

Central Louisiana: Where Cultures Connect “Agriculture”

Avoyelles Parish
TravelAvoyelles.com
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Vernon Parish
VernonParish.org
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Rapides Parish
AlexandriaPinevilleLA.com
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Louisiana’s Red River Delta is some of the richest farm land in the south. This tour showcases many crops produced in this region.

Day One

Rapides Parish

Begin your day with a tour of Kent Plantation House, the oldest standing structure in central Louisiana. The tour includes the milk house, main house, kitchen, blacksmith shop, outbuildings and sugar mill. There, the group can learn about the working plantation in the early 1800’s.

Tour Inglewood Farm, Louisiana’s largest organic farm, where you can ride along the rows of fresh fruit and produce offered on the farm. Take a look at the chicken bus (yes – you read that right!) which houses their free range roosters and hens. Learn how they maintain their organic pecan orchards before tasting their delicious pecan oils and honey.

Grab lunch at Lea’s Luncheon in Lecompte, LA. Lea’s is known for their ham and pies. Established in 1928, Lea’s offers ham sandwiches, a special of the day plate lunch, strong Louisiana coffee and homemade pies. And the pies draw in locals and travelers alike. Whether you choose the coconut crème, chocolate, pecan or cherry, they are all worth the stop!

Depart on a windshield tour down Highway 112 to Forest Hill, La – home to more than 200 plant nurseries. Stop at a nursery to learn why there are so many nurseries in the area and tour the nursery.

Continue on to the Southern Forest Heritage Museum, located in Long Leaf, where the group can learn more about the forestry industry, both past and present, while touring the oldest compete sawmill facility in the South. A brand new addition to the museum is the Leche Lodge, an original Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) building built at Camp S-63 in what is now the Alexander State Forest just south of Alexandria, housing an expanded CCC exhibit.

Day Two

Vernon Parish

Start the day by visiting Allen Acres Bed and Breakfast, nestled in Louisiana’s pine forest, right next to Kisatchie National Forest, and let Dr. Charles Allen take you on a personal guided tour to some of the rarest ecosystems of the Kisatchie National Forest. Explore the upland south Pine Prairie as you learn what to eat along the way. Allen Acres is a 26-acre wooded property designated a Louisiana State Natural Area, filled with gardens designated to attract butterflies and hummingbirds, a moon garden for

night blooming flowers, yard art curiosities and trails with native trees labeled. The host, Dr. Charles Allen, is an authority on the native plants of Louisiana.

Visit Anderson Farms, a seasonal pumpkin patch that is a favorite for school groups and kids of all ages each fall. Hop on the hayride to the pumpkin patch to pick out your pumpkin. Enjoy a hay maze, and petting zoo along with other farm animals before stopping at the store to buy farm products and farm related merchandise. There are plenty of photo opportunities for all. Available from mid-September until Thanksgiving.

Day Three

Avoyelles Parish

Riverside Pecan Company – Travel through the family owned pecan grove along the way to Riverside Pecan Company for a farm to confectionery experience where homegrown pecans are the main ingredient for pralines, clusters and many other delicacies made on site at the family owned business.

Travel along the banks of Bayou Rouge through Cottonport and lunch with the locals and visitors alike at Bernard's. Select the daily special or choose from the menu. Seafood is always a treat and home-style cooking is a must. Bernard's Seafood Enterprises locally processes and ships fresh seafood through their locally owned and operated seafood processing plant in Cottonport. (Crawfish farm tours by appointment, seasonal.)

Tour Two Sisters Salsa (Seasonal) – a local family business in the Plaquemine/Dupont area. Tour the facility and see how salsa is made, packaged and shipped to Louisiana markets and beyond.