

Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail





The TECHE Project

Stewards of the Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail

The Teche Ecology, Culture and History Education Project (TECHE), established in 2008, has grown into a nonprofit organization with more than 400 passionate members. Together, we continue to make Bayou Teche a healthier waterway for fishing, kayaking, canoeing, boating and even swimming.

Our TECHE Renaissance focuses on three ideas: ENRICH It (healthy waterway), EXPLORE It (get on the water) and EMBRACE It (trail town economies). Since 2008, our volunteers have removed 58 tons of trash from Bayou Teche, renewing its beauty and improving its health. We continue to improve the overall ecological health and water quality of the 135-mile corridor, enhance travelers' experiences with facilities that ease access and navigation of the bayou, and celebrate Bayou Teche with personal experiences, programs and events.

In 2015, through a rigorous application process, our efforts paid off: Bayou Teche and the Lower Atchafalaya River were designated a National Water Trail—the only such named river in Louisiana! The expansion of water trails across the nation is vital to a sustainable future, not just for the environment, but for our communities and economy. Realizing we tend to take care of the things we experience, the Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail is now a catalyst for the conservation of our national waterways.

Roughly, distances between most trail towns range six-to-eight miles, ideal for a casual paddler. Experiencing our culture by boat enhances a visitor's experience, while our resident families and children can now return to this playground to reconnect to our heritage.

Learn more about The TECHE Project at techeproject.org and consider becoming a member. (Outfitter information is available on the website.)



Welcome to the Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail



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Trailhead Dock Locations

Port Barre (Mile 0): Official dock at city boat launch at 245 Bayou Road. This dock is located on Bayou Courtableau, so you will need to paddle 0.3 miles to the left to access the beginning of Bayou Teche.

Leonville (Mile 11.3): Launch at 129 Mistric St.

Arnaudville (Mile 19.0): Official dock at 1023 Neblet St. next to Myran's Maison de Manger.

Arnaudville (Mile 19.4): Unofficial Bayou Teche Brewery dock at the end of Noth Road (not indicated on map).

Poché Bridge (Mile 29.5): Unofficial dock located behind Poché's Market at 3015 Main Hwy. in Breaux Bridge.

Breaux Bridge (Mile 34.1): Full-service trailhead with dock and restroom facilities in Parc des Ponts at 120 St. Bernard St.

Parks (Mile 42.2): Official dock in Cecil Poché Memorial Park at 1019 Periou St.

St. Martinville (Mile 49.2): Official dock at Old Market Street; you will need to portage to the left at mile 52.6.

Loreauville (Mile 61.4): Official dock at 119 Bridge St.

New Iberia (Mile 70.9): Official dock at 108 Duperier Ave.

Jeanerette (Mile 82.0): Official dock at T.J. Viator City Park off Tarleton Street.

Charenton (Mile 91.0): Official dock at 3726 Chitimacha Trail.

Baldwin (Mile 96.0): Official dock at Charenton Road Park and Recreational Complex.

Franklin (Mile 108.1): Official dock at 700 Teche Dr.

Centerville (Mile 114.0): Official dock at Schwan Park at 514 Parish Road 131.

Patterson (Mile 126.2): Official dock at 1116 Main St. in Morey Park.





Aerial photo of St. Martinville by Phanat Xanamane

Trail Facts

Miles: 135

Towns: Port Barre, Leonville, Arnaudville, Poché Bridge, Breaux Bridge, Parks, St. Martinville, Loreauville, New Iberia, Jeanerette, Charenton, Baldwin, Franklin, Centerville, Patterson, Berwick

Portages: Keystone Lock & Dam in St. Martinville; Wax Lake Outlet/Calumet Cut in St. Mary Parish; look for hazard symbols on maps

Flow: Mostly downstream but flows both ways near Franklin and upstream after Charenton Canal

Landscape: Mostly flat with Louisiana Iris, water hyacinth, cut grass, live oak, black willow and bald cypress

Fishing: Over 90 species of fish, crawfish, crabs and shrimp in the waters of the Teche and the Atchafalaya Basin

Birding: Over 250 species of birds, including nesting herons, egrets, ibises and other wading birds; also hosts some of the highest nesting concentrations of Southern Bald Eagles, Red-Shouldered Hawks, Barred Owls and Prothonotary Warblers

Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail

Culture & History

Bayou Teche has seen Civil War battles, yellow fever epidemics, slave auctions, steamboats, shipwrecks, great floods, fur trading and the rise of the sugar industry. The 135-mile-long waterway that was once the course of the Mississippi River 5,000 years ago holds all of these stories and more. The TECHE Project's Information Kiosks on the bayou bank in each trail town offer more information on local history, lore, foodways, music, native species and lots more.



Legend of the Snake

Have you heard the Bayou Teche legend of the snake? The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana tell the tale that many years ago there was a venomous snake so long that its size was measured in miles. Its head lay at Morgan City and its tail at St. Martinville. This snake had been an enemy of the Chitimacha, and one day the chief called his warriors together to prepare for battle. In lieu of guns, the Chitimacha used clubs and bows and arrows tipped with garfish teeth to fight the serpent. They fought courageously, but the snake turned and twisted for days to survive. Dying a slow death, the beast broadened, curved and deepened the place where its huge body lay. The winding curves of Bayou Teche are proof of the exact position the snake placed itself when overcome by Chitimacha warriors, and the word "Teche" in Chitimacha language means "snake."

Estimated Travel Times

UPPER TECHE

Port Barre to Leonville - 4 hrs.
 Leonville to Arnaudville - 2 hrs. 45 min.
 Arnaudville to Cecilia - 2 hrs. 15 min.
 Cecilia to Poché Bridge - 1.5 hrs.
 Poché Bridge to Breaux Bridge - 1 hr. 45 min.
 Breaux Bridge to Parks - 3 hrs.
 Parks to St. Martinville - 2.5 hrs.

MIDDLE TECHE

St. Martinville to Loreauville - 5 hrs. w/ portage
 Loreauville to New Iberia - 3 hrs. 45 min.
 New Iberia to Jeanerette - 4.5 hrs.
 Jeanerette to Charenton - 3.5 hrs.
 Charenton to Baldwin - 2 hrs. 15 min.

LOWER TECHE

Franklin to Baldwin - 4 hrs. 45 min.
 Centerville to Franklin - 3 hrs.
 Centerville to Calumet Cut & back - 5.5 hrs.
 Patterson west to Calumet Cut & back - 6.5 hrs.
 Patterson east to Berwick Lock & back - 7 hrs.

Times are based on paddling at a speed of 2.75 mph on the upper Teche, 2.5 mph on the middle Teche and 1.5-2 mph on the lower Teche.

Trail Tips & Safety

Please have fun and also remember to respect the waterway while using it!



- Some boat landings are in rural areas and not lit at night.
- Tell someone about your paddling plans before you leave.
- Always use personal flotation devices.
- Carry water, sunscreen and bug repellent.
- Check weather conditions and be aware of current water conditions and flood stages.
- You may encounter crawfish traps, crab traps, float lines and jig/jug lines in the water; respect and leave untouched this private property.
- Occasionally you will encounter motorboats; remember to turn your bow into the wake and stay to the right of the channel, especially in bayou bends.
- Park in designated areas, making sure not to block driveways or interfere with traffic.
- Always be courteous to other river users; follow the laws and rules of the area.
- Look after the natural environment; avoid damaging the bayou banks and vegetation.
- Protect native species and habitats.
- Keep Louisiana Beautiful! Don't litter, and please take a few minutes to pick up litter left by others. Remember to Leave No Trace.

7 Principles of Leave No Trace

1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts (be careful with fire).
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.



Camping On or Near the Teche

While day trips are always an option, paddlers wanting to spend a little more time on the Teche have the option of camping overnight. Trail towns offer everything from primitive camping spots to RV parks and campgrounds with all the amenities, in addition to bed and breakfasts and homes for rent. Just remember to Leave No Trace before getting back on the trail when camping. You can also check Hip Camp for private landowners along the Teche that allow camping.

RV Parks, Campgrounds & Private Land

Bayou Teche RV Park
100 Bayou Dr., Port Barre
47 sites; RVs only
337-585-6251

Acadiana Native Plant Project
1046 Main Hwy., Arnaudville
Primitive camping
mail@greauxnative.org

Bayou Teche Brewing
1106 Bushville Hwy., Arnaudville
Primitive camping
337-754-5122

Maison Stephanie
1862 Bushville Hwy., Arnaudville
Primitive camping
337-278-4035

Poché's RV Park
1080 Sawmill Hwy., Breaux Bridge
85 full hookup sites; 6 primitive tent sites; 5 cabins
www.pochesrvpark.com

Cecil Poché Memorial Park
1019 Periou St., Parks
RV hookups & primitive camping

Lake Fausse Pointe State Park
5400 Levee Road, St. Martinville
Primitive camping, glamping & cabins
888-677-7200



Isle of Iberia RV Resort
911 NW Bypass (Hwy. 3212), New Iberia
185 full hookup sites
isleofiberia.com

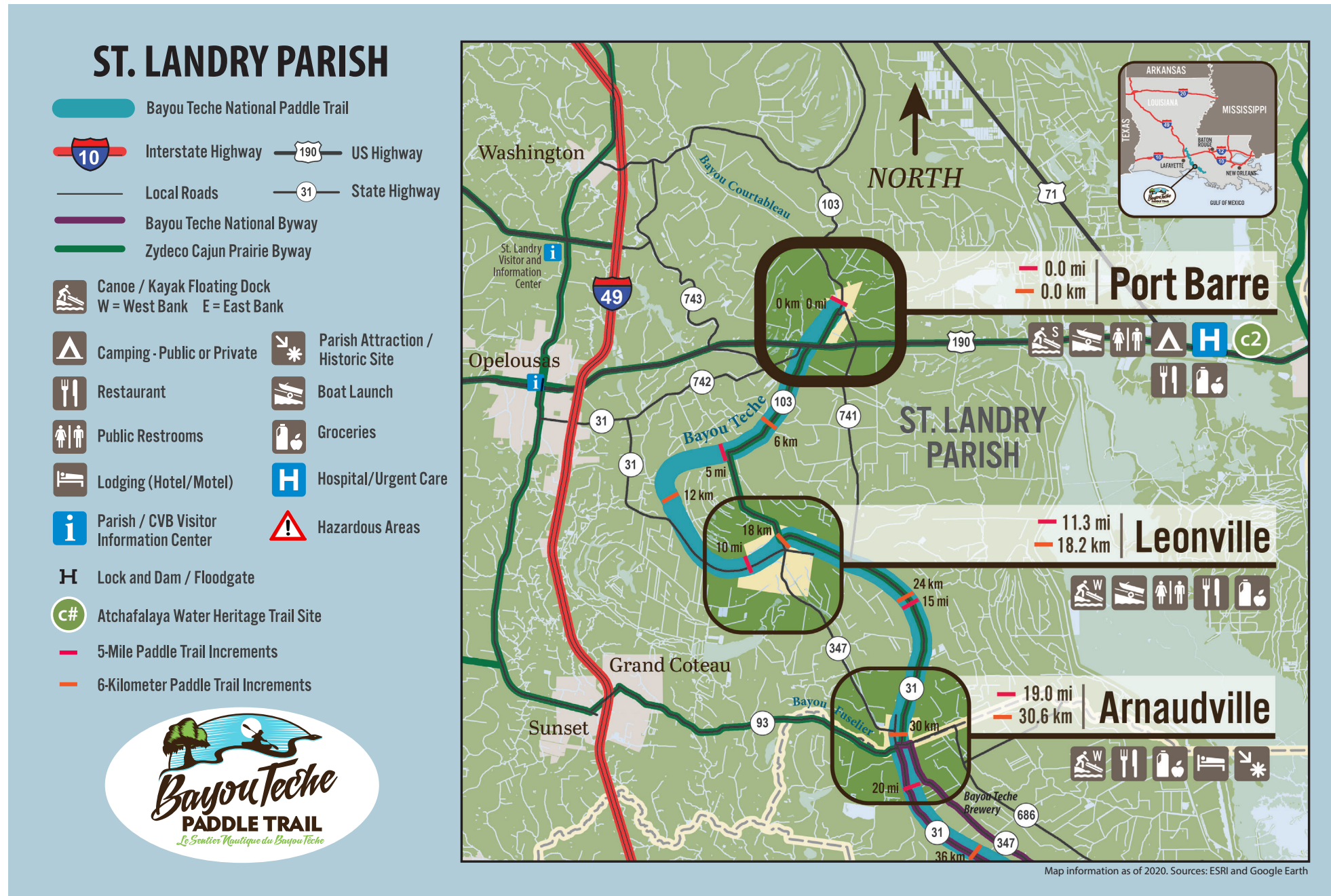
Cypress Bayou Casino & RV Park
832 Martin Luther King Road, Charenton
30 full hookup sites
1-800-284-4386

Burns Point Boat Launch & RV Campground
Hwy 317 South, Centerville
34 campsites
337-836-9784

Kemper Williams Park & Campground
264 Cotten Road, Patterson
160 RV sites, plus tent sites
985-395-2298

Cypress Lake Resort
100 Cypress Dr., Berwick
81 full hookup sites
985-399-5981

St. Landry Parish



Itineraries

ONE DAY

Start in Leonville at the Grotto at St. Leo's Catholic Church, then pick up boudin or a pastry from Champagne's Marché before hitting the water. Paddle from Leonville to Arnaudville (about 2 hours, 45 minutes). Dock in Arnaudville next to Myran's to see The TECHE Project Information Kiosk and visit NUNU Arts and Culture Collective and Tom's Fiddle & Bow. Continue to Bayou Teche Brewery dock for beer, pizza and yard games.

WEEKEND

Shop the marketplace at NUNU and attend a Cultural Table (Saturdays), then have dinner at Myran's Maison de Manger in Arnaudville. Spend the night at Bayou Teche RV Park in Port Barre. Pick up stuffed bread and cracklins from Bourque's Supermarket. Paddle from Port Barre to Leonville (4 hours). Get a plate lunch from Champagne's Marché and pick up some boudin for later; visit the Grotto at St. Leo's. Paddle to Arnaudville (about 2 hours, 45 minutes); spend the night in Arnaudville. Have Sunday brunch at Little Big Cup and then take a short paddle to Bayou Teche Brewery.

LONGER

Stop by the St. Landry Parish Visitor Center in Opelousas for day trip ideas. Don't miss the the Orphan Train Museum and Creole Heritage Folklife Center in Opelousas; Academy of the Sacred Heart & Shrine of St. John Berchman, plus sweet dough pies from The Kitchen Shop, in Grand Coteau; Old Schoolhouse Antique Mall and Willie's Campground in Washington; and Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve, The Liberty Theater or a jam session at Savoy Music Center on Saturday morning in Eunice. You can also drive or bike the Zydeco Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway.

ANNUAL EVENTS

- Étouffée Festival in Arnaudville (April)
- Fete Dieu du Teche (August)
- Original Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival (September)
- Tour du Teche (October)
- Port Barre Cracklin Festival (November)

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ...

- Sweet dough pies
- Boudin
- Zydeco music
- French speakers



Note: Itineraries are only a suggestion. There are many additional places to visit in the four parishes that are not mentioned in this planner.






















Bayou Teche Brewing in Arnaudville

St. Martin Parish

Itineraries

ST. MARTIN PARISH

-  Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail
-  Interstate Highway
-  US Highway
-  Local Roads
-  State Highway
-  Bayou Teche National Byway
-  Canoe / Kayak Floating Dock
W = West Bank E = East Bank
-  Camping - Public or Private
-  Parish Attraction / Historic Site
-  Restaurant
-  Boat Launch
-  Public Restrooms
-  Groceries
-  Lodging (Hotel/Motel)
-  Hospital/Urgent Care
-  Parish / CVB Visitor Information Center
-  Hazardous Areas
-  Lock and Dam / Floodgate
-  Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail Site
-  5-Mile Paddle Trail Increments
-  6-Kilometer Paddle Trail Increments



Map information as of 2020. Sources: ESRI and Google Earth

ONE DAY

Start with breakfast at Poché's Market and then launch from Poché Bridge to Breaux Bridge (about 1 hour 45 minutes). Shop for antiques, visit Teche Center for the Arts and have lunch in Breaux Bridge at Tante Marie (live jam band on Saturdays). Continue paddling to Parks (about 3 hours). Land at Cecil Poché Memorial Park and check out the statue of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Catholic Church.

WEEKEND

Have dinner at Café Sydnie Mae in Breaux Bridge and spend the night at a bed and breakfast. Eat and dance at Zydeco Breakfast at Buck & Johnny's the next morning before paddling from Breaux Bridge to Parks (about 3 hours). Have a picnic lunch and restroom stop at Cecil Poché Memorial Park. Continue paddling to St. Martinville (about 2.5 hours). Visit the Acadian Memorial and Evangeline Oak right off the dock site. Have dinner at The St. John and spend the night at La Petite Voie de St. Therese bed and breakfast. Have breakfast at the Cajun Corner Café.

LONGER

Stop by the Bayou Teche Visitors Center in Breaux Bridge and get the brochure for a walking tour of the city. Visit Belle

Ecorce Farms and attend mass at St. Martin de Tours in St. Martinville. St. Bernard's French Mass in Breaux Bridge is held on the second Saturday of the month. Visit Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site or take a swamp tour at Lake Martin.



ANNUAL EVENTS

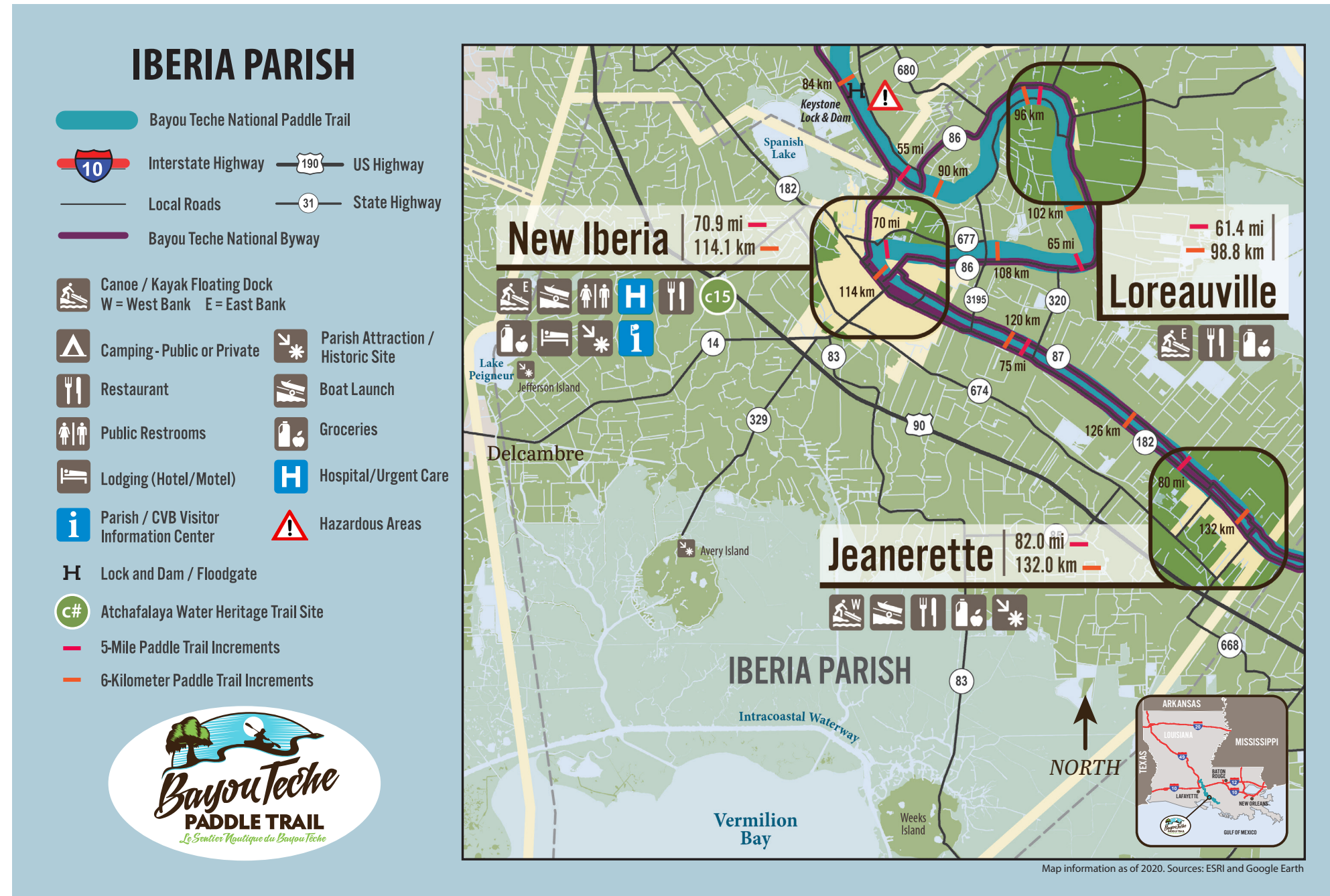
- Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival (May)
- Mary Crowning in Parks (May)
- Cracklin Cookoff in Parks (September)
- Kiwanis Pepper Festival in St. Martinville (October)
- TECHE Project Shake Your Trail Feather Paddle Parade (October)

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ...

- Crawfish
- Acadian history
- Legend of Evangeline & Gabriel
- Steeple of St. Martin de Tours
- Drawbridge



Iberia Parish



Itineraries

ONE DAY

Have breakfast at Teche Café in Loreauville (try the beignets), then paddle to New Iberia (about 4.5 hours). Check out the old Mt. Carmel girls' school near the dock site, then have lunch at Victor's Cafeteria. Tour Shadows-on-the-Teche, Bayou Teche Museum and Konriko Rice Mill or just stroll Main Street while checking out the live oaks and historical markers.

WEEKEND

Have dinner at Preservation in New Iberia and spend the night at The Bayou Chateau or Tensas Tower on the Teche. Eat breakfast at Victor's Cafeteria and stroll Main Street before paddling to Jeanerette (about 5.5 hours). Watch for Bayside and Alice plantations as you're coming into Jeanerette. Have a late lunch at Cooper Street or the Coffee House and then visit LeJeune's Bakery for a gingercake or loaf of bread to have for breakfast the next morning. Visit the Jeanerette Museum and Historic Jeanerette Trail. Spend the night at the historic Harry B. Hewes home and have dinner at the Yellow Bowl. Relax with breakfast from LeJeune's at the B&B the next morning and then paddle around Jeanerette or head home.

LONGER

Visit the Tabasco Factory and Jungle Gardens on Avery Island, Jefferson Island Rip Van Winkle Gardens or Cypremort Point State Park. Eat boiled crabs at Jane's Seafood and take a James Lee Burke tour or stroll the New Iberia National Register Historic District Trail. Shop the Delcambre Seafood & Farmers Market on the first Saturday of the month.

ANNUAL EVENTS

- Delcambre Shrimp Festival (August)
- Louisiana Sugar Cane Festival (September)
- World Championship Gumbo Cookoff (October)
- Books Along the Teche Literary Festival (April)
- El Festival Español de Nueva Iberia (April)
- Lao New Year Festival (Easter weekend)






















KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ...

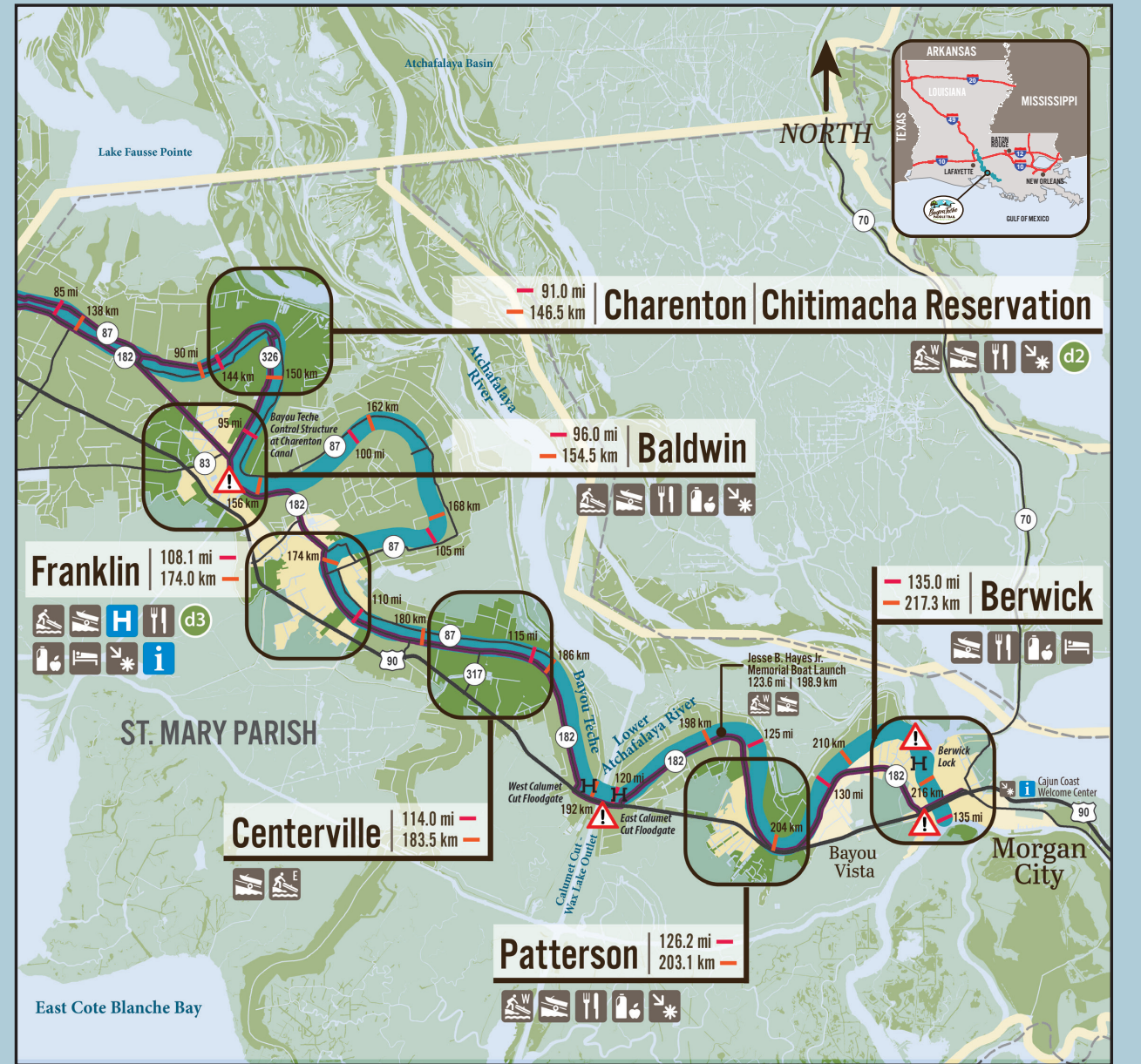
- Sugarcane
- Blue Dog Park
- Tabasco
- James Lee Burke
- Plantations
- Evangeline Theater Marquee



St. Mary Parish

ST. MARY PARISH

-  Bayou Teche National Paddle Trail
-  Interstate Highway
-  US Highway
-  Local Roads
-  State Highway
-  Bayou Teche National Byway
-  Canoe / Kayak Floating Dock
- W = West Bank E = East Bank
-  Camping - Public or Private
-  Parish Attraction / Historic Site
-  Restaurant
-  Boat Launch
-  Public Restrooms
-  Groceries
-  Lodging (Hotel/Motel)
-  Hospital/Urgent Care
-  Parish / CVB Visitor Information Center
-  Hazardous Areas
-  Lock and Dam / Floodgate
-  Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail Site
-  5-Mile Paddle Trail Increments
-  6-Kilometer Paddle Trail Increments



Map information as of 2020. Sources: ESRI and Google Earth

Itineraries

ONE DAY

Pick up some breakfast from Centerville Market and picnic at Centerville Park, where you can experience the Wildflower Walk. Paddle to Franklin (about 3 hours) and have lunch at Lamp Lighter on Main Street. Stroll Main Street after lunch and consider touring Shadowlawn Plantation (by appointment) before more paddling or hiking and birding in Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge.

WEEKEND

Tour the Chitimacha Museum, then spend the night, have dinner and do some gambling at Cypress Bayou Casino Hotel in Charenton. Have breakfast at the casino before paddling to Baldwin (about 2 hours, 15 minutes). Have lunch at Chick's then drive to Centerville and paddle to Franklin, viewing antebellum homes from the water along the way (about 3 hours). Spend the night at the Fairfax House and have dinner at The Forest Restaurant in Franklin. Take an evening ghost tour with Tours by Steven. Enjoy breakfast at Fairfax House, then paddle in the Patterson area from the Morey Park Trailhead.

LONGER

Visit the Cajun Coast Welcome Center in Morgan City. Check out the Berwick Lighthouse, Heritage Museum and riverfront. Explore the Atchafalaya Basin Geotrail or paddle or fish in Cypress Lake. Visit Franklin's plantations, Teche Theater and Young-Sanders Center Civil War museum. In Patterson, visit the Wedell-Williams Aviation & Cypress Sawmill Museum and eat at The Atchafalaya restaurant at Idlewild.

Note: In St. Mary, we advise paddling from south to north because of the current.

ANNUAL EVENTS

- Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival in Morgan City (Labor Day weekend)
- Harvest Moon Fest in Franklin (October)
- Berwick Lighthouse Festival (November)
- Bayou Teche Black Bear Festival (April)

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR ...

- Spanish Moss
- Franklin lampposts
- Plantations
- Civil War sites
- Berwick Lighthouse
- Seafood



Credit: cmh2315fl from Flickr Creative Commons

Main Street in Franklin



Bayou Teche Shopping List

Grocery Stores

Bourque's Super Store - 581 N. Saizan Ave., Port Barre
Champagne's Marché - 3802 Hw. 31, Leonville
Russell's Food Center - 114 Main St., Arnaudville
Piggly Wiggly - 2300 Cecilia Senior High School Hwy., Cecilia
Poché's Market - 3015 Main Hwy. #A, Poché Bridge
Hebert's - 1101 Grand Pointe Hwy. & 218 S. Main St., Breaux Bridge
Rees Street Market - 241 Rees St., Breaux Bridge
Cadé's Market - 2030 N. Main St., St. Martinville
Joyce's Supermarket - 1620 S. Main St., St. Martinville
Randall Dugas' Store - 1079 Bridge St. Hwy., Parks
Village Market - 120 N. Main St., Loreauville
Bi-Lo Supermarket - 207 N. Lewis St., New Iberia
Mac's Sugar City Market - 1001 Main St., Jeanerette
Raintree Market - 17750 Hwy. 182, Baldwin
Centerville Market - 9206 Hwy. 182, Centerville
Cypress Point Fresh Market - 500 Hwy. 90, Ste. 120, Patterson

Art Galleries

NUNU Arts and Culture Collective - 1510 Bayou Courtableau Hwy., Arnaudville
Pink Alligator Gallery - 112 E. Bridge St, Breaux Bridge
Teche Center for the Arts - 210 E. Bridge St., Breaux Bridge
The Studio Gallery and Coffee Bar, 110 Evangeline Blvd., St. Martinville
Paul Schexnayder Studio + Gallery - 335 W. St Peter St., New Iberia

Gift Shops/Food Products

Tony Chachere's General Store - 5604 I-49 N. Service Road, Opelousas
Breaux Bridge Antique Mall, 130 E. Bridge St., Breaux Bridge
Lagniappe Antique Mall, 124 W. Bridge St., Breaux Bridge,
C'est Jolie, 203 E. Bridge St., St. Martinville
Books Along the Teche - 106 E. Main St., New Iberia

Cane River Pecan Co. - 254 W. Main St., New Iberia
Konriko Company Store - 307 Ann St., New Iberia
Legnon's Boucherie - 410 Jefferson Terrace, New Iberia
Tabasco Country Store - 6228 Avery Island Road, New Iberia
Fifolet Candle Makers - 906 1/2 B Main St., Franklin
The French Door - 608 Main St., Franklin

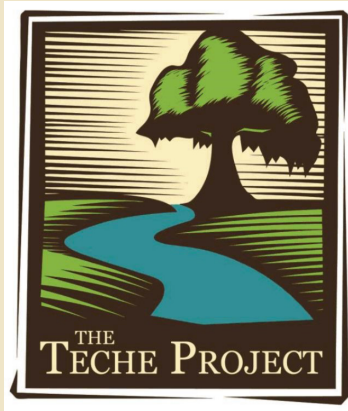
Farmers Markets

Opelousas Farmers Market (Tues., Thurs. & Sat. 6:30-11a.m.) - 828 E. Landry St., Opelousas
Da Berry Fresh Market - (Wed.-Sun.) - 520 Hopkins St., New Iberia
GLC Farmers Market (Wed.) - 6110 Loreauville Road, New Iberia
Teche Area Farmers Market (Tues. & Sat.) - 102 W. Main St., New Iberia
Bayou to Main Marketplace (spring & fall) - Downtown Franklin
Berwick Town Market (third Sat.) - Under the bridge in Berwick

Bayou Teche Bucket List

1. Have a Beer at Bayou Teche Brewing in Arnaudville
2. Eat a Plate Lunch From Poché's
3. Walk Over the Crawfish Bridge in Breaux Bridge
4. Take a Photo at the Evangeline Oak in St. Martinville
5. Visit the Bayou Teche Museum in New Iberia
6. Eat a Gingercake from Lejeune's Bakery in Jeanerette
7. Tour the Chitimacha Museum in Charenton
8. Look for Ghosts in Franklin
9. Learn about Patterson's Aviation & Sawmill History
10. See the Berwick Lighthouse





The TECHE Project

techeproject.org
techeproject@gmail.com
P.O. Box 165
Arnaudville, LA 70512

Memberships start at \$20 for individuals. More info at
techeproject.org/about/donate/.



Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

atchafalaya.org/
(225) 342-8164
P. O. Box 44243
Baton Rouge, LA



CAJUNTRAVEL.COM
St. Landry Parish Visitor Center
cajuntravel.com
337.948.8004
978 Kennerson Road (I-49 exit 23)
Opelousas, LA 70571



St. Martin Parish Tourism Commission
cajuncountry.org
337-442-1597
110 N. Main St.
Breux Bridge, LA 70517



Iberia Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau
iberiatravel.com
337-365-1540
2513 Hwy. 14, New Iberia, LA 70560



CAJUN COAST

VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU

Cajun Coast Visitors & Convention Bureau
cajuncoast.com
985-380-8224
900 Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Morgan City, LA 70380