

Zydeco Cajun Prairie

SCENIC BYWAY



ACADIA PARISH
EVANGELINE PARISH
ST. LANDRY PARISH





As you visit the communities along the Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway, you can still hear Cajun and Creole French spoken in shops and on the street, while taking delight in our famous cuisine, and dancing to rhythms that run through our very life.



We have, not one, but three distinct musical traditions, all emanating from the prairies. Cajuns took old Louisiana French music, associated it with the German accordion, and created what is known as “traditional” Cajun music. Creoles took that same early Louisiana French music, associated it with blues, and created a new music called Zydeco. In the 1950s, the sounds of blues, rock and roll, and Louisiana French came together on the prairie to create the unique “swamp pop” sound that swept the nation.

And our food! The spirit of our people comes to life with each serving of boudin, smoked sausage, and jambalaya. And our defining dish, gumbo, brings all of our cultures together in one bowl.





Our cultural centers and museums will provide a rich education into our folklore and folkways.

Along the byway you will find architecture ranging from quaint Acadian cottages to gracious antebellum mansions.

Antique shops and flea markets, many housed in unique buildings, offer shoppers treasures from the past, while specialty shops feature creations from our local artisans.

Hikers, cyclists, and birdwatchers will enjoy exploring our rolling hills, flat prairies, bayous, rivers, and woodlands. Campers and fishermen will find delightful diversion at Chicot State Park, Louisiana's largest and most popular state park.

Wherever you travel on the Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway, you will be captivated by the friendliest people in the world – genuine, hardworking folks who find the time to laugh a little, dance a little, and live a unique way of life to its fullest.



visit
zydecocajunbyway.com
for additional details

Acadia Parish

CHURCH POINT – FOUNDED 1843

- *Cajun Musicians Capital & the Buggy Capital*
- *Courir de Mardi Gras* – FEB/MARCH



- Cajun Day – NOV
- Twinned with Church Point Nova Scotia & Bertrix, Belgium

CROWLEY – FOUNDED 1887

- *Rice Capital of America*
- Restored Crowley Motor Co. housing City Hall, History of Crowley, Rice Interpretive Center, J.D. Miller Music & Ford Automotive Museums



- Historic Rice Theatre offers live performances
- Mouton Accordions

Evangeline Parish

VILLE PLATTE – FOUNDED 1824

- *Swamp Pop Capital of the World*
- *Smoked Meat Capital of the World*
- Home to Floyd's Record Shop (Flat Town Music Co.)
- *Grande Hoorah* – APRIL



- Louisiana Cotton Festival – OCT
- *Le Tournoi de la Ville Platte* – OCT

- Evangeline – commemorative bronze statue
- Louisiana State Arboretum – 300-acre nature preserve.



- Chicot State Park – built in the 1930's, the largest state park in Louisiana over 6,000 acres
- Miller's Lake Bird Sanctuary

St. Landry Parish

ARNAUVILLE – INC. 1870

- *La Junction* – the meeting of Bayou Teche & Bayou Fuselier
- *Semaine de la Francophonie* – APRIL
- Étouffée Festival – APRIL
- Bayou Teche Brewery
- Art Galleries & Collectives
- Twinned with Jausiers, France

EUNICE – FOUNDED 1894

- *Prairie Cajun Capital*



- Liberty Theatre – featuring live Cajun & zydeco music Saturdays, *Rendez-Vous des Cajuns* show
- Jean Lafitte NPS – Prairie Acadian Cultural Center
- Eunice Depot Museum
- Cajun Music Hall of Fame & Museum
- *Courir de Mardi Gras* – FEB/MARCH

- World Championship Crawfish Étouffée Cook-off – MARCH
- Experience Louisiana Festival – OCT
- Savoy's Music Center – Saturday morning Cajun music jam sessions
- Twinned with La Roche-en-Ardenne, Belgium & Caraquet, New Brunswick

GRAND COTEAU – FOUNDED 1776

- National Historic District – over 70 architectural or historic properties. Also noted for its magnificent live oak allée



- Academy of the Sacred Heart, est. in 1821. Location of only miracle in the US certified by the Vatican
- Sweet Dough Pie Festival – OCT

- International Rice Festival – OCT
- Rice City Classic Car & Antique Tractor Show – APRIL
- National Historic Register – 200+
- *Grand Opera House of the South*
- Twinned with Vaux-sur-Sûre, Belgium

IOTA

- Tee-Mamou Mardi Gras
- Folk Life Festival – FEB/MARCH



RAYNE – FOUNDED 1883

- *Frog Capital of the World & the City of Murals*
- Antique shops
- Bernard-Bertrand Museum

- Rayne Frog Festival – MAY
- St Joseph's Cemetery – listed by Ripley's "Believe It or Not"
- Twinned with Neufchâteau, Belgium, & Granby, Québec

RICHARD

- *Little Cajun Saint of Southwest Louisiana*, Charlene Marie Richard, grave site

ROBERTS COVE

- German Museum
- Kelly's Landing, John Deere Museum & Cajun Prairie Farm Agro Tour (Rice & Crawfish)
- Germanfest – OCT

- Twinned with Durbuy, Belgium

BASILE – FOUNDED 1898

- Louisiana Swine Festival – NOV
- Nathan Abshire Museum

CHATAIGNIER – FOUNDED 1856

- Bird watching

MAMOU – FOUNDED 1907

- *Cajun Music Capital of the World*
- *Le Courir de Mardi Gras à Cheval* – FEB/MARCH
- Mamou Cajun Music Festival – SEPT
- Lakeview Park & Beach Dancehall
- Fred's Lounge – Saturday morning Cajun music for over 40 years
- Twinned with Sprimont, Belgium

PINE PRAIRIE – FOUNDED 1904

- Boggy Bayou Festival – APRIL
- Crooked Creek Recreation Area

TURKEY CREEK – FOUNDED 1957

- Home to many artisans and crafts people
- Gobble Gulley & Paintball Park



KROTZ SPRINGS – FOUNDED 1899

- Atchafalaya River Basin Gateway
- Sportsmen's Heritage Festival – MAY

LEBEAU

- Lebeau Zydeco Festival – JUNE/JULY

MELVILLE – FOUNDED 1889

- Filming location for last scene of *Easy Rider*

OPELOUSAS – FOUNDED 1720

- Louisiana's third oldest city
- *Zydeco Capital of the World*
- *Le Vieux Village* Historical Park & Heritage Museum & Tourist Center



- Opelousas Museum & Interpretive Center
- Louisiana Orphan Train Museum
- Amédé Ardoin Commemorative
- The birthplace of the "*King of Zydeco*", the late Clifton Chenier
- Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival AUG/SEPT
- Twinned with Florennes, Belgium

PALMETTO – FOUNDED 1888

- Budden's General Store, opened 1934

PORT BARRE – FOUNDED 1760

- *Birth Place of Bayou Teche*
- Cracklin Festival – NOV

SUNSET – FOUNDED 1904

- *Rubboard Capital of the World*
- Herb Fest – MAY
- Antiques & Specialty Shops
- Twinned with Saint-Paul-en-Cornillon, France & Nassogne, Belgium

WASHINGTON – FOUNDED 1720

- Major steamboat port in the 1800s
- National Historic District
- Nearly 100 antique dealers
- Washington Museum
- Twinned with Fosses-la-Ville, Belgium



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Evangeline Parish

Acadia Parish

FROM ALEXANDRIA

FROM LAKE CHARLES

TRAVEL THE ZYDECO-CAJUN PRAIRIE SCENIC BYWAY



*When you take the road less traveled,
you make the most exciting discoveries.*

Zydeco Cajun Prairie

SCENIC BYWAY

zydeco**cajun**byway.com



DETAILED
BYWAY MAP
INSIDE



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