus other arms of the Byway, provide links to towns, villages and communities in Toledo Bend Lake Country as well as numerous sights and attractions.



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COLONIAL TRAILS BYWAY

The entire Colonial Trails Byway contains 100 historic sites and points of interest, steeped in legend, natural beauty, colonial heritage and Civil War remembrances. As you journey our route, allow the views to evoke images of natives, pioneers, and other settlers embracing the terrain to make a way of life. The Louisiana Colonial Trails traverse a region characterized



Museum of West Louisiana



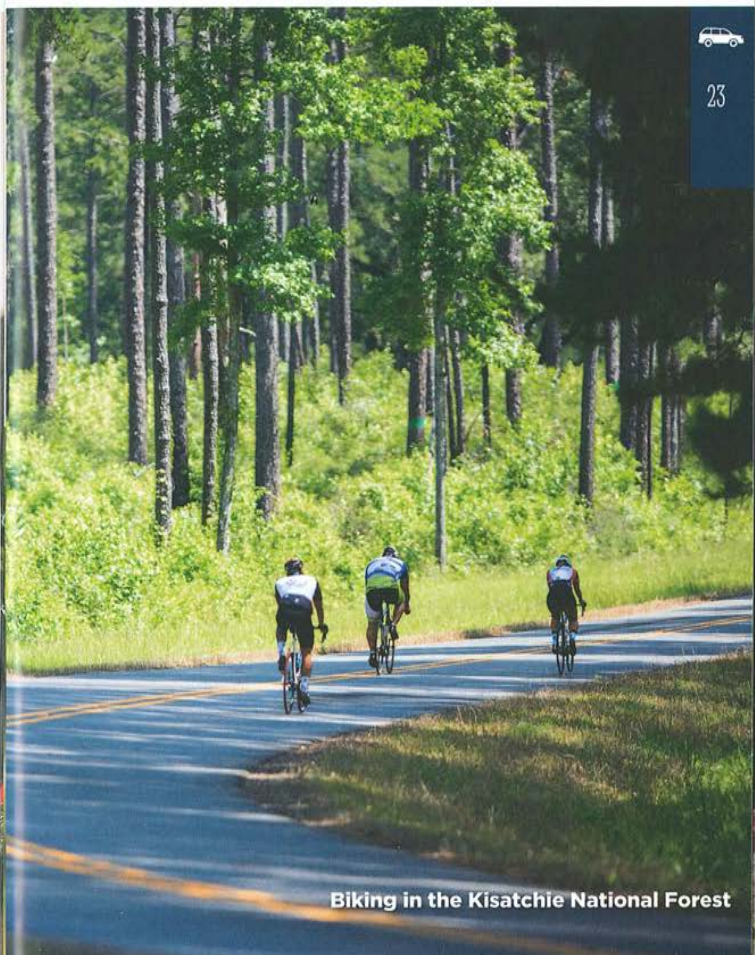
This entire byway spans across Louisiana and contains 100 historic sites and points of interest.

by the diversity of its people and the rich resources of the land and its waterways.

The terrain of the roads skirts rivers, lakes, and lowlands, and arches across the bluffs then overland throughout the piney woods. The corridor was legendary and includes the El Camino Real and Old San Antonio Road, which connected the original colonies to Mexico and the West.



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Biking in the Kisatchie National Forest



NOLAN TRACE

Philip Nolan was a horse smuggler. He smuggled Mustangs all the way from Texas, then owned by Spain, to Natchez, then down to New Orleans for a decade. He used many trails in No Man's Land, the disputed land on the Texas border, for escape. He was finally captured in Leesville, near the Sabine River in 1801 and executed by Spanish troops. The trail that is now LA Highway 28 from Alexandria to Leesville and LA Highway 8 to the Sabine River is the one most associated with the outlaw. His routes are part of the Colonial Trails system known as the Nolan Trace.

There are several stops of note on the Nolan Trace in Vernon Parish. The Kisatchie National Forest, Fort Polk Museum, the Old Courthouse in Leesville, and the Museum of Western Louisiana which is housed in an old KCS Depot.

There is a Nolan Trace historic marker at the Vernon Parish Library near LA Highway 8 on Nolan Trace Road.



Water Works

Lakes, Fishing, & Water Recreation

With more than five notable bodies of water, such as Anacoco Lake, Toledo Bend Lake, Vernon Lake, Sabine River, and Toro Bayou, Vernon Parish provides ample opportunities for boating,



tubing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and swimming. Our mild temperatures year-round mean you can launch your craft just about any time of year. Paddle the lakes and bayous and enjoy the serene, sun-speckled waters of Vernon Parish while taking in the sights and sounds of our abundant natural heritage. Fish for largemouth bass and land that big lunker you've always dreamed of catching.

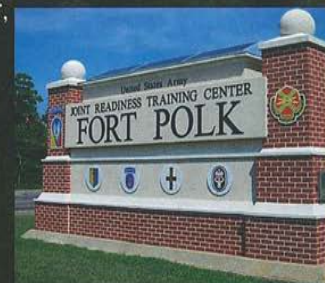


For information on licenses, contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
337-491-2575 • wlf.louisiana.gov/hunting

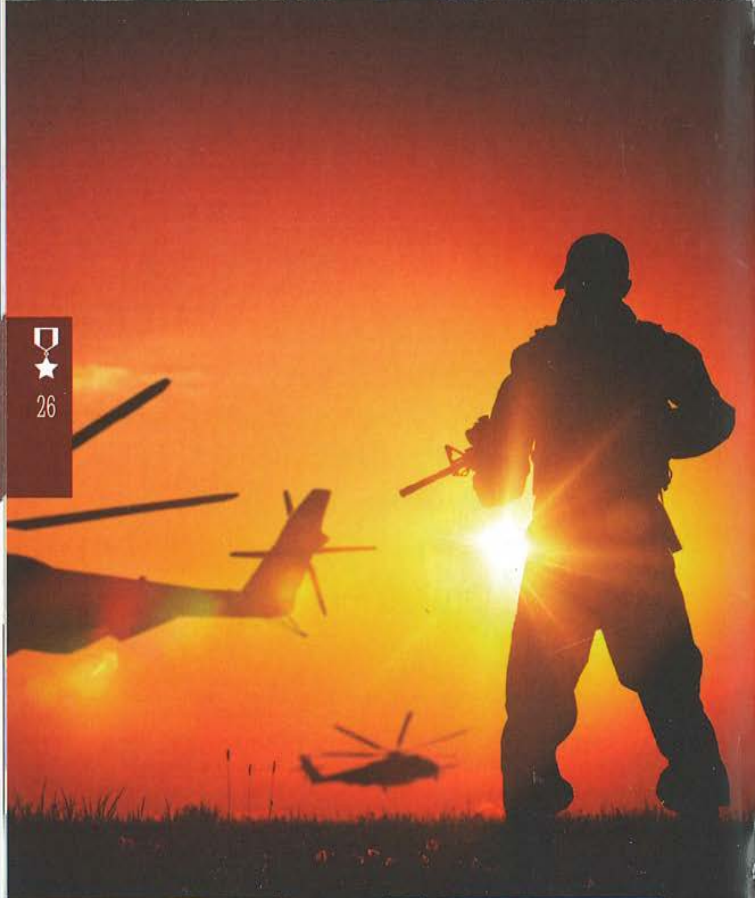


America's Training Ground

Louisiana's Legend Country boasts of outlaws and bandits during its No Man's Land days of old, but more recently we are known as the training ground turning out the brave men and women who served in our United States Armed Forces. Fort Polk was originally established as Camp Polk in 1941 during the Great Louisiana Maneuvers. After the war, the camp was used periodically for training, but it re-opened as Fort Polk in 1962 and has remained in continuous operation ever since. Today, it is the home to the Joint Readiness Training Center.



The Fort Polk Military Museum honors our heroes, and features indoor galleries and historical tanks outdoors. Exhibits highlight the Louisiana Maneuvers and the Vietnam War era "Tiger Land." The Museum is open to the public, Tue-Sat, 9am - 4pm, excluding national holidays.



Outdoor Recreation

Vernon Parish, Louisiana's Legend Country, definitely has legendary outdoor experiences.

From Kisatchie National Forest to water sports to geocaching, you will find enough adventures and beautiful scenery to suit the most ardent outdoorsman. Check out shooting ranges and other recreational sporting activities along with swimming and golfing opportunities.

ANACOCO

Bass Haven Resort

Boat Launch, Fishing
665 Bass Haven Resort Dr.
Anacoco · 888-286-9239

Hadden's Ferry Public River Access

Birding, Canoeing,
Free Kayak/Canoe Launch, Fishing
Holcomb Rd. · Anacoco

Thaxton's Landing

Boat Launch and Slips, Fishing
Thaxton Landing Rd.
Anacoco · 337-392-2232

Tack-A-Paw Expeditions

Birding, Canoe Rental, Tubing, Fishing
2340 Toro Rd. · Anacoco
337-286-9337
tackapaw.com

BURR'S FERRY

Burr's Ferry Civil War Breastworks

Covered Pavilion, Picnic Tables,
Grills, Civil War Historical Site.
Originally erected during the Civil
War to protect Texas from invasion.
Hwy. 8 · Burr's Ferry

South Toledo Bend State Park Riding Trails

Approx. 9.2 miles of OHV trails through 540 acres. The trail spine stretches from near the park's entrance on Hwy. 191 through the woods to Hwy. 392. Nine separate trails, offering varying degrees of challenging topography, branch off the spine, and then loop around to connect again. All of the trails are one-way.

120 Bald Eagle Rd. · Anacoco
337-286-9075 · 888-398-4770

South Toledo Bend State Park Riding Trails



28



29



FLORIEN

Pirates Cove Marina

Birding, Boat Launch, Fishing Pier, Live Bait, Lunger Program Weigh-Station, Swimming, Restaurant, Store.
1567 Caribbean Dr.
Florien · 318-565-4467

FORT POLK

Warrior Hills Golf Course

Fort Polk's Warrior Hills Golf Course features an 18-Hole Championship Design, with a driving range and fully stocked Pro Shop.
Bldg 323, 1321 Corps Rd.
Fort Polk · 337-531-4661
polk.armymwr.com/programs/warrior-hills-golf-course

Fort Polk Mini Golf and Go Carts

The Fort Polk Mini Golf course and Go Cart track have recently opened. They are located on 9th St. and are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
Bldg 1402, 9th & Mississippi Ave.
Fort Polk
337-531-5481 · 337-531-5468

Fort Polk Recreational Shooting Range and Paintball

The Range accommodates many shooting styles and skill levels. Whether skeet or trap, paintball, archery, or pistol, the Fort Polk Shooting Complex covers it all. Open to the public although users must follow strict guidelines when bringing weapons on post. Also available for group events.
Archery-Shooting-Paintball
4111 California Ave.
Fort Polk · 337-531-7552
polk.armymwr.com/programs/recreational-shooting-range



FULLERTON

Fullerton Town & Mill Site

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Hwy. 10 · Fullerton
318-793-9427

HORNBECK

Hornbeck Sports Park

The Hornbeck Sports Park, maintained by the Hornbeck Optimist Club, is located on Hwy. 392 East and has a half-mile path that circles the ball parks and a playground for children.
Hwy. 392 · Hornbeck

Pleasure Point Park - SRA Hornbeck

Birding, Boat Launch, Fishing Pier, Swimming, Restrooms with Showers.
1190 Pleasure Point Rd.
Hornbeck · 318-565-4810

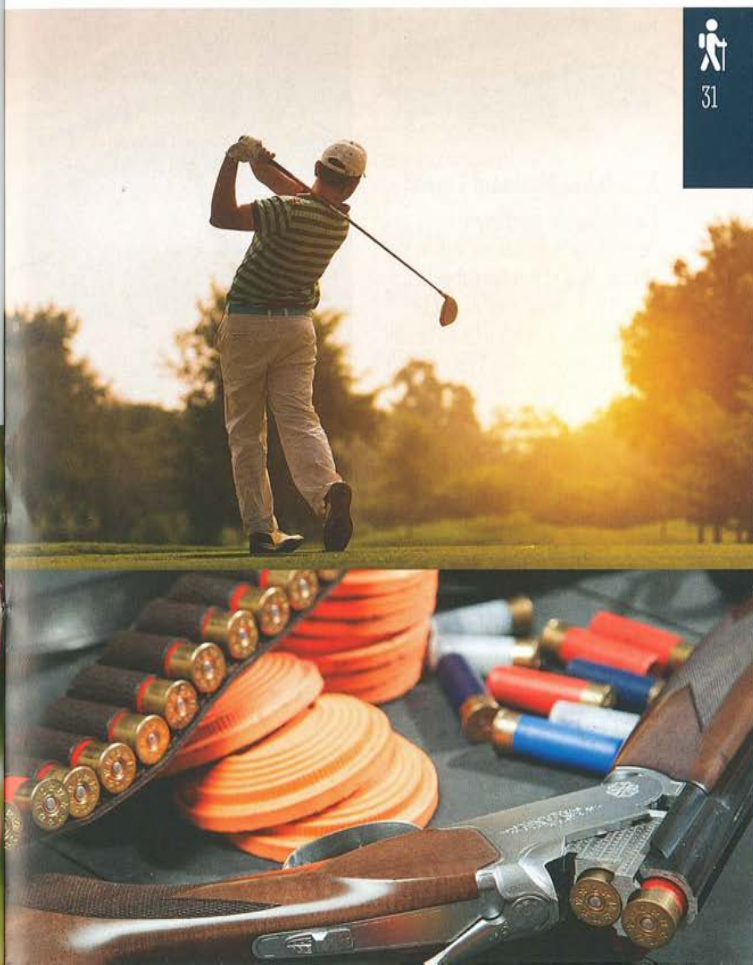
LEESVILLE

Circle KRJ Ranch

[Off Hwy. 10 - 1/2 mile from Fort Polk's South Gate]. Circle KRJ Ranch offers horse boarding, riding lessons and group trail rides -- small groups of at least two can do a mini trail ride around the property, while larger groups can opt for a longer ride through the Kisatchie National Forest.
288 Lonnie Jeane Loop
Leesville · 337- 537-3373
circlekrjranche.webstarts.com

Dogwood Park

Dogwood Park is located on Belview Rd. near Leesville High School; it is lighted and has chain climbers and benches.
Belview Rd. · Leesville





Hickory Ridge Recreational Park

Hickory Ridge Rd.
Leesville · 337-238-0324
vppjla.com/?page_id=429

Jubilee Park

Jubilee Park is located on Nona St., across from Vernon Middle School. Shaded picnic tables are scattered throughout.
Nona St. · Leesville

Leesville Leisure Pool

Located next to the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds off LA Hwy. 8 West, the pool is perfect for parents and small children with its zero depth entry.
121 Forestry Festival Dr.
Leesville · 337-238-1919
leesvillela.gov/Facilities/Facility/Details/Leesville-Leisure-Pool-3



Kisatchie National Forest - Horseback Trails

Several trails contained within the Vernon Unit of the Kisatchie National Forest are designated as horse riding trails, including Government Pond, Whiskey Chitto, Enduro Multi-Use, Big Branch, and Turkey Pen Trails.
For more information, visit the Kisatchie Work Center
1992 Hwy. 10 Leesville
337-537-2113



Leesville Lions Club Pro Rodeo

The Louisiana Playday Riding Club will host Jackpot Barrels and Poles on the second and fourth Friday of every month from March through November at the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds. Gates will open at 4:30pm and the event begins at 6:30pm.
PO Box 1327 · Leesville
337-353-4998 · 337-378-2420
facebook.com/Leesville-Lions-Club-485322264861951

Leesville Motorsports Park

In addition to selling used motorcycles, ATVs, parts, and accessories, Leesville Motorsports Park hosts LACC series racing during the spring and fall. Riding, Racing, Repairs, Parts.
1597 Pitkin Rd. · Pitkin
337-537-1340
Lmsp101@hotmail.com



Leesville Municipal Golf Course - The Pines

The Leesville Municipal Golf Course offers a 9-hole course, covering 10 acres of gently rolling hills, and features 2,821 yards of golf for a par of 35.
331 Country Club Rd.
Leesville · 337-239-2526
Facebook.com/Leesville-Municipal-Golf-Course-232897806868023

Leesville Municipal Park

An enclosed park with playground equipment shaded by lofty pines will provide hours of outdoor fun for children of all ages. Grills are located near several open-air pavilions for family picnics.
350 Country Club Rd.
Leesville · 337-239-2526





Leesville Recreation Complex

The Leesville Recreation Complex is home to 5 lighted baseball/softball fields and a soccer field with a centrally located concession stand. Located next to the Vernon Parish Fairgrounds off LA Hwy. 8 West. 261 H.M. Stephens Blvd. Leesville · 337-239-2995

Magnolia Park

Located on Abe Allen Memorial Drive across from West Leesville Elementary School, Magnolia Park features a walking path, covered benches and playground equipment for children.

Abe Allen Memorial Dr.
Leesville

Methodist Landing Campground

RV & Primitive Camping, Boating, Fishing, Birding, Hiking. Methodist Landing Extension Rd. Leesville 337-238-0324 · Fax: 337-238-0240 vppjla.com/?page_id=13

Sandy Creek Boat Launch

Birding, Free Boat Launch, Dock, Fishing, Picnics. Hwy. 8 · Leesville

Seeing Colors Boarding Stables

Seeing Colors is a boarding stable just off Alligator Lake Rd, near North Fort Polk. They offer riding classes as well as both short and long-term boarding. 178 Burns Cooley Rd. Leesville · 361-491-1688

Swany Creek Ranch

Riding by appointment only. 193 Reeks Rd. · Leesville 337-238-1762 SwanyCreekRanch.com

Vernon Lake Spillway Park

Birding, Dock, Free Boat Launch, Fishing, Picnics, Swimming. Spillway Rd. · Leesville



Wolf Rock - Kisatchie National Forest - Vernon Unit

Wolf Rock is located in the Vernon Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest. Archaeological evidence shows that primitive peoples once used the cave as a habitation. Access to the area is very primitive, so visitors should dress appropriately for walking in the forest.

Forest Service Rd. 403
Leesville ·

For more information, visit the Kisatchie Work Center 1992 Hwy. 10 · Leesville 337-537-2113



NEW LIANO

New Llano Community Park

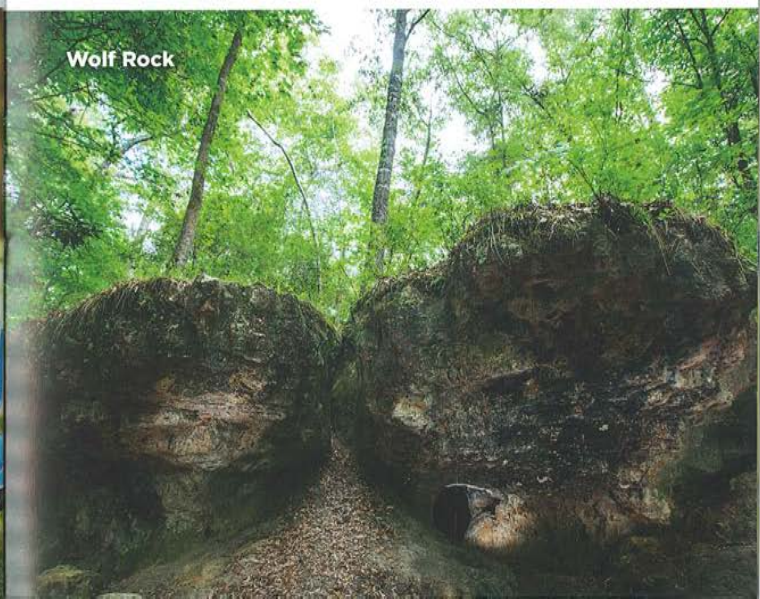
Well maintained park with playground equipment, including a rock climber, monkey bars, and swings. Picnic tables with grills are scattered beneath nearby pines. A paved walking trail loops around the playground. Stanton St. · New Llano



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Wolf Rock



35

PITKIN

Allen Acres Native Ventures

Dr. Charles Allen, author of several books devoted to native Louisiana flora, and his wife Susan, have spent years developing the gardens to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Other gardens focus on various curiosities, such as night-blooming flowers, bird watching, and "yard art". Trails lead into the forest where trees are labeled for identification. Plant Identification Walks and/or Workshops are available on demand for groups of five or more -- with or without a room. Options include an outdoor tour, indoor workshop, or both. Sessions generally last four hours, but Dr. Allen will work with you to customize your trip. Chinese cooking classes are available for groups of five or more at Allen Acres Bed & Breakfast in Cravens, LA.

5070 Hwy. 399

Pitkin · 337-328-2252

nativeventures.net

native@camtel.net

Cooter's Bog in Kisatchie National Forest

The U.S. Forest Service is dedicated to educating the public on the value of native plants. Their website "Celebrating Wildflowers" offers a wealth of information relating to the subject and provides a list of nationwide viewing areas which includes Cooter's Bog in Vernon Parish. The bog is part of the Kisatchie National Forest and is a frequent destination of Dr. Charles Allen's nature tours.

LA Hwy. 463 · Pitkin

318-472-1840

fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/southern/CootersBog/index.shtml

Enduro Multi-Use Trail

The Enduro Multi-Use Trail is the only trail in the Vernon Unit of the Kisatchie National Forest that has been approved for Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs). It has been designated as a Day-Use area and costs \$5 per operator, which can be paid at a self-service fee station.

Junction of Forest Rd. 440 & 442

Pitkin

318-793-9427 · 800-225-9733

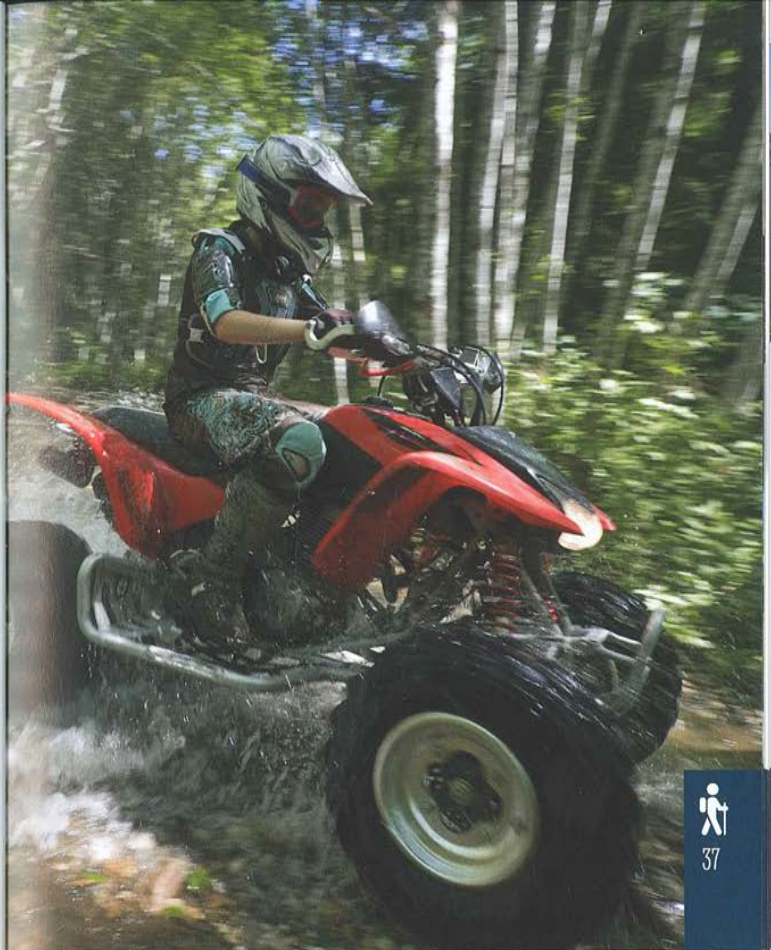
fs.usda.gov/recarea/kisatchie/recreation/bicycling/recarea/?recid=34693&actid=24

SLAGLE

Wagon Wheel Riding Club

Slagle

wagonwheelridingclub.org



Louisiana's Legend Country boasts historic sites which tell the stories of its adventurous past, but it also features art galleries and exhibits throughout the year, showcasing its creative culture. Take a stroll down our Historic Main Street area in Leesville and venture further out into the region beyond to take in all there is to see in Vernon Parish.

Art Locations

LEESVILLE

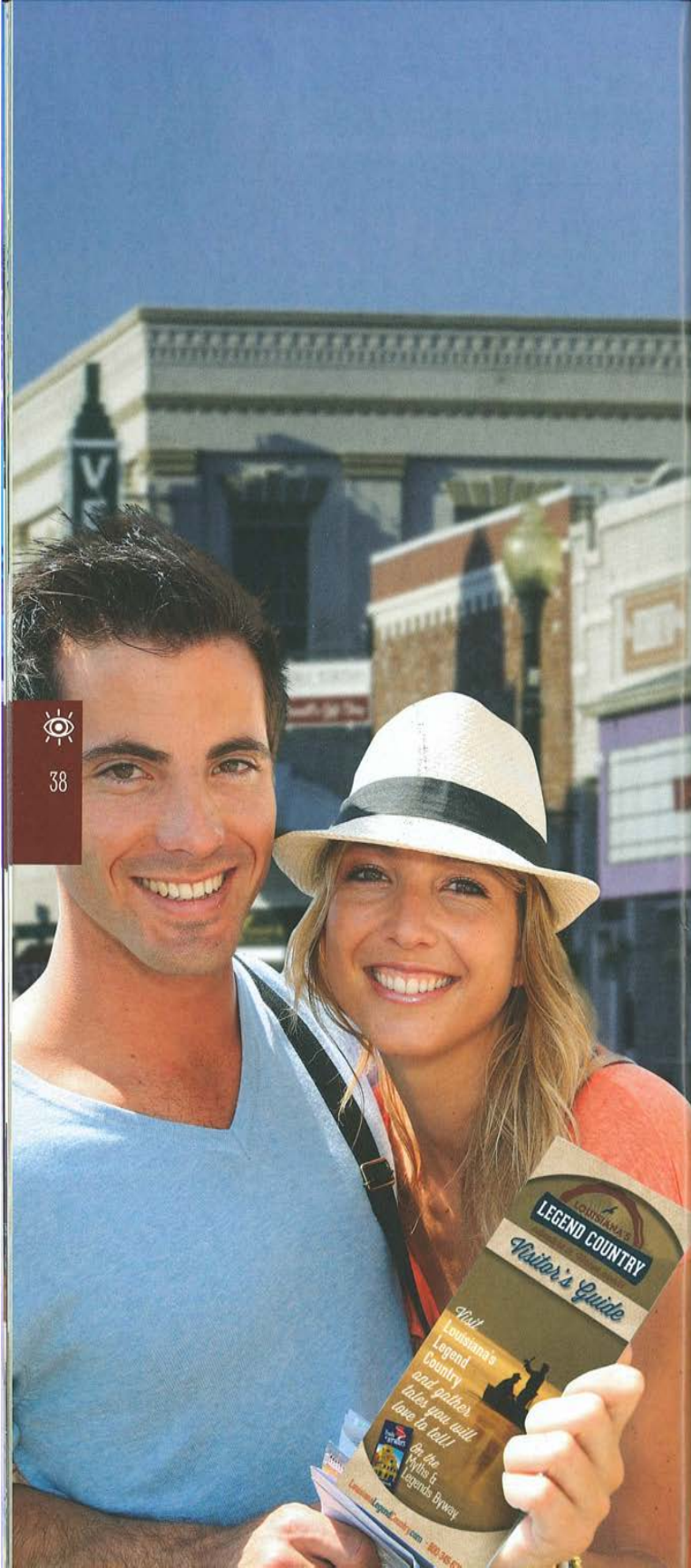
Gallery One-Elleven

Gallery One-Elleven is funded by a co-op of local artists and art enthusiasts and is the center of the art scene in Leesville and Vernon Parish. It is located in the heart of the Historic District of Downtown Leesville with traditional and contemporary displays and monthly receptions and exhibits. Wed-Fri, 11am-4pm; Sat 11am-2pm [and by appointment] 111 3rd Street, Leesville 337-208-1762 www.facebook.com/pages/Gallery-One-Elleven/154932321538014 gallerioneellleven@gmail.com

Vernon Parish Library

The Vernon Parish Library is both a Federal Depository Library and a Louisiana State Depository Library. The library is a source for genealogical records from the area, and it has a collection of over 14,500 historic photos on Flickr. 1401 Nolan Trace, Leesville · 337-239-2027 · 800-737-2231 Mon-Thur, 9am-8pm · Fri-Sat 9am-5:30pm · Sunday closed

Vernon Parish Library



Historic Places

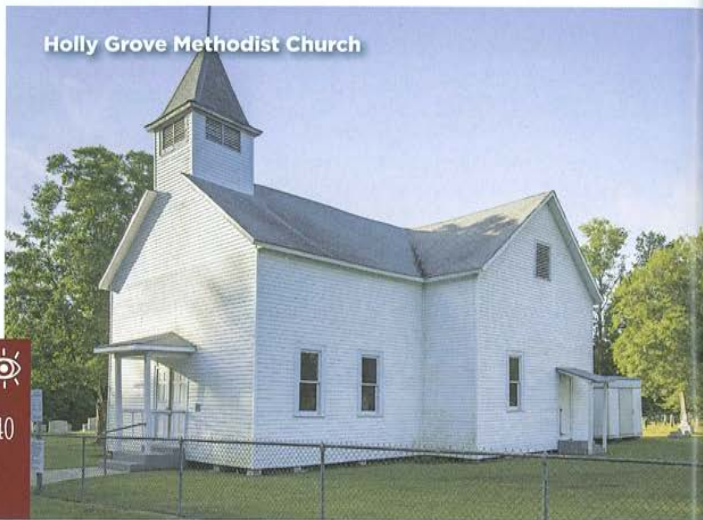
ANACOCO

Holly Grove Methodist Church 1834

Holly Grove Methodist Church was founded in 1834 and is believed to be the oldest protestant church in continuous operation west of the Mississippi. Local legend has it that the church served as a stop on the underground railroad in its early years. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

802 Holly Grove Rd., Anacoco

Holly Grove Methodist Church



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Old Mitchell Graveyard

The Old Mitchell Graveyard is the first known cemetery to exist in Vernon Parish. Two Revolutionary War soldiers are known to be buried there.

Hwy. 111 East, Anacoco

BURR'S FERRY

Burr's Ferry Civil War Breastworks, 1864

The Civil War Breastworks at Burr's Ferry were erected during the Civil War to protect Texas from invasion. They are one of the few remaining earthen fortifications in Louisiana and the only Civil War site in Vernon Parish. This site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is on Louisiana's Civil War Trail. It is open to the public and has a pavilion with picnic tables and grills.

Hwy. 8, Burr's Ferry



Burr's Ferry Bridge

The Burr's Ferry Bridge was built in 1936-37 by the W. Horace Williams Company under the Works Progress Administration. It spans the Sabine River and connects Texas Highway 63 with Louisiana Highway 8. The design of the Burr's Ferry Bridge addressed difficult site conditions and employed innovative solutions, including the use of long spans and a slightly curved alignment. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. LA Hwy. 8, Burr's Ferry

CRAVENS

Talbert-Pierson Cemetery

The Talbert-Pierson Cemetery is next to Pine Grove Methodist Church. The cemetery contains some unusual wooden grave houses. The origins of gravehouses are uncertain. Many believe that it began as a means of protecting the graves before cemeteries were commonly fenced. Special trees were cut from the nearby woods then carved into uniquely designed pickets, which were then constructed into sheds complete with metal roofs. Although modern burial practices have made this unnecessary, some families continue the tradition today.

The grave houses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hwy. 277, Cravens



41

FORT POLK

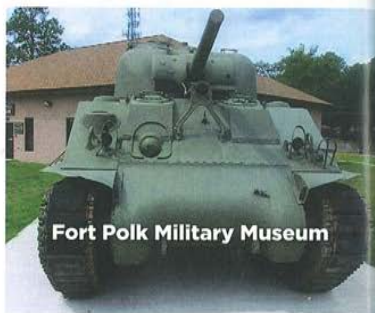
Fort Polk Military Museum

The Fort Polk Military Museum is housed in a new 3,600-square-foot facility with objects and historical artifacts relating to Fort Polk history, including uniforms, equipment,

weapons, training aids and more to help visitors understand the role that Fort Polk has played in preparing the Army for war.

In addition, a portion of the museum highlights the "Heritage Families" who suffered considerable hardship when they were displaced from their homes to make room for the Army community.

Museum hours of operation are Tue-Thu, 10am-5:30pm. Large groups should call ahead to schedule a tour. 7881 Mississippi Ave., Fort Polk 337-531-4840



Fort Polk Military Museum

Warrior Memorial Park

Located on Louisiana Avenue, the park houses historic military vehicles and features a walking trail, as well as picnic tables and benches.



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Warrior Memorial Park

Joint Readiness Training Center & Fort Polk

Fort Polk covers 198,963 acres in permanent building, housing, and training ranges. It was part of the famous "Louisiana Maneuvers" which took place in the early 1940s and was the largest training maneuver of its kind staged before or since.

The army base has the second largest payroll in the state, employing over 4,600 civilians [DA, contract, PX, and other]. With over 37,000 military retirees and their family members living in the area [including southeast Texas], Fort Polk is a most

welcome resource. The U.S. Army's elite national Joint Readiness Training Center for the Department of Defense has found a home at Fort Polk. Soldiers from the international community as well as our own forces train in rotational cycles throughout the year in various settings to prepare them for all types of warfare situations. Also circulating through the JRTC and Fort Polk are the multitude of reserve components such as ROTC, National Guard, and Reserves. Fort Polk

home.army.mil/polok



FULLERTON

Fullerton Town & Mill Site - Gulf Lumber Company

The arrival of the railroads in west central Louisiana heralded the first major population boom in Vernon Parish. Trains made travel and transportation of goods easier. Lumber barons around the country seized the opportunity and began buying up the land and cutting the virgin pines.

Fullerton, Louisiana was the company town of the Gulf Lumber Company. It prospered for 20 years, but without re-forestation, the trees couldn't last forever, and eventually the day arrived when the "last log" was cut on May 6, 1927. Timber had been cut from 97,000 acres. Much of the cut-over land was sold to the Federal government. Some eventually became part of the Kisatchie National Forest, while some became part of the Fort Polk military reservation.

The Fullerton Mill site is on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, you may visit the ruins of this once prosperous community at the Fullerton Lake Recreation Complex in the Kisatchie National Forest. Points of interest are identified along the 1.6-mile Fullerton Mill Trail.

Hwy. 10, Fullerton · 337-793-9427



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LEESVILLE

Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs opened their second Veterans Cemetery in 2012. Located on two-hundred acres donated by the U.S. Army, the cemetery is open to members of any U.S. military branch, their spouse and dependent children. It is open daily for visitation and has a computerized grave locator available.

The AMVETS Memorial Carillon is a living memorial to our nation's deceased veterans whose bells toll as a constant reminder of our debt to those who fought to preserve freedom throughout the world.

On special holidays, such as Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America, the entrance to the cemetery is spectacularly decked out with an Avenue of Flags. Call, 337-238-6405 for more information.
3348 University Pkwy., Leesville

Ferguson House c. 1890s

The Ferguson House is a Victorian Style house, once home to G.R. Ferguson, who was the General Manager for the Nona Mills Lumber Company. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

406 North 6th St., Leesville



44



Ferguson House

First National Bank Building c. 1907

Built in the style popular for large commercial buildings at the beginning of the 20th century, the lower floor housed the First National Bank and several retail stores. The upper floor was occupied by an opera house, known as the National Theatre. The bank closed during the depression, but the Opera House continued to present traveling Vaudeville shows, symphony orchestras and opera companies for many years. Recently, the Sliman family donated the building to the parish and the interior was renovated for use as the Vernon Parish Courthouse, although the exterior has been completely preserved. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
South Third St., Leesville



First National Bank Building

First United Methodist Church c. 1920

The First United Methodist Church was established by the Methodist families of the Nona Mills Lumber Company. Built in the Mission / Spanish Revival style, the church has retained all of its original stained glass windows. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
202 North 5th St., Leesville



45

Historic 1910 Vernon Parish Courthouse

When Vernon Parish was first created in 1871, Dr. Edmund E. Smart donated a block of land for the first courthouse and other city structures. Early leaders built a simple wood-frame structure which served the new community well until the 1880's when citizens were able to finance a more substantial building. Architectural problems, created by artesian wells on the site, caused the tower on this building to pull away from the main building, and in 1910 this one was also replaced.

Built in the shape of a Greek cross, the third and now historic Vernon Parish Courthouse is the only Beaux-Arts building in the parish. It has two full stories and a third story cupola, which once housed the large bronze bell that now hangs in the gazebo located on the northwest corner of the lawn. The cupola also has four clocks, one on each side, and all are controlled by one small electric motor.

Much of the interior has been modernized over the years, but some original elements remain, like the staircase with

its paneled newel posts and decorative iron balustrades: the blue and brown tiled floor and the paneled wainscoting in the main hall downstairs; and the decorative balustrades and other woodwork encompassing the legal bench.

On July 4, 1976, a time capsule was buried on the courthouse lawn which is meant to be opened on July 4, 2076. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
201 South 3rd St., Leesville



Vernon Parish Courthouse



46

Lyon's Building c. 1907

The Lyon Building is Italianate in style. The flat roof, imposing cornices, and arched windows combine to form one of Leesville's oldest and most elegant buildings. At the main entrance to the building, you will see the original mosaic tile which still runs throughout the first floor of the building.

The building is remembered by many as the location of both the famous "Happy Hour Cafe" and the office of Dr. I. O. Winfree, a dentist who practiced for over 50 years upstairs in this building. In fact, several of the windows on the upper floor still bear Dr. Winfree's name. In the 1960s the lower floor housed Lenahan's Department Store.

This building, along with the entire row of buildings on the east side of Third Street, between Texas and Courthouse Streets were built by B.H. Lyons. Originally, there was a matching building on the north end of the block, but it, and at least one adjoining building, was destroyed by a fire in the 1920s. At that time, Mr. Lyons replaced them with the buildings that remain to this day. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 115 South 3rd St., Leesville



Lyon's-Stelly Home c. 1900

The Benson H. Lyons House [c. 1900] is a large Queen Anne Revival style residence with prominent Eastlake features. The double wraparound gallery that outlines three sides of the home is bedecked with elaborate woodwork which makes this one of the most pretentious homes in Vernon Parish.

According to tradition, the Lyons House was built in 1890 by Dr. E.E. Smart [founder of Leesville], for his daughter Lula and her husband, Benson H. Lyons. Mr. Lyons served as Vernon Parish Sheriff and was a successful lumberman. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons donated land for churches and schools and were involved in many other civic endeavors.

In 2003, the home was purchased by LaFonda Stelly, and serious restoration was begun. In 2004 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
203 South 1st St., Leesville



47

Merchant & Farmer's Bank Building c. 1928

The distinguished Merchants and Farmers Bank building is built in the English Revival style. Hallmarks of this style are corner quoins and classical architectural devices such as the egg and dart molding across the main façade. The bank originally had a bronze clock on the front and still has its beautiful, white marble counters.

Currently home to Senior Circle, the building is part of the Leesville Historic District and on the National Register of Historic Places.
120 South Third St., Leesville



Museum of West Louisiana

The Museum of West Louisiana is housed in the historic Leesville KCS Depot building. From 1916 until 1968, the Kansas City Southern railroad served as a primary travel and transportation center for the city of Leesville and all of the surrounding area, but eventually rail travel declined and the building fell into a state of disrepair.

On October 25, 1984, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and by 1986 had been fully restored to serve as a storehouse of artifacts illustrating the history, culture, and resources of Vernon Parish and the West Central area of the Louisiana Territory.

Pioneer Park, located on the southern end of the museum property, is available for picnics, cookouts, special events, or just sitting and relaxing.

The site also houses P.O.W. Paintings, a group of scenes painted on the walls of a local hotel by German prisoners of war during World War II. The Museum Gift Shop showcases many handmade and donated items.

Hours: Tue-Sat, 1pm-5pm or by appt. FREE ADMISSION
803 South Third St., Leesville · 337-239-0927
MuseumOfWestLouisiana.com

Museum of West Louisiana



48

Smart Plantation House 1855

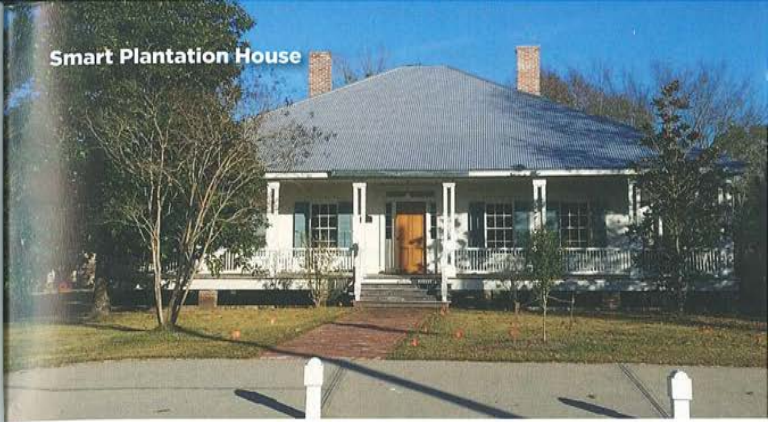
Built in 1855, the Smart Plantation House is the oldest building in Leesville. It is a prime example of the Southern Planter architectural style.

The house was home to Dr. Edmund E. Smart and his family, who owned considerable acreage in the area. When Vernon Parish was created from parts of Sabine, Natchitoches, and Rapides parishes, Dr. Smart donated part of his land for the courthouse, and the city of Leesville was established as the county seat.

The one-story wood frame house faces the old Leesville central business district. It rests on brick piers and has a spreading hip roof with a low pitch. It features a quite distinctive gallery, which originally encircled the entire house. The unique columns, with their cutout design, are Italianate in style.

In addition, the original house had a separate kitchen which

Smart Plantation House



sat on the south side of the house. Kitchens were often separate from the main house, primarily because of the danger of fire. This building still remains on the property.

Recently, the home has been purchased by James and Mariget Turner, who have begun restoring the house to its original condition. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 301 South First St., Leesville

U.S. Post Office c. 1936

Built by the W. P. A. [Works Progress Administration] during the Great Depression, the U.S. Post Office is built in the Art Deco style. Above two of the windows in the main façade are bas-relief sculptures which herald the advent of air mail. Inside the lobby is another bas-relief sculpture depicting a farmer leaning against a hoe and his wife, seated reading a letter. The interior sculpture was created by a New York artist, Duncan Ferguson, who was first brought to Louisiana by Huey Long to start the art school at Louisiana State University. 303 South Third St., Leesville

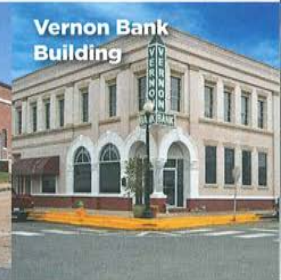


49

U.S. Post Office



Vernon Bank Building



Vernon Bank Building c. 1904

The Vernon Bank was located in the large commercial building built in 1907 by George R. Ferguson of Nona Mills Lumber Company. The bank portion of the building had a Romanesque style façade with arches over the windows and a corner

entrance with a Corinthian column. During the 1950's and 60's the façade was replaced with modern tile, although this has since been replaced using windows and siding which are very similar to the original. The site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Third St., Leesville

Vernon Parish Veteran's Plaza

The Vernon Parish Veteran's Plaza was built to honor all Vernon Parish veterans. Since it was begun in 2000, the memorial has grown to contain seven stone tablets engraved with the names of many Vernon Parish veterans.

At the site, the American flag towers above the flags of the five US military branches, including Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard, as a POW flag flutters to the side, alone, but not forgotten.

Third St., Leesville

Wingate House



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Wingate House c. 1905

The Wingate House [c. 1905] is a Queen Anne - Colonial Revival residence primarily distinctive from other Leesville homes because of its rounded turret topped by a Baroque bell-shaped metal roof and the bold undulating veranda emphasized by classical columns.

There are no fireplaces in the house and apparently never were -- the house was fitted for central heating when it was built. The furnace was located in the basement, which was also unusual for homes in the area, and each room had its own register to distribute the heat throughout.

The home was built by Senator Thomas Wingate around 1905.

At the time, Wingate had just been elected to the Louisiana Senate, where he served from 1904-1908. Wingate returned to Vernon Parish and served as Sheriff from 1908-1912, then as a land agent in the area. In 1918, he sold the house [some say he lost it in a poker game] to John Bagents.

In 1924, Wingate was again elected to the Louisiana Senate, this time serving from 1924-1940. In addition, he served for a brief period in 1935 as Lieutenant Governor when Lt. Gov. John B. Fournet won a special election to the New Orleans-based state Supreme Court and could not complete his term.

The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
800 South 8th St., Leesville

NEW LLANO

Museum of the New Llano Colony

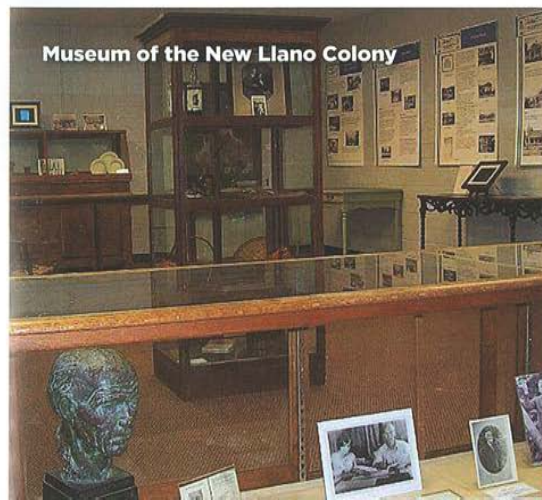
The New Llano Cooperative Colony was founded in 1917 by Job Harriman. It was located two miles south of Leesville on 20,000 acres of cut-over land.

Members paid \$2000 and were given a job. In return they received a home and their share of food. The people were self-sufficient, farming the land and operating various manufacturing and specialty businesses. They had their own school, infirmary, hospital, and recreational facilities. The colony was closed in 1937.

The Museum is open Tue-Fri, 10am to 4pm.

This building, standing across the railroad tracks from Hwy. 171 in New Llano, housed the commissary for the community.
211 Stanton St., New Llano · 337-238-1185
NewLlanoColony.com · nllamuseum@hotmail.com

Museum of the New Llano Colony



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Arkansas



Vernon Parish Tourism Commission
201 South 3rd St · Leesville, LA 71446
337-238-0783 · 800-349-6287
Info@VernonParish.org
LouisianaLegendCountry.com

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 349 · Leesville, LA 71496

We hope you visit Vernon Parish! Our office is located inside the Historic 1910 Vernon Parish Courthouse located on 3rd Street in Leesville, LA. Our office hours are Mon-Fri, 9am-4:30pm.

We'd love to have you stop by, pick up a free state or parish map, and browse the travel information from around the state.

If you will be traveling to our area and would like more information, please let us know. We'll be happy to mail it to you.