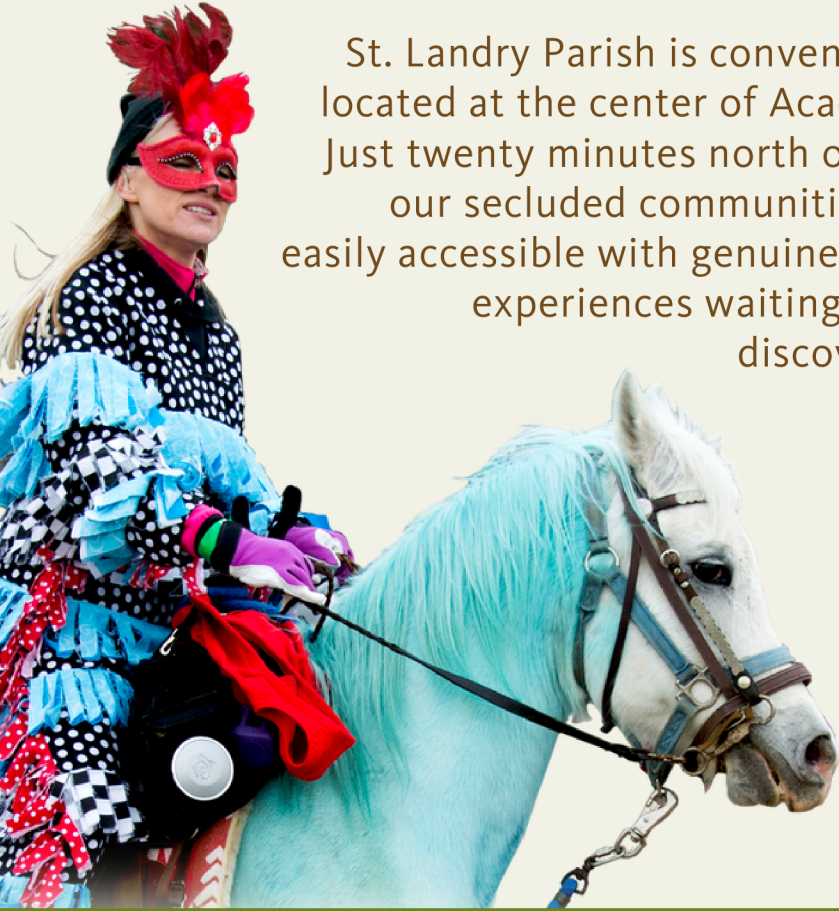


GUMBO FOR YOUR SOUL

St. Landry Parish is conveniently located at the center of Acadiana. Just twenty minutes north of I-10, our secluded communities are easily accessible with genuine, rural experiences waiting to be discovered.

- ◆ Cajun & Zydeco Music Tours and Festivals
- ◆ Louisiana Culinary Trails
- ◆ Art and Culture Districts
- ◆ Acadiana's Antique Capital
- ◆ Racetrack & Casino
- ◆ Bayou Teche Corridor within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area for birding, paddling and hiking.



ARNAUDVILLE | CANKTON | EUNICE | GRAND COTEAU | KROTZ SPRINGS | LEONVILLE
MELVILLE | OPELOUSAS | PALMETTO | PORT BARRE | SUNSET | WASHINGTON

Story Ideas

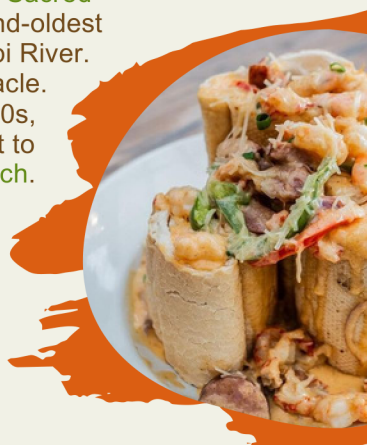
With over three centuries of history and connections to Native American, European, African, and Acadian influences, St. Landry Parish is the perfect place for a traveler looking to steep themselves in the genuine culture of Louisiana, be it through music, food, genealogy, or the outdoors.

- ◆ Opelousas is the **Zydeco Capital of the World**, the birthplace of Clifton Chenier who popularized the genre.
- ◆ The word "zydeco" evolved from the French phrase "*les haricots (pronounced lay-Zah-ree-coe) sont pas sales*". It literally means "the snapbeans are not salty," a metaphor for tough times when people could not afford salt meat to season their food.
- ◆ Film archives, spanning 25 years, of the Original Southwest LA Zydeco Music Festival may be viewed at the **Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center**.



- ◆ From boudin to sweet potatoes and a little seasoning on the side - St. Landry Parish is the "**Prairie Home Cooking**" loop of **Louisiana Culinary Trails** and home to internationally-known Tony Chachere's Creole Cajun Seasoning. Bayou Teche Brewing features its own brand of craft beers custom-made to compliment local Cajun and Creole cuisine.
- ◆ St. Landry Parish **instrument makers**: Tom's Fiddle & Bow, Marc Savoy accordions, Key of Z rubboards, Heritage Accordions.
- ◆ Cycle the backroads and canoe the backwaters of Cajun Country with **Cycle Zydeco** and **Tour du Teche**.
- ◆ **Cajun Music Hall of Fame & Museum**, located in Eunice, helps to preserve and showcase the history of this region's unique form of music.

- ◆ Come to the country for the **Courir de Mardi Gras** in Eunice. This tradition dates back to the late 19th century. This chicken-chase-on-horseback tradition was abandoned for a few years during World War II, but in 1946, a small band of riders revived the practice. Today, the *courir* has hundreds of participants and takes place during a five-day festival.
- ◆ From bush tracks and trail rides to racinos and rodeo champions - the horse industry continues to thrive in St. Landry Parish, the **Equine Capital of Louisiana**.
- ◆ The **Orphan Train Museum** explains how Opelousas became home for children from the New York Foundling Hospital. The museum is the only one of its kind in Louisiana and the second in the nation.
- ◆ **Acadiana's Antique Capital** - Washington. There are over 150 dealers in this old steamboat town with a semi-annual fair that attracts hundreds.
- ◆ Celebrating 200 years, the **Academy of the Sacred Heart** in Grand Coteau stands as the second-oldest institution of learning west of the Mississippi River. It's also the site of a Vatican-approved miracle.
- ◆ With original records going back to the 1700s, the **St. Landry Parish Courthouse** is perfect to find primary sources and **genealogy research**.
- ◆ **Still Rising: Free People of Color** is an exhibit at the Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center detailing the history of this influential demographic.
- ◆ Louisiana is often called the "**Hollywood of the South**". St. Landry Parish has been the backdrop of movies ranging from classics like *Easy Rider* to hits like *Free State of Jones*.



Festivals

Feb/March

Courir de Mardi Gras
EUNICE, LOUISIANA

Opelousas Mardi Gras Celebration
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

Washington Community Festival
WASHINGTON, LOUISIANA

World Championship Crawfish Étouffée Cookoff
EUNICE, LOUISIANA

Here's the Beef Cookoff
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

April

Top of the Teche
LEONVILLE, LOUISIANA

Cycle Zydeco
VARIOUS COMMUNITIES AROUND ACADIANA

Étouffée Festival
ARNAUDVILLE, LOUISIANA

May

Herb & Garden Festival
SUNSET, LOUISIANA

June

Juneteenth Folklife Celebration
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

Sportsmen's Heritage Festival
KROTZ SPRINGS, LOUISIANA

July

Lebeau Zydeco Festival
LEBEAU, LOUISIANA

Aug./Sept.

Fête-Dieu du Teche
LEONVILLE, LOUISIANA

Southwest LA Zydeco Music Festival
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

Tour du Teche 135-Mile Boat & Paddle Race
PORT BARRE, LOUISIANA

Oct./Nov.

Sweet Dough Pie Festival
GRAND COTEAU, LOUISIANA

Holy Ghost Creole Festival
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

Cracklin Festival
PORT BARRE, LOUISIANA

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