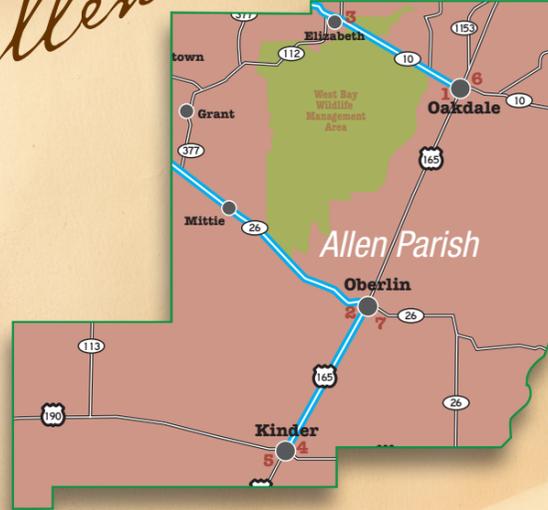


Allen Parish



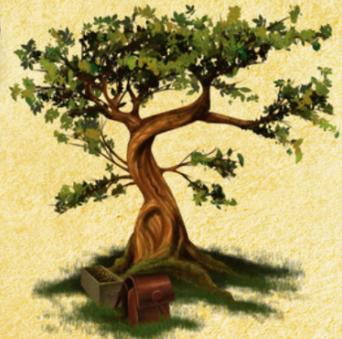
- 1. Legend of the Money Trees**
104 W. 6th Street, Oakdale, LA 71463
- 2. Allen Parish Courthouse**
208 W. 6th Street, Oberlin, LA 70655
- 3. Elizabeth City Hall**
230 Poplar Street, Elizabeth, LA 70638
- 4. Kinder Triangle**
14342 Hwy. 165, Kinder, LA 70648
- 5. Kinder Welcome Center**
12855 Hwy. 165, Kinder, LA 70648
- 6. Leatherwood Museum**
202 E. 7th Avenue, Oakdale, LA 71463
- 7. Allen Parish Tourist Commission**
8904 Hwy. 165, Oberlin, LA 70655



Leatherwood Museum

Step back in time and take a gander at some genuine pieces of Allen Parish history from the good ol' pioneerin' days. There's a whole heap of real fine treasures in this place now, but 'fore it was a fancy museum, it was a hospital, boarding house, and even a family home.

The house was built in 1888. Its exhibits include period furniture from the turn of the century, a matching set of tiger oak bed and dresser, a doll collection, military room featuring the War Maneuvers, an agriculture exhibit, and a walking stick made from a tree from President Jackson's Hermitage Farm in Tennessee.



Legend of the Money Trees

Boy, have I got a tale for you – a tall one, too! Lean in close and open yer ears, 'cuz I'm fixin' to tell you all about the legend of the money trees. It all started back in the Civil War, when groups of men known as "Jayhawkers," who wouldn't do no fightin', would creep and crawl through the swamps and raise the cattle in the settlements. They were inclined to sneak off to "No Man's Land," in the Calcasieu Swamp, where there were no laws or rules.

Si and Dudley were a couple of Jayhawkers who was always lookin' to stash their loot. Well, one day, they got all spooked 'bout the treasure they had sittin' in their saddlebags bein' stolen, so they took off and buried \$75,000 in hot gold and silver. When they got back to their swamp, a whole gang of Confederate soldiers bagged 'em and hanged 'em right then and there.

But the big mystery is... Where'd them Jayhawkers bury that treasure?

According to the old-timers, Si and Dudley carved a whole bunch of pictures on the trees in the swamp to track the loot. For decades upon decades, people have scoured the swamp, lookin' for the markings on seven different trees – all of 'em got drawings of Indians, snakes, tigers, turtles, wagon wheels and mules. Folks finally discovered a path and eventually these symbols led to a final burial spot.

But no one really knows the truth.

Now, lots o' people figured if you buried a critter with your loot that their ghost would protect the hidden treasure. Folks say they've been close to the gold, 'cuz they've seen them ghosts.



Ouisca Chitto Creek

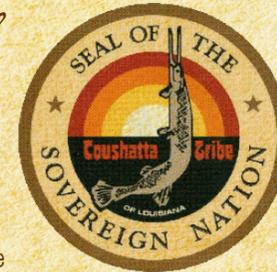
This here creek goes plum through all three parishes of the Myths & Legends Byway! The Ouisca Chitto Creek is surrounded by South Louisiana wild animals like deer, turkeys, and 'coons. The land is absolutely thriving with forests and hills. The fishing in the creek is boss, too! I love to fry me up some fresh bass straight from the Ouisca Chitto.

Equip yourself with a canoe and explore this unique waterway as you enjoy the sights and smells of the flowers and the pine trees. Set up a tent and sleep under the stars, enjoy the sounds of nature, and cook your food over an open fire.

The Coushatta People

The Coushatta, which means "Lost Tribe" started out up 'round the Tennessee River in Georgia and Alabama, but hopped on down to the Red River in Louisiana in the late 1700s, led by Stilapikachatta, or "Red Shoes." Most of these noble folks live in Allen Parish on land the Coushatta paid good money for in the 1880s.

These people believed in dividing their population up into clans within the tribe. Seven animal clans exist in the Tribe: Bobcat, Deer, Panther, Beaver, Daddy Long Legs (spider), Bear, and Turkey. Settling along rivers with fertile soil, the Coushatta grew maize, peas, beans, squash, pumpkins, melons, potatoes, and rice. In modern times, the people built the Coushatta Casino Resort, which opened in 1995 and has grown into the second largest private employer in the state of Louisiana.



Kinder: The Crossroads To Everywhere

In 1885, a Union soldier and native of Mississippi named James A. Kinder was the first settler in these parts. He built his home and a small store here, and this store became known as Kinder. Ever since then, folks called the whole place Kinder. It's known as "The Crossroads to Everywhere" because of the community's long history as a meetin' place where folks traded goods and ideas.

Kinder was near the river fork and served as a waypoint for travelers. It was one location of the Confederacy's main supply routes that conveyed goods from Texas to Opelousas, and commanders and troops could advance or withdraw from Kinder quickly in either direction.



Crawfish Season

Mmm... Mudbugs! Or as we call 'em, crawfish, not crayfish – CRAWFISH. Ever been to a crawfish boil? NO?! Don't you get my back up, now. You're missing out! Those good ol' mudbugs are boiled in a big pot with a bunch of spices and different things thrown in. Mix in some Cajun boudin, corn on the cob, and potatoes – maybe some whole heads of garlic if you wanna get crazy. Crawfish boils are a family and sometimes even a whole town event. It brings everyone together for a hog killin' time (hogs not included, here).

Allen Parish is a blend of different types of peoples and industries. There are a lot of agricultural towns scattered about who manufacture everything from timber, rice, cattle, and crawfish farming; these unique industries support our economy. Crawfish season is usually during the early spring months here in Allen Parish. They grow bigger and fatter when it rains a lot.