



adventure in Vernon awaits

VERNON PARISH
Louisiana's Legend Country
337-238-0783 • LegendCountry.com

Follow the trail of outlaws, bandits, heroes and soldiers who once traversed Louisiana's Legend Country. Make our storied past a tale you love to tell, and find Gas Station Eats worth going back for seconds!

Louisiana's Legend Country boasts of legends during its No Man's Land days of old, but more recently, we are known as America's training ground turning out the brave men and women who serve in our United States Armed Forces. Fort Polk was originally established as Camp Polk in 1941 during the Great Louisiana Maneuvers.

In Vernon Parish you will find hills, creeks and bayous, prairies and pinelands, each rich in history and tradition. Whether you are a nature lover hiking in Kisatchie National Forest exploring Wolf Rock, fishing on our beautiful lakes and rivers, shoppers hunting treasures, or a history buff scouting well-preserved sites, you will love the time spent in Vernon Parish.

Visitors to Vernon Parish will find quality accommodations, great restaurants, historic sites, arts, and cultural events where legendary describes the good time had by all. Vernon Parish welcomes you and your entire group!



Routes to Take

Louisiana's Legend Country is full of the trails made by outlaws and bandits as they traversed the rugged country of the disputed badlands. We have captured the spirit in trails designed to help you navigate the history of Vernon Parish.

From north to south or east to west, there are many routes through Vernon Parish, and the fun doesn't stop at parish lines! We've designed several routes and itineraries, working with our nearby partners, to connect visitors to fascination and fun!

Where Cultures Connect

is a multi-parish route running through Vernon, Rapides, and Avoyelles parishes. These mostly rural areas feature outdoor adventure, history, festivals, and a unique blend of cultures. We've even developed an agri-tourism tour, designed for groups to experience. Visit us at [Facebook.com/WhereCulturesConnect](https://www.facebook.com/WhereCulturesConnect) for more information.



No Man's Land – Becoming Louisiana

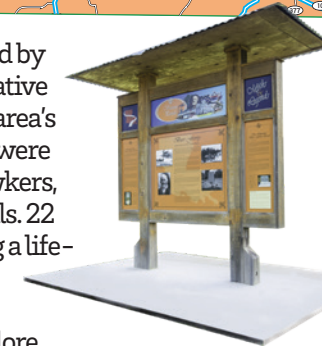
Vernon Parish is proud of its history as a part of "No Man's Land," the disputed territory along Louisiana's western border after the Louisiana Purchase. Outlaws and bandits as well as heroes and soldiers made their mark on this fertile soil. Louisiana's Legend Country celebrates their stories that shaped the culture of today. VisitNoMansLand.com

Myths & Legends Byway

Explore Louisiana's Myths & Legends Byway – a 181-mile drive through western Louisiana Parishes – Allen, Beauregard and Vernon – based on tall tales, true stories, and legends. Today, visitors will find the festivals that make Louisiana famous, historic cemeteries, unique museums, mysterious waterways, and friendly, hospitable people ready to share their stories.

The Byway travels through flat land and along the riverbanks originally inhabited by the Atakapa and Coushatta Native Americans. It then enters the area's pine forests, which years ago were home to Civil War-era jayhawkers, logging camps and lumber mills. 22 kiosks guide the way, creating a life-long travel memory.

Stop in at one of our Welcome Centers and pick up your Explore the Lore Myths & Legends game that takes you through the byway with fun facts and interactive experiences. While there, have a cup of coffee and visit with our knowledgeable staff to enhance your journey.



Colonial Trails

Enjoy Central Louisiana's history of colonialism and development through its characters, colloquialisms, and charm. Louisiana Colonial Trails is a network of scenic byways, and routes threaded throughout ten Louisiana parishes originally used by pioneers to settle the west after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Few people think of Louisiana as a western frontier, but at the time of the Louisiana Purchase, the new nation was less than twelve years old, and most of the territory was uncharted, noted as Indian territory, or was in boundary disputes. Many of the trails followed by the pioneers were old Indian or animal paths. Historic trails such as the Natchez Trace, El Camino Real, and Nolan's Trace became a haven for land pirates, outlaws and bandits. Uncover the experiences along the trails and take some time to appreciate our local and regional attractions. You'll find characters and charm that entice you to journey paths of the pioneers and those that followed.



The complete Colonial Trail from east to west Louisiana.



ATTRACTIONS TO DISCOVER

Discover the real Louisiana with its small-town museums, fabulous festivals, outdoor recreational opportunities, centuries of history, culture, stories and legends, and the people that make it all come alive.

Recommended Tours



Talbert-Pierson Cemetery – Known for its unusual wooden gravehouses, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Kisatchie National Forest – Groups can hike back to Wolf Rock Cave pre-historic dwelling.



Fort Polk Museum – Showcasing artifacts and even vehicles honoring its significant contributions to Army's readiness.

W D Chips Mill

You see the lumber trucks on the road, come see how logs are made into things we use every day – from wood pallets to garden mulch!



Louisiana Moonshine – Come take a tour, sample, and buy Louisiana Moonshine at the first licensed moonshine distributor in the state!



Museum of West Louisiana – Once the KCS Railroad Depot, the newly renovated museum and historic outbuildings of Pioneer Park, showcase the history of Vernon Parish and West Louisiana.



Festivals to Enjoy

There are festivals throughout the year with all the food, music, artistry and charm of Louisiana, encapsulated in a few days of celebration. Plan to visit during the festivals and check out the online calendar of events for complete listings.



1st weekend in May



1st week of October



Waterways

With more than five notable bodies of water, such as Anacoco Lake, Toledo Bend Lake, Vernon Lake, Sabine River, and Toro Bayou, Vernon Parish provides ample opportunities for boating, tubing, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and swimming. Our mild temperatures year-round mean you can launch your craft just about any time of year. Paddle the lakes and bayous and enjoy the serene, sun-speckled waters of Vernon Parish while taking in the sights and sounds of our abundant natural heritage. Fish for largemouth bass and land that big lunker you've always dreamed of catching.



The Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries has graded Toro Bayou as one of the best streams in Louisiana for its clean water, natural beauty and wilderness characteristics. It is a natural flowing stream that relies on rainfall for its flow. A trip down the Sabine River offers an abundance of sandy beaches, good fishing, swimming and botanical beauty.

Tack-A-Paw Expeditions • 2340 Toro Rd. • Anacoco, LA 71403 • 337-286-9337 • Tackapaw.com



Wolf Rock Cave

Wolf Rock Cave in Kisatchie National Forest has more than 604,000 acres, is spread across seven parishes in Louisiana and is divided into five units called Ranger Districts. Hidden in the bayous, beneath the bald cypress groves and old growth pine, is a world of natural beauty, excitement, learning, recreation, resources and wildlife in their purest form. Wolf Rock cave is located in the Vernon Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest. Archaeological evidence shows that primitive peoples once used the cave as a habitation. The site has an informational kiosk and the trail is marked. Be aware, the trail is steep; we recommend that you wear sturdy shoes and be careful. Wolf Rock Cave Forest Road, 403 Leesville, LA 71446

Gas Station Eats Along No Man's Land

Where Collards Meet Crawfish – Anyone who travels to Louisiana knows our cookin' is a big attraction. Our state has its mainstays-off-the-freeways like everybody else. But if you're looking for authentic Louisiana flavor you've got to explore the No Man's Land Food Trails! Day-trippin' the gas station eats of No Man's Land offers a slice of southern hospitality, tasty scenic landscapes, and several big bites of what you came here for.

VisitNoMansLand.com

