For generations, the people of southeast Louisiana have lived off the waters that surround them. A drive along the scenic LA 22 and old US 51, Southern Swamps Byway offers visitors a look at the natural beauty inherent in the state’s bayous, marshes and wetlands. It’s a place where alligators and turtles slip quietly in and out of the water, and time almost seems to stand still. Along this 69-mile route are charming small towns ideal for a stroll, and plenty of great places to eat.

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

TICKFAW STATE PARK The Tickfaw State Park visitors can experience the sights and sounds of a cypress/lupine swamp, a bottomland hardwood forest, a mixed pine/hardwood forest and the Tickfaw River. Sightings of Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, alligators, turtles, snakes, squirrels, woodpeckers, songbirds, wild turkeys, and migratory waterfowl, as well as tracks of beaver, coyote, deer, fox, and raccoons, offer close encounters with wildlife.

27225 Parker Boulevard, Springfield, LA 70462 225-294-0230 or 888-981-2020 
crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/parks/tickfaw-state-park/index

THE CARTER PLANTATION HOUSE The Carter Plantation House dates back to 1864 when James Rheems acquired the property under a Spanish land grant. He sold the land to Thomas Freeman who became the first African-American to own property in Livingston Parish. The house, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was built between 1817 and 1820 and is representative of a middle-class plantation home. The primary crop of the plantation has been rice—pine, cypress and citrus.

23475 Carter Cemetery Road, Springfield, LA 70462 225-747-0660, carterplantationcd.com

LOUISIANA TREASURES MUSEUM Louisiana Treasures Museum features artifacts collected through years of painstaking digging expeditions in the Manchac swamps and surrounding waterways. Ghosts of years past tell visitors their stories through the glassware, arrowheads, relics, and legends described by Wayne Norwood.

10390 LA 22 West, Ponchatoula, LA 70454 225-234-8632

LOUISIANA NORTHSHORE QUILT TRAIL The Quilt Trail is the exhibit of artistic interpretations (painted and mixed media) of quilt blocks outdoors on homes, businesses, sheds, fences, and barns, or on posts in the yard, fields, pastures or flower beds.

Various locations, 985-386-8815, louisianaquilttrail.com

PONCHATOULA, AMERICA’S ANTIQUE CITY Ponchatoula, America’s Antique City, is a perfectly preserved historic district in the quaint city of Ponchatoula that features storefronts offering a bounty of artifacts, collectibles, furnishings, and more. Unique boutiques abound, and restaurants featuring authentic Louisiana unique atmosphere will satisfy your thirst and hunger following a leisurely day of shopping.

Ponchatoula, LA 70454, 800-542-7520 americasantiquecity.com

CULLINSWOOD SCHOOL MUSEUM The Collinswood School Museum began around 1876 when it was built as a one room school house. Mr. Collins constructed the school house on his estate, approximately one mile west of Ponchatoula, to ensure an education for his son. He then hired and boarded a teacher and offered educational training for other children in the area. Grades 1 through 6 were taught in the single room until 1908. In 1975 the Bicentennial Commission chose the “Collinswood School Museum” as a project, and the City of Ponchatoula purchased the building for that purpose.

100 East Pine Street, Ponchatoula, LA 70454 985-386-2221, ponchatoula.org/museum.html

JOYCE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA Wildlife management area located at the south end of Tangipahoa Parish. The area includes 27,000 plus acres and is home to numerous native animals. Bird watching, hunting, fishing, and trapping are popular activities for visitors.

Located in southern Tangipahoa Parish 5 miles south of Hammond, 985-543-4781, wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2774

MANCHAC WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA The Manchac Wildlife Management Area consists of 8,000 acres of cypress trees and freshwater marshes. The ancient Bayou Manchac can be accessed by canoe, and is particularly scenic in the moonlight! Bayou Manchac was once a heavily used trade route and is considered one of Louisiana’s historic waterways. Recreation includes fishing and birdwatching.

Located in the uppermost portion of St. John the Baptist Parish, 985-543-4781, wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2785

MIDDENDORF’S RESTAURANT Middendorf’s is famous for its thin fried catfish, and features indoor and outdoor dining options and views of beautiful Pass Manchac. The restaurant offers fresh seafood, big burgers, and cold cocktails.

30160 Hwy 51 S., Akers, LA 70421 985-386-6666, middendorfrestaurant.com

MANCHAC GREENWAY The collection of public boat launches, wildlife management areas, seafood serving restaurants, and walking trails along the twenty-mile stretch of historic Hwy. 51 from northern St. John the Baptist Parish to southern Tangipahoa Parish is known as the Manchac Greenway. Bordered to the east by Lake Pontchartrain and Lake Maurepas on the west, the Greenway is split and earns it name by the Manchac Pass. manchacgreenway.org

MAUREPAS SWAMP WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (EASTERN TRACT) Vegetation found on the WMA includes cypress, tupelo, bulltongue, cattail, submerged aquatics, red maple, American elm, sugarberry, Nutall oak, water oak, and obtusa oak. There are numerous outdoor recreational activities for the public to pursue including hunting, fishing, bird watching, sightseeing, and boating. A half mile long nature trail is located on the east side of US 51 approximately half mile north of Peavine Road in LaPlace. Located along the south shore of Lake Maurepas west to near Sorrento; 985-543-4781, wlf.louisiana.gov/wma/2781

FRENIER LANDING RESTAURANT AND OYSTER BAR Frenier Landing Restaurant offers a tempting variety of fresh seafood dishes, salads, steaks and poboy sandwiches. Come for lunch or dinner and enjoy the view of Lake Pontchartrain.

113 Dotte Lane, LaPlace, LA 70068, 985-224-2178, frenierlanding.com

CAJUN PRIDE SWAMP TOURS Cajun Pride is a privately-owned wildlife refuge just 25 miles from New Orleans. Authentic Louisiana swamp eco-tours are offered, as well as plantation tours, city tours and combination tours. Transportation is available to near Sorrento; 985-981-2273, Cajunpridetours.com

WILD LOUISIANA TOURS Explore the ecosystems out here and truly immerse yourself in the heart of the River Parishes while hearing about the abundant wildlife on a guided kayak tour. Launch from one of the public boat launches in the area and get up close and personal with the residents of the swamps in South Louisiana.

105 Gary Road, LaPlace, LA 70068 - 985-205-1527, WildLouisianaTours.com

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS:

ASCENSION PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION 105 Gary Road, LaPlace, LA 70068

LIVINGSTON PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU 6967 Hwy. 22, Sorrento, LA 70778 504-467-0758, cajunpridetours.com

TANGIPAHOA PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU 1344 Woodruff Rd., Hammond, LA 70401 985-224-0220, tangitourism.com

GETTING THERE-TIPS:

Continuing south along LA 22, you’ll pass through the community of Ponchatoula, home to the Collinswood School Museum.

PONCHATOULA, AMERICA’S ANTIQUE CITY

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Ponchatoula, LA 70454, 800-542-7520 americasantiquecity.com

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Get additional trip ideas by visiting LouisianaByways.com or one of our Welcome Centers along the route.