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**NORTHUP  
TRAIL**

Northup Trail

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## NORTHUP TRAIL



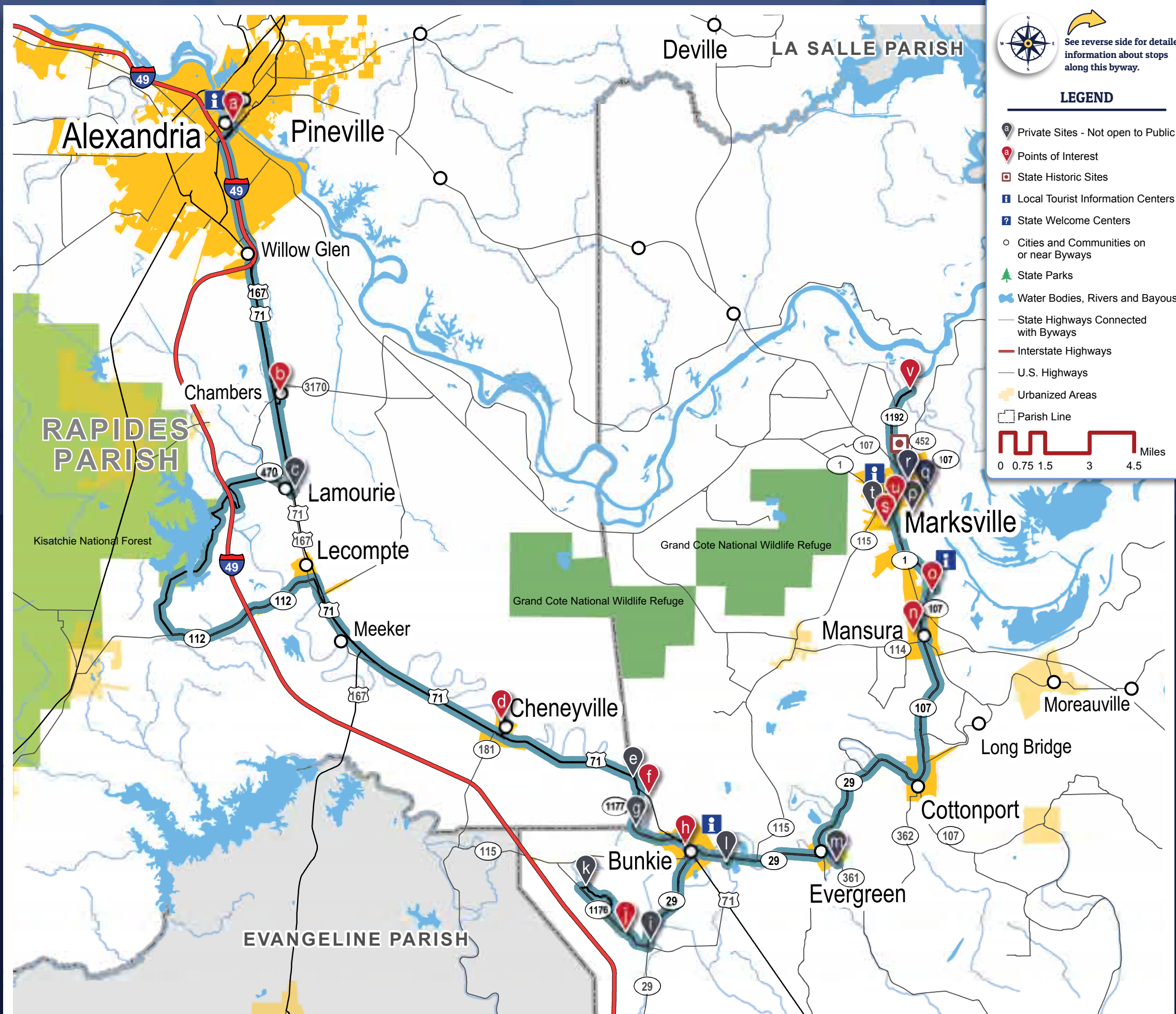
The Northup Trail takes visitors along the path of Solomon Northup during his 12-year journey as a slave in Central Louisiana. Originally from New York, Northup was kidnapped, sold as a slave in New Orleans, and arrived in Alexandria in 1841 until he legally regained his freedom at the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse in 1853. The 83-mile trail follows his path through Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes and visits sites such as the Red River Landing where Northup disembarked the steamer Rodolf, the Epps House, the Bunkie Depot, and the Avoyelles Parish Courthouse. The novel Twelve Years a Slave, the story of Solomon Northup was made into a movie that won the 2013 Academy Award for Best Picture.

In addition to the following points of interest, visitors will also see historic sites, registered historic houses, American Indian mounds, museums, churches and cemeteries, farms, shops, eateries and accommodations along the route.

**NOTE:** THIS TRAIL REPRESENTS THE WORLD OF SOLOMON NORTHUP THEN AND NOW.

 THE POINTS OF INTEREST WITH GRAY MARKERS ARE PRIVATELY OWNED AND NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

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# Here's a sampling of the many attractions throughout the Northup Trail. Let your stories begin here.

**NOTE:**  
The gray Points of Interest are privately owned and not open to the public.



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**RED RIVER LANDING** After being purchased at a New Orleans slave auction, Solomon Northup and three other slaves belonging to William Prince Ford of Rapides Parish arrived at the Red River Landing on the Steamer Rodolf in 1841.

101 Murray Street, Alexandria

**RESTORED EPPS HOUSE** The original Edwin Epps home where Solomon was enslaved from 1843 to 1853 has been restored and relocated to the LSU Alexandria campus. The home was originally located on Bayou Boeuf in Avoyelles Parish.

8100 US 71 S., Alexandria

**LAMOURIE LANE** Lamourie was a crossroads antebellum community with the terminal of the Red River Railroad. When William Prince Ford arrived in 1841 by train with Solomon Northup, they descended here to walk across plantations by foot.

8832 US 71 S., Alexandria

**HISTORIC CHENEYVILLE TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Crossing the bridge over Bayou Boeuf in the older part of Cheneyville is the imposing Trinity Episcopal Church, constructed in 1860. The gravesites of Mary McCoy and Sue Lyles Eakin are found here.

1077 Bayou Road, Cheneyville

**LIVE OAK PLANTATION** The owner of Live Oak Plantation, c. 1850, was Mary McCoy, described by Northup as "the beauty and glory of Bayou Boeuf." It was she who engaged Northup to entertain friends and slaves at another nearby property she owned called Normand Plantation.

11896 US 71 S., Bunkie

**BAYOU BOEUF** Bayou Boeuf, which connects Avoyelles and Rapides parishes, was named for the wild cattle that came to water at its bank. "Boeuf" means "beef" in French. The long chain of plantations along both sides of the bayou formed the community plantation culture.

2274 US 71, Bunkie

**FIRST BOWIE KNIFE** In 1827, the first Bowie Knife was fabricated at the site, the former site of Rezin Bowie's Plantation and familiar to Northup when he traveled.

801 LA 1177, Bunkie

**SUE EAKIN/BUNKIE RECORD** As a young girl, Sue Lyles Eakin discovered the Northup account in an old book at Oak Hall Plantation. Eakin later spent her adulthood owning and operating the Bunkie Record newspaper, devoting much of her life to researching the Northup story.

110 NW US 71, Bunkie

**HOLMESVILLE** Holmesville was a bustling port in the time of Northup's enslavement and was the last major port on Bayou Boeuf before it flowed into Courtableau Bayou.

276 Oil Field Road, Bunkie

**FOGLEMAN CEMETERY** This is the cemetery where the Edwin Epps family is buried in unmarked graves.

GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 30.91280, Longitude: -92.21940

**EDWIN EPPS PLANTATION SITE** The Epps Plantation site can be viewed from the bridge that crosses Bayou Boeuf. This is where Solomon Northup was enslaved from 1843 to 1853 with Edwin Epps as his master and where Northup befriended Sam Bass, who helped him on his path to freedom.

Carl Hunt Road off LA 1176, Bunkie

**HILLCREST PLANTATION** Edwin Epps worked on the property at one time, near present day Bunkie on Bayou Claire, and often sent Solomon Northup to work here.

20336 J.B. Road, Bunkie

**LONE PINE PLANTATION**

Alanson Pearce owned this property in the Evergreen area. He brought Northup to St. Mary Parish to help harvest sugar, as there was little farm work in the Evergreen area due to caterpillars.

399 LA 361, Evergreen

**DR. JULES C. DESFOSSE' HOME**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Dr. Jules Charles DesFosse' Home dates to c. 1790. It is the oldest structure in Avoyelles and is still located on its original plot of land.

1805 L'Eglise Street, Mansura

**ST. PAUL CEMETERY** Dating to 1796, St. Paul Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Avoyelles Parish. The original church site was in front of the cemetery in the area then known as Hydropolis.

197 LA 107, Mansura

**EDWARDS PLANTATION** The former site of the William Edwards Plantation in Marksville dates to 1836. Edwards had at least seven sons, all with patriotic names. Confederates killed William Edwards during the Civil War for being a Union sympathizer.

408 South Main Street, Marksville

**WADDILL LAW OFFICE SITE** The former site of John Waddill's law office was located here. It was Waddill, Northup's local attorney, who made the legal arrangements to free him with the help of attorney Henry Northup of New York.

243 North Main Street, Marksville

**MARKSVILLE POST OFFICE SITE** In the fall of 1851, Northup managed to get a letter sent to New York officials advising them of his plight as a slave on Epps Plantation. Sam Bass, an itinerant carpenter who worked briefly at the Epps place, bravely mailed Northup's letter at the then Marksville Post Office.

105 North Main Street, Marksville

**AVOYELLES PARISH COURTHOUSE** The Avoyelles Courthouse that existed in 1853 was the site where Solomon Northup gained his freedom on January 4, 1853. The present courthouse is located on the same site.

312 North Main Street, Marksville

## MORE INFORMATION

Call or visit the welcome centers or CVB visitor information areas listed, and find us online at LouisianaByways.com.

## DRIVING TIPS:

Don't litter — keep Louisiana's Byways clean  
Note: some attractions do not have pull-offs or have narrow shoulders along the roadway.



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**JUDGE CUSHMAN OFFICE** It was Judge Ralph Cushman who presided over the proceedings to free Northup in the Avoyelles Courthouse. The Judge's actions were praised in The New York Times.

428 South Washington Street, Marksville

**HYPOLITE BORDELON HOUSE** Listed on National Register of Historic Places, this circa 1820 Creole house is typical of the dwellings of early Avoyelles Parish families. The Bordelon family built the house and was one of the parish's pioneer families.

242 Tunica Drive W., Marksville

**LUDGER BARBIN LANDING** The former site of Ludger Barbin Landing is where Northup and his attorney Henry Northup boarded a steamer heading to New Orleans in January 1853. Eventually they got back to New York

where Solomon rejoined his family after 12 years and wrote an account of his experiences in Central Louisiana.

Fort DeRussy Road and Sugarpoint Road, Marksville

## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTERS:

**ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**  
707 Main St., Alexandria  
800-551-9546, apacvb.org

**AVOYELLES PARISH TOURIST COMMISSION/VISITOR CENTER**  
8592 Hwy. 1, Mansura  
800-833-4195, travelavoyelles.com

Take your time, stop to take in the sights, dine on local Louisiana cuisine, shop at the local boutiques along the way and stay over a night or two.

Get additional trip ideas by visiting LouisianaByways.com or one of our Welcome Centers along the route.

**IMAGES:** 1 Avoyelles Parish Courthouse. ©J. Stephen Conn 2 Eppe House. 3 Historic Cheneyville Trinity Episcopal Church. ©Kent Kanouse

4 The First Bowie Knife plaque. ©Jimmy Emerson 5 Hypolite Bordelon House. 6 Bayou Boeuf. ©Kent Kanouse



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