



▶ WEST FELICIANA PARISH

Sponsored by West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission

Experience our Southern hospitality as you explore our quaint small town, enjoy our fantastic shopping, admire our breathtaking scenery, and so much more! Whether you're coming for history, shopping or the outdoors, you'll find what you're looking for in West Feliciana Parish.

MC = Mastercard, V = Visa, AE = American Express, D = Discover; HC = Handicapped-accessible facilities

Audubon State Historic Site

St. Francisville, (225) 635-3739. Open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Oakley Plantation at Audubon State Historic Site is a unique West Indies-style colonial plantation house where John James Audubon stayed for several months in 1821, painting part of his *Birds of America* series. Visitors can view the grounds, which include: an outside kitchen, two slave cabins, an 1870 barn, formal gardens and a nature trail through acres of magnolia and poplar trees.

Butler Greenwood Plantation

8345 U.S. Hwy. 61, St. Francisville, (225) 635-6312, www.butlergreenwood.com. Tours Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 1790s plantation on National Historic Register offers daily tours and bed and breakfast in charming private cottages. Still in original family. MC, V, AE

Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge

www.fws.gov/catisland/. Cat Island National Wildlife Refuge was established in 2000 as the 526th refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System. The refuge was established to conserve, restore and manage native forested wetland habitats for migratory birds, aquatic resources, and endangered and threatened plants and animals. Activities include canoeing, fishing, hunting, photography, birding and hiking. More information on hunting & fishing permits can be found on the Cat Island NWR Web site. Directions: From U.S. Highway 61 go north of St. Francisville to Highway 66 and turn left (west toward Angola). After 1.5 miles, turn left on Solitude Road. Go about 3.5 miles and turn right at the refuge sign. Go another 1.5 miles to the refuge entrance.

Grandmother's Buttons

P.O. Box 1689, St. Francisville, (225) 635-4136, www.grandmothersbuttons.com. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday. Antique button jewelry and eclectic gifts in a restored 1905 bank building in the heart of St. Francisville's Historic District. Don't miss our fascinating Button Museum in the old bank vault, featured in many national magazines. At home, shop online at www.grandmothersbuttons.com for a complete selection of button jewelry, which is all handmade onsite. MC, V, AE, D

Greenwood Plantation

6838 Highland Rd., St. Francisville, (225) 655-4475, www.greenwoodplantation.com. Spring and summer, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Winter 10 a.m.-4 p.m. A Greek Revival home circa 1830 built by cotton, later sugarcane. Burned and rebuilt, now a home and open to the public. Used in seven movies. Also a bed and breakfast on grounds. MC, V, AE, D, HC

Hemingbough

10101 Hwy. 965, St. Francisville, 1-877-635-6617, www.hemingbough.com. Open year round! The eight-room, two-suite Guesthouse operates as a bed and breakfast. The spacious rooms are elegantly appointed with queen-size, four poster, canopied rice beds, private bath, TV and phone. Our unique End Suites offer private entrances and open to a covered rocking chair gallery. You will enjoy the quiet that is Hemingbough and awake to a continental breakfast. Wireless Internet also available. MC, V, AE; HC

The Myrtles Plantation

7747 U.S. Highway 61, 1-800-809-0565, www.myrtlesplantation.com. Open daily, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Experience antebellum splendor in the 211-year-old National Historic Register plantation home renowned for its mystery and intrigue. As one of "America's Most Haunted Homes" it has been featured on Oprah, National Geographic Explorer, A&E, Travel, History and Learning channels and Sean Hannity's America program among many others. M, V, AE

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Quality Inn St. Francis on the Lake

7059 U.S. Hwy. 61 S., St. Francisville, (225) 635-3821, www.americanmotelonline.com/louisiana.html. Ideally located on the banks of a beautiful lake and minutes from area tourist attractions, enjoy genuine American quality Louisiana hospitality with tours of nearby plantations. Appreciate the wide selection of restaurants and cocktail lounges in the surrounding area and the short drive to LSU and Southern University. Relax in a comfortable room on our spacious grounds and enjoy free fishing on our lake, free hot breakfast buffet every morning, free wi-fi, free Southern Supper (Mon. through Thurs.), professional fitness center, beautiful outdoor pool and complimentary local calls. Pets are always welcome for a small fee.

Riverview at Angola Prison

La. Hwy. 66, Angola, (225) 655-2978. New golf course solely for general public use, on the grounds of Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. Pro shop and sandwich shop available. Reasonable fees. 9-hole, par-72 course measuring approximately 6,000 yards, with the front and back nine never using the same tee boxes. The course has 37 sand bunkers and water coming into play on

16 holes. Course surface is 419 Bermuda fairways and tee boxes and Tif-dwarf greens. Location: From St. Francisville, travel approx. 2 miles north on U.S. Highway 61, turn left on Highway 66, travel approx. 20 miles. Highway 66 dead-ends at the Front Gate of Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Rosedown Plantation & Gardens

12501 Hwy. 10, St. Francisville, (225) 635-3332. Gift shop, picnic areas and restrooms, conference room. Rosedown's 28-acre garden is one of the nation's five most important historic gardens. Its 1835 plantation house with all of its original contents has made it one of the South's most distinguished houses.

West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission

11757 Ferdinand St., St. Francisville, (225) 635-4224/1-800-715-0621, www.stfrancisville.us. Charming town in beautiful rural setting only 30 minutes north of Baton Rouge. Rolling hills, historic homes and gardens, B&Bs, nature areas, art and antiques, boutique shops. Stop by the Visitor Center for a walking tour of historic St. Francisville. ✦

The garden of Louisiana

The Camellia Festival is sponsored each year by the little Feliciana Nature Society, which also conceived and hosts the annual Audubon BirdFest and Feliciana Hummingbird Festival. Just as the BirdFest is an ideal activity in the area most treasured by artist John James Audubon when he painted a large number of his *Birds of America* there in the early 1820s, so the Camellia Festival is particularly suited for the area to which the 1831 *Encyclopedia Americana* referred as "the garden of Louisiana."

And so it was, for once the great indigo and cotton plantations of this English section of Louisiana had been established, attention turned from the practical to the merely pleasing and the early manor houses were quickly surrounded by formal gardens laid out in orderly bordered beds and patterned parterres, protected from roaming livestock by picket fences and presided over by classical marble statues. Great alleys of live oaks were planted, their arched canopies soon to provide much-needed shade, and lattice-sided summer houses offered cool quiet retreats.

The glorious antebellum gardens of the St. Francisville area, many inspired by the great plantings of Europe, combined the plantation mistress's passion for ornamental plants with a fortuitous climate, rich soil and unlimited labor. From the surrounding woods were transplanted ferns, trilliums



and oak-leaf hydrangea, violets, dogwood and wild plum trees. But the pride of the gardens were the camellias, and these had to be imported.

—Anne Butler

For more of this article, visit www.stfrancisville.us. For more information on West Feliciana festivals, visit www.stfrancisvillefestivals.com.