Choose Shreveport-Bossier

experience
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA
Northwest Louisiana is not just another place to live—it is a place to call home.

Louisiana residents enjoy a total tax burden—state and local taxes combined as a percentage of income—that ranks 5th lowest in the nation.

The Tax Foundation, 2014
RESIDENTS IN NORTHWEST LOUISIANA ENJOY EASY ACCESS TO WORLD-CLASS HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Northwest Louisiana has a long history of quality health care and serves as a medical hub for not just the northern half of the state, but also east Texas and southern Arkansas. With hospitals that provide a variety of critical healthcare services, including acute care, rehabilitation, long-term acute care, acute psychiatric, chemical dependency care and surgical specialties, access to quality health care and top area physicians is always nearby in Northwest Louisiana.

Collectively, this local industry employs thousands of professionals, making access to health care in Northwest Louisiana not just a clear advantage for residents but also positions the industry as one of the region’s top economic drivers.

Shreveport’s Shriners Hospital for Children, a specialty hospital geared toward pediatrics, is a shining star for Northwest Louisiana medical treatment. This hospital provides children with medical care for a variety of specialized conditions, regardless of the families’ abilities to pay their bills. This branch is one of 22 Shriners Hospitals around the country and specializes in orthopedic care.

University Health Shreveport houses the accredited Children’s Hospital, a regional burn center and a trauma center that serves communities across North Louisiana, East Texas and Southwest Arkansas. University Health Shreveport is one of only six hospitals in the nation affiliated with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, providing future healthcare professionals with important training opportunities.

St. Francis Medical Center is the largest hospital in Northeast Louisiana and is accredited by the National Joint Commission. The facility is consistently ranked as a top Louisiana hospital for quality care.

From general practice and emergency care to specialized offerings in pediatrics, cancer, women’s services, heart and vascular and more, Northwest Louisiana residents can rest assured that access to world-class health care is always nearby.
Higher education institutions in Northwest Louisiana provide opportunities for area students

Northwest Louisiana is a region with a strong focus on education, and higher education is no exception.

Universities and colleges in the region provide a variety of curricula to students, and degree programs range from two-year to four-year programs. Strong community colleges, such as the Bossier Parish Community College, are among some of the fastest-growing community colleges in the nation. Northwest Louisiana is also home to some of the best four-year colleges in the state, such as Centenary College, and offers access to a variety of top schools in the south, including Louisiana Tech University’s nationally-recognized engineering programs.

Area four-year universities and higher education institutions include:

- CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
- GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY
- LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER, SHREVEPORT
- LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, SHREVEPORT
- LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY
- NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
- UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

Area two-year colleges include:

- BOSSIER PARISH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- DELTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- NORTHWEST LOUISIANA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
- SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT SHREVEPORT
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA’S PUBLIC, PRIVATE AND MAGNET SCHOOLS ENSURE A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS

The Northwest Louisiana region offers excellent public, magnet and private school options for a quality education from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Louisiana’s school development approach is considered one of the most aggressive in the country. Sources like Princeton Review and Education Week consistently recognize Louisiana as a top five state for teacher quality.

The Shreveport-Bossier area provides residents a range of public school options for every grade level, including many with high student achievement. Students can explore special interests with focused, industry-based curricula, including biotechnology and robotics. In addition, several public high schools offer extensive college preparatory opportunities. Students at Airline High School can opt to take dual-credit courses available through Bossier Parish Community College.

Beginning at the elementary level, students attending magnet schools in the Shreveport-Bossier area are encouraged to take a variety of enrichment courses, including art, foreign languages, science labs and orchestra. Numerous magnet school programs are recognized at the state and national levels for academic achievement. U.S. News & World Report awarded Caddo Parish Magnet High a Silver Medal for ranking in the top three percent of high schools in the country.

Many private schools in the Shreveport-Bossier area also provide a premier educational experience for students at all levels. Small class sizes allow for in-depth learning and a collaborative environment. In addition, numerous private schools in the northwest region offer faith-based courses for students to explore religious principles. To promote technologic proficiency, schools like Loyola Prep are pioneering a 1-to-1 iPad program, which enhances student learning through an interactive platform.
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Northwest Louisiana is home to a variety of high-quality public schools located in and around some of the region’s top neighborhoods. The U.S. Department of Education has recognized several schools in the region as Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence for achieving high levels of academic performance, and a total of 64 public elementary, middle and high schools earned A or B ratings from the Louisiana Department of Education in the 2012-2013 academic year.

Public school students can also participate in some of the South’s top athletic programs, from the division championship archery team at Benton Elementary to Parkway High School’s state championship football team.

MAGNET SCHOOLS
Magnet schools in Northwest Louisiana challenge students with unique academic programs from kindergarten through 12th grade that are accessible to students who live in the parish in which each school resides. Parents can enroll their children in area magnet schools as early as kindergarten. A competitive, open enrollment process coupled with high admission standards consistently propel magnet schools in the region near the top of Louisiana Department of Education public school rankings.

Northwest Louisiana’s magnet schools have received numerous accolades from both in-state resources and national publications. For example, in 2013, U.S. News & World Report recognized Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport, a college-preparatory and performing arts magnet school, as one of the top-ranked high schools in the nation.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS
Northwest Louisiana’s private and parochial schools provide students with a range of options. Teachers incorporate new technologies and innovative approaches to learning, such as Loyola College Prep’s 1-to-1 iPad program, while small class sizes, like the student-to-teacher ratio of 17:1 at First Baptist Church School, help students receive a high level of attention from teachers to aid in their development.

Strong athletic programs, which range from golf and fencing to football and basketball, are hallmarks of area private and parochial schools and provide students with a variety of fun and competitive activities outside the classroom. For example, Evangel Christian Academy’s dominant high school football team won more than a dozen state football championships.
Northwest Louisiana offers a variety of high-quality housing options for families and professionals who choose to make the region their home. Those relocating from larger urban areas can expect more house for their money, along with shorter average commute times compared to those of large metropolitan areas.

Home prices in some of Northwest Louisiana’s top neighborhoods range from affordable starter and family-friendly homes to luxury homes in gated communities. Parents seeking quality public and private schooling options for their children are able to do so knowing that many of the region’s top neighborhoods are conveniently located nearby. The region also boasts a number of conveniently-located luxury apartments, perfect for singles and young professionals.

In 2014, the Tax Foundation, a non-partisan tax research group based in Washington D.C., ranked Louisiana’s total tax burden as fifth lowest in the United States, due in large part to the state having some of the most homeowner-friendly property taxes in the country.

Throughout Northwest Louisiana, residents are able to apply the state’s homestead exemption to their primary residence. Through this exemption, the first $75,000 of a homeowner’s primary residence is untaxed by the state. The relatively low property taxes Louisiana residents enjoy have helped propel the state to being ranked eighth lowest in the country for property taxes.

Residents of Northwest Louisiana enjoy mild weather and close proximity to a number of amenities, including retail centers, hospitals, downtown Shreveport-Bossier and more. From tranquil bayous with hiking paths and fishing areas to scenic national wildlife refuges, the region is also home to a variety of outdoor areas—including 63 parks in Shreveport alone that collectively span more than 29,000 acres.
LAKEFRONT LIVING AWAY FROM TOWN IN BENTON

The town of Benton is just 13 miles north of Shreveport and Bossier City with a diverse range of housing options available. On the south side of Benton and the reservoir, the prices of homes range from $300,000 to more than $3.6 million across several subdivisions. Near Palmetto Country Club and stretched along the waterfront, homes carry an average listing of $335,000 at $135 per square foot.

PARKS/OUTDOOR

The Palmetto Country Club, located in Benton, is a private facility with expansive grounds, high-end dining, event facilities and an 18-hole golf course designed by pro golfer and Shreveport native David Toms. Also nearby is Cypress Lake, around which are a number of recreational options for residents to choose from, including Cypress Black Bayou Park and Recreation Area where families can fish, hike, camp, swim, relax on the beach and even visit a children’s petting zoo.

SHOPPING

Locally-owned shops, bakeries, restaurants and specialty stores are located across the town of Benton and adjacent to its various subdivisions. Retail options include grocery stores and pharmacies, gift shops, local hardware options and more. In addition, a major home accessory store, supermarket and electronics superstore are all less than 10 minutes away just south of Benton in nearby Bossier City.

SCHOOLS

Residents of the Benton area often send their children to these public schools:

- BENTON ELEMENTARY
- BENTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
- BENTON HIGH SCHOOL
SPRAWLING BROADMOOR PROVIDES COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE

Broadmoor neighborhood is the largest in Shreveport and includes homes constructed primarily between 1940 and 1960. Broadmoor contains many individual subdivisions with various price ranges. Some of the more popular subdivisions within Broadmoor feature an average square footage of roughly 2,800, where prices average $460,000 at approximately $160 per square foot.

Pierremont Place, a gated community inside Broadmoor, features spacious garden homes with convenient access to Youree Drive and Line Avenue, Shreveport’s two main access roads. The neighborhood and its various subdivisions boast a variety of properties with large yards, and residents can comfortably walk, jog and explore the neighborhood on sidewalks that line each street.

PARKS/OUTDOOR

A number of parks are close by the neighborhood, including Querbes Park Golf Course and the handicap-accessible A.C. Steere Park. The recreational areas in Bayou Pierre and Duck Pond Park also give families a means of enjoying the outdoors within walking distance of home.

SHOPPING

Residents have convenient access to a number of shops, retail centers and popular restaurants. In addition to boutiques and antique stores, the neighborhood also contains a number of shopping centers. Broadmoor Shopping Center, Southfield Shopping Center and Shoppes at Bellemead provide everything from groceries and coffee to clothing and spa experiences. With downtown Shreveport less than 15 minutes away and easy access to a central highway, as well as an interstate a few blocks west, Broadmoor is one of the most accessible and centrally located neighborhoods in the region.

SCHOOLS

Residents of Broadmoor often send their children to these private schools:

- ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- MONTESSORI SCHOOL FOR SHREVEPORT
- LOYOLA COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
CONVENIENCE AND BEAUTY IN GATED PLANTATION TRACE ESTATES

Plantation Trace Estates is a conveniently located gated neighborhood in the heart of South Bossier. The neighborhood carries an average listing of $250,000 at $110 per square foot with spacious homes and large yards, as well as smaller garden homes. The neighborhood includes houses built from the late ’80s into the mid-2000s and features a number of amenities for residents that include a walking trail and a private stocked fishpond.

PARKS/OUTDOOR

The sprawling Red River National Wildlife Refuge is a short walk from home and offers camping, hiking, fishing and scenic settings that include open meadows, forest trails and views of the Red River. The refuge is bordered by Arthur Ray Teague Parkway that provides runners with a winding path accompanied by scenic views of the adjacent Red River area. In addition, the nearby Charles and Marie Hamel Memorial Park is less than 3 miles away and includes a serene 17-acre park with trails, picnic spots and more.

SHOPPING

Plantation Trace Estates is located less than a quarter mile from key roadways and connecting routes, which take residents directly to downtown Shreveport and the area’s many shopping, dining and cultural activities such as Shreve City Shopping Center, the Meadows Museum of Art and Mall St. Vincent. Shreve City Shopping Center is an outdoor shopping center that features a major supermarket, clothing stores, beauty salons and more. The Meadows Museum of Art, a short 10-minute drive from Plantation Trace and nearby Centenary College, boasts a variety of permanent art and temporary exhibits for art lovers to enjoy. Mall St. Vincent provides residents with access to a variety of upscale and trendy clothing stores and major department stores.

SCHOOLS

Residents of Plantation Trace Estates often send their children to these public schools:

- CURTIS ELEMENTARY
- ELM GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- PARKWAY HIGH SCHOOL
SOUTH HIGHLANDS OFFERS QUALITY LIVING AND AMENITIES

South Highlands, originally established in the 1920s, is one of the premier neighborhoods in Northwest Louisiana with an average property listing of approximately $750,000 and architecture influenced by home styles of the 1920s and 30s.

Homes in this historic neighborhood are, on average, 4,800 square feet and roughly $160 per square foot and range from three- and four-bedroom homes to five-bedroom homes. The subdivision includes a number of charming townhomes as well for those needing less space but still seeking the comfort and access of the centrally-located South Highlands area.

PARKS/OUTDOOR

The family-friendly 23-acre Betty Virginia Park, located within South Highlands, features a half mile walking trail, playground and a baseball field. Outdoors enthusiasts can take advantage of walking around the surrounding gardens that occupy the neighborhood’s southern corner, while the nearby R.W. Norton Art Gallery gardens contain more than 15,000 plants and approximately 100 varieties of azaleas. The non-profit gallery and museum is free and open to the public and is also home to an extensive collection of original works of American and European art.

SHOPPING

The neighborhood’s proximity to the interstate allows for easy access to downtown entertainment and businesses, including Mall St. Vincent, a shopping mall with a variety of upscale and trendy clothing stores, major department stores and more. A wide mix of well-known local restaurants, shops ranging from antiques to bookstores to art galleries, and even popular watering holes are all within a few miles of South Highlands.

SCHOOLS

Residents of South Highlands often send their children to these private schools:

- SOUTHFIELD ELEMENTARY
- CALVARY BAPTIST ACADEMY
- LOYOLA COLLEGE PREPERATORY SCHOOL
SPRING LAKE, A SERENE, FAMILY-ORIENTED ENVIRONMENT

Spring Lake is a subdivision that features large and spacious lots with tall oaks and pine trees lining the neighborhood’s sidewalks. Constructed primarily in the ’60s, ’70s and ’80s, homes in Spring Lake range from three-to-five-bedrooms, and prices throughout the subdivision average approximately $350,000 at $100 per square foot.

PARKS/OUTDOOR

Residents of Spring Lake enjoy close access to a number of nearby amenities, including dining and shopping locations such as the Sumers Grove Shopping Center, which includes a mix of clothing and home décor stores along with nearby restaurants, drug stores and pharmacies. Spring Lake residents can also take advantage of close access to a major retail area just down the road, off the nearby Youree Drive, that includes a supermarket, a major electronics store, restaurants, a national bookstore, hardware and home improvement options, a number of shops offering fine jewelry to sporting goods, and more—all less than 10 minutes away.

SHOPPING

Also located nearby are several parks, including Hyde Park, Wildwood Park and South Shreveport Community Park. Established in the fall of 2013, David Toms Academy is located less than three miles away and offers golf instruction for both junior and adult players, as well as a 9-hole course and Pro Shop for visitors.

SCHOOLS

Residents of Spring Lake often send their children to these magnet schools:

- FAIRFIELD MAGNET SCHOOL
- CADDO PARISH MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL
- CADDO PARISH MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL
Stonebridge is a high-end gated community with an average house listing of approximately $480,000 at $125 per square foot. The neighborhood is filled with four-and-five-bedroom homes—most of which were constructed in the mid-2000s—that sit on spacious lawns. Sidewalks line the streets throughout the area, allowing residents a convenient way to walk, jog and explore the neighborhood.

**PARKS/OUTDOOR**

Stonebridge provides residents with easy access to a number of amenities in the area that include several parks such as Clifford Almond Community Park and Shed Road Park. Clifford Almond Park features a number of baseball fields that accommodate little league and t-ball teams. Shed Road Park also has many facilities, including a swimming pool, softball fields, picnic areas, tennis and basketball courts, and a walking/jogging trail. An area golf club features an 18-hole course, driving range and putting green, and the private tennis and swimming complex provides Stonebridge residents with multiple options for a more active lifestyle.

**SHOPPING**

The neighborhood’s proximity to the interstate means the heart of Bossier City is less than 15 minutes away. A number of retail outlets, restaurants and more are located there, including Bossier Towne Center Shopping Center. Locals frequent the shopping center to visit well-known department stores as well as athletic and outdoor lifestyle retail outlets, and a variety of dining options help satisfy hungry shoppers and nearby residents. Major supermarkets and gift shops are also nearby ensuring residents of Stonebridge never have to travel far for groceries and basic essentials.

**SCHOOLS**

Residents of Stonebridge often send their children to these public schools:

- W.T. LEWIS ELEMENTARY
- COPE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- AIRLINE HIGH SCHOOL
When it’s time to play, the sky is the limit in Northwest Louisiana.

SHREVEPORT’S 63 parks span more than 29,000 acres across the city.

SHREVEPORT PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AND RECREATION
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA CELEBRATES ITS CULTURE WITH VARIOUS FORMS OF ENTERTAINMENT—FROM CLASSICAL OPERAS TO MORE MODERN MEDIA SUCH AS FILM

The culture of Northwest Louisiana thrives due in large part to its arts and music professionals. These incredibly talented individuals give their all to entertain the region’s visitors and to help the community flourish. Numerous attractions in the Shreveport-Bossier City area provide residents and visitors alike with various forms of entertainment, from classical operas, dramas and ballets to more modern media such as film. These wonderful performances and entertainment sites aim to entertain and educate as well.

Blending education, enrichment and entertainment, the Robinson Film Center provides visitors with a variety of daily programming that give insight into the history of film and media literacy. As an innovative art film center, RFC exhibits independent, international and classical cinema to the public. RFC’s two state-of-the-art theaters are customized with quality screens and seating to maximize the movie-going experience. RFC houses three versatile spaces that are utilized for educational programming and special events, as well as a restaurant on the second floor.

Those interested in the raw power and emotion that only a live stage performance can deliver will not be disappointed. The region proudly presents dramatic performances at the River City Repertory Theatre on a regular basis, which often star internationally-acclaimed performers, designers and directors. Shreveport is also home to Shreveport Opera, one of the oldest opera companies in the nation. Founded in 1949, this opera house hosts world-renowned performers and singers that deliver stunning operatic performances time and time again.

With impressive architectural features and ornate interior décor, the Strand Theatre is an iconic performing arts venue located in the West Edge district of downtown Shreveport. The building was originally constructed as a motion picture theater in 1925 at the height of the golden era in American theater. For residents seeking an upscale entertainment experience, the Strand is Shreveport’s premier location.
WHEN THE LIGHTS BEGIN TO HUM ALONG THE TEXAS STREET BRIDGE, THE NIGHT COMES TO LIFE IN NORTHWEST LOUISIANA

Experience the sights, sounds and fun of downtown Shreveport, which offers a wide variety of gourmet restaurants, dance venues, theaters, nightclubs and local watering holes.

Northwest Louisiana is home to a plethora of venues for a variety of events and festivals. Locals pack film venues and other events throughout the year to enjoy movies, social gatherings and more.

From spacious dance halls to intimate venues with a vintage feel, Northwest Louisiana offers a wide variety of settings to enjoy live music and socialize with family, friends and co-workers or meet new people.

Northwest Louisiana is home to the filming and production of some of the most well-known Hollywood blockbusters. The region is also home to a bevy of creative local filmmakers that drove organizers to establish the Louisiana Film Prize, an annual contest that draws crowds from across the state and beyond.

Live music is a hallmark of Shreveport. In 2013, crowds lined downtown Shreveport to take in the sights and sounds of the inaugural “Louisiana Music Prize,” which drew some of the region’s top local acts.

The Centurylink Center, a 14,000-seat venue on the banks of the Red River in downtown Bossier City hosts events for music and sports fans of every age. Family-focused performances include Sesame Street Live, the Harlem Globetrotters, Cirque du Soleil and Disney on Ice. The 270,000-square-foot center is also home to unique regional entertainment like the Shreveport Blues Festival and the Shreveport Comedy Festival.

Take in a show, dance the night away with acts like Grammy award nominee Buddy Flett or Professor Porkchop and the Dirty Dishes, or catch a movie premiere! There is always something to do when it comes to spending a night out on the town in Northwest Louisiana.
FOOD, FUN AND CULTURE—JUST A FEW THINGS NORTHWEST LOUISIANA RESIDENTS ENJOY AT LOCAL EVENTS

Northwest Louisiana prides itself on the fact that it’s a hub for local events that comprise delicious food, lighthearted fun and a taste of culture for young and old alike. The region is home to a variety of events throughout the year that showcase just how passionate Northwest Louisiana residents are about the communities in which they live. A warm atmosphere and sense of togetherness are hallmarks of the many events the region hosts throughout the year, such as the popular, family-friendly Red River Revel.

As the premier event in the region, the annual Red River Revel is an eight-day festival that features art, music and delicious Southern cuisine. Festivalgoers find themselves faced with tasteful depictions of sculpture, fine jewelry, photography and oil paintings, to name but some of the innumerable presentations of art and local craftsmanship.

Those who are interested in learning about the rich history and culture of Northwest Louisiana, walking tours are the perfect way to do so. The region hosts a number of other festivals throughout the year, including the Meat Pie Festival—a deeply rooted, regional tradition dating back nearly 300 years—and the well known, highly attended Christmas Festival of Lights.

The festival kicks off with a Christmas parade and a night of fireworks in the downtown historic district. Along the Cane River, a parade of illuminated barges drift past onlookers, and Natchitoches’ colonial district dresses up for the occasion. More than 300,000 lights and 100 holiday displays along the river glow each night from early December until after New Year’s Day.

The festival began in early December 1927, and it continues to delight visitors from across the state and nation.
NORTHWEST LOUISIANA OFFERS A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING MOUNTAIN BIKE, FISHING, CAMPING AND HIKING

Northwest Louisiana is an area known for its beautiful, natural environments, including vast landscapes and a multitude of activities that can be enjoyed in the outdoors. Residents across the region are able to take in a wide variety of outdoors activities—from mountain biking, to visiting some of the area’s local wildlife habitats, to fishing, hiking, camping and more.

Splash Kingdom Waterpark contains 20 acres of water slides, pools and other attractions for visitors to enjoy, including a 17,000-square-foot wave pool and a lazy river. Nature lovers can experience the peace and serenity of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, home to 6.5 miles of well maintained walking trails, meadows and swamps that contain a myriad of migratory birds, fish, alligators and more.

Lincoln Parish Park’s many miles of mountain bike trails have received national recognition from biking magazines and professional bikers alike. The trails include a 10-mile loop for any experienced bikers looking for a fresh challenge, as well as a four-mile trail for beginners. The trails were created by James Ramsaur, a former professional cyclist who now serves as the Lincoln Parish Park director. Every year, a number of biking competitions are held along these trails, during which many bikers experience the thrill of a new trail accompanied by the rush of friendly competition.

Listed as one of the “Top 10 Things for Families to Do in Louisiana” by Trekaroo.com, Gators and Friends is another unique attraction in Northwest Louisiana, located just 10 miles outside of Shreveport. At Gators and Friends, guests can see giant alligators in their natural habitat and take part in feeding the many exotic animals the habitat contains. The goal of the facility is not only to entertain but also to educate its guests about the many animals for which it provides a home.
Northwest Louisiana’s Park System Provides Residents with Opportunities for Active Outdoor Recreation

Northwest Louisiana is home to a variety of parks. The region offers a multitude of outdoor activities ranging from wildlife observation and falconry to mountain biking and water skiing. There are also several parks in the area, all of which offer a variety of activities for people of all ages.

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is the place to be for those interested in wildlife. Located on 160 acres of beautiful land, this park provides visitors with five miles of walking trails that are also handicapped-accessible. For an active outdoor experience, head to Kisatchie National Forest. The sprawling, 604,000-acre outdoors area was recently featured in The New York Times for its abundance of activities such as boating, water skiing, swimming and biking.

The Shreveport Yacht Club is a popular location for all those interested in sailing during their free time, the club hosts weekly Sunday races as well as sailing lessons for adults and juniors. The Yacht Club is also a popular location for crawfish boils and the annual fireworks show held on the Fourth of July.

For a quiet outdoor adventure, Bayou Bodcau Dam and Reservoir comprises more than 33,000 acres of lakes and woodland, with more than 50 miles of trails for hikers and bikers. Bayou Bodcau is also home to the Durden Hills Nature Trail, a seven-mile trail that is regarded as one of the top mountain biking sites in the state of Louisiana.

From expansive outdoor spaces to fun on the water, Northwest Louisiana’s parks and many recreational opportunities offer a variety of diverse options that collectively satisfy the preferences of the region’s many residents and visitors.
The economy in Northwest Louisiana continues to outperform its peers.

No. 3 in Overall Lowest Tax Burden

Shreveport ranked No. 3 in the nation in a study comparing cities' overall tax burdens

KPMG'S COMPETITIVE ALTERNATIVE TOTAL TAX LIABILITY INDEX, 2014
IN NORTHWEST LOUISIANA, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF WAYS TO GET INVOLVED IN ONE’S INDUSTRY OR PROFESSION BEYOND THE REGULAR WORK DAY

Residents of Northwest Louisiana find a variety of groups and organizations to help further themselves professionally or allow themselves to give back to the community, all while meeting like-minded colleagues and friends.

Selected examples of professional organizations in Northwest Louisiana include:

- **AMERICAN ADVERTISING FEDERATION, Shreveport-Bossier**
- **AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, Northwest Louisiana Section**
- **AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT, North Louisiana Chapter**
- **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS, North Louisiana**
- **ARK-LA-TEX ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL LANDMEN**
- **ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA, Shreveport Chapter**
- **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SOCIAL WORKERS, North Louisiana Regional Chapter**
- **ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF LOUISIANA, (APEL) Caddo Chapter**
- **BOSSIER ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS**
- **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CONNECTION**
- **CADDIO ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS**
- **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC NURSES, Louisiana**
- **LOUISIANA ACADEMY OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS**
- **LOUISIANA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Northwest Chapter**
- **LOUISIANA ENGINEERING SOCIETY, Shreveport Chapter**
- **LOUISIANA OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION, Shreveport**
- **LOUISIANA SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS**
- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL ADVISORS, Shreveport**
- **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, LOUISIANA CHAPTER, Shreveport Region**
- **NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION, Shreveport Chapter**
- **PUBLIC RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF LOUISIANA**
- **RED RIVER ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH UNDERWRITERS**
- **RED RIVER DESK AND DERRICK CLUB**
- **SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**
- **SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SHRM), NWLA**
- **SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**
- **TECHX20**
- **YOUNG LAWYERS, DIVISION OF SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION**
- **YOUNG PROFESSIONAL INITIATIVE**
OPPORTUNITY IS ALWAYS KNOCKING AT THE DOOR IN NORTHWEST LOUISIANA

The region is home to some of the state’s top employers and a variety of diverse, cutting-edge industries such as digital media as well as more traditional powerhouse manufacturing facilities. And a thriving regional economy means that regardless of one’s interests or chosen profession, a quality, fulfilling job with a great company or organization is constantly within reach.

Consider a few facts and figures about some of the largest, fastest-growing and most innovative employers in the area.

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, employer of more than 8,000 people across the region, provides opportunities for both companies and professionals to work with the federal government and help support one of the United States military’s most important installations and assets.

BENTELER STEEL/TUBE, a leading producer of seamless and welded steel tubes, is establishing a 675-job seamless steel tube mill. The mill is the company’s first hot-rolling tube mill in the U.S., an expansion that will provide Benteler with the ability to more effectively deliver its products to customers. The company broke ground on the manufacturing facility in September 2013.

DR. REDDY’S LABORATORIES provides affordable and innovative medicines for healthier lives at its 300,000-square-foot facility in Caddo Parish that employs more than 300 individuals. The lab is ranked as the largest producer of silver sulfadiazine cream—a topical cream for burns—and the second-largest producer of prescription Ibuprofen in North America.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER, employer of more than 900 across its two paper mills and operational facilities located in DeSoto and Natchitoches parishes, is a global leader in the paper and packaging industry and supplies a wide range of products that people rely on every day.
MOONBOT STUDIOS, the first major animation studio in Louisiana and winner of the 2012 Oscar® for Best Animated Short Film and coined, the “Pixar of the iPad Age” by The Atlantic, has produced animated hits such as The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore which includes the award-winning animated short film and smartphone and tablet app. Its work for Chipotle Mexican Grill titled The Scarecrow received critical acclaim as both a short film and app-based game, generating more than 11 million views of the film on YouTube.

ROY O. MARTIN LUMBER COMPANY, one of the largest independently owned lumber companies in the South, has a land base of 570,000 acres of prime southern pine and fine hardwoods throughout the state. The company employs more than 700 individuals at its Natchitoches facility that manufacture a variety of wood-related products.

TELEPERFORMANCE, the number one contact center and client relationship management company in the world, recently announced the company will soon create 740 new direct jobs at its Shreveport customer contact center. This move will bring total employment at the campus to 2,000 workers and create one of the largest domestic Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) centers.

TWIN ENGINE LABS, a digital media and smartphone app development firm based in Shreveport, has received critical acclaim for its work. The firm’s work with Moonbot Studios landed their companion app to the short film, The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore, a spot on The New York Times Top 10 Apps of the Year. A firm started out of Shreveport’s Cohab co-working space, Twin Engine Labs is an active presence and a shining star in the start-up and creative communities of Northwest Louisiana.

VERALLIA NORTH AMERICA, the second largest glass container manufacturer in the United States, counts more than 400 employees helping to power its manufacturing facility in Lincoln Parish and produce a variety of food, beverage, spirit and wine containers. As one of Verallia North America’s 13 glass manufacturing plants located across the U.S., the Lincoln Parish facility is a key contributor in the production of approximately nine billion bottles and jars annually.

A leading healthcare provider in Northwest Louisiana since 1924, WILLIS-KNIGHTON has since grown to include four hospitals, a retirement community and a wide range of support service facilities, including a heart and vascular institute, a fitness and wellness center and a diabetes and nutrition center. Now an employer of more than 6,000 across the region, Willis-Knighton is a locally owned and operated healthcare system with strong roots in the community it serves.
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