



# Family Fun in 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 and indicates the minimum time a tour group should consider at each stop. 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, Sales Manager – Tourism, [kgallegos@visitlakecharles.org](mailto:kgallegos@visitlakecharles.org)

## Outdoor Fun:



**Creole Nature Trail All-American Road**, Kick off your Creole Nature Trail journey at Creole Nature Trail Adventure Point—a free, fun attraction that immerses you in nature and Louisiana’s unique culture. Through imaginative, hands-on displays sure to inspire, you can learn the best places to spot alligators and migrating songbirds, take a peek at wildlife found in bayous and marshes,

2740 Ruth Street, Sulphur, LA, 7665, (337) 502-4358

## Indoor Fun:



**Game 2 Life**, Game2Life offers tactical laser combat, axe throwing, and Shooters Bar & Grill.

3311 Broad Street, Lake Charles, LA, 70601, (337) 485-4156

## Free Fun for the Family:



**Millennium Park**, Major components of Bord du Lac Park include: the I-10 Bridge Dueling Pistols; Pirates Ship; Eagles Nest Tree House; Borealis Rex; Rock Climbing Wall; Hazel the Steamer; Oil Rig; Major General Claire Chennault Flying Tiger; Arthur Stillwell Train; Cajun Cabin; Maze Bridge, Tunnel, Monkey Bars, Ladders; Spider Web; Tot Lot with Swings and Shaded Seating Area.

1100 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA, 70601, (337) 491-1280

## Dining Recommendation:



**Rikenjaks Brewing Company Lake Charles**, Craft beer, cocktails, Louisiana Comfort food, live music, karaoke, games, patio seating and more!



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

## Outdoor Fun:



**Ouiska Chitto Creek**, Tube or canoe along the 86 mile-long spring-fed Ouiska Chitto Creek. The Ouiska Chitto has white, sandy beaches. Add that with the sounds of the river, and the peaceful melodies of the local birds, and you and this equals a most enjoyable canoe trip.

12329 HWy 26, Mittie, LA, 70654

## Indoor Fun:



**Allen Parish Cultural Center**, Visitors to the center will experience a Louisiana swamp with native plants, birds and animals. The ghost of Adam Fontenot greets visitors and share stories of how the Cajuns settled in the area and how they survived in the swamp from the front porch of his home.

12855 U.S 165, Kinder, LA, 70648

## Free Fun for the Family:



**Re-Think Junk Flea Market Trail**, Bargain hunting at its best along the 60+ mile Re-Think Junk Flea Market Trail...there is plenty to find and keep you busy!

(337) 639-4868



## Dining Recommendation:

**Roy's Catfish**, Here you can find delicious Louisiana fried catfish and a Cajun favorite pistolettes – stuffed and fried bread roll.



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



## Outdoor Fun:

**Sunrise Catfish Farm**, Join us on the water for a family-friendly catch to clean fishing experience.

155 MiltonSchmidt Rd, DeRidder, LA, 70634 (337)462-6990



## Indoor Fun:

**Gothic Jail**, Experience the haunting and historic Gothic Jail, where paranormal activity runs rampant and the walls hold secrets of the past.

205 W 1st Street, DeRidder, LA, 70634 (337)463-5534



## Free Fun for the Family:

**Veterans Park**, Enjoy the great outdoors with picnic tables, disc golf, splash pads, and a walking trail! There is something for the whole family.

499 Mahlon St, DeRidder, LA 70634 (337)462-8900



## Dining Reccomendation:

**Big Thicket BBQ**, A counter style BBQ Joint serving SW Louisiana with Craft Barbecue.



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

## Outdoor Fun:



**Toldeo Bend Family Adventure Park**, The park, located across from Wildwod Resort RV Park, has lots of water attractions including a lazy river, 3 swimming pools, a splash pad for kids, adult & kiddie waterslides along with mini golf, kangaroo jumper, playground, gift shop, cafe, and more.

129 Wildwood Road, Zwolle, LA, (800) 450-5103

## Indoor Fun:



**Fort Jesup State Historic Site**, The fort was abandoned in 1846 when it was no longer needed as a border outpost. One kitchen is the only historic structure remaining from the large reservation that once spread across the frontier. The reconstructed officers' quarters houses visitor information, interpretive exhibits and restrooms.

32 Geoghagan Rd, Many, LA, 71449, (318) 256-4117

## Free Fun for the Family:



**Cypress Bend Park**, Get outside for some free family fun! Boat, play water sports, and plat on the beach at Cypress Bend Park.

3462 Cypress Bend Dr, Many, LA 71449, (318) 256-4118

## Dining Reccomendation:



**Zwolle Tamales**, Don't end your visit before enjoying a famous Zwolle tamale! Take it on the go or share with the family, this tamale is a staple for our region.



Desoto Parish Tourist Bureau, 115 N Washington Ave.,  
Mansfield, LA 71052; 318-872-1177 Contact: Julie Rogers,  
Director, [desototourism@gmail.com](mailto:desototourism@gmail.com) – [DiscoverDeSoto.com](http://DiscoverDeSoto.com)



## Outdoor Fun:

**Dennis Freeman Memorial Riverfront Park Playground and Boardwalk**, play in the playground, bring a picnic lunch, meander down the boardwalk to the Sabine River, and drop a hook in the water if you desire.

192-198 Elm St, Logansport, LA 71049



## Indoor Fun:

**Mansfield State Historic Site**, A civil War battlefield with educational displays, open Wednesday thru Sunday 9-5. \$4.00 admission One mile walking trail.

15149 LA-175, Mansfield, LA 71052, (318) 872-1474



## Free Fun for the Family:

**Fishing on the Sabine River/Toledo Bend**, Enjoy a day on the water by fishing on the Sabine River. Access the River at Oak Ridge Park, the Boardwalk by the Riverfront, or the other boat launches.



## Dining Recommendation:

**Something Tasty**, A pleasant experience to try mouthwatering sandwiches, chicken and pork. If hungry, come here for good biscuits and tasty sweet treats!



Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau 71457,  
318-352-8072, Contact [groups@natchitoches.com](mailto:groups@natchitoches.com)

## Outdoor Fun:



**Natchitoches Gator Country Alligator Park**, Wade with the gators and watch feeding shows. Also, get the opportunity to handle alligators, snakes, and lizards.

380 Old Bayou Pierre Rd, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 354-0106

## Indoor Fun:



**Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum**, The two-story museum examines the area's cultural traditions and history from early native-American civilizations to the present and highlights the achievements of over 300 Louisiana athletes, coaches and other sports figures.

800 Front St, Natchitoches, LA 71457, (318) 357-2492

## Free Fun for the Family:



**Kisatchie National Forest - Longleaf Vista and Kisatchie Bayou**, Enjoy a hike located in the forested piney hills and hardwood bottoms of seven central and northern parishes. It is part of the Cenozoic uplands and has large areas of longleaf pine forests.

## Dining Recommendation:



**Maglieaux's**, Relaxed, family-owned bar/eatery with New Orleans flair, Italian & Creole recipes & outdoor seating. Kids eat free on Mondays.