



Art Across No Man's Land

The History of No Man's Land

The Louisiana Purchase instantly doubled the size of the young United States, and it secured the valuable Mississippi Valley making modern America possible. In the northern parts of the purchase, Lewis and Clark established the limitations of the Purchase, but south of the Red River the lines and the intent of the sale were murky in territories that had been lightly colonized for at least three generations. Most of southwest Louisiana was simply not part of the Louisiana Purchase. And while waiting for the diplomats to draw the western boundary of



America's new purchase, the commandants of the responsible federal and Spanish garrisons closest to the area in question made a simple gentleman's agreement about the disputed territory. In a practical sense, they agreed to leave the land alone and unclaimed. They agreed to not send in militia, customs officers, or regulators of any sort. Any inhabitants would be unprotected, ungoverned, and untaxed. The commanding officer at the American fort near Natchitoches, Louisiana, and his counterpart in Nacogdoches, then capital of Spanish Texas, crafted the first "no man's land." They agreed to not legally claim a swathe of land between them to the Gulf of Mexico, at least for the time being, until the diplomats drew their final lines. This wedge of "No-Man's Land" was the status quo for nearly thirty years. The era of "No Man's Land" officially ended only when the US physically installed a military presence "Cantonment Atkinson" in 1829.

No Man's Land looks forward to working with you to customize an itinerary that suits your group. This sample itinerary is intended to provide options for a group tour. Please contact the local Convention & Visitors Bureau for more information. Contact information can be found for each parish below.



Lake Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau, 337-436-9588 Contact: Kaitlyn Gallegos, Director of Global Sales, kgallegos@visitlakecharles.org

Traditional Art Space:



Historic City Hall Arts and Cultural Center, Historic City Hall Arts and Cultural Center houses world-class exhibitions on national tour, as well as feature the work of local artists in three additional galleries. Featured shows include Pablo Picasso, Ansel Adams, and Norman Rockwell. Free admission.

1001 Ryan St Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 491-9147

Non Traditional Art Space:



Flock of Five Gift & Art Emporium, A unique shop with one-of-a-kind local art and gifts! Flock on over and meet our 9-ft chainsaw-carved Pelican, and shop our 7000-square foot area (the former Post Office of Sulphur), filled with hand-crafted wares by local artisans, including hand-cast jewelry, metal art, wood art, shell and driftwood art, paintings, custom glass etching, custom vinyl items, handmade soaps, bath bombs, steampunk jewelry, cutting boards, pottery, headboard benches, wood art, candles, jams and jellies, purses, wreaths, signed books by four local authors, and so much more!

217 E Thomas St Sulphur, LA 70663, (337)-476-5096

Dining & Art:



Stellar Beans Coffee, A full-service coffee bar and in-house air-roasted coffee beans. Also serving specialty teas, breakfast, sandwiches, and pastries, in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere. Make our house your house!

319 Broad St Lake Charles, LA 70601, (337) 602-8441



Allen Parish Tourism Commission, 8904 Hwy 165
Oberlin, Louisiana; 337-639-4868 Contact: Adagria
Haddock, Director, director_allenparish@yahoo.com



Traditional Art Space:

Allen Parish Cultural Center, Hand drawn graphite portraits of local veterans military photos Allen Parish Cultural Center:
Original Coushatta pine needle baskets Allen Parish
Leatherwood Museum: Original Coushatta pine needle baskets.

8904 US-165, Oberlin, LA 70655, (337) 401-1315



Non Traditional Art Space:

Allen Parish Cultural Center, Tee Swamp features different taxidermy animals. These animals represent the animals in Allen Parish, both water and land animals. Leatherwood Museum features different taxidermy animals that represent the animals in Allen Parish, land animals.

8904 US-165, Oberlin, LA 70655, (337) 401-1315



Dining & Art:

Paustos, Enjoy some authentic local cuisine that features a game room with many different animals around the country.

Hwy. 165 and Hwy. 383, Kinder, LA 71468, 337-198-5676



Beauregard Tourist Commission, 313 West 1st Street,
DeRidder, 337-463-5534 Contact: Lori D'Arbonne,
Director, beautour@bellsouth.net



Traditional Art Space:

RealArt of DeRidder (RAD), A non-profit, all volunteer arts corporation. We provide opportunities for artists, musicians, writers and actors - anyone who uses the power of creative techniques to express themselves, and to groups hosting art-related events in an environment conducive to the arts.

108 W First St, DeRidder, LA 70634, (337) 221-3030



Non Traditional Art Space:

Goober Folkart, All are handed made critters, signs, and art for your home, office, patio, fences, camps or as a gift. "I get my ideas from living in Louisiana, where we are surrounded by critters that hop, fly, crawl and swim".

216 Mahlon St, DeRidder, LA 70634, (337) 462-1603



Dining & Art:



Vernon Parish Tourism Commission, 1910 Vernon Parish Courthouse, 201 South 3rd, Leesville, LA 71446 Contact: John Crook, Director, jcrook@bellsouth.net 800-349-6287

Traditional Art Space:



Gallery One Eleven, Gallery One Eleven, Leesville's premier art venue, plays host to exhibits that are constantly changing, and include the art of its members, as well as guests. The gallery "provides support to visual artists and a space to enrich the community through exposure to the diversity of contemporary and traditional art." This is a co-op of local artists, and art enthusiasts, and is the center of the art scene in Leesville and Vernon Parish.

111 Third St, Leesville, LA, 71446, (337) 208-1762

Non Traditional Art Space:



Leesville Art Park, The perfectly manicured green space has a paved walkway that will take you throughout the park, and you'll be able to pause here and there to check out the various sculptures and artwork in the park.

1201 Abe Allen Memorial Dr., Leesville, LA, 71446

Dining & Art:



Hazels Tea Parlor, Relax and enjoy some light breakfast or lunch while taking in the quaint seasonal decor.

700 South 3rd Street, Leesville, 71446, (337) 378-9080



Sabine Parish Tourist Commission, 1601 Texas Hwy.,
Many, LA, 318-256-5880 Georgia Craven, Executive
Director, Georgia@ToledoBendLakeCountry.com



Traditional Art Space:

Many Depot Art Gallery, The gallery displays art done by local artists representing the diverse history and culture of Sabine Parish and Toledo Bend Lake Country. The Depot is also the future home of a museum.

750 Highway 171 Byp, Many, LA, (318) 256-5880



Non Traditional Art Space:

Lunker Bass Statues, The 6ft tall, hand-painted bass statues can be found at businesses and parks throughout Toledo Bend Lake Country. Each beautifully painted statue has a unique design done by a local artist and celebrates the unique attributes of TBLC.

Check Toledobendlakecountry.com for location of Lunker Statues. Click on 'Fish Finder', (318) 256-5880

Dining & Art:

Bayou Crawfish, Home of some of the best Cajun-Creole dishes in the area. If you prefer down-home southern cookin', they have that too! From Fried fish and Cajun boiled shrimp to juicy hamburgers and unbelievable steaks. Customers can count on enjoying a wonderful meal and being treated like family. Located in Many, La the Heart of Toledo Bend Lake Country.

Every Tuesday join a local artist for Cocktails & Canvas and paint while you eat!

650 San Antonio Ave Many, LA 71449, (318) 431-1503





Desoto Parish Tourism Commission, 115 N Washington Ave.,
Mansfield, LA 71052; 318-872-1177 Contact: Julie Rogers,
Director, desototourism@gmail.com – DiscoverDeSoto.com

Traditional Art Space:



Rock Chapel, Construction on the Rock Chapel began in 1891 by monks who lived in the nearby Carmelite monastery. Stones from the surrounding area were joined together with mud plaster. The walls were painted with frescoes and the ceiling with murals done by two monks from France. These frescoes have been restored and the chapel is open almost every day of the year from daylight to dark. St. Joseph Catholic Church in Mansfield, Louisiana maintains the grounds.

1746 Smithport Lake Road, Mansfield, LA 71052, (318) 872-1158

Non Traditional Art Space:



Logansport's Bucking Horse, This iconic bucking horse has been a fixture on Main Street in downtown Logansport since the owner of the Hardware store saw an opportunity to cash in on the marketing of the molded animals available for distributorship. Because of Logansport's colorful history as a town of lawlessness and actual gunfights in the streets in the early 1900's, he purchased the Bucking Horse and gave it the job of riding herd over the Town of Logansport. He had it securely mounted on the upper story of the Pace Hardware building. The DeSoto Parish Tourism Commission had the horse repainted in 2022 to live on.

Main Street, Downtown Logansport, LA 71049, (318) 872-1177

Dining & Art:



4C Coffee House, The entire wall of the new coffee house has been painted by local artist, Hannah May, to represent the different areas and stages of development in the Village of Grand Cane, established in 1899. 4C Coffee House also showcases other artisans' works and offers art classes by reservation. Home to the Back Alley Community Theatre, Grand Cane is one of 44 Cultural Districts in the State of Louisiana.

8361 Highway 171 Grand Cane, LA, (318) 990-1495



Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau 71457,
318-352-8072, Contact Leanna Coy the Tourism Sales
Manager, groups@natchitoches.com

Traditional Art Space:



Natchitoches Art Guild & Gallery, The Natchitoches Art Guild was created in 1980 as a non-profit organization designed to promote art and local artists within the historic community. In 1992, members of the Guild founded the Natchitoches Art Guild Gallery to display works by area artists. Today, the Natchitoches Art Guild and Gallery exists as a co-operative where members volunteer to work in and maintain the space.

584 Front Street, Suite 102, Natchitoches, LA, (318) 352-1626

Non Traditional Art Space:



The African House Mural, Clementine Hunter is a self-taught, primitive artist. She never completed any formal education and did not learn to read or write. She expressed herself, told her story, through paint. Her unique African-American perspective, considered "insider art", tells stories that historians overlooked while documenting plantation life. Plantations are far more than the big house and the crop produced. Clementine captured the community of workers, the life of the "gears" that make plantations successful and prosperous. In 1955, at the age of 68, Hunter completed her most famous work, the African House Murals. They were painted with oil on plywood and installed on the second floor of the African House at Melrose Plantation. The murals date back to 1955 and have been a gallery fixture in the Melrose African House for almost 60 years.

3533 Highway 119, Melrose, LA 71452, (318) 379-0055

Dining & Art:



The Loft at Five Thirty, The Loft is home to several pieces of art including large murals and hand-drawn works. The the New Orleans themed mural located on the far corner wall was painted by local artist Matthew Yerby. There are also two Saints murals of Brees and Kamara painted by artist Sherry Trusty. And behind the bar you will find a portrait of the building drawn by local Ron McBride.

530 Front Street, Natchitoches, LA, (318) 352-1579