Vermilion Parish Suggested Itineraries*

Bienvenue! Vermilion Parish is easily accessible from Lafayette via Hwy. 167, Lake Charles and New Iberia via Hwy. 14, Jennings via Hwy. 26 and Crowley via Hwy. 13. Which ever way you enter our parish, these suggested itineraries will allow you to experience “the most Cajun place on earth”. Enjoy your stay and please come back again and again.

Gueydan: “The Duck Capital of America”

If you are visiting Vermilion Parish from the west, your first stop should be Stansel Rice, where you can tour a working rice mill and see how they raise, harvest, dry mill and package their own labels of rice, flour and fish fry. During crawfish season, you can also witness how crawfish are raised and harvested. While visiting Stansel Rice, be on the lookout for the peacocks that roam the grounds. Free tours Monday thru Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., but please call in advance, 337-536-6140. Allow 1 hour for tour. 7918 Ellis Stansel Private Rd., Gueydan, LA 70542

Located in downtown Gueydan, Patti’s Book Nook & Coffee Corner, is the only full-service bookstore between Lafayette and Lake Charles. They also have freshly ground and brewed Community Coffee and cappuccino, sweet dough pies, biscotti and more. Patti’s also has tourist information and computer service available. Open Tuesday thru Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., 337-536-6600. 410 Second St., Gueydan, LA 70542

Around the corner from Patti’s Book Nook & Coffee Corner is the Gueydan Museum. Located in the old Gueydan Bank building, c. 1902, the museum houses a permanent collection of rare photographs and artifacts from Gueydan’s early days, as well as, changing art exhibits from local artists. Open Wednesday thru Friday 1 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Allow 30 minutes to 1 hour for tour. 337-536-0443. 212 Main St., Gueydan, LA 70542

For the nature enthusiasts, Gueydan and the southern areas of Vermilion Parish are known for its birding. Pick up an America’s Wetlands Birding Trail brochure and map at the Patti’s Book Nook or the Vermilion Parish Tourist Commission.

Kaplan: “Gateway to Acadiana’s Coastal Wetlands”

Once you’ve finished in Gueydan, travel east on Hwy. 14 to the Town of Kaplan. Make sure you visit Le Musée de Kaplan located on Cushing Blvd. The museum features displays on the history and culture of Kaplan and its people as well as rotating art exhibits. A free self-guided or personal tour is offered. Open Wednesday thru Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 337-643-1528. Allow 30 minutes to 1 hour for tour. 405 N. Cushing Blvd., Kaplan, LA 70548

Located on Hwy. 14, Comanche’s French Market features homegrown, seasonal fruits and vegetables, local products, preserves and jellies and more. Open during the day. 337-643-6759. 301 W. Veterans Memorial Dr., Kaplan, LA 70548

If you’ve worked up an appetite, then head south on Hwy. 35 to Suière’s Grocery and Restaurant. A local favorite, Suière’s serves home cooked Cajun meals in a casual, family setting. Make sure to try their famous turtle sauce piqûant or made from scratch desserts. They also have many menu items packaged for you to take with you. Open Monday thru Saturday. 337-643-8911. 13923 Hwy. 35, Kaplan, LA 70548

Abbeville: “Someplace Special on the Bayou”

Centrally located at the intersection of Hwys. 167 and 14, Abbeville is the parish seat of Vermilion Parish. Downtown Abbeville is home to many locally-owned seafood restaurants. If you’re in the mood for salty, topless oysters, fried seafood or an overstuffed po'boy, then you’ve come to the right place. Most restaurants are open for lunch and dinner, so feel free to drop in for supper if you are still full from Suière’s Grocery. To work off your meal, take a Historic Downtown Walking Tour. Tour guides will provide some of Abbeville’s history as you tour the Courthouse, St. Mary Magdalen Church and cemetery, Magdalen Square and other historic buildings in downtown. Tours are free, but please call in advance to schedule, 337-898-4110 or 337-898-0336. Allow 1 hour and 30 minutes for tour. After you have learned about our city’s history, browse through some of the retail shops in the downtown area that sell items ranging from small collectibles and fine furnishings to home decor and gifts. Several shops sell locally made products, cookbooks and souvenirs so you can take home a little bit of Vermilion Parish.

After you tour the downtown area, visit The Depot at Magdalen Place for souvenirs and to view the railroad museum. The Depot is an 1894 wood frame railroad freight depot the houses a railroad museum, gift shop, tourist information and Cajun products. Free. Open Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 337-740-2112. 201 W. Lafayette St., Abbeville, LA 70510

Located across from Magdalen Square and The Depot is the Abbeville Cultural & Historical Museum & Art Gallery. The Museum features rotating exhibits from local artists, as well as exhibits from the Omelette Festival, the Vermilion Historical Society and more. Free. Open Tuesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Wednesday thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 337-898-4114. 200 N. Magdalen Sq., Abbeville, LA 70510

Abbeville’s newest attraction is the Sam Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum. The blacksmith shop, c. 1912, was owned by Italian immigrant Sam Guarino and was still in operation until December 31, 2003 when it officially closed its doors. The Guarino family donated the building and all equipment to the City of Abbeville who has spent the last few years converting it into a blacksmith museum. Every part of the museum, including the dirt floor, was moved a few blocks from its original location to the new location on State Street. Free. Open by appointment only. 337-898-4110. 304 S. State St., Abbeville, LA 70510

Located at the Chris Crusta Airport on Hwy. 14 is the Louisiana Military Hall of Fame & Museum. The museum features military exhibits, oral histories, Hall of Fame Inductees and displays of historical memorabilia from heroic Louisiana veterans. Free. Open Thursday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment for groups of 6 or more. Service members may set up a visit at any time, call for reservations. 337-898-9645, 337-652-2751. 911 Revis Sirmon Loop, Abbeville, LA 70510

Abbeville is home to two live entertainment venues, both housed in historic buildings. Le Bayou Legendaire, located in the old Richard Sale Barn, features live musical performances in a listening, smoke-free atmosphere where the audience can interact with the performers. Call 337-893-5760 or visit www.lebayou.org for a performance schedule. 1307 S. Henry, Abbeville, LA 70510. The Abbey Players Theatre is a non-profit community theater in downtown Abbeville that holds performances throughout the year. Call 337-893-2442 or visit www.abbeyplayers.com for their upcoming production. 206 S. State St., Abbeville, LA 70510.