

Annual Festivals & Events

Our Heritage

 Held the Friday before Mardi Gras, the Downtown Mardi Gras Celebration offers live entertainment, folk art and food. On Mardi Gras, the Half-East Crew of Frank's Parade rolls through the downtown district. 800-424-5442.

 Music & Market celebrates the spring and fall bounties of fresh, homegrown produce with local musical talents. Held on Fridays 5:30 – 8:30 during spring and fall. 800-424-5442

 The Juneteenth Folklife Celebration is an African American cultural event highlighting its contributions to Southwest Louisiana through food, folk art demonstrations, music and liturgical. Held the Saturday before Father's Day. 337-945-5064

 Opelousas is designated Zydeco Music Capital of the World and the Original Southwest LA Zydeco Music Festival is held each Labor Day weekend. 337-942-2392 or zydeco.org

 Zydeco Breakfast – Before heading to the Original Southwest LA Zydeco Festival on Labor Day weekend, stop by the heart of downtown Opelousas for live music and breakfast items available at nearby cafes. 800-424-5442

 Cemetery Tours: Voices from Our Past – Held the second and third weekends in October, local actors bring historical characters to life through tours at the St. Landry Church Cemetery. 337-942-8318

 Holy Ghost Creole Bazaar & Festival is held the first full weekend in November, this festival celebrates Creole culture. 337-948-2732

 Lighting of the Nativity Scene & the Oaks This annual holiday tradition is held the Saturday after Thanksgiving Day on the grounds of the historic St. Landry Parish Courthouse Square.

 Children's Christmas Parade – Held the second Thursday in Dec., this annual holiday event features colorfully lit Christmas themed floats, marching bands, costumed characters and of course everyone's favorite, Santa Claus! 800-424-5442, cityofopelousas.com

 La Table Francaise – Held the last Wednesday of the month at Le Vieux Village, attendees are invited to grab a grab a cup of coffee and join in on Louisiana French conversation. 337-948-6263

 Delta Grand Theatre – Located in the heart of downtown Opelousas, this historic theatre hosts a variety of productions throughout the year. 337-407-1806 or deltagrandtheatre.com

 Opelousas Little Theatre stages year-round quality productions. opelousaslittletheatre.com

Opelousas

1720  2020

TRICENTENNIAL

An Authentic CAJUN & CREOLE experience



Visit Opelousas and discover our unique culture, our rich history and our *Joie de Vivre (Joy of Life)* that makes us Louisiana's authentic Cajun and Creole destination!

Opelousas, Louisiana's third oldest City, was established by the French in 1720. In 1765, the Acadians (Cajuns) arrived in the Opelousas area and the Spanish established a garrison here in the mid-18th century. A strong Creole influence can still be felt in this old city.

 Jim Bowie, famed hero of the Alamo, lived in Opelousas before moving to Texas to join the fight for Texas independence.

Opelousas became the capital of Confederate Louisiana for almost a year in 1862, and the city has the oldest remaining Governor's Mansion in the state.

The cultural mosaic here produced the exotic and sought-after Cajun and Creole dishes like 'etouffee', jambalaya, boudin and cracklins. You can dine where world-famous chefs Paul Prudhomme, Tony Chachere and Eula Savoie learned their culinary skills. After dinner, put on your dancing shoes and move to the beat of zydeco, Cajun or swamp pop at our many music venues and dance halls. Here, our heritage is celebrated every day!

Take a step back in time, step into a culinary experience or dance the two-step. Whatever your taste, Opelousas is...

Perfectly Seasoned.



Get the free mobile app at

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Discover Louisiana's Third Oldest City

Just 20 minutes north of Lafayette on I-49

800-424-5442

Email us: tourism@cityofopelousas.com

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Attractions

The Opelousas National Historic District,

located in the heart of Old Opelousas, showcases more than 175 years of architecture, ranging from Greek Revival to Art Deco. Visit the 300+ year old Jim Bowie Oak and our courthouse square, or stroll down brick sidewalks dating back to the early 1800s

while exploring our **Historic District**. Stop by the visitor's center for a free driving and walking map.



Le Vieux Village – French for the Old village. This historical park and museum is a collection of buildings from Opelousas and St. Landry Parish, dating from the 1700s to the early 20th century. The village includes one of the oldest Creole homes west of the Mississippi River the Mississippi River, the Louisiana Orphan Train Museum, and a Zydeco Music exhibit. There's even a chapel for weddings! For free guided tours and info: 1-800-424-5442.



Historical Churches and Cemeteries – The St. Landry Catholic Church was established by French Capuchin friars in the mid-1700s. Other churches include Louisiana Memorial United Methodist Church, Holy Ghost Catholic Church, Mt. Olive Baptist Church and Little Zion Baptist Church. Cemeteries include St. Landry Catholic and Myrtle Grove.



Historical and Genealogical Research – Opelousas is a treasure trove for historians and genealogists. The area's records date back to the French and Spanish colonial eras. The documents located at the St. Landry Parish Courthouse and St. Landry Catholic Church rival those of New Orleans, Mobile and Natchitoches.

Public Art – Discover downtown and explore unique public art including the Acadian to Cajun mural, Zydeco Capital of the World mural, Seven Brothers Oak mural, St. Landry Parish History from the 1800s mural, and Fiddle Mania – large fiberglass and metal fiddles decorated by local artists. Opelousas is also home to a certified Cultural District, so be sure to take advantage of tax-free purchased original art.

For Sportsmen and Nature Lovers,

Opelousas is part of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and nearby Thistletown Wildlife Management Area. These sites provide opportunities for biking, hunting, fishing and paddling!



Evangeline Downs Racetrack & Casino – Offers some of best Vegas-style gaming action with more than 1,600 slots and exciting Thoroughbred and Quarter horse racing where the announcer yells, "Ils sont partis!" – French for "They're off!" Enjoy live music and concerts. 1-866-472-2466 or evangelinedowns.com



Fireman's Museum

– Memorabilia and artifacts related to Opelousas Hope, Hook and Ladder Fire Co. #1, one of the oldest volunteer fire companies in the city. It is housed in the company's former building which also serves as Fire Sub-Station 3. Free and open to the public. 337-948-2542.

Historic Michel Prudhomme House

– Believed to be the oldest structure, circa 1770, still located in its original location in St. Landry Parish, and is a fine example of French Colonial architecture. During the Civil War, the home was used to house Union officers. Available for tours, meetings and receptions by appt. 337-942-8011.

Creole Heritage & Folklife Center

– Learn about the rich heritage of the Creoles of Color people of Southwest Louisiana 337-945-5064.