The Northup Trail takes visitors along the path of Solomon Northup during his 12-year journey as a slave in Central Louisiana. Originally from New York, Northup was kidnapped, sold as a slave in New Orleans, and arrived in Alexandria in 1841 until he legally regained his freedom at the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse in 1853. The 83-mile trail follows his path through Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes and visits sites such as the Red River Landing where Northup disembarked the steamer Rodolf, the Epps House, the Bunkie Depot, and the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse. The novel Twelve Years a Slave, the story of Solomon Northup was made into a movie that won the 2013 Academy Award for Best Picture.

In addition to the following points of interest, visitors will also see historic sites, registered historic houses, American Indian mounds, museums, churches and cemeteries, farms, shops, eateries and accommodations along the route.

**NOTE:** THIS TRAIL REPRESENTS THE WORLD OF SOLOMON NORTHPUP THEN AND NOW.

THE POINTS OF INTEREST WITH GRAY MARKERS ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
Here’s a sampling of the many attractions throughout the Northup Trail. Let your stories begin here.

**LIVE OAK PLANTATION** The owner of Live Oak Plantation, c. 1850, was Mary McCoy, described by Northup as “the beauty and glory of Bayou Bœuf.” It was she who engaged Northup to entertain friends and slaves at another nearby property where she owned called Normand Plantation.

**BAYOU BOEUF** Bayou Bœuf, which connects Avoyelles and Rapides parishes, was named for the wild cattle that came to water at its bank. “Bœuf” means “beef” in French. The long chain of plantations along both sides of the bayou formed the community plantation culture.

**FIRE FIRST BOWIE KNIFE** In 1827, the first Bowie Knife was fabricated at the site, the former site of Rezin Bowie’s Plantation and familiar to Northup when he traveled.

**SUE EAKIN/BUNKIE RECORD** As a young girl, Sue Lyles Eakin discovered the Northup account in an old book at Oak Hall Plantation. Eakin later spent her adulthood owning and operating the Bunkie Record newspaper, devoting much of her life to researching the Northup story.

**HOLMESVILLE** Holmesville was a bustling port in the time of Northup’s enslavement and was the last major port on Bayou Bœuf before it flowed into Courtailleur Bayou.

**FOGLEMEN CEMETERY** This is the cemetery where the Edwin Epps family is buried in unmarked graves. GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 30.91280, Longitude: -92.21940

**EDWIN EPPS PLANTATION SITE** The Epps Plantation site can be viewed from the bridge that crosses Bayou Bœuf. This is where Solomon Northup was enslaved from 1843 to 1853 with Edwin Epps as his master and where Northup befriended Sam Bass, who helped him on his path to freedom. Carl Hunt Road off LA 1176, Bunkie

**HILLCREST PLANTATION** Edwin Epps worked on the property at one time, near present day Bunkie on Bayou Claire, and often sent Solomon Northup to work here.

**LONE PINE PLANTATION** Alanson Pearce owned this property in the Evergreen area. He brought Northup to St. Mary Parish to help harvest sugar, as there was little farm work in the Evergreen area due to caneplains. 399 LA 361, Evergreen

**DR. JULIUS C. DESFOSSE HOME** Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Dr. Jules Charles DesFosse’ Home dates to c. 1790. It is the oldest structure in Avoyelles and is still located on its original plot of land. 1805 Eglise Street, Mansura

**EDWARDS PLANTATION** The site of the William Edwards Plantation in Marksville dates to 1831. Edwards had at least seven sons, all with patronic names. Confederates killed William Edwards during the Civil War for being a Union sympathizer. 408 South Main Street, Marksville

**WADDILL LAW OFFICE SITE** The former site of John Waddill’s law office was located here. It was Waddill, Northup’s local attorney, who made the legal arrangements to free him with the help of attorney Henry Northup of New York. 243 North Main Street, Marksville

**MARKSVILLE POST OFFICE SITE** In the fall of 1851, Northup managed to get a letter sent to New York officials advising them of his plight as a slave on Epps Plantation. Sam Bass, an itinerant carpenter who worked briefly at the Epps place, bravely mailed Northup’s letter at the then Marksville Post Office. 105 North Main Street, Marksville

**AVOYELLES PARISH COURTHOUSE** The Avoyelles Courthouse that existed in 1853 was the site where Solomon Northup gained his freedom on January 4, 1853. The present courthouse is located on the same site.

**JUDGE CUSHMAN OFFICE** It was Judge Ralph Cushman who presided over the proceedings to free Northup in the Avoyelles Courthouse. The Judge’s actions were praised in The New York Times. 428 South Washington Street, Marksville

**HYPOLITE BORDELON HOUSE** Listed on National Register of Historic Places, this circa 1820 Creole house is typical of the dwellings of early Avoyelles Parish families. The Bordelon family built the house and was one of the parish’s pioneer families. 242 Tunica Drive W., Marksville

**LUDGER BABIN LANDING** The former site of Ludger Babin Landing is where Northup and his attorney Henry Northup boarded a steamer heading to New Orleans in January 1853. Eventually they got back to New York where Solomon rejoined his family after 12 years and wrote an account of his experiences in Central Louisiana. Fort DeRussy Road and Sugarpoint Road, Marksville

**TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS:**
- ALEXANDRIA/PINEVILLE AREA CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
  - 101 Second Street, Alexandria
  - 800-551-9546, alexandriapinevillela.com
- AVOYELLES PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION/VISITOR CENTER
  - 1032 Hwy. 1, Mansura
  - 800-832-4136, avoylellesvistaguide.com

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