Dramatic ups and downs in the oil and gas, lumber, transportation, farming and entertainment businesses throughout Louisiana's history produced the best and the worst of times in northwest Louisiana. The 137-mile Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway, which runs along LA 2 and includes LA 3049 to the west and LA 518/146 to the east, pays tribute to the fortunes made and lost in this area while applauding the resiliency of its people. Along the way, visitors can take in the beauty of north Louisiana, known for its rolling hills, tall pines and beautiful lakes and bayous. Oil derricks stand as reminders of the state's ties to the energy industry, while fields of cotton and tranquil pastures reflect the ongoing importance of agriculture. Not far from the city of Shreveport, communities such as Plain Dealing and Sarepta preserve a small-town, relaxed way of life.

A trip along the Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway is a good way to get a feel for the adventurous, entrepreneurial spirit of local people and the region's many natural attributes.

LouisianaByways.com
Here’s a sampling of the many attractions throughout the Boom or Bust National Scenic Byway. Let your stories begin here.

### The Louisiana State Oil & Gas Museum
The Museum describes the history of the oil industry in Caddo Parish and Louisiana with interactive exhibits, photographs, films, and an oil field model. The Caddo Parish Oil Museum is located at 110 Sibley Rd., Minden, LA 71058, 318-927-2976 or 888-677-2524.

### Bossier Parish Library
The Museum offers education beginning with our Native American heritage, from which the parish derives its name, through the French Territorial days, the Louisiana Purchase, and the “Great Raft” extended for 165 miles. Capt. Shreve was appointed in 1833 and with 300 men they broke through the Raft in 1838, taking a total of 5 years to clear. Not a single worker died. The Red River is fully navigable. The Museum describes the history of the oil industry in Caddo Parish and Louisiana with interactive exhibits, photographs, films, and an oil field model. The Caddo Parish Oil Museum is located at 110 Sibley Rd., Minden, LA 71058, 318-927-2976 or 888-677-2524.

### Red River Crossroads Museum
Vestored inside of the Gilliam branch of the Shreve Memorial Library, the Red River Crossroads Historical and Cultural Museum is open to the public, and we hope you will come view our displays and learn about the rich history of Caddo Parish. The museum offers education beginning with our Native American heritage, from which the parish derives its name, through the French Territorial days, the Louisiana Purchase, the Red River Raft and the discovery of oil. Here you will find plantation history and maps, learn the steam boat routes, follow the train tracks and travel the historic LA 3049.

### Main Street Café
Main Street Café has delicious home-style food from scratch in one of Gilliam’s quaint old brick building. 12807 Main Street, Gilliam, LA 71029, 318-296-4400.

### Bossier Parish Library
Rita Sanders Keoun Memorial Plain Dealing Branch inside this branch library are hidden treasures that recall the region’s past. Historical reproductions of a barn, made of locally sourced pine, as well as a circa 1900 bedroom setting, reflect the style of the time.

### Giles Snack Shop
Giles Snack Shop in Plain Dealing offers delicious breakfast and lunch plates prepared with various locally grown ingredients. Sorumintastic pies are made from scratch daily.

### Sikes Ferry Landing/Bayou Dorcheat
Launch your fishing boat, canoe or kayak at Sikes Ferry Boat Ramp to explore the exquisite nature of Webster Parish. 2880 Fire Tower Road, Shongaloo, LA 71072.

### German TOWN COLONY STATE MUSEUM
Established in 1835, the colony is one of three founded in the United States in the early 19th century by the Utopian Movement of the Harmonist Society, which originated in Germany. Several of the original log buildings have been preserved, and the museum holds artifacts rescued from the structures.

### Herbert S. Ford Memorial Museum
Built in 1990 as the Hotel Claiborne, the Ford Museum contains a collection of artifacts that reflect the life, culture and society of north central Louisiana. The Museum has hosted Smithsonian touring exhibitions and serves as a resource to those interested in learning about the history of this area from pre-Columbian times to the present.

### Lake Claiborne State Park
Lake Claiborne State Park is located seven miles southeast of Homer on LA 146. The park offers a multitude of recreational opportunities on and around the 6,400-acre lake including swimming, fishing, boating, picnicking and hiking.

### Eva Railroad Station Museum
Located at the intersection of LA 2 and LA 371 is a one-block-long replica of all but the freight cars of a 1930s passenger train. The restoration was made possible by the late Mr. Jack Dillowey.

### Vivian Railroad Station Museum
Vivian Railroad Station Museum houses rotating exhibits that depict the history and culture of the area as well as several written accounts of the history of Vivian, including its fascinating railroad connection. Each meticulously restored room of the museum exhibits a diverse array of north Caddo Parish history.

### Red River Crossroad Historical Society
The Show went off the air in 1960. The Museum describes the history of the oil industry in Caddo Parish and Louisiana with interactive exhibits, photographs, films, and an oil field model. The Caddo Parish Oil Museum is located at 110 Sibley Rd., Minden, LA 71058, 318-927-2976 or 888-677-2524.

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