The Wetlands Cultural Byway offers visitors an abundance of both natural beauty and cultural experiences, providing a unique look into the rich history of the coastline where shrimping, trapping, and farming have been a way of life for hundreds of years, and close-knit families have preserved their cultural heritage.

Regional American Indian and Cajun traditions are demonstrated in food, music, customs, language, and traditional architectural styles. The landscape is mainly prairie and wetland. With natural bayous and tree-lined swamps, fresh, brackish, and saltwater marshes surrounding much of the environment, water dictates the byway's twists and turns, giving drivers options of entry and exit points along the two interconnected loops and three spurs. Visitors encounter antebellum plantations, historic downtowns, museums and cultural centers, natural heritage areas, birding and swamp touring opportunities, world-class fishing, a Gulf Coast beach, seafood restaurants, Native American burial mounds, bayou overlook areas, sculpture gardens, and more as they tour the area served by this 282-mile byway.

LouisianaByways.com
Here’s a sampling of the many attractions throughout the Wetlands Cultural Byway. Let your stories begin here.

**LAUREL VALLEY PLANTATION**
Laurel Valley Plantation is the largest surviving 19th and 20th century sugar plantation in the United States. The sugar cane fields, slave quarters, and general store, featuring local arts and crafts, still exist as a tribute to a way of life of the early settlers along Bayou Lafourche. LA 308, approximately 1 mile south of Thibodaux, 70301, 985-446-7456.

**HOUMA HISTORIC DOWNTOWN**
Houma Historic Downtown and Bayou Boardwalk are rich in culture and tradition, with unique shops, local museums, and excellent restaurants offering a variety of tastes from local Cajun cuisine to fine dining. Houma, Louisiana, 70360, 985-873-6408, houratrel.com/downtown-museums.

**BAYOU TERREBONNE WATERLIFE MUSEUM**
Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum preserves and promotes the area’s long, colorful, and historically important cultural and economic ties with the seafood and water transportation industries, as well as other wetlands and water-based hunting, gathering, and mining occupations. The museum showcases the relationship between water and the local people who make their living from it. 7910 Park Avenue, Houma, LA 70364, 985-580-7200, tpcg.org/waterlife.

**TERREBONNE FOLKLORE CULTURE CENTER**
Terrebonne Folklife Culture Center offers exciting exhibits, unique work by local artists and craftsmen, and the chance to participate in fun-filled classes and workshops. The Cajun tool shed, Louisiana decoys, the historical Native American artifacts exhibit, and special programs give visitors a true taste of the area’s rich and varied history. 317 Goode Street, Houma, LA 70360, 985-873-6545, tpcg.org/folklife.

**REGIONAL MILITARY MUSEUM**
Regional Military Museum is dedicated to commemorating the sacrifices of the brave men and women who have defended our great nation throughout history, at home and abroad. The museum is living history — vehicles still run, weapons really fire, and the library acts as a place of research for family history, cultural heritage, natural history, arts, and folklore of the Bayou Lafourche region. 110 Main Street, Lockport, LA 70374, 985-532-5909, bayoumuseum.org.

**THE CENTER FOR TRADITIONAL LOUISIANA BOAT BUILDING**
The Center for Traditional Louisiana Boat Building does research into building wooden boats throughout South Louisiana. Photographs, slides, oral history tapes, and artifacts are housed in the library on the Nichols State University campus. 202 Main Street, Lockport, LA 70374, 985-532-5106, nichols.edu/boat.

**THE MANDALAY NATIONAL REFUGE NATURE TRAIL**
Mandalay National Refuge Nature Trail provides a glimpse into three different habitat types within a 45-minute hike. Along the trail, there are opportunities for bird watching, wildlife observation, and photography. The trail is located in the 4,416-acre refuge that has a beautiful freshwater marsh with ponds, cypress-tupelo swamp, levees and man-made canals, providing an excellent habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, and neotropical songbirds. With the exception of the nature trail, most of the refuge access is by boat only. Headquarters is located five miles west of Houma, on LA 182, 985-853-1078, fws.gov/mandalay.

**BAYOU LAFOURCHE FOLKLORE AND HERITAGE MUSEUM**
Bayou Lafourche Folkslore and Heritage Museum preserves, promotes, and interprets the human history, cultural heritage, natural history, arts, and folklore of the Bayou Lafourche region. 110 Main Street, Lockport, LA 70374, 985-532-5909, bayoumuseum.org.

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**FLATWATER SCULPTURE GARDEN**
Chauvin Sculpture Garden is a modern American folk art gem that pulls visitors through the dreamscape of a troubled soul. More than 100 sculptures were built starting in 1990 by the reclusive Kenny Hill, bricklayer by trade, while he rented a small plot on the banks of Bayou Petit Calou. After 10 years of creating this deeply emotional landscape, he abruptly stopped working on the project and abandoned his home and sculptures.

**LAURIE WATSON RING**
Bayou Ring is located along LA 182 near the Freeport-McMoRan Oil Refinery. A taste of Louisiana’s natural beauty and industrial culture.

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