

# ST. FRANCISVILLE

Founded in 1809, St. Francisville was called "the town two miles long and two yards wide" because it was developed atop a narrow ridge overlooking the Mississippi River. It was the commercial and cultural center of the surrounding plantation country. Today it is a popular tourist destination known for its historic plantations and its charming downtown. You will appreciate the quiet, rural atmosphere of this picturesque area. Take the opportunity to discover Louisiana's unique Cajan culture, far from the hustle and bustle of New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

ST. FRANCISVILLE

## WHAT TO DO

### ROSEDOWN PLANTATION ★

Built in 1835, the **main house at Rosedown Plantation** is considered one of the **most beautiful homes in Louisiana**. Its owners, the **Turnbull family**, made their fortune in the cotton industry. The **1860 census** indicated that **145 slaves were living in 25 houses...**

What distinguishes Rosedown from other plantations are its **pleasure gardens**, notable for their size and sophistication, which cover more than 10 hectares. Rosedown is a **laboratory** for the study of the cultural traditions of slavery, the lifestyle of the gentry, and scientific experiments in agriculture and horticulture. 12501, HIGHWAY 10, ST-FRANCISVILLE 225-635-3332

WWW.LASTATEPARKS.COM/  
HISTORIC-SITES/ROSEDOWN-PLANTATION-STATE-HISTORIC-SITE

### THE MYRTLES PLANTATION ★

The **Myrtles** has long attracted curious visitors from around the world! At first glance, the house with its **large veranda and magnificent gardens** will envelope you in a sense of peace and tranquility. Yet, the place is **reputed to be haunted!** This historic home, dating from **1796**, is said to have been the **scene of frightening and mysterious happenings**. Maybe you will see Chloe's ghost... It is possible to tour the house and even spend the night. The doors open every day from 9 am to 4:30 pm. There are guided tours that focus on the history,

mystery and intrigue of the plantation and last about 45 minutes. Evening tours are also available from Wednesday to Saturday with a reservation. 7747, HIGHWAY 61, ST-FRANCISVILLE 225-635-6277  
WWW.MYRTLESPLANTATION.COM

### OAKLEY PLANTATION

**Oakley Plantation** is located in **Audubon Memorial State Park**. Renowned naturalist and artist **John James Audubon** arrived at the plantation in the summer of 1821 to teach drawing to the daughter of the house and to paint. Audubon's stay at Oakley lasted only four months, but he  **painted 32 of his famous bird pictures here**. His major work, **The Birds of America**, is often hailed as the most beautiful book on ornithology ever printed. The large house in which he stayed is a good example of colonial architecture of the period. The site includes an interpretation centre, the gardens, slave cabins, the barn and the plantation kitchen. 11788, HIGHWAY 965, ST-FRANCISVILLE 225-635-3739  
AUDUBONSTATEHISTORICSITE.WORDPRESS.COM/



ROSEDOWN PLANTATION

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THE MYRTLES PLANTATION

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OAKLEY PLANTATION

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### PLANTATION

The term 'plantation' refers to the entire estate, including the owner's home, housing for the slaves, and the fields where either sugar cane or cotton was grown. The main house of the plantation is also called the 'Big House' because of its disproportionately large size compared to the small dwellings of the slaves.



OAK ALLEY PLANTATION

© Creative Commons, Ron Paul186



LAURA PLANTATION

© Creative Commons, ZeWrestler

## NEARBY

### PLANTATION ROAD ★★

Between New Orleans and Baton Rouge stretches the legendary **Plantation Road ★★**, also known as **Great River Road ★★**. It runs for about **150 km** along the Mississippi River and features many great mansions and memorable plantations. As you visit the mansions of wealthy 19<sup>th</sup> century sugar and cotton planters, you will learn a great deal about the history of Louisiana and about slavery, which for too long was central to the economic development of this American region. Since it takes about 90 minutes to visit one of these estates, you certainly won't be able to see them all. To help you choose, here are our **personal favourites**. We recommend that you take **at least one guided tour**. Naturally, you can stop as often as you like to stretch your legs, admire the great houses and their gardens, and reflect on the history to which they bear witness...

#### Laura Plantation ★★

Discover the compelling story of **4 generations of Creole women**, both free and enslaved. In 1804, **Guillaume Duparc**, a French naval veteran, acquired the sugarcane plantation and began construction of his manor house. The **brightly-coloured house** was built by Duparc's slaves. Following his death, the plantation was run by the women of the **Duparc and Locoul families** for almost 84 years, until Laura Locoul sold it to the **Waguespack** family in 1891. The **estate** includes 12 period buildings, including the **original slave cabins**. Guided tours begin every 40 minutes. Reservations online.  
2247, HIGHWAY 18 (GREAT RIVER ROAD), VACHERIE  
225-265-7690  
WWW.LAURAPLANTATION.COM



HOUMAS HOUSE

#### Oak Alley Plantation ★★★

**Oak Alley Plantation** was named for the majestic **avenue of 300-year-old live oaks** at the entrance to the estate. While it is a site of great beauty, the sugar plantation long served as a **place of enslavement**. In fact, the site houses a moving **slavery exhibit**. The historic site also features several buildings including the **Big House**, built in 1839 and restored in 1925, the **blacksmith shop** and the **slave cabins**. Take the time to try a **Mint Julep**, a drink that the owners' wives used to enjoy in the morning after coffee. There is also a lovely **gift shop** where you can buy souvenirs and local items. Allow about 2 hours to explore the grounds and exhibits.  
3645, HIGHWAY 18 (GREAT RIVER ROAD), VACHERIE  
225-265-2151  
WWW.OAKALLEYPLANTATION.ORG

#### Houmas House ★★

Houmas House is named for the **Houmas Indians**, who were given a land grant to occupy the fertile plain between the Mississippi and Lake Maurepas to the north. The plantation was established in **1774** when the Houmas sold the land to **Maurice Conway** and **Alexander Latil**. The main house, completed in **1840**, is impressive

with its **great columns** and **magnificent veranda**.

The mansion underwent construction and remodeling by various owners over the years. When it was restored, the best features from various periods were selected to showcase a legacy of each family in the mansion. **Kevin Kelly**, a New Orleans businessman, purchased the estate in 2003 and still owns it today. The site also has a **gift shop** and **3 restaurants**. There are guided tours every hour.  
40136, HIGHWAY 942, DARROW  
225-473-9380  
WWW.HOUMASHOUSE.COM

Other interesting plantations along Plantation Road include:

#### • Destrehan Plantation ★

Destrehan Plantation is the **oldest documented plantation home** in the lower Mississippi Valley. The presence of the **Destrehan family** in Louisiana began in 1730 with the arrival of Jean Baptiste Honoré Destrehan, the son of the councillor to King Louis XIV of France. The plantation offers a tour rich in history that will teach you about the lives of the slaves as well as the inhabitants of the main house. (closed on some holidays).

13034, RIVER ROAD, DESTREHAN  
985-764-9315  
WWW.DESTREHANPLANTATION.ORG

#### • San Francisco Plantation ★

Dating from 1856, this Creole-style plantation house looks like a Mississippi River steamboat and is a National Historic Landmark. The main house is decorated with bright, vibrant colours both inside and out.  
2646, HIGHWAY 44, GARYVILLE  
985-535-2341  
SANFRANCISCOPLANTATION.ORG

#### • Nottoway Plantation ★

This magnificent sugar plantation dates from **1850**. It boasts the **largest antebellum plantation house in the south**, built for **John Hampden Randolph** and his family. The luxurious mansion is indeed impressive with its **great white columns** and **large balconies**. The plantation's restaurant, **Le Café**, serves **traditional Louisiana fare**.  
31025, HIGHWAY 1, WHITE CASTLE  
225-545-2730  
WWW.NOTTOWAY.COM

## BATON ROUGE ★

The capital of Louisiana is well worth a visit. The city got its name from a cypress pole used to mark the boundary of two tribal hunting grounds, which was stained red from the carcasses of animals that had been hung there to dry. Today, a commemorative Red Stick sculpture stands at the same spot on Scott's Bluff.

## LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL ★

The building of a new statehouse was commissioned in **1928** by **Huey Pierce Long** when he was running for Governor of the State of Louisiana.

The **34-story Art deco style skyscraper** is the **tallest capitol building in the country**. Its **27<sup>th</sup> floor observation deck** offers magnificent views of the Mississippi River and the **Pentagon Barracks** built in 1819 to house American Army troops. The base of the building contains **Memorial Hall** and the House and Senate chambers. The **Old Arsenal Museum**, which presents the site's military history, is located on the Capitol grounds. Admission is free.

900, NORTH 3<sup>RD</sup> STREET, BÂTON ROUGE  
225-342-7317

WWW.NPS.GOV/NR/TRAVEL/  
LOUISIANA/CAP.HTM

the soul and traditions of the region. The museum houses many **fascinating objects** including a 48-foot wooden shrimp trawler, a sugar cane harvester, a scale model of a drilling rig, a Civil War submarine and artifacts from steamboats. You will also see exhibits on **slave markets**, resistance and revolt and on **music and famous Louisiana musicians** such as Louis Armstrong.

660, NORTH 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, BÂTON ROUGE  
225-342-5428  
LOUISIANASTATEMUSEUM.ORG/  
MUSEUM/CAPITOL-PARK-MUSEUM

## MAGNOLIA MOUND PLANTATION ★

**Magnolia Mound Plantation** sits in the middle of a **park planted with magnolia trees**. This Creole-style house built in 1791 is made **entirely of wood** and rests on stilts to allow the river breeze to circulate and to protect it from the Mississippi

floods. Unlike most of the region's grand plantations, the house has a more **modest interior** with a rustic feel.

The property also features other buildings including **slave cabins**. To add to the authentic feel, **traditional cooking demonstrations are sometimes held in the old open-hearth kitchen**.

2161, NICHOLSON DRIVE, BÂTON ROUGE  
225-343-4955  
MAGNOLIAMOUND.ORG



## LOUISIANA'S OLD STATE CAPITOL ★

The former capitol building was inaugurated in **1850**. This National Historic Landmark looks like a **medieval castle** and now houses a **museum** whose mission is to educate the public about **Louisiana's rich history** and the **democratic process**. Admission is free.

100, NORTH BOULEVARD, BÂTON ROUGE  
225-342-0500

WWW.LOUISIANAOLDSTATECAPITOL.ORG

## CAPITOL PARK MUSEUM ★★

Capitol Park Museum is a branch of the **Louisiana State Museum**. Through themed exhibits on **diverse aspects of Louisiana's history, industry and culture**, you will discover



## WHERE TO EAT

### MAGNOLIA CAFÉ (\$\$)

This friendly, popular restaurant serves simple but excellent American cuisine, including several southern specialties, and offers a warm welcome. Friday and Saturday evenings feature a live band and a lively atmosphere.

5689, COMMERCE STREET,  
ST-FRANCISVILLE  
225-635-6528  
WWW.THEMAGNOLIACAFE.NET

### THE FRANCIS SOUTHERN TABLE & BAR (\$\$\$)

St. Francisville offers a limited selection of restaurants, but the Francis is another good option for tasty American fare in a pleasant setting. The menu features typical Louisiana food and hamburgers. It's a friendly place with quick service and a large patio. Live bands sometimes play on Friday and Saturday nights, otherwise there are giant screens showing sports.

6747, HIGHWAY 61, ST-FRANCISVILLE  
225-635-0033  
WWW.THEFRANCISSOUTHERNTABLE.COM

### RESTAURANT 1796 (\$\$\$\$)

This recently opened restaurant is located at **The Myrtles Plantation**. The cuisine is excellent and prepared using local, market fresh produce with a menu that changes with the seasons. The large wood-fired hearth is also used for cooking certain dishes. In addition to the restaurant, you can learn about the history of the plantation.

7747, HIGHWAY 61, ST-FRANCISVILLE  
225-784-4096  
WWW.MYRTLESPLANTATION.COM/  
RESTAURANT-1796

### LOUISIANA LAGNIAPPE RESTAURANT (\$\$)

The popularity of this Baton Rouge restaurant can be attributed to the delicious Louisiana favourites it serves.

The menu showcases fresh seafood straight from the Gulf, but also includes steaks and a children's menu. You won't be disappointed with the service.

9990, PERKINS ROAD, BÂTON ROUGE  
225-767-9991  
LOUISIANALAGNIAPPERESTAURANT.COM

### PARRAIN'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT (\$\$)

Parrain's Seafood in Baton Rouge opened its doors in 2001 and has been much appreciated by its loyal customers ever since. It is a local favourite for seafood. There are daily specials for lunch and dinner and a delicious brunch on Sundays. You will also enjoy the atmosphere and the service.

3225, PERKINS ROAD, BÂTON ROUGE  
225-381-9922  
WWW.PARRAINS.COM



LOUISIANA STATE CAPITOL

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