

A DAY IN DESOTO PARISH LOUISIANA Visit DiscoverDeSoto.com

CONTACT: Julie Rogers – Executive Director

Telephone: (318) 872-1177

Email: DeSotoTourism@gmail.com

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.

Leaving Shreveport around 9:00 am travel approximately 35 miles south of downtown Shreveport via Highway 171. 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 treats, sandwiches on homemade bread and more. Makes a great stop for a quick bite.

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

STOP 1) KICKAPOO TWIST WINERY & VINEYARD

TOUR TIME: 45 minutes to 1 hour

7670 & 7672 Highway 5

Gloster, LA 71030

Phone: [\(318\) 393-5004](tel:3183935004)

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

Local owned winery that custom make their wine using the grapes they harvest. We grow Cabernet grape, 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.



DIVING TOUR THROUGH HISTORIC KEACHI, LOUISIANA -

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

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 treasures of Greek Revival structures, boasting the only surviving temple style commissary in the state and three antebellum churches.

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>

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/>

<https://desotoarts.com/>



Plan on approximately 1.5 hours with lunch and a drive by tour 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.



LUNCH – VILLAGE CUISINE CAFÉ

8372 Highway 171, Suite B

Grand Cane, L A 71032

318-858-3200

<https://discoverdesoto.com/listing/dining/village-cuisine-catering-and-cafe>

Serving sandwiches, salads and burgers and original desserts. \$\$



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. If time allows, a tour of the Cook Hill House can be arranged. It is owned by the Historic Grand Cane Association and is currently a bed & breakfast.

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 THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS.



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. \$ Open Wednesday-Sunday.
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. We have scheduled events every month. Call ahead for programs. https://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/historic-sites/mansfield-state-historic-site/index?fbclid=IwAR11GE4aOW4F-B7GiNv3pcRaH4aBnvm8J_qcpGwelxTQTe-S8eMd6JszAg



DEPART MANSFIELD SHS and travel north on Highway 175 to Highway 509 to **ROCK CHAPEL**

1746 Smithport Lake Road – (318) 461-2971

<https://discoverdesoto.com/listing/attraction/rock-chapel>

Construction on Rock Chapel began in 1891 by monks who lived in the nearby Carmelite monastery. Stones from the surrounding area were joined together with mud plaster. The walls were painted with frescoes and the ceiling with murals done by two monks from France. The Chapel was used as a retreat for the monks. It also was a site for weddings, Easter services and other celebrations. No admission required but I'm sure the church takes donations. Tour takes approximately 45 minutes.



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>