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A DAY IN BREAUX BRIDGE

Visit the Breaux Bridge Visitors Center, 514 East Bridge in downtown Breaux Bridge for a friendly welcome, brochures, and maps. Be sure to pick up a shopping guide and a downtown walking tour map for descriptions and historical facts of the buildings in historic downtown Breaux Bridge. Visit their website at www.breauxbridgela.net/visitors-center or call 337.332.8500 for more information.

At the Visitors Center, enjoy a scenic view of Bayou Teche and the Bridge built in 1950. Across the street along St. Bernard Drive, you'll find Parc des Ponts de Pont Breaux, which means Park of The Bridges of Breaux Bridge. Stop by the Bayou Teche Snake Sculpture, a 20-foot granite sculpture that depicts the legend of the Bayou Teche as told by the Chitimacha tribe of Louisiana and highlights the significance of the Bayou Teche to Acadiana. To the left of the snake sculpture is the Bridge of 1855, which was Breaux Bridge's first turntable bridge. Today it is used to stage concerts and are productions for the local community.

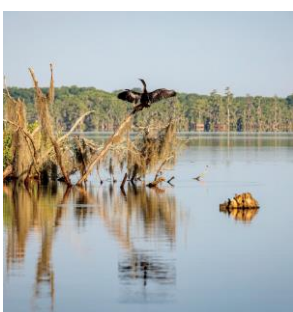


Visit the downtown area where you'll find many antiques, unique gift items, and clothing stores, along with quaint and charming cafes featuring local and international cuisine. Stroll by St. Bernard Church, circa 1934, where many local craftsmen participated in the construction of the church. To the left is St. Bernard Cemetery No. 1, featuring unique and above-ground tombs, typical in South Louisiana. Many tombs date back to the 1800's.

Visit Old City Park, where the oak trees are registered with the Live Oak Society and are over 200 years old. In the park, you'll find the War Veteran Monuments and the Statue of Scholastique Picou Breaux. Scholastique is credited to drawing up the plans for the Village of Breaux Bridge and selling lots in 1829, resulting in the founding of Breaux Bridge. To the rear of City Park is the Old Bandstand, which once served as a public gathering spot for political speeches and performances by local musicians.

The Bridge Collection is a body of donated art by regional artists in celebration of Breaux Bridge's 150th anniversary of incorporation in 2009. Artists and photographers were asked to create their vision of the iconic bridge that crosses the Bayou Teche downtown. To date, forty-two local artists have submitted work to the city-owned collection, which is an ongoing, public exhibition that is free to the public.

Breaux Bridge has numerous Bed & Breakfast establishments and award-winning and world-wide famous restaurants. Some local establishments feature live Cajun music nightly and on weekends. Rees Street, along Interstate 10, has many franchised fast-food restaurants and video poker establishments.



Located two miles from Breaux Bridge is Lake Martin, which is home to the largest wading bird rookery in the United States. From late March to early August, you'll find over 140 species of birds nesting alongside the gravel road, where the rosette spoonbills and a variety of egrets and herons take center stage along with the alligators. Nowhere else will you be able to view these birds and alligators without leaving your car! The Nature Conservancy Visitor Center as well as the picnic pavilion and boardwalk are open weekend days from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The preserve is open during daylight hours. The walking trail starting along the levee is closed during alligator nesting season, June through October. Guided tours are also available at the boat ramp.