

Learn Something New -- Unique Museums

Mardi Gras, airplanes, and oil are not topics that typically spring to mind at the mention of the word “museum”. On the Cajun Coast, though, our unique museums offer the opportunity to explore areas of special interest.

Relive childhood dreams of being a flying ace with a visit to the Louisiana State Museum in Patterson. The museum boasts two collections: the Wedell Williams Aviation Collection and the Cypress Collection. The Aviation Museum houses original planes and flying replicas from the Golden Age of Aviation as well as a display on aerospace achievements in Louisiana. In the 1920s and 1930s, the world center of developments in speed aviation was the small town of Patterson. Aviation pioneers Harry Williams and Jimmy Wedell set numerous records in the air races of the early 1930s with their innovative designs. Their “44” racer was the first landplane to exceed 300 mph. The Cypress Collection highlights Patterson’s role in the lumber industry, the funding source that allowed Harry Williams to tinker with aviation.

Walk aboard an authentic oilrig, the Mr. Charlie for a glimpse of the oil industry. The Mr. Charlie, the first submersible oil rig is docked in Morgan City. Although no longer capable of drilling in the current depths, Mr. Charlie had a long and distinguished career.
