

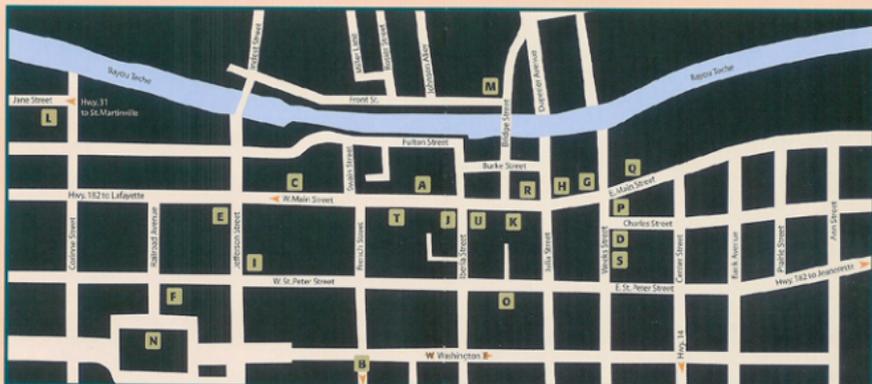
Main Street New Iberia



**Where
Past
and
Present
Merge
In
Louisiana**

www.cityofnewiberia.com

Downtown Historic District



A. Bouligny Plaza, Main Street

Location of a bronze bust of Lt. Col. Francisco Bouligny, who established New Iberia in 1773.

B. Bunk Johnson's Grave, St. Edward's Cemetery, West Dale & French Streets

Jazz trumpeter who taught Louis Armstrong to play; born in 1879 and died in New Iberia in 1949.

C. The Steinberg Building, 232 West Main Street

This old structure dates back to the 1880s. In 1894, the bottom floor was the office and printing shop of the Weekly Iberian.

D. Congregation Gates of Prayer, 109 Weeks Street

This Jewish congregation was organized in 1897; the synagogue built by it in 1903 is presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

E. The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 303 West Main Street

Constructed in 1858, this is the oldest church building still in use in New Iberia. The church used as a field hospital during the Civil War is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

F. Auguste Erath Building, 335 West St. Peter Street

A two-story Greek Revival/Italianate building constructed in 1884 by Auguste Erath to house his hardware business and living quarters and is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

G. The Pascal Building, 223 East Main Street

Built in 1898 by Auguste Pascal for use as a hardware store. The decorative brick work above the 2nd story is a restoration of the original and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

H. The Masonic Building, 201 East Main Street

Built in 1911 on the site of a two-story building constructed in 1871. Lower floor was a coffee house, upper floor served as the Iberia Parish Courthouse Building and later served as the Vendome Opera House which was destroyed by fire in May 1905.

I. The First United Methodist Church, 108 Jefferson Street

Erected in 1891, the original Gothic Revival building suffered serious fire damage to its spine, slate roof and underlying roof structure in January 1907. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

J. Gougenheim Building, 101 West Main Street

Built by Charles Gougenheim in 1893, it served as a fire break in the Great Fire of 1899 because of its brick walls. The upper floor of this building was the Elks Lodge.

K. Wormser's, 112 East Main Street

The building facade dates from the 1920s and was rebuilt following the Great New Iberia Fire of 1899 and is presently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

L. The Lutzenberger Foundry & Pattern Shop Buildings, 502 & 505 Jane Street

German immigrant C. Lutzenberger established the F.S. Lutzenberger Foundry & Machine Shop in 1871 employing 40 to 50 men who did castings and repairs for steamboats and sugar mill parts. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

M. The Old Mt. Carmel Academy, 109 Bridge Street

Built around 1824 as the home of Henry F. Duponier, it later became a girls' school operated by the Sisters of Mt. Carmel and today is known as "Place Eugénie."

N. Railroad Depot, Railroad Avenue

This building was built by the railroad for offices and as a passenger depot for the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1912. This depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

O. St. Peter's Catholic Church and Rectory, 108 East St. Peter Street

First church built in 1838; modern church is third to be built on site in 1953.

P. Schwing Insurance (The Old Post Office), 300 East Main Street

Built in 1903 as the town's post office, the building served in that capacity until 1945. It appears today as it did in 1903 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Q. Shadows-On-The-Teché, 317 East Main Street

Built in 1834 by David Weeks, sugar planter, this Historic Landmark is presently owned and operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

R. The Evangeline Theatre, 129 East Main Street

First opened as a movie theatre in 1930 by the Silman Family, the theatre closed in 1960 and stayed dormant and unoccupied until 1994, when a total restoration began. Following its donation to the city by the Silman Family, the theatre is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is known as "The Silman Theatre For the Performing Arts."

S. Statue of Hadrian, Weeks Street

Seven-foot-tall statue of Roman Emperor, sculpted in A.D. 122.

T. Poncio's (The Old People's National Bank), 119 West Main Street

This building dates back to 1811 and has remained basically untouched since construction.

U. Bowab's, 102 East Main Street

After the Fire of 1899, the exterior walls of this building, which was built in 1893, remained standing. The ornamentation on this building is original.



The Queen City of the Teche

Charm and commerce blend well on New Iberia's Main Street.

On the east end of Main, stately oaks drape over the street, reaching out from the well-manicured lawns. As one approaches the central business district, the well-kept homes give way to a diverse business district that offers a wide array of goods and services. Over the last several years, most establishments in the central business district have been completely renovated and restored while retaining the grandeur of their original construction.

One of the newest attractions to the downtown area is a charming bayou boardwalk. In the early part of the 20th century, families spent many leisure hours strolling along boardwalks. Today, New Iberia proudly boasts a handsome boardwalk that attracts both tourists and locals who wish to enjoy a few tranquil moments. The boardwalk offers several observation points along its path which runs from behind The Shadows on the Teche to the Daperier Street Bridge. The walk is well lit in the evenings and offers a completely different perspective after dark.

As The Queen City of the Teche, New Iberia, Louisiana, features an intriguing combination of trade and commerce combined with a vibrant cultural emphasis which makes the city most unique among its neighboring communities. With its distinctive look, historic attractions, and present-day businesses, our Main Street area provides an entertaining walking tour, a charming place to do business, and a pleasant diversion for residents and tourists alike.



The Bayou Walk follows the meandering Bayou Teche.



A National Historic Landmark — Shadows-on-the-Teche.

The Downtown Story

Bordered by the colorfully meandering Bayou Teche, New Iberia's downtown area traces its roots to January 5, 1777, when Francois

Prevost was awarded a land grant along the bayou. Bounded on the west by the present day Hopkins Street and on the east by Center Street, the area was a stopping point for schooners and paddlewheelers on their routes, and thus it attracted a number of other businesses, including two sawmills, a tannery and a foundry.

A town market building complete with a coffee shop drew others in, as residents young and old gathered near the bayou to share a story or two, shop, conduct business, or simply relax and enjoy themselves. Other businesses soon developed, lining the streets with a dry goods store, a drugstore, a shoe shop, furniture stores, bakeries, jewelers, watchmakers, and a stationery shop. You could stop and buy ice cream while strolling Main Street on a warm afternoon, or make your purchases from a selection of handcrafted brooms for a day of work at home.

Downtown's Boulogny Plaza at dusk.



Today, you'll still find folks gathering at Boulogny Plaza, which was the site of an early courthouse and city hall. People just take the time to share their views, listen to music, enjoy a parade, festival or fairs do-do, or simply unwind along the bayou.

You can even conduct much of your business in the downtown area with our delightful assortment of boutiques, jewelers, bookstores, antique shops, craft shops and florists, as well as banks, insurance agencies, dentist offices, service stations, restaurants, office space and more.



"New Iberia has the most beautiful Main Street in the country."

AUTHOR JAMES LEE BURKE

The Place(s) To Be

Savor the ambience of the Cajun experience while selecting from a wide range of accommodations — from quaint bed & breakfast hideaways to a quiet stay in a plantation home to more traditional accommodations. Enjoy the down-home flavors of country-style cooking at cozy Cajun cafes and diners, take in a light lunch at soup and salad shops, or choose the unmistakable delicacy of fine dining in the upscale atmosphere of one of our highly rated restaurants.



The historic Episcopal Church of the Epiphany



The Steamboat House.

Take a leisurely promenade along the scenically landscaped and lighted Bayou Walk, which lovingly traces the Bayou Teche from Weeks Street to the Duperier Street Bridge. Listen for the sounds of the fiddle and accordion.

Watch for the colorful arts and crafts in area boutiques and galleries. Or keep your eye out for the fictional Batist, Dave Robicheaux's friend in the award-winning novels of New Iberia native James Lee Burke.

You also won't want to miss historic points of interest such as the ancient marble statue of the Roman Emperor Hadrian enclosed in a glass dome, which faces downtown Weeks Street. Or, explore one of the most beautiful antebellum homes in the South, the Shadows on the Teche, a National Trust for Historic Preservation property, which regally edges the central business district.

A "lais-dois" or street dance.



N. S. Iberia City Hall

Plus, centuries old live oaks, members of the Live Oak Society, remind us of our ties to the past as they line our lushly landscaped city street. You'll also want to join us as we capture the beauty of nature each spring with our Azalea Trail of picturesque gardens from surrounding area homes.



The renovated Slavin Theatre for the Performing Arts.



Enjoy the country-style cooking and ambience of Cajun cafes



The old Shadows on the Teche Academy is known, today as "Place Eugénie"



Magnificent, centuries old live oak trees

Nearby Points Of Interest

New Iberia is home to some of the state's most beautiful tourist attractions, and a visit is not complete without taking in these other local points of interest:

The East Main Street Historic District

(Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The three-quarter-mile-long district more or less follows the course of Bayou Teche as it meanders downstream from the center of town. There are 71 buildings within the district that date between c. 1890 and c. 1930.)

Konriko[®] Company Store

301 Ann Street
(800) 551-3245 or (337) 367-6163
(On the grounds of America's Oldest Rice Mill)

Shadows-On-The-Teche

317 E. Main Street, New Iberia
(337) 369-6446, (877) 200-4924
(Overlooks the Bayou Teche. Famous 1834 sugar plantation home. The only National Trust Historic House Museum & Gardens in Louisiana)

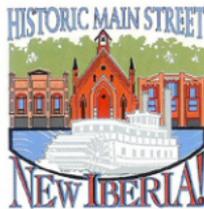
Other Points Of Interest

Airboat Tours

4506 Northside Road
(337) 229-4457
(Shallow-water swamp tours on Lake Dauterive in Fausse Pointe State Park)

Avery Island and Jungle Gardens

LA 329, Avery Island
(800) 634-9599
(Home of the McIlhenny Company & TABASCO[®] products, pepper sauce factory, visitor center, country store, Jungle Gardens and Bird City)



For more information, contact
Iberia Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau

2704 Highway 14
New Iberia, Louisiana 70560
(337) 365-1540; Toll Free (888) 9-IBERIA
Fax: (337) 367-3791

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www.iberiaparish.com

New Iberia, Louisiana Main Street

(A certified Main Street U.S.A. Program)

SINCE 1994

Indian, Spanish & French Ancestry & More

While much of southwestern Louisiana developed later than other parts of the state, colonial riverine outposts and settlements such as New Iberia sprang up alongside existing Indian villages. The first settlers to Iberia Parish were Spanish colonists from Malaga, Spain. In 1779, Spanish Lt. Col. Francisco Bouligny named the area Iberia, after the Iberian Peninsula (Spain). The City of New Iberia is the only remaining town in Louisiana founded by the Spanish.

New Iberia, which lays on the banks of the famous Bayou Teche (an Indian word for "snake"), was settled in the mid-18th century by a few French families by permission of the Spanish government. The present city was incorporated in 1839 by Frederick H. Duperier, a sugar planter and merchant.

Many of the original New Iberia business owners were also of Jewish descent, and a broad spectrum of nationalities were represented. Italians, African-Americans, Lebanese, German, Greek, Anglo-Saxon, Asian, Native Americans and others find their roots interlaced with New Iberia history.

Celebrating Heritage & Culture

Heritage and culture are two of the most important aspects of life in the area. Mardi Gras krewees such as the Krewe of Andalusia and the Krewe of Phantasia parade down Main Street New Iberia to celebrate the pre-Lenten season (February/March). The arts are also alive and well with music and entertainment on a regular basis at Bouligny Plaza. And, the refurbishing of the Sliman Theatre makes the perfect place for staging live musical, dramatic and comedy presentations. The work of local artists also abounds.

The Sugar Cane Festival is a great time to celebrate our agricultural roots. And the Annual World Championship Gumbo Cook-off pays tribute to our culinary expertise.

ANNUAL EVENTS

Mardi Gras Parades — February/March
Rendez Vous su' le Bayou Teche — Spring
Farmer's Market — May - November
Civil War Encampment
Sugar Cane Festival — 3rd Weekend in September
World Championship Gumbo Cook-Off — 2nd Weekend in Oct.
Yuletide On The Bayou — 2nd Saturday in December
July 4th Celebration
Tour Of Homes
Great Chili Challenge — 1st Weekend in November
City of Live Oaks Festival — Mid-March