

For the Heritage Traveler

Residents of the Cajun Coast treasure their rich history and heritage and are enthusiastic caretakers of the architecture, artifacts, and anecdotes of the past. But they are interested in more than simple preservation. On the Cajun Coast, the past is a vibrant part of the present.

Fans of historic architecture must visit the town of Franklin. Franklin's National Register Historic District encompasses more than 420 noteworthy structures including stunning antebellum structures, charming Victorians, and a turn-of-the-century shopping district. Lined by the original lampposts, East Main Street is shaded by an oak arcade under which stately Greek Revival homes stand shoulder to shoulder.

Two antebellum homes in Franklin are open to the public. The Grevemberg House Museum is an excellent period restoration of an 1851 townhouse. Four "Temple of the Winds" Corinthian columns adorn the facade. The interior is furnished with fine antiques, documented wallpapers, and early artifacts from the area. Oaklawn Manor, the private home of Louisiana's former governor, is also open to the public. Built in 1837, Oaklawn is a monumental plantation home furnished with European antiques, lovely bird carvings, and an extensive Audubon collection.

Overnight in a lovely Greek Revival home, Fairfax Inn when in the area. This refurbished home still retains its historic charm while allowing guests many great amenities. Visit their website at www.thefairfaxhouse.net.

Morgan City's riverfront Historic District is a recent addition to the national Main Street Program. The program is designed to encourage the revitalization and restoration of historic downtown retail shopping areas. In addition to unique shops, excellent restaurants and several tourist attractions, Morgan City's Historic District is also home to several splendid churches ranging from the 1870s to the early 1900s.
