

Sample Itinerary Vermilion Parish

Vermilion Parish: "The Most Cajun place on earth!"

Vermilion Parish is "The Most Cajun place on earth" according to Census Bureau records with nearly 50% of the citizens claiming Cajun ancestry. The towns in Vermilion Parish date back to the 1800's and were the settling grounds for many of the French Acadiens after their expulsion from Nova Scotia. Vermilion Parish boasts of a number of other immigrants as well from European to African descent. Cajun French is still spoken in many of the towns, but English is spoken everywhere, so don't worry. Over 150 years in the making, this bilingual, coastal parish is a multicultural blend steeped in history with a dash of "joie de vivre" or, love of life, finishing the perfectly seasoned mix. Here you'll find prairie lands, wandering bayous and magnificent marshes with farmlands and unique, friendly towns connecting it all. Southern hospitality is also alive and well among our borders, so you'll feel like family before you leave and come back again and again to visit!

- 8:30 a.m. Arrive in Maurice and tour **Vivian Alexander Gallery & Museum**
Vivian Alexander might be one of Vermilion Parish's best-kept secrets. Tour the gallery, located on the Vermilion River, and view the fabulous egg purses and other elegant objects d'art on display, all of which is for sale. Also on display are the Ocean's 12 piece commissioned by Warner Bros. and the Smirnoff egg commissioned by Smirnoff Vodka.
- 9:30 a.m. Tour **The Depot at Magdalen Place**
The Depot is an 1894 wood frame railroad freight depot the houses a railroad museum, gift shop, tourist information and Cajun products. Also on display are Vivian Alexander one-of-a-kind creations. Coffee and cookies will be available for your group.
- 10:00 a.m. Tour **Sam Guarino Blacksmith Shop Museum**
The blacksmith shop, c. 1912, was owned by Italian immigrant Sam Guarino and was still in operation until December 31, 2003 when it officially closed its doors. The Guarino family donated the building and all equipment to the City of Abbeville who has spent the last few years converting it into a blacksmith museum. Every part of the museum, including the dirt floor, was moved a few blocks from its original location to the new location on State Street.
- 11:15 a.m. Tour the **Wells Fargo Building**
Listed on the National Historic Register and currently a private residence, visitors can take a guided tour of the home, view the beautiful artwork, listen to the antique music boxes and learn about the history of the building. *Tours are \$15 per person.*
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch in downtown Abbeville*
- 1:45 p.m. Tour **Kaplan Museum**
In addition to hosting rotating art exhibits, the museum's regular features include displays on the history and culture of Kaplan and its people as well as rotating art exhibits. A free self-guided or personal tour is offered.
- 2:30 p.m. Tour the **White Lake Birding and Nature Trail**
The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) provides a two-mile birding and nature trail at White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area (WLWCA) located 7.4 miles south of Gueydan at the end of Hwy. 91. The trail area includes a covered pavilion with tables, two educational kiosks with information on the trail and the species of plants and animals in and around the WCA, and an observation tower located at the southeast corner of the trail. The trail is open daily from sunrise to sunset and there is no fee or permit required for visitors. Visitor parking spaces are located at the entrance to White Lake WCA.
- 3:15 p.m. Depart for home

*Lunch arrangements can be made at Shuck's, the Louisiana Seafood House, Dupuy's Oyster Bar, Riverfront a Louisiana Grill or Black's Oyster Bar.