

# Enjoying the Byway

Byway travelers tend to be wanderers, easily enticed into side trips. Mileage end to end is about 130 miles. A purposeful trip, with stops at the byway's kiosks in (Vivian, Plain Dealing, Sarepta, and Homer) might take six hours. If you decide to fully enjoy the byway, plan at least a full day.

This GPS-driven tour can be downloaded onto the user's smartphone by searching for the free "N LA Byways" app in the iTunes Store or Google Play for Android. Travelers without a smartphone can check out a handheld device called a GPS Ranger® to experience the video tour. Both the free app and the GPS Ranger® show travelers their position on a map, while revealing the history and culture of communities along the Boom or Bust Byway. GPS Ranger® devices can be checked out from and returned to the following locations:

- **Louisiana Welcome Center at Greenwood**  
– 9945 I-20 W., Greenwood
- **Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau**  
– 629 Spring Street, Shreveport
- **Lake Claiborne State Park**  
– 225 State Park Road, Homer
- **Monroe-West Monroe Convention and Visitors Bureau**  
– 601 Constitution Drive, West Monroe
- **Louisiana Welcome Center at Mound**  
– 836 I-20 W., Tallulah

For more information about the area and byways please visit these sites: [www.shreveport-bossier.org](http://www.shreveport-bossier.org)  
[www.shreveportbossierfunguide.com](http://www.shreveportbossierfunguide.com)  
[www.boomorbustbyway.com](http://www.boomorbustbyway.com)

Get a sneak peak of the Boom or Bust Byway. A video tour of the Boom or Bust Byway is an excellent way to make the most of your visit. These videos are divided into segments so you can see as many or as few as you wish.

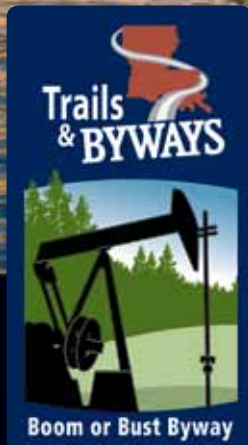


iPhone NLA Byways

Scan this QR code to download a free App.



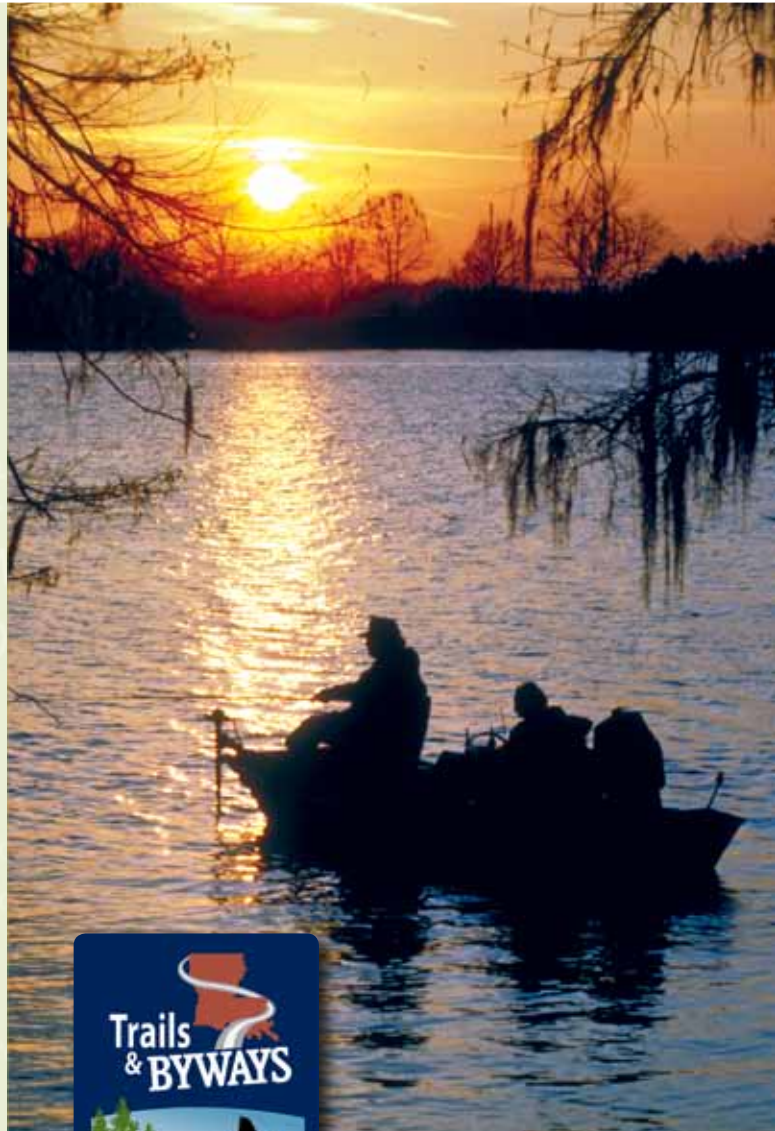
Android NLA Byways



Boom or Bust Byway

# Boom or Bust Byway Caddo Parish

# Vivian Kiosk



In the early 1900s the discovery of oil and gas in northwest Louisiana set the stage for yet another upsurge in the fortunes, and the population, of north Caddo Parish.

Logging in the 1880s and railroads in the 1890s had already altered the appearance of the area by toppling acres of pine forests, laying miles of railroad track, and dotting the railways with fledgling villages and towns.

But as one oil well after another gushed black gold, roughnecks and roustabouts flocked to the area. Tag along families lived in tents and makeshift shanties. Land agents and speculators dreamed of dollars to be made. Merchants opened shops along unpaved streets.

The fortunes of local boomtowns varied. The settlement of Trees, that sprang up on the land of Joe Trees, grew, wilted, and virtually disappeared. Vivian, on the other hand, doubled in population between 1900 and 1910. In 1911 alone, 92 new homes altered the town's footprint. Then, in the 1930s, just as the local economy caught its breath, new oil strikes triggered one more boom in Vivian's economic ups and downs.





# CADDO PARISH CADDO PARISH CADDO PARISH

Welcome to the Boom or Bust Byway! Most people know about Louisiana's rich Cajun, Creole and French heritage and culture, but along the Boom or Bust Byway you will experience "Louisiana's Other Side."

As part of Louisiana's French legacy, counties are called "parishes" and the Napoleonic Code (rather than Common Law) holds sway in the state's courtrooms.

You'll drive along roads lined with colorful wildflowers, past bayous, plantations, forests, and rich productive farmland. You'll pass well-kept churches reflecting the Protestant faith of most 19th century settlers. Here in Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana's Other Side you can feast on local favorites such as fried chicken, catfish, or chicken fried steak with green beans, okra, sweet potatoes, and cornbread.

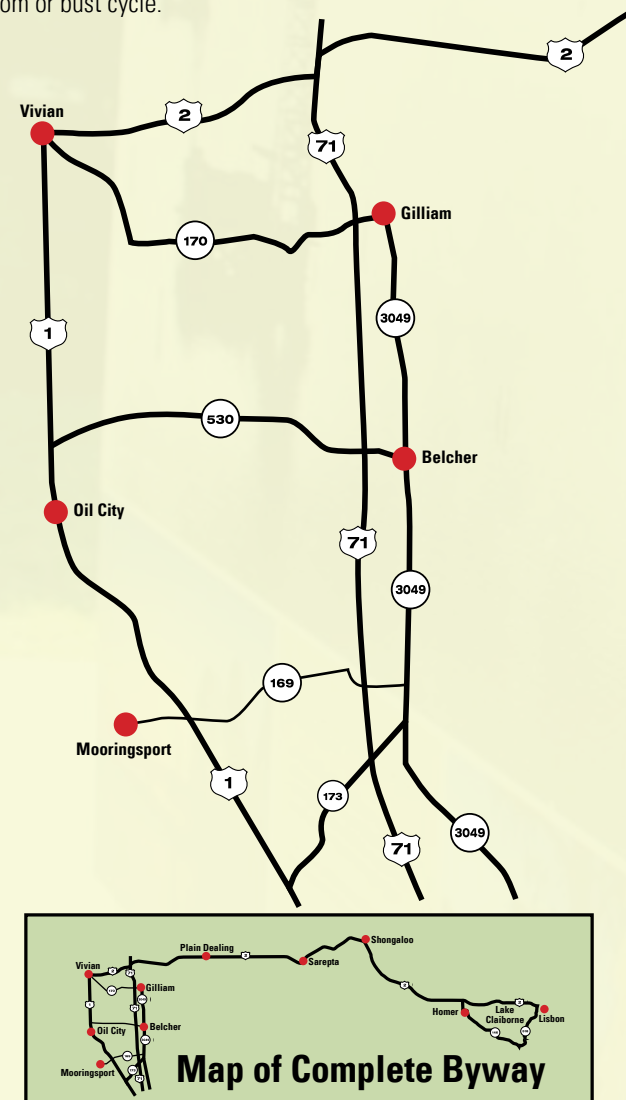
Why is it called the Boom or Bust Byway? As you drive along the byway you will see evidence of the economic booms and busts experienced by the resilient people of Northwest Louisiana. You'll see graveyards of old oil field equipment that died when the oil industry went bust.

And, if you pass through Shreveport-Bossier you'll see the new booming industry – Gaming! Six casinos can be found along the banks of the Red River. Maybe it is fitting that gaming is now the latest booming industry in Northwest Louisiana, because folks here have been gambling for years...gambling on the steady supply and demand for oil and gas,...gambling that once a forest is cut, it will grow back again,...and gambling that Louisiana soil will bring forth an abundant crop in spite of droughts and floods.

## ATTRACTIONS

A trip along the Boom or Bust Byway is a good way to get a feel for the adventurous spirit of local people and Caddo Parish's many natural attributes. Caddo Lake to the south and Black Bayou Lake to the east and north, offer scenic vistas and a taste of north Louisiana's Sportman's Paradise.

But it is the boomtown history that underscores another reality—the prevalence of oil and gas in the past and present. Beginning in 1911, drillers discovered that they could sink wells into Caddo Lake and tap huge pools of oil under the lake bed, prolonging and expanding the frenzy of oil and gas production that was a hallmark of north Caddo's boom or bust cycle.



## FESTIVALS

### Redbud Festival

Third Saturday in March, Vivian

### Gusher Days Festival

Third weekend in May, Oil City

### Sunflower Trail & Festival

First Saturday in June, Gilliam & Hwy 3049

### Heritage & Harvest Tour

Last Saturday in September, Hwy 3049, Dixie, Belcher, Gilliam

### Christmas on Caddo Fireworks Festival

First Saturday in December, Earl Williamson Park on Caddo Lake, Oil City

### Country Christmas Festival

First Saturday in December, Vivian



Here's a sample of what you can do to enjoy today in Caddo Parish:



**Red River Crossroads Museum**, located inside the Shreve Memorial Library branch in Gilliam. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and by appointment. Free. Highway 3049, Gilliam, LA 71029, 318.296.4303.



**Historic Caddo Lake Drawbridge** in Mooringsport is the town's signature landmark. This lift bridge was built in 1914 to replace the ferry and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Highway 538 at Caddo Lake, Mooringsport, LA 71060.



**Earl G. Williamson Park** on Caddo Lake is a 40-acre park that provides a public boat ramp, a 450-foot fishing pier, restrooms with showers, and much more. Open 7 days a week, 6 am to 9 pm. Free. 11425 LA Highway 1, Oil City, LA 71061, 318.995.7139.



**The Louisiana State Oil & Gas Museum** in Oil City interprets Louisiana's early oil industry history through photographs, films and life-size dioramas. Open Wednesday-Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. Free. 200 South Land Ave., Oil City, LA 71061. 318.995.6845.



**Vivian Railroad Station Museum** in Vivian houses rotating exhibits that depict history and culture of the area as well as several written accounts of the history of Vivian. Open Monday-Friday, 10 am to 2 pm. Free. 100 Front St., Vivian, LA 71082. 318.375.3633.