

DAYCATION ITINERARY DESOTO PARISH LOUISIANA

DiscoverDeSoto.com

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Discover DeSoto on the northwestern boundary of Louisiana, at the Texas state line. From natural areas like Toledo Bend Lake to living history reenactments at Civil War battlefield sites, to small town Main Streets, DeSoto Parish beckons you with rural charm and hospitality. Drive through rolling, piney woods, view beautiful, mid-19th-century Greek Revival architecture, pick ripe berries in-season, and explore historic cemeteries. After dining on amazing fried fish and hot water cornbread, shop local, eclectic stores for the perfect souvenir and then settle into a cozy bed & breakfast or one of our national hotel chains. All major stops have free parish attraction maps with designated attractions.

Approximately 35 miles south of downtown Shreveport via Highway 171. Travel time: 30 Minutes

Approximately 35 miles north of Natchitoches via Interstate 49. Travel time: 30 Minutes

ARRIVING FROM NORTH VIA HIGHWAY 171 – INTERSECTION HIGHWAY 5

Sunrise Cookies

4178 US 171

Gloster, LA 71030

Phone: 318-933-1401

<https://discoverdesoto.com/listing/dining/sunrise-cookies>



Located at the intersection is a locally owned bakery serving homemade biscuits, sandwiches on homemade bread and more. Makes a great stop for a quick bite or a tasty dessert. Try their famous 'King Cake' year around. Best chicken salad around on fresh Jalapeno bread with your favorite cookies. Dine in or take it to go. \$

Turn right onto Highway 5 and travel approximately 1 mile. The winery is on the right.



STOP 1) KICKAPOO TWIST WINERY & VINEYARD

TOUR TIME: 45 minutes to 1 hour – Open Saturdays for wine tastings.

Call for tour times.

7670 & 7672 Highway 5

Gloster, LA 71030

Phone: (318) 393-5004

<https://discoverdesoto.com/listing/attraction/kickapoo-twist-winery-vineyard>

Local owned winery that custom make their wine using the grapes they harvest. They grow Cabernet grapes, Blanc Dubois, Lenoir, and red and white muscadines. Custom wine made in small batches---Crimson Cabernet, Red Blend, Sauvignon Blanc, Victoria, Favorites Blanc Du Bois, Blush and White Muscadine wines. They also carry homemade jellies from locally grown fruits and grapes. They have grape, Muscadine, and Blackberry in 1/2 pint and pint jars. Call ahead for a charcuterie tray \$.



DIVING TOUR THROUGH HISTORIC KEACHI, LOUISIANA -

<https://discoverdesoto.com/communities/keachi>

DRIVING TOUR TIME – 30-45 minutes

Before 1860 an English reporter for a London newspaper traveled up the River Road through Grand Cane to Keachi and wrote, *“When I arrived in Keachi, it was an eye opener and a stark contrast to any I had visited thus far because all the houses and*



fences were painted white and the churches were so beautiful ... and the college and the large girls dormitory ... it was the most impressive town in Louisiana besides Donaldsonville. Donaldsonville and Keachi were the most beautiful villages in Louisiana, and it had the best food since New Orleans!"

Keachi is considered one of Louisiana's richest treasuries of Greek Revival structures, boasting the only surviving temple style commissary in the state and three antebellum churches. This would take approximately 30-45 minutes.

If time allows there are several historic cemeteries located in the area.



CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL CEMETERY

237 Highway 172

Keachie, LA 71046

TOUR TIME – 30 minutes

The cemetery is the final resting place of more than 100 Confederate soldiers, many of whom died in local makeshift hospitals following the April 8, 1864 Battle of Mansfield, fought not too many miles away.

<https://discoverdesoto.com/listing/attraction/confederate-memorial-cemetery>

Depending on the time of day you may want to make a brief stop at Sunrise Cookies for a snack or sandwich. Grand Cane currently does not have a café or restaurant. It is being restored. Opening possibly fall 2024.

DEPART KEACHI, LOUISIANA AND TRAVEL SOUTH ON HIGHWAY 171 TO THE HISTORIC VILLAGE OF GRAND CANE, LOUISIANA. Approximately 12.5 miles or 14 minutes.

<http://villageofgrandcane.com/>



Plan on approximately 1-1.5 hours to shop and a drive around within the area of the historic homes.

The Village of Grand Cane is dedicated to keeping the presence of "Yesteryear" as a constant reminder of the importance of preserving the past for future generations. Take time to stop and shop at the local businesses. You'll find a array of interesting décor, antiques and gifts. Stop the **By Faith Coffee House** for a variety of coffee, teas, and more or try **Double B Nutrition** for nutritious teas and take time to look at all their gifts, baby clothes, etc. **Village Cuisine & Catering** is open Wednesday-Saturday for lunch and Thursday and Friday for dinner. 318-858-3200



The **Cook Hill House** (c) mid 1800s is one of the homes you will see on your drive by tour. Grand Cane has many beautiful old homes with outstanding front porches. It is owned by the Historic Grand Cane Association and is currently a bed & breakfast. They also host weddings and events.

DEPART GRAND CANE AND CONTINUE TRAVEL SOUTH ON HIGHWAY 171 APPROXIMATELY 8 MILES OR 10 MINUTES TO MANSFIELD, LOUISIANA. TURN LEFT AT HIGHWAY 84. SLOW DOWN AS YOU TURN THIS CORNER AND YOU WILL SEE THE WONDERFUL MURALS THAT HAVE BEEN PAINTED ON HISTORIC BUILDINGS. The Mansfield Female College is on the right about two blocks.



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MANSFIELD FEMALE COLLEGE, HWY 84, Mansfield, La. The first women's institute of higher learning west of the Mississippi River, Mansfield Female College Museum is in Mansfield. Established by the Methodist Church in the 1850s, it served the needs of families in this region of Louisiana for more than 70 years until it was closed and merged with nearby Centenary College in Shreveport. During the Civil War, the college's buildings served as hospitals for wounded soldiers from the nearby Battle of Mansfield, and a supposed ghost from that era even became something of a mascot for later classes of

schoolgirls! The museum features much of the art, pottery and crafts produced by the students as well as a surprising array of memorabilia—rings, commencement dresses, artwork, yearbooks and other items—drawn from the alumnae of the institution and their families. Open Wednesday-Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm FREE admission. Guided tours available



Continue traveling through town on Highway 84 for approximately 1 mile and turn right onto Highway 175. Travel 2 miles to civil war battlefield.

Tour time approximate 45 minute – 1 hour. \$ The site is open Wednesday – Sunday and closed on major holidays 9am to 5pm. \$4 per person

Free for senior citizens (62 and older)

Free for children 3 and under

MANSFIELD STATE HISTORIC SITE

15149 Highway 175

Mansfield, Louisiana

Phone: (318) 872-1474

Mansfield State Historic Site preserves 178 acres of the Civil War battlefield where the Battle of Mansfield occurred on April 8, 1864. Facilities at our park include a museum, research library, gift shop, interpretive film, picnic area, and battlefield trail. They have scheduled events every month. Call ahead for programs. <https://www.lastateparks.com/historic-sites/mansfield-state-historic-site>



From this point you are near Interstate 49 and have the option of going north back to Shreveport or south to Natchitoches. DeSoto Parish has many restaurants in Mansfield if you prefer to travel back west on Highway 175 to south on Highway 84

Billy B's Cajun Restaurant – 13147 Highway 171, Mansfield, Louisiana –

Phone (318) 871-2003 \$\$ No website available. [https://www.yelp.com/biz/billy-](https://www.yelp.com/biz/billy-bs-cajun-grill-mansfield)

[bs-cajun-grill-mansfield](https://www.yelp.com/biz/billy-bs-cajun-grill-mansfield)

Continuing south on Highway 171 to Sabine Parish Louisiana or travel west on Highway 84 to Logansport and turn left on Highway 191 for a drive down TOLEDO BEND FOREST SCENIC BYWAY to Toledo Bend and Sabine Parish. <https://byways.louisianatravel.com/byway/toledo-bend-forest-scenic-byway>



If time allows, stop by **Logansport, LA**. Just a short drive into town to the riverbank with a scenic view of **Sabine River**. Logansport was founded in 1830 by a Dr. Logan who practiced medicine in Louisiana and Texas. He established a ferry on the Sabine River which was known as Logan's Ferry. The name Logansport was given to the town when a post office was established February

28, 1848. Samuel Mather was the first postmaster, serving until Oct. 1850. The post office has been in constant operation since its establishment with the exception of a short time after the Civil War. It was re-established in Oct. of 1866. Check out the shops along Main Street and take time to enjoy a meal at the local restaurants, **Big Zach's, Crawfish Shack and Rosemary's**. Plan on stopping by **Swamp Water Flea Market** and browse among dozens of stalls with an array of antiques and everyday items. Thank you for visiting DeSoto Parish. We hope you enjoyed your visit and look forward to your return.