There is a 113-mile stretch of roadway in the northern part of Louisiana that is known as the Historic U.S. 80 Byway. Drivers along the route, which begins in the charming town of Ruston and ends at the Louisiana/Mississippi state line, can drink in vistas of lush farms and forested landscapes. Swaths of open land give the area a feeling of remoteness and the Historic U.S. 80 Byway is also an important route for farmers and loggers.

LouisianaByways.com
Here’s a sampling of the many attractions throughout the Historic U.S. 80 Byway. Let your stories begin here.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN RUSTON
Ruston has a well-restored 22-block historic district, ideal for those who like to shop in small, locally-owned stores. The Main Street Community hosts a variety of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places that are related to the history of U.S. 80 and the railroad development in the area.

DOWNTOWN RIVERMARKET
The market located along the Ouachita (Washita) River in Monroe showcases artisans, fine crafts, produce, food, live music, street performers and numerous heavily attended special events. The market is open seasonally however it is a great place to view the Ouachita River year around.

POVERTY POINT WORLD HERITAGE SITE
Located just west of Lake Providence in West Carroll Parish, Poverty Point World Heritage Site is a must-see. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2014, Poverty Point contains mounds and rings that are some of the largest American earthworks of the prehistoric period. Archaeologists have carefully excavated some 400 acres to study the inhabitants who built the unusual mounds several thousand years ago. A museum on site interprets the culture of the Poverty Point people.

HERMIONE MUSEUM
Built in 1855, the Hermione Museum is headquartered for the Madison Historical Society. Located in a restored antebellum home, it showcases period pieces and exhibits depicting the history of the parish including: artifacts from the ancient Indian civilizations, Civil War, Grant’s March, Madame C. J. Walker (a daughter of former slaves who became the country’s first self-made female millionaire), the 1927 flood, Teddy Roosevelt’s famous bear hunt, influence of aviation, and history of the U.S. Experimental Station, beginning efforts in 1930 to eradicate the boll weevil.

SOUTHERN HERITAGE AIR FOUNDATION MUSEUM
The foundation and 11,000 sq. foot museum is dedicated to educating people about the history of aviation and its impact on society, with a primary focus on the local region.

DIXIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Built as an Astor Theater in 1928 playing silent films and holding concerts, the theater survived both a fire in 1933 and the Great Depression. Fundraising campaigns were held and the theater was restored and re-opened in 2006, and is now the home of special events, parties and concerts.

BIEDEHN MUSEUM AND GARDENS
Joseph Biedenharn made his fortune bottling Coca-Cola. The complex includes a Coke museum, a Bible museum, Biedenharn’s spacious 1913 mansion and a stunning walled English garden. Ten rooms of his home are available for viewing on the tour.

MUSAR MUSEUM OF ART
This museum is set in a 1900s Tudor-style structure (listed on the National Register of Historic Places) with charming open spaces, hardwood floors and inviting year-round displays of a wide spectrum of art. The Musar Museum features a permanent collection of paintings, prints and sculpture, as well as six to eight exhibitions annually of art from museums and artists nationwide.

CHENNAULT AVIATION AND MILITARY MUSEUM
The museum is housed in one of the last remaining buildings used by the Selman Field Army Air Corps Navigation School. It features a variety of historical exhibits about Louisiana natives Gen. Claire Lee Chennault and astronaut Jim Halsell, as well as exhibits on Selman Field itself. Additional exhibits include vintage aircraft and radio equipment, space travel, and the history of how Delta Airlines began in Monroe as a crop-dusting operation.

ULM NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Collecting the natural history of North Louisiana of fish, plants and geological specimens including Native American artifacts. Located in Hanna Hall.

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Funding for this document is provided in part by the Federal Highway Administration.

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MORE INFORMATION
Call or visit the welcome centers or CVB visitor information areas listed, and find us online at LouisianaByways.com.

Call 800-843-1872 or visit monroe-westmonroe.org

DAKOTA LABS MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER
318-544-5111, 701 Constitution Dr., West Monroe

MONROE-WEST MONROE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
821 Constitution Dr., West Monroe

RUSTON-LINCOLN PARISH CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
2111 N. Trenton St., Ruston

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