

# Strawberry Country

## Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana

Ponchatoula has long been considered the “Strawberry Capital” of Louisiana. The area’s location along the Mississippi delta provides fertile soil perfect for farming these southern gems. Although California and Florida are currently the largest producers, Ponchatoula claims to have the sweetest berries in the land. Every year more than 350,000 people travel to the small town of Ponchatoula to celebrate King Strawberry and the history of the Tangipahoa Parish Strawberry Farming industry. The Ponchatoula Strawberry festival is held annually the first or second weekend of April rotating around Easter.

Strawberry season begins in January and ends in early May. Occasionally, farmers can be found selling their produce as early as Thanksgiving. April is the month of choice if strawberry seeking is what you’re after. The quaint town of Ponchatoula and the Parish of Tangipahoa invite you to join us in celebration of our favorite fruit.

### Suggested Itinerary

#### Day 1 (Friday) - Arrival in Ponchatoula/Hammond

- 10 AM – Tour downtown Ponchatoula
  - o Points of Interest
    - Country Market
    - Berry Town Produce Market
    - Collinswood Museum
    - Louisiana Furniture Gallery
    - Over 40 antique and specialty shops
- 1 PM – Lunch at Berry Patch Café
- 3 PM – Tour Amato’s Winery (Independence)
  - o Wine tasting
- 6 PM - Dinner at Cate Street Station (Hammond)
  - o 100+ year old train depot converted to a restaurant
  - o Historical account of depot



#### Day 2 (Saturday)

- 9:30 AM -Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival parade
- 12 PM - Lunch at Rockefeller’s (a local hot spot)
- 1 PM - Fun at the Ponchatoula Strawberry Festival
  - o Arts and Craft vendors
  - o Midway



- o 2 entertainment stages
  - o Games
  - o Strawberry eating contests

- 3 PM - Tour Kliebert’s Alligator Farm
- 6 PM - Dinner at O’Donnell’s restaurant (Ponchatoula)

#### Day 3 (Sunday)

- AM – Check out
- 10 PM – Strawberry pickin’ in a local farmer’s field
  - o Guided tour/historical account
- 12 PM – Lunch at Middendorf’s restaurant

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