

LAFAYETTE



Lafayette, in the heart of French Louisiana, is the unofficial capital of Cajun country or Acadiana. Founded in 1821 under the name of Vermilionville, the town was renamed a few decades later in honour of the Marquis de Lafayette. Although English is the language of instruction in Louisiana schools, the population proudly maintains its French language. You will be charmed by the accent of French-speaking Louisianans, which is similar to that of the Acadians in New Brunswick, Canada. Come experience the legendary Cajun *joie de vivre* and culture through their traditional music and unique, world-famous cuisine.

BAYOU COUNTRY

WHAT TO DO

ACADIAN CULTURAL CENTER★★

This is the perfect place to learn more about the **origins, migration and culture of the Acadians (Cajuns) of Louisiana**. A 25-minute film **shares their history** from their deportation from Nova Scotia, Canada to their settlement in south Louisiana: a must-see! Children can explore the different exhibits and earn a badge with the Junior Ranger program. Admission is free.

501, FISHER ROAD, LAFAYETTE
337-232-0789

WWW.NPS.GOV/JELA/
PLANYOURVISIT/NEW-ACADIAN-
CULTURAL-CENTER.HTM

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST★

This cathedral is the **mother church of the Catholic Diocese of Lafayette**. It is the 3rd church structure built on the site. The land was donated in 1821 by Jean Mouton, a wealthy Acadian planter and the founder of the town of Vermilionville. The large red and white brick Romanesque Revival-style structure was

completed in 1916. Note the **magnificent stained glass windows, lovely oil paintings and Casavant organ**. You can also tour the **cemetery** and the **museum**. Be sure to take a picture of the more than 400-year-old **oak tree** on the cathedral grounds. A guided tour of the cathedral is also possible on request or an online virtual visit. Visit the website for more details.

914, ST-JOHN STREET,
LAFAYETTE

337-232-1322

SAINTJOHNCATHEDRAL.ORG

VERMILIONVILLE★★

A visit to Lafayette is an opportunity to travel back in time at one of the town's historic villages. Vermilionville Historic Village is a **living history museum** that **preserves and promotes** the culture of the Acadian, Native American, and Creole people of the region. You will learn all about Cajun history and **get a glimpse of life in 18th century Lafayette**.

300, FISHER ROAD, LAFAYETTE
337-233-4077

WWW.VERMILIONVILLE.ORG

LARC'S ACADIAN VILLAGE★

Acadian Village is a **historic recreation** of an Acadian village staffed by **interpreters in period costume**. Most of the houses on the site are authentic 19th-century homes. The oldest and most impressive is of these,

Maison Bernard, dates from 1800. If you visit in December, you will have the chance to experience the Noël Acadian au Village Christmas festival.

200, GREENLEAF DRIVE, LAFAYETTE
337-981-2364
ACADIANVILLAGE.ORG

THE HISTORY OF THE CAJUN COUNTRY

The story begins 400 years ago in Acadia, Canada, a region then populated by French immigrants. In 1713, France ceded the territory to England. A few years later, the English push the inhabitants to leave by deporting them by boat. Several French-speaking Acadians and Catholics thus settled in the swamps of Louisiana, also called «swamps» or «bayous». They are linked to their Francophone traditions, which they share with the black minority. It is thanks to them that French is still spoken in Louisiana today. It is a particular French, called «Cajun», comprising many local expressions and a very pronounced accent.



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHEDRAL

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HOUSE OF CULTURES, VERMILIONVILLE

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NEARBY

TABASCO FACTORY TOUR & MUSEUM ★★★

Tabasco brand products are manufactured by **McIlhenny Company**, founded by Edmund McIlhenny in 1868 on Avery Island in Louisiana. It is here that the **original recipe for the famous red pepper sauce** was first developed and passed down from generation to generation. You can take a cooking-themed **guided tour** of the factory or learn about the history and production of the famous sauce with a self-guided, 10-stop factory tour. The **museum** and **gardens** are part of the tour. There is also a restaurant and a lovely **gift shop** where you can **sample** some of their many products and pick up some **souvenirs** of this non-to-be-missed attraction.

32, WISTERIA ROAD, AVERY ISLAND
337-373-6139

WWW.TABASCO.COM/VISIT-AVERY-ISLAND

SWAMP TOUR★★

Several companies offer the opportunity to explore the swamps and bayous by boat. **McGee's Swamp Tour** provides 90-minute **Airboat Rides** and

Swamp Tours. A **Cajun tour guide** will share his personal experience and provide a host of fascinating information as you explore the diverse natural beauty of **America's largest and most mysterious swamp system, Atchafalaya Basin Swamp!** Careful, the alligators are watching you! You can also stop for a bite to eat at nearby **Crawfish Town USA** (see Where to Eat).

1337, HENDERSON LEVEE ROAD,
HENDERSON
337-228-2384
WWW.MCGEESSWAMPTOURS.COM

BREAUX BRIDGE★

If you wish to visit the bayous, you can also go to the small town of **Breaux Bridge★**, just outside Lafayette, by the shores of **Lake Martin**. You will be greeted by **typical Louisiana scenery**: cypress trees as far as the eye can see, alligators, huge turtles and chattering birds. The harmony between the vegetation and the wildlife adds a touch of magic to the scene. Don't forget your insect repellent, as there can be a lot of mosquitoes!



TABASCO FACTORY TOUR & MUSEUM

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SWAMP TOUR

© WikiCommons, Jacardyon



VERMILIONVILLE

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WHERE TO EAT

BORDEN'S ICE CREAM (\$)

Before leaving Lafayette, if you're having a hard time beating the heat, do what the locals do and pay a visit to Borden's Ice Cream Shoppe, a real Lafayette institution. They make their ice cream the old-fashioned way and offer a wide variety of flavours.

Monday-Thursday: 11 am to 9 pm, Friday: 11 am to 10 pm, Saturday: 10 am to 10 pm, Sunday: 10 am to 9 pm.

1103, JEFFERSON STREET, LAFAYETTE
337-235-9291

BORDENSICECREAMSHOPPE.COM

OLDE TYME GROCERY (\$)

For local fare at very good prices, this popular downtown restaurant is sure to please. It's the perfect place to grab a sandwich in a casual, fun atmosphere. The Cajun spices, the seafood and their famous Poor Boys will make your visit a memorable one. *Monday-Friday: 8 am to 10 pm, Saturdays: 9 am to 7 pm.*

218, SAINT MARY BOULEVARD WEST, LAFAYETTE
337-235-8165

WWW.OLDETYMEGROCERY.COM

BON TEMPS GRILL (\$\$)

With its great service, lively urban Cajun atmosphere and delicious menu, Bon Temps Grill is a popular neighbourhood spot where friends and family enjoy good times together. The menu showcases seafood and Cajun cuisine, with many specialties for you to try such as Andouille Gumbo and Crawfish Etouffée. *Monday-Friday: 11 am to 10 pm, Saturday-Sunday: 10:30 am to 10 pm.*

1211, W. PINHOOK ROAD, LAFAYETTE
337-706-8850

WWW.BONTEMPSGRILL.COM

CRAWFISH TOWN USA (\$\$-\$\$\$)

This restaurant is in Henderson, near Breaux Bridge, about 25 km from Lafayette. If it's in season, you must try the Boiled

Louisiana Crawfish: you won't be disappointed!!! There is also a market next to the restaurant that sells fresh seafood, meats, local prepackaged products and seasonings, and much more.

Restaurant

Monday-Thursday: 11 am to 9 pm, Fridays-Saturdays: 11 am to 10 pm, Sundays: 11 am to 2 pm.

The market

Monday-Thursday: 9 am to 8 pm, Friday-Saturday: 9 am to 9 pm, Sundays: 9 am to 6 pm.

2815, GRAND POINT HIGHWAY, HENDERSON

337-667-6148

WWW.CRAWFISHTOWNUSA.COM

*** Hours may vary ***



GATOR COUNTRY

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RESTING ALLIGATOR

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SUNRISE ON LAKE MARTIN

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