

The INSIDE SCOOP 28 THINGS to See & Do Texas

See the Gusher blow

at Spindletop.



When in Southeast Texas, do as the Southeast Texans do, and make every moment count! In fact, if you add up all of these moments, you'll have one truly memorable trip.



↑ PET A BABY GATOR'S BELLY

(*ever so carefully*) at **Gator Country Wildlife Adventure Park**. When was the last time you held a real-life alligator? Never? So don't miss this opportunity to cradle a gator at Gator Country.



Dive into crawfish

before two-stepping your way across the dance floor at **Larry's French Market**. Ooh

la la! Dig into a boiled crawfish platter at the legendary Larry's. Then hit the floor to boot scoot and two-step to a live band. Can't dance? No problem. The restaurant offers free Cajun dance lessons on Saturday nights.

Find the baby in a king cake. A Mardi Gras tradition, each king cake includes a toy baby baked inside. The person who finds the slice with the toy brings the next king cake.



HUNT FOR GHOSTS

down Sarah Jane Road. When the night is inky black drive down Sarah Jane Road between the cities of Groves and Port Neches in search of the namesake specter said to haunt the roadway and bridge.



Have your own EUREKA MOMENT at the Edison Museum.

Learn all about the genius of Thomas A. Edison, "America's inventor," through the interactive exhibits of this Beaumont museum.

Reel in the big one on Sabine Lake. No need for "the one that got away" excuses when you're fishing on Sabine Lake. Chances are good that the redfish, trout or flounder are biting.



Go crabbing

To catch a crab, you've got to think like one. Try "old-school" crabbing with a net and a chicken bone tied to a string. Or go "high-tech" with a ring trap. Either way, you're bound to haul in enough for a Southeast Texas crab boil.

CHEER on the home team at a high school football game.

Check out the Bum Phillips Bowl (a.k.a. Mid County Madness)—a 91-year-old tradition between rivals Nederland and Port Neches-Groves high schools. According to "Texas Sports & Polls," the yearly match between the Bulldogs & Indians earned the no. 1 spot out of 100 for the most loved rivalry in Texas, with an average of 14,000 fans filling the stands.



BRUNCH WATERSIDE at the Neches River Wheelhouse.



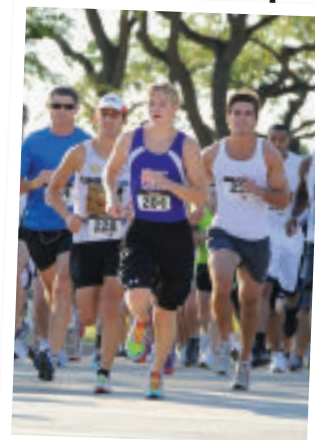
Feed the koi at the Beaumont Botanical Gardens.

RUN A HALF MARATHON

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Or 10k (or less) over the MLK Bridge.

Lace up your running shoes and hit the streets for the Pleasure Island Bridge Half Marathon, 10k and 2 mile.





Eat your weight in pecan pie

There are carnival rides, arts and crafts, fair food and a parade, but the number one reason to attend the **Groves Pecan Festival** is to fill up on all of the slices of pecan pie you can want!

GO ANTIQUING

For vintage finds, explore Beaumont's Old Town Antique District on Calder Avenue, Groves' Lincoln Avenue, Nederland's Boston Avenue, or the 36,000-square-foot **Snooper's Paradise** in Groves.



CATCH A FLICK in Jefferson Theatre's Classic Movie Night series.

There is no better place to watch old and new than in this historic movie theater in Beaumont.

Seek seashells down by the sea-shore of Sea Rim State Park. Comb the 5-plus miles of gulf shoreline at Sea Rim State Park for shells and sea glass.



STUFF YOURSELF

with BBQ crabs at Sartin's Seafood.

This iconic crab shack is *the* place to go to try barbecued crabs—no other place compares!



SPUR ON THE TUNNEL BOATS as they compete at the Port Neches RiverFest's Thunder on the Neches races.

TRY CLOGGING.

Bring home a little Holland with a pair of clogs from the **Dutch Windmill Museum** in Nederland.



SHHHH— take a secret tour of **The McFaddin-Ward House.** Sneak a peek behind the curtains of this turn-of-the-20th-century mansion owned by some of the area's earliest movers and shakers.

Pose with a painted Porsche.

Take your photo beside a replica of Blues singer—and Port Arthur native—Janis Joplin's psychedelic-painted 1965 Porsche 356C Cabriolet at the **Museum of the Gulf Coast.** It'll have you humming, "Oh Lord, won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz" the rest of the day.





Snap a selfie

in front of the **Fire Museum's** gigantic, dalmation-spotted fire hydrant.

MUNCH ON A JUDICE'S HAMBURGER AND WATCH THE SHIPS

PASS BY. Some of the best burgers around can be found at **Judice's Cajun Café**. Grab one and watch the big boats go by on the ship channel as you sit on the boardwalk.



Chart your family tree

at the **Tyrrell Historical Library**.

If you have roots in Southeast Texas, you'll want to explore the collections at the Tyrrell Historical Library. Featuring diaries, newspapers, documents, photographs and more, the library is a treasure trove for amateur—and professional—genealogists.

FERRY THE KIDS TO *Tugboat Island*

Put a smile on your kids' faces by bringing them to the imaginative playground Tugboat Island, where they can storm the castle or captain the tugboat.

Meditate

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at the **Buu Mon Buddhist Temple**.

Reflect on the beauty of the lotus gardens at this temple in Port Arthur. Or enjoy hot tea and conversation with resident monks.



Catch some Mardi Gras beads.

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Southeast Texas' Mardi Gras parades are epic celebrations, complete with decked-out floats, prancing horses, unusual characters and those coveted beads.



Trick or treat at the John Jay French

Museum. Each year this historic home hosts a Pumpkin Walk and Haunted Halloween Tour. Decorate pumpkins before going on a ghostly tour of the property. Maybe the ghost of John Jay French himself will join you! ★

AND WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED! For more ideas about things to see and do in Southeast Texas visit visitbeaumonttx.com and visitportarthurtx.com.