

EXPERIENCE

✧ Ruston & Lincoln Parish ✧

OPEN





Welcome to the 2008-09 Ruston and Lincoln Parish Visitors Guide. I hope that you enjoy reading these few snippets about our attractions and our people that we are blessed to have in our community.

Over the course of the next few pages, we will attempt to give you a small sampling of the offerings that make Ruston and Lincoln Parish a Peach of a Place to visit. As evidenced by the previous sentence, culinary is a part of everyday culture in the piney woods of north Louisiana. Food can be so much more than just what we eat to survive; it can be an invigorating centerpiece of daily life. It can be a constant source of inspiration and fulfillment. A few days spent in Lincoln Parish enjoying southern hospitality, home grown and home cooked meals, topped by a generous helping of peach cobbler a la mode will allow you to return to your daily routine with increased enthusiasm and zest for life.

But, we don't stop at just enticing your culinary senses, we heighten your sense of adventure. With one of the top ranked mountain bike trails in the South, Ruston and Lincoln Parish are full of outdoor excitement. Lincoln Parish Park is the crown jewel of the North Louisiana Mountain Bike Trail, but we also have three lakes within 25 miles of Ruston, the top ranked golf course in Louisiana by Golf Digest, Squire Creek Country Club, and two universities, Louisiana Tech and Grambling State, with outstanding athletic programs and events.

And what trip would be complete without something to take home. Historic Downtown Ruston offers some of the finest shopping in the South. With a relaxed atmosphere and a collection of locally owned stores, Ruston is just the right fit for each shopper from young to the young at heart.

Come to Lincoln Parish and start your own adventure.

President/CEO
Ruston Lincoln Parish Convention
and Visitors Bureau

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The Official Ruston Lincoln Parish Visitors Guide

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Experience Ruston

Coming to Ruston and need help planning your day from start to finish? Visit the newly opened Ruston Lincoln Visitor's Center and "Ask Jamie" anything from where to shop, what to eat and what attractions are must-see's. She's sure to have an answer!

A Louisiana Certified Travel Counselor, Jamie Kennedy can provide a wealth of information about Louisiana, but her specialty is knowing all about Ruston.

"My job is to make the visitor feel welcomed and assist them with navigating our community," says Kennedy, who manages the visitor center.

Located just one half mile north of Interstate 20, visitors can enjoy a cup of coffee, or a bottle of water while utilizing a wealth of services. The visitor's center offers three touch screen computers to check email, over 500 brochures promoting destinations and attractions around the state, as well as road maps of all 50 states.

"The Visitor's Center will be a place where visitors can learn about our community and take a break from the road at the same time," says Kennedy. "They can enjoy a little bit of that wonderful Ruston charm."

“ The visitor's center will be a place where visitors can learn about our community and take a break from the road at the same time. ”





The Idea Place

Experience The Arts

Ruston and Lincoln Parish is a community with passion for the arts. Whether on stage, on the canvas or at a local gallery, the arts have always found a home in the North Louisiana community.

The Dixie Center for the Arts is one of North Louisiana's hubs for the performing arts. During the year, the Dixie offers everything from plays to concerts and big band shows.

"We try to choose shows that fit all age groups," says Marlen Waters, Dixie Center director. "We try to provide as many types of quality entertainment as possible to fit a variety of interest."

Lincoln Parish is home to numerous talented artists who display their works in local galleries and shops through the community. Among them is the Piney Hills Gallery located in the foyer of the Dixie Center, featuring 30 of Lincoln Parish's most talented artisans.

Mississippi Avenue has become a new haven for art galleries. By the Alley, Visual Design, Piney Hills Gallery and Thousandwords Photography are all located along Mississippi Avenue in the Historic Downtown District.

In November, the North Central Louisiana Arts Council hosts the annual Holiday Arts Tour, a two-day event that includes an art crawl, wine, music and 32 stops along the tour starting in downtown Ruston. Various shops open their doors to give regional artist and musicians a place to display their amazing talents. The weekend provides the perfect blend of art and culture for those who have a passion for the arts.

"When it comes to the arts, there is a lot more here than people realize with the visual art, musicians and dancers we have here," says Waters. "We have a lot of talent here and we bring in more talent for people to enjoy. We have a little bit of everything for people to experience."



Holiday Arts Tour

“ We have a lot of talent here, and we bring in more talent for people to enjoy. ”

Experience The History

“ This is a great place for anyone who loves history and finding something different. ”

If you ask Ernie Stevens what the inspiration was that led him and other local veterans to start the Louisiana Military Museum, he's sure to tell you it was a flight jacket from a pilot lost in action during the Vietnam War.

Deployed to fly a reconnaissance mission in Laos to photograph a bridge used by the enemy, Captain Edgar F. Davis and Captain Leighton Paul's plane was struck by ground fire.

Paul lost consciousness when the plane was hit. When he regained consciousness, the plane was out of control and Paul initiated ejection from the aircraft. As for Davis, it was unclear if he ejected or went down with the plane. To this day, there has been no more information on what happened to Davis. He was declared killed in action in 1979 and was awarded both the Air Medal and the Purple Heart posthumously.

The only item returned to Davis' family was his flight jacket, which is now on display with hundreds of other artifacts at the Louisiana Military Museum.

"This guy's son just came in one day and said he could either give this jacket to us to tell his father's story or just let the jacket sit in his closet to collect dust," says Ernie Stevens director. "Giving the jacket to us was the turning point that helped us decide to open this museum."

Today the museum has a collection of 200-plus years of military history dating back to the Civil War. The most voluminous part of the collection is the weapons ranging from swords and muskets to heavy machine guns. Artillery pieces and aircraft are showcased outside the museum. A collection of South Vietnamese medals on display are just an example of the rare items found in the museum.

"We have such a fantastic collection of artifacts," says Stevens. "That's what sets us apart. You may go to 20 museums and never see the same things we have here. This is a great place for anyone who loves history and finding something different. We really have rare things here."



Louisiana Military Museum

Autrey House

13 miles north of Ruston and west of Dubach on Highway 152 (318) 251-0018

Built in 1849, the Autrey House is the oldest dogtrot style home in the area and believed to be the oldest surviving structure in Lincoln Parish.

Celebrity Theatres

1400 Celebrity Drive, Ruston (318) 278-6006
www.celebritytheatres.com

Celebrity Theatres opened in the summer of 2006. The eight-screen movie theater features the latest movie releases. For more information and for show times, visit the Celebrity Theatres website.

Eddie G. Robinson Museum

100 Robinson Street, Grambling (Stadium Support Facility) (318) 274-6562

Lincoln Parish's new attraction honors Eddie G. Robinson who in 1985 became the winningest coach in college football history, surpassing Paul Bryant of the University of Alabama with 324 wins. An exhibit of the museum can be seen at the Stadium Support Facility on the campus of Grambling State University.

Founders Home

549 Main Street, Grambling

Founder and first president of Grambling State University, Charles P. Adams' former home is on the National Register of Historic Places. Adams helped the University become one of the most recognizable Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation.

Historic Downtown Ruston

The District extends north to south from Florida to Texas and east to west from Bonner to Monroe.

In the heart of the city lie unique specialty retail shops and delectable restaurants, as well as restored buildings, historic architecture and a thriving business community. This pedestrian delight is a true Louisiana treasure, full of history, culture, fun and genuine southern hospitality.

Idea Place

P.O. Box 3163, Ruston (318) 257-2866
www.latech.edu/ideaplace.com

Have you ever wanted to learn about some of the most fascinating wonders of the world? Then come explore the many exhibits the Idea Place has to offer! From a salt and fresh water aquarium to a star lab planetarium, this is the place to go for fun hands-on learning. While you're there, don't forget to check out the 1926 model autocar truck and the amazing outdoor bayou exhibit.

Lincoln Parish Museum

609 N. Vienna Street, Ruston (318) 251-0018

Telling the story of Ruston, visitors can venture back in time and discover Ruston from the very beginning. On the National Register of Historic Places, the Kidd-Davis house was built in 1885, one year after the founding of Ruston. The museum is a countless collection of pictures and artifacts detailing Ruston's over 200-year history.

Lincoln Parish Park

211 Parish Park Road, Ruston (318) 251-5156

Rated as the best mountain bike trail in the South, Lincoln Parish Park is a treasure of residents and mountain bike lovers alike. The 10-mile trail offers a challenging and exciting course for not only the advanced rider, but beginners alike. Filled with RV campsites, a 1.25 mile walking trail and a lake filled with some of the best bass in north-central Louisiana, our one of a kind park has a lot to offer!

Louisiana Military Museum

201 Memorial Drive, Ruston (318) 251-5099

Re-live 200 years of military history and touch the lives of local heroes and unknown enemies. The Louisiana Military Museum is a display of war memorabilia.



Louisiana Tech - Joe Alliet Stadium

photo by www.hawkinsphoto.com

JUNE

June 13-16

35th Grambling Juneteenth Heritage Festival
Park
(318) 247-6120
www.egrambling.com

June 27-29

Squire Creek Louisiana Peach Festival
Downtown Ruston
(318) 255-2031
www.louisianapeachfestival.org



JULY

July 16-23

2008 Southwest Big League Baseball Tournament
J.C. Love Field
(318)255-2031



July 24-27

Barefoot in the Park
Dixie Center for the Arts
(318) 255-1450
www.dixiecenter.org

AUGUST

August 30

LA Tech Bulldogs vs. Mississippi State
Joe Alliet Stadium
(318) 257-3631
www.latechsports.com

August 31

Run for the Diamonds
North Louisiana Exhibition Center
(318) 243-4941
www.nlec.lincolnpark.org

SEPTEMBER

September 1

Run for the Diamonds
North Louisiana Exhibition Center
(318) 243-4941
www.nlec.lincolnpark.org

September 26-27

Louisiana Chicken Festival
Downtown Dubach
(318) 777-3321
www.dubachla.com

OCTOBER

October 3-5

Lincoln Parish High School Rodeo
North Louisiana Exhibition Center,
(318) 243-4941
www.nlec.lincolnpark.org



October 12-14

Squire Creek/Louisiana Tech Intercollegiate Golf Tournament
Squire Creek Country Club
(318) 257-3631

October 18

Grambling Homecoming vs. Alabama A&M
Tiger Stadium
(318) 274-4465
www.gsutigers.com



October 24-25

Piney Hills Classic Mountain Bike Race
Lincoln Parish Park
(318) 255-5156
www.park.lincolnpark.org



NOVEMBER

November 1

LA Tech Homecoming vs. Fresno State
Joe Alliet Stadium
(318) 257-3631
www.latechsports.com

November 15-16

Holiday Arts Tour
Downtown Ruston
(318) 255-1450



November 21-22

Fire and Ice Festival
Downtown Ruston
(318) 251-8613

DECEMBER

December 4

Ruston-Jaycees Christmas Parade
Ruston
(318) 255-4202
www.rustonjaycees.com

December 6

Grambling Christmas Parade
Grambling
(318) 247-6120
www.egrambling.com

December 19

Russtown Band Christmas Concert
Dixie Center for the Arts
(318) 255-1450
www.dixiecenter.org

2009

February 14

Music at the Crossroads
Dixie Center for the Arts
(318) 255-1450
www.dixiecenter.org

February 21

Mardi Gras Ball
Ruston Civic Center
(318) 251-8613

April 18

Swing Into Spring
Lawrence Gibbs Orchestra
Dixie Center for the Arts,
(318) 255-1450
www.dixiecenter.org



18-block Historic Downtown District



18-block Historic Downtown District

“ We sell fine American crafts that help to make life a celebration. ”

Experience The Shops

Looking for some of the best pottery in the world? Then travel down the road that leads you to Ruston's Follette Pottery, Louisiana's oldest pottery producer.

Since 1979, Kent and Libby Follette have been creating and bringing beautifully, handcrafted, one-of-a-kind pieces of pottery into homes across the country. Blending extraordinary textures, colors and designs into works of art designed for functional everyday use.

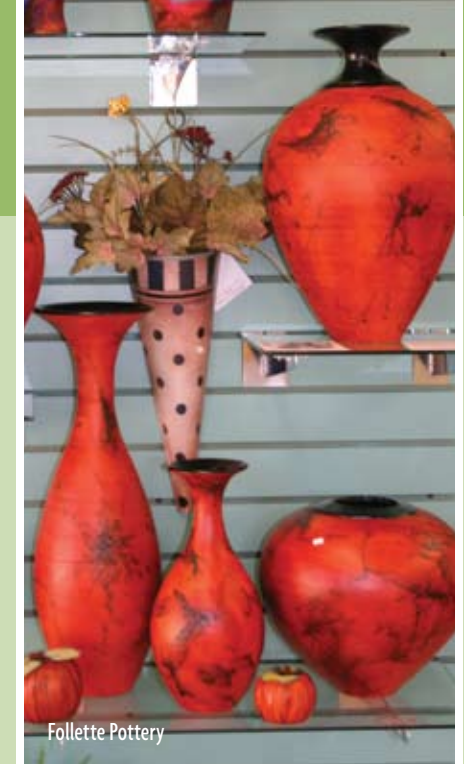
“We want people to be able to enjoy and utilize the art that we sell here,” says Libby Follette. “We sell fine American crafts that help to make life a celebration.”

Whether its glass, metal, jewelry, pottery or mixed media, you will find it all at this local treasure, with a national reputation for quality. The Follettes' and their work have been featured in Southern Living Magazine several times over their 29 year history.

While the store features the work of renowned potter and Ruston native Kent Follette, it also serves as a place to give other rising craftspeople a place to showcase and sell their works as well.

“We have over 100 other artist in our shop,” says Follette. “It's means to help support others in the arts.

So on your visit to Ruston, stop by Follette Pottery, have a glass of peach tea, and discover Louisiana's most unique pottery store.



Follette Pottery

The 18 Block Historic Downtown District

Accents of the East

122 North Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 251-0441
Mon-Sat 11am – 5:30pm

All That Jazz

130 Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 257-1000
Mon – Sat 10am-6pm

Baldwin's

120 Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 255-186
Mon-Fri 9:30am – 5:30pm
Sat 10am- 5pm

By The Alley: Art and Gift Shop

102 Suite A East Mississippi Ave.
Ruston
(318) 255-1800
Tue – Sat 10:30 am – 5:30 pm

Chartreuse Pear

108 N. Vienna St., Ruston
(318) 255-7327
Tues-Sat 10am – 5pm

The Children's Shop

109 N. Trenton St. Suite A
Ruston
(318) 251-9599
Mon-Fri 9:30a.m.-5:30p.m.
Sat 9:30a.m.-5p.m.

Dance Wearhouse

210 W. Alabama Ave.
Ruston
(318) 232- 4875
Mon-Fri 12pm – 5:30pm
Sat 10am – 4pm

Designs of Nature

206 N. Vienna St., Ruston
(318) 251-1823
by Appointment Only

Embellishments

104 North Vienna St., Ruston
(318) 255-6707
Mon-Fri 10am – 5pm

In Style Unlimited

301 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 255-9398
Mon-Thur 10am – 5pm
Fri 10am – 6pm
Sat 10am – 5pm

Kitishan's

211 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 251-0443
Mon-Sat 9am – 7pm
Sun 11am – 3pm

LA Designs

301 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 242-0005
Mon-Fri 10am-5: 30pm

Lewis Boutique

110 N. Vienna St., Ruston
(318) 255-3545
Mon – Sat 10am-5: 30pm

Martha's Boutique

212 N. Trenton St.
Ruston
(318) 242-0024
Mon – Sat 9:30am – 6pm

Roger's Furniture & Gifts and David Hedgepeth Interiors

111 North Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 255-1636
Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm
Sat 10am – 12pm

Sister's Too

118 Park Ave., Ruston,
(318) 255-4825
Mon – Fri 10am – 5:30pm
Sat 10am-2pm

Still Jazi

301 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 254-7620

The Fabric Shop

100 Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 251-2400
Mon-Fri 10am – 5:30pm
Sat 10am – 4pm

The Factory Connection

205 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 251-3732
Mon-Sat 9am – 6pm

The Fashion

124 Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 255-2525
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

The Frame Up

The Frame Up Gallery is also an official Thomas Kinkade dealer.
102 N. Vienna St., Ruston
(318) 255-7776
Mon – Fri 9:30am-5: 30 pm
Sat 10am – 1pm

Times Past

103 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 254-8279
Tue-Fri 10:30am – 5pm
Sat 11am – 4pm

Town & Country Home Interiors

126 Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 251-9991
Mon-Fri 10am – 5pm

Townsend House

401 North Bonner St., Ruston
(318) 255-3350
Mon-Fri 10am – 5:30pm

Other Shops in Ruston

Acorn Creek Antiques

1323 S. Service Road, Ruston
(318) 255-1831
Mon – Fri 10am-5pm
Sat 10am-4pm

Beehive Jewelry

1901 N. Service Rd., Ruston
(318) 255-2524
Mon – Sat 9am – 6pm

Bodie's Furniture

1140 South Vienna St., Ruston
(318) 255-4815
Mon-Fri- 9am – 6pm
Sat 9am -- 5pm

Briley & CO. Boutique

280 Tech Dr., Ruston
(318) 255-8118
Tue-Sat 10am – 5pm

Follette Pottery

I-20, 2401 S. Service Road West
Ruston
(318) 513-9121
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm

Lois Peden's Deep South Antiques

Highway 167 North, Ruston
(318) 255-5278
Mon – Sat 10am-5pm
Sun 1pm-5pm

Mitcham Farms Peach Store

1007 Woods Road, Ruston
(318) 255-3409
Mon - Fri 9am-5pm

Rue 21

Eagle Plaza
1423 Eagle Drive, Ruston
(318) 254-0494
Mon-Sat 10am-9am
Sun 12pm-6pm

The Avenue Christian Bookstore

207 North Service Road E., Ruston
(318) 255-0515
Mon-Fri 9:30am – 5:30pm
Sat 9:30am- 5pm

The Pewter Co.

2305 South Service Rd.
Ruston
(318) 513-2907
Mon-Sat 10am – 5pm



Sundown West Tavern Patio & Grill

Experience Southern Dining

The one word that describes food in Ruston is Southern. From the southern fried chicken, black-eyed peas and hot water cornbread to the summer pleasure of Ruston peach cobbler, local restaurants offer a delightful culinary experience featuring a variety of southern classics.

Known for its down-home country and soul-food traditions, Ruston's style of cooking is rooted in its history. The area's food reflects a strong English-speaking British American and African American presence reflective of those who settled in the area during the early 1800's. Thanks to many of the settlers already living in the area and new residents moving in, Ruston and Lincoln Parish developed a food identity based on agriculture from the surrounding land.

Today, the wonderful food tradition continues to be defined in the American Southern style where cast-iron skillets are a mainstay in homes and restaurants alike.

From soul food at Blue Light, Sweet Peas, and Russell Bee's to Tex-Mex at Log Cabin, Tia Maria's, San Miguel's, and El Jarrito's, Ruston has an eclectic collection of eateries in all food categories in the downtown area as well as the I-20 corridor.

Wherever your dining experience takes you in Lincoln Parish, you're sure to find a variety of aromas and tastes guaranteed to leave the palate with an appreciation for Ruston.



The Frothy Monkey

“The one word that describes food in Ruston is southern.”



Blue Light Café

902 Arlington St., Ruston
(318) 513-2230

A Ruston soul food tradition featuring down home cooking in a relaxing atmosphere.

Cicero's Italian Grill Restaurant

214 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 254-0391

A fresh, casual restaurant in the historic district. Menu includes a variety of Italian classics made from recipes that have been handed down from generation to generation.

Corner's Café

232 College Ave., Grambling
(318) 247-8030

Menu includes catfish, po-boys, chicken wings and chicken tenders served with a Louisiana flavor.

Crescent City Coffee

1007 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 232-5282

Serving delicious coffees, flavored drinks and beignets, this local coffee shop is located just along the entrance way into the downtown district.

Dawg House Sports Grill

102 North Homer St., Ruston
(318) 513-1188

Sports bar and restaurant with diverse dining menu ranging from salads to sandwiches, burgers and even a little taste of Mexico.

Doody's Diner

3731 Elm St., Choudrant
(318) 768-4428

Great po-boys, hamburgers and country fried steak. A good lunch time spot.

Dowlings Smokehouse

1313 Cooktown Rd, Ruston
(318) 513-9966

A barbecue lover's delight. Featuring ribs and chicken, along with pulled pork and brisket all served on a bun or three different types of sourdough bread.

Dubach Café

182 Main St., Dubach
(318) 777-9224

This café specializes in burgers, fish, grilled cheese and BLTs.

El Jarrito

306 West California Ave.
704 Celebrity Dr.
(318) 251-0600

Authentic Mexican dishes in a traditional Mexican atmosphere at two locations.

Hot Rod's Bar-B-Que

1911 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston
(318) 254-8010

Hot Rod's serves some of the best ribs and brisket with all the trimmings in Ruston!

JR's Restaurant

2721 Martha St., Simsboro
(318) 247-6007

A dinner only restaurant, come and enjoy another local spot filled with good southern cooking and friendly atmosphere.

Lee's Cajun Café

2017 Farmerville Hwy.
Ruston
(318) 255-8506

Enjoy Cajun and seafood inspired dishes at this New Orleans style restaurant.

Log Cabin Mesquite Grill

1906 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston
(318) 255-8023

A local favorite known for it's great steaks, seafood and Tex-Mex menu.

Monjuni's Italian Café and Grocery

101 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 251-2222

A favorite place for fabulous traditional Italian cuisine at a reasonable price in the downtown district.

Papa Joe's

206 West California Ave.
Ruston
(318) 251-8846

Featuring New Orleans style po-boys all served on toasted French bread.

Ponchatoulas

109 East Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 254-5200

Featuring exceptional New Orleans style cuisine served in a casual atmosphere in the downtown district. Menu includes a mix of seafood delicacies to enjoy.

Rabb's Steak House

2647 South Service Rd. West,
Ruston
(318) 255-1008

An upscale taste with a down home flavor, sample a juicy burger or a tantalizing steak all made to order. Catch local and national bands performing on the restaurant's stage.

Russell Bee's Soul Food

805 Larson St., Ruston
(318) 251-2414

A soul food restaurant with a different meal everyday. The restaurant offers country cooking ranging from fried chicken and collard greens to fried pork chops and mashed potatoes. Open for lunch only.

Shelly's Southern Home Cooking

2537 Hwy. 33, Ruston
(318) 254-5212

All-day dining in a laid-back atmosphere, serving favorites like pork ribs, barbecue chicken, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw and pasta salad. Open for lunch only.

Sundown West Tavern Patio & Grill

111 Park Ave., Ruston
(318) 255-8028

Dine inside or on the patio at this downtown dining pleasure, known for its burgers and sandwiches. Enjoy live music on weekend nights.

Sweet Pea's Soul Food

500 S. Monroe St., Ruston
(318) 251-2805

Buffet style soul food restaurant with a different menu for everyday. Some of the menu favorites include chicken & dumplings, candied yams, hamburger steak and smothered pork chops. Open for lunch only.

The Cake Plate

110 N. Monroe St., Ruston
(318) 255-2355

A sandwich and soup restaurant, enjoy a choice of chicken salad, ham, turkey or roast beef served on three types of bread, topped off with a fresh baked cookie of your choice.

The Frothy Monkey

201 N. Trenton St., Ruston
(318) 251-8888

A local favorite, stop by and enjoy over 30 different blends of tea and coffee. A breakfast and lunch menu is also available to complement the beverage.

Tia Maria's

102 North Monroe St.
Ruston
(318) 254-2050

Large Mexican menu from salads to chimichangas, offers a variety of authentic Mexican flavor.



The IDEA Place

Experience The Nature

Whether your idea of the great outdoors is a picnic in the park or riding on a world-class mountain bike trail, Lincoln Parish Park offers just the right dose of excitement and outdoors.

Tucked away in the scenic beauty of the park, is the mountain bike trail. The trail -- rated as one of the best in the country -- offers enough elevation changes and challenges to give it the distinction of being one of the top locations for mountain biking anywhere.

From beginners to experienced riders, the 10-mile course offers a unique outdoor experience with a blend of traditional tight southern single track, jeep trails and fire lines. The park hosts an array of mountain bike competitions and events year-round drawing thousands of bikers to the park.

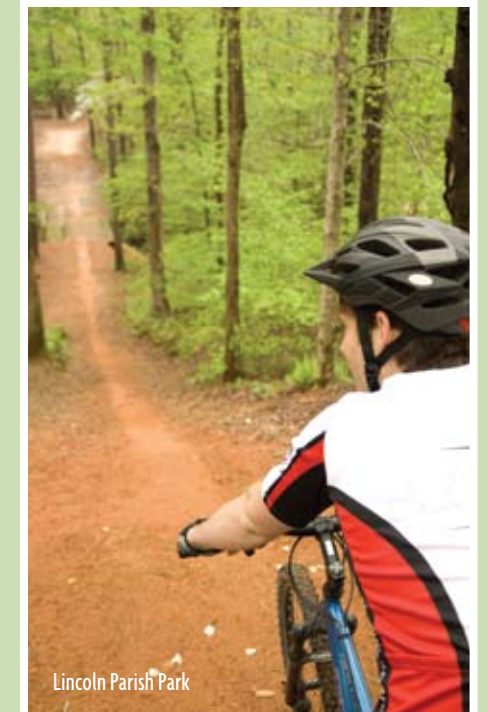
"This park has possibly the BEST spectator viewing scenario of any XTERRA race course we have ever had the pleasure of racing," says XTERRA President Janet Clark.

In January 2008, Mountain Bike Action Magazine featured the seven trails of the North Louisiana Mountain Bike Trail that stretches along the I-20 Corridor. Editor James McIlvain dubbed Lincoln Parish Park as "the crown jewel" of the trail.

Other nature enthusiast simply can enjoy the pleasures of swimming, fishing and boating on the beautiful 30-acre lake at the center of the park. The park has camping sites with full RV hookups, as well as primitive sites for those who really like to rough it.

A new 1.25 mile-long walking trail has been built around the lake so walkers can enjoy the beauty of the lake and be health conscious at the same time.

"This park is excellent, says Rich Luhr, Airstream Life Magazine editor. "It has the woody feel of a state park, but plenty of amenities."



Lincoln Parish Park

“Lincoln Parish Park has possibly the BEST spectator viewing scenario of any XTERRA race course we have ever had the pleasure of racing.”



T.L. James House

Yesterday's Treasure, Today's Pleasure

Enjoy the ambiances and charm of the attraction in and around the downtown area. From the museums to the shops and historic buildings, the downtown area offers a wonderful blend of history and character.

- Start the day with a visit to the Louisiana Military Museum and relive America's war history through the eyes of those who lived it.
- Listen as a Ruston native spins the yarns of romance and politics that makes up the history of Lincoln Parish at the Lincoln Parish Museum.
- Have lunch in one of five downtown restaurants: Cicero's, Monjuni's, Sundown Tavern, Ponchatoula's or Tia Maria's.
- After lunch, shop in downtown Ruston and find an eclectic blend of boutiques, antiques and home décor shops.
- While strolling through the district, take a moment to admire the architecture of the former Ruston Post Office, Ruston State Bank and T.L. James House.
- Before leaving the downtown area, drop by the Townsend House & Gift Shop to pick up a little something to remember Ruston.

The Arts Come to Life

Enjoy the diverse artwork that is the heart and soul of Ruston and tour some of the well-known galleries and stores.

- Visit the Piney Hills Art Gallery in the foyer of the Dixie Center to view and purchase works of art from 30 of Lincoln Parish's most remarkable artists. Walk around the corner to Mississippi Avenue and enjoy other galleries, art stores and photography shops that are quickly making this downtown street a hub for the visual arts.
- Take a stroll through the Louisiana Tech University Art Gallery and enjoy the various works of art.
- Enjoy a glass of peach tea while visiting the fabulous Follette Pottery. Featured in Southern Living Magazine for their one-of-a-kind work, Kent Follette makes his own pottery right here in Ruston. The store also features work from over 100 of America's top craftspeople.

Small Town, Big Legend

Visit Grambling and learn the history of one of the nation's most recognizable Black Colleges and Universities. Places to visit include:

- The Founder's Home, dedicated to the founder of Grambling State University and first President Charles P. Adams, is on the National Register of Historic Places and is located on the campus of Grambling State University.
- See the Eddie G. Robinson Museum Exhibit, a collect of memorabilia highlighting the life and accomplishments of Grambling State's legendary football coach Eddie G. Robinson. Robinson was the first African American coach to become the winningest coach in college football history. All of these sites are part of Louisiana's African American Heritage Trail.

Mind Open Spaces

Stimulate your mind and be ready to challenge your thinking when it comes to the realm of sciences and discovery.

- Visit the IDEA Place, a hands-on science learning center. Learn about science through the interactive exploration of scientific phenomena. The IDEA Place awakens the excitement of learning, and visitors discover fun facts about sound waves, weather, mechanics, electricity, and progression of life.
- Sit back, relax and enjoy a trip through the galaxy while visiting the Louisiana Tech Planetarium. A Spitz A-4 instrument projects the Milky Way Galaxy, including the sun, moon, planets, and approximately 3,000 visible stars. This gives a correct and realistic simulation of the celestial sphere.

Rural Life and Birding Site

Gain an appreciation for the comforts of life today by reflecting on the past. Dubach is home to Lincoln Parish's only official bird watching site.

- For a taste of frontier life, travel north to Dubach, LA and visit the Autrey House. Built in 1849, this "dog trot" style home is the oldest surviving settlement in Lincoln Parish. Visit a piece of the past when wood burning stoves and chamber pots were everyday necessities.
- A part of the American Wetlands Birding Trial, James Lake is truly a four seasons birding site. Bird lovers can view these magnificent creatures from three locations --- the viewing platform, the bridge or the lake's wooded walking trail.



The IDEA Place





18-block Historic Downtown District

America's Best Value Inn

I-20 and Hwy 167, Ruston, LA
(318) 251-0000 or 800-528-1234

Fifty-two rooms with continental breakfast, refrigerator in some rooms, and pool.

Budget Lodge

1301 Goodwin Road, Ruston, LA
(318) 255-0354
www.budgetlodge.com

Eighty-one rooms offering continental breakfast, micro/wave/refrigerator, coffee maker, iron/ironing board in all rooms and laundry service. Special weekly and group rates are available. Pets are welcomed.

Comfort Inn

1951 North Service Road East, Ruston, LA
(318) 242-0070 or 800-424-6423
www.comfortinn.com

Fifty-seven rooms, continental breakfast, microwave/refrigerator, coffee maker, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, free high-speed Internet access, and outdoor swimming pool. Small meeting space is available for use.

Days Inn

1801 North Service Road East, Ruston, LA
(318) 251-2360 or 800-DAYS INN
www.daysinn.com

Sixty rooms, continental breakfast, microwave/refrigerator, free local calls, newspaper, and cable.

Fairfield Inn and Suites

1707 Roberta Ave., Ruston, LA
(318) 251-9800
www.marriott.com

Eighty-two rooms including suites with complimentary hot breakfast, free in-room high-speed internet access, indoor swimming pool, indoor whirlpool, complimentary 24-hour coffee and tea, fax and copy service, same day dry cleaning service, guest laundry and exercise room, microwave/ refrigerator, iron/ironing board, hair dryer and complimentary newspaper included in each room. Small meeting rooms are available for use.

Hampton Inn

3315 North Trenton, Ruston, LA
(318) 251-30-90 or 800-HAMPTON
www.hamptoninn.com

Eight two rooms with breakfast buffet, coffee maker, iron/ironing board, free local calls/faxes, in-room movies/games, outdoor pool, onsite guest laundry, business center, and fitness center. A small meeting room is available for use.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites

1825 Roberta Avenue, Ruston, LA
(318) 513-9777 or 877-409-7737
www.holidayinnexpress.com

Sixty-five rooms and seventeen suites offering express start breakfast, microwave/refrigerator, coffee maker, iron/ironing board, hair dryer, free high-speed wireless connection, fax/copy service, free local calls, and 25" or 27" inch TV, fitness center and outdoor swimming pool. Small meeting rooms are available for use.

Howard Johnson Hotel

401 North Service Road, Ruston, LA
(318) 255-5901 or 800-799-4559
www.hojo.com

One hundred forty rooms with room service, microwave/refrigerator, coffee maker, iron/ironing board, high-speed wireless internet, laundry services and a fitness center. Group rates are available. Conference facility accommodates up to 275 people. Pets are welcomed

Relax Inn

1300 North Trenton, Ruston, LA
(318) 255-2911

Thirty-four rooms with complimentary coffee & donuts, HBO/Cable TV, king sized beds in all rooms, truck parking.

Super 8

1101 Cooktown Road, Ruston, LA
(318) 255-0588 or 800-800-8000
www.super8.com

Forty-two rooms with microwave/refrigerators, free local calls, guest laundry, TV/HBO, and a pool. Jacuzzi suites are available.

Sleep Inn and Suites

106 South Service Road East, Ruston, LA
(318) 232-1100
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/la168.

Seventy-eight rooms offering complimentary continental breakfast, free high speed internet, health and fitness center, indoor pool and spa, business center with fax and copy service, refrigerator/microwave, hair dryer, coffee maker and iron/ ironing board in all rooms. Small meeting rooms are available for use.

Travel Inn

1705 West California, Ruston, LA
(318) 255-3256

Twenty-three rooms, kitchenettes, cable TV/HBO/ESPN.

General Information

Location

North Central Louisiana, crossroads of Interstate 20 and Highway 167, running east to west and north to south respectively.

Population

42,612

Climate/ Elevation

Average Annual	64.8 F
Average January	46.1 F
Average July	82.2 F
Average Annual Rainfall	48.7"
Average Annual Snowfall	1.5"
Days over 90° F	94
Days under 32° F	50
Elevation	311"



Travel Information:

Monroe Regional Airport

5400 Operations Road, Suite 201
Monroe, LA 71203
Phone: 318-329-2461
Fax: 329-2599

www.ci.monroe.la.us/airport.php

Airlines: Delta, Continental Express, Northwest Airlin and American Eagle
Airport Code: MLU

Shreveport Regional Airport

5103 Hollywood Road
Shreveport, LA 71109

Phone: 318-673-5370

www.ci.shreveport.la.us/dept/airport

Airlines: Allegiant Air, American Eagle, Continental Express, Delta, Northwest Airlin
Airport Code: SHV

Enterprise Rent-A-Car

909 E Georgia Ave, Ruston, LA
(318) 254-0094
www.enterprise.com

U-Save Auto Rental

301 W Arizona Ave, Ruston, LA
(318) 251-8466

Driving Distance:

Alexandria	96 miles	1:45 hr.min
Baton Rouge	216 miles	4:00 hr.min
Lafayette	182 miles	3:30 hr.min
Monroe	32 miles	30 min
Shreveport	69 miles	1:00 hr.min
New Orleans	332 miles	5:00 hr.min
Dallas	256 miles	4:00 hr.min
Houston	325 miles	5:00 hr.min
Birmingham	427 miles	5:30 hr.min
Atlanta	528 miles	7:30 hr.min
Little Rock	169 miles	3:00 hr.min

Other North Louisiana Tourism Offices:

Monroe-West Monroe Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-843-1872
www.monroe-westmonroe.org

Shreveport-Bossier Convention & Tourist Bureau
1-888-45-VISIT
www.sbctb.org

Webster Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-888-972-7474
www.visitwebster.com

Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-259-1714
www.historicnatchitoches.com

Alexandria-Pineville Convention & Visitors Bureau
1-800-551-9546
www.louisianafromhere.com



Ruston
Lincoln
Parish
Convention &
Visitors Bureau



experienceruston.com

800.392.9032