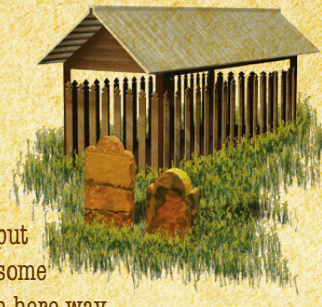


Vernon Parish



Talbot-Pierson Cemetery



These here spooky grave shelters were put up by the Talbert and Pierson families, some ace-high pioneers who first settled down here way back in the 1860s. Thirteen graves were covered with them unique Grave Houses, which were a part of the Upland South tradition and included decorating graves with some truly pretty shells.

Talbot-Pierson Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. Adjacent to the cemetery is Pine Grove Methodist Church established on April 10, 1887 as part of the Sugartown circuit.

This here is really somethin' to see.

Museum of the New Llano Colony



Don't ya' wish you could be livin' someplace absolutely perfect and peaceful? Well, the folks of New Llano Colony surely tried to make themselves a utopia way back in their time. Down at the Museum of the New Llano Colony, you can get educated on them early settlers and all their ideas they had about creating a calm community.

These colonists created several new enterprises in Western Louisiana, including rice farming, a veneer plant, and a grist mill. These early 20th century innovators were thriving and expanding at a rapid rate until The Great Depression hit, causing their economy and way of life to crumble.

Sabine River



The mighty Sabine River is more than 500 miles of magnificent scenery and wildlife. The good ol' Sabine, which is Spanish for "cypress," runs right on down the Louisiana-Texas border and straight into the Gulf of Mexico. Back in the day, Indians and early explorers used the river to travel throughout the region and there's even talk of the famous Jean Lafitte and his pirates used the river to hide treasure, but that may be scuttlebutt.

Grab a boat and explore the banks of this beautiful landmark, from top to bottom. Whether you like to fish and waterski or just cruise and enjoy the view, the Sabine River is one of the things that make this area so unique.

Kisatchie National Forest

Kisatchie National Forest has more than 604,000 acres. That there's a whole heap of explorin' to do! Let's see, we got the bayous, the bald cypress groves and old growth pines you gotta see. Oh, and you bet there's a bunch of ways to explore 'em, too. I tend to lean toward saddlin' up and goin' horseback, but heck, you can bike, hike or canoe your way through this magical place.

The Vernon Parish part of the Kisatchie National Forest has Fullerton Lake, Enduro Trailhead Camp and Hunter's Camp. At Fullerton Lake, you can set out on your pirogue or canoe and enjoy some fishing or bird watching. Hike amongst the pines and cypress of the Enduro Trailhead, home of the Louisiana Black Bear and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker.



Fullerton - A Giant In The Woods

In 1906, a fella named Samuel Holmes Fullerton launched the Gulf Lumber Company, makin' it the largest southern pine mill west of the Mississippi. The town of Fullerton grew and grew, 'til it had things like a dentist office, café, post office, drugstore, barbershop, public telephones, bank, feed store, and even a Ford dealership.

Settlers used them pines for everythin'! Furniture, flatboats, firewood, bread bowls, barrel staves, sidewalks, cisterns, coffins - they were all made from the tall pines. Well, a whole mess o' railroads came about in the 1800s, and with 'em came the timber rush. When timber towns started poppin' up, the economy and population boomed. Heck, even after the last tree fell, Fullerton stayed alive by puttin' up a lathe mill, planing mill, several dry kilns, and a turpentine distillery that produced 15 barrels of turpentine spirits and 45 barrels of rosin per day.



Museum of West Louisiana



There's a real fine museum up in Leesville, due north of DeRidder. This place will tell you a ton 'bout Hoyle and the history of the tri-parish area by showin' you artifacts, railroad memorabilia, clothing, household items and so on. All this so you can see firsthand how them folks in West Louisiana lived back in the day. Plus, there's a real nice bunch of paintings done by some German POWs during WWII.

You can spend an entire day getting lost in the history of it all, from the early days of the Louisiana Purchase to the present. Take a tour of different historic housing styles, like old shotguns, churches, and barns. This museum also includes Pioneer Park, a great place for a cookout or just to relax. West Louisiana has some of the prettiest weather throughout most of the year, so get out there and enjoy the scenery.

Burr Ferry Confederate Breastworks

The tiny community of Burr Ferry has a real interesting history. For example, there was, believe it or not, a real ferry that traveled right across the Sabine River. You see, the main thing that makes Burr Ferry so darn unique is the breastworks site. During the Civil War, a



whole bunch of trenches and breastworks were put up after the poor city of Alexandria, LA was burned to a crisp.

The Burr Ferry breastworks were built back in 1864 when Union troops wanted to pass through Louisiana to Texas.

To prepare for this invasion, the breastworks were created. It remains the only known surviving example of "tetes de pont" or "head of bridge," a design element for defending roads leading to river crossings. These fortifications allowed local civilians to pass through the center, but could be blocked quickly if the enemy were spotted. Take your time and explore the area. You'll find it well worth the time.

Louisiana Maneuvers: Louisiana Goes To War, Twice

In 1940 and '41, American soldiers trained in the Louisiana Maneuvers, which was some big ol' war games where we tested weapons, soldiers and senior officers in 300,000 acres of crazy Louisiana terrain. In 1940, 70,000 o' them soldiers fought for 12 whole days, half of which was spent marchin' 550 miles from Georgia to Louisiana! That 1941 Maneuver was "The Big One" where 'bout 400,000 soldiers fought like hell for six weeks.

The Louisiana Maneuvers taught us the art of battle and how to endure the stresses of wartime living. Louisiana's unmarked roads, swamps, and changing elevations were perfect simulations of what the Army would face in World War II.

16. **From Timber to Tanks**
Hwy. 10, Kisatchie National Forest
17. **Fullerton Sawmill Park**
Off of Hwy 399 on Fullerton Lake Road, Fullerton, LA 70656
18. **Grave Houses of Talbot-Pierson Cemetery**
Victor Martin Road, Pitkin, LA 70662
19. **Legends of Burr Ferry**
Confederate Breastworks on Hwy. 8, Burr Ferry, LA 70639
20. **Museum of West Louisiana**
803 S. 3rd Street, Leesville, LA 71446
21. **Pitkin Pavilion**
111 Middle Street, Pitkin, LA 70656
22. **Wolf Rock Cave in Kisatchie**
Hwy. 10, Kisatchie National Forest