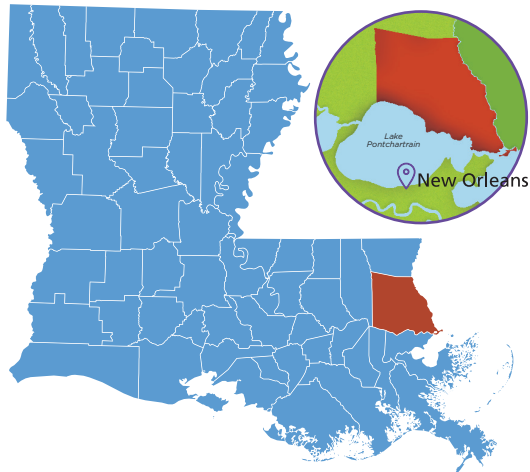
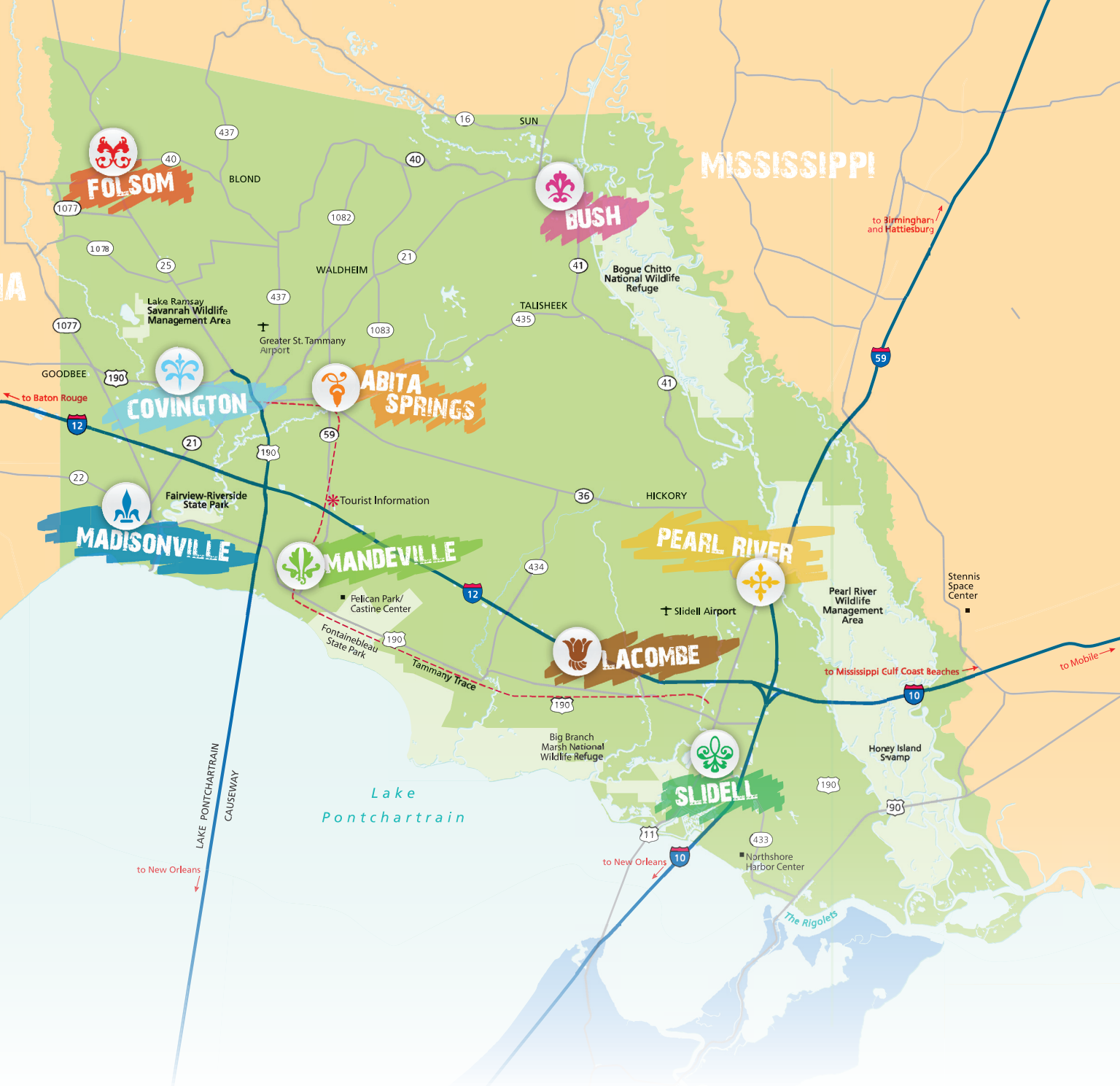


Explore

LOUISIANA NORTHSHORE



St. Tammany Parish Tourist & Convention Commission
Spring/Summer 2023



LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.

LouisianaTravel.com

LEGEND



Interstate



Secondary Road



Parks & Wildlife
Refuges



Recreational Trail



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SPRING/SUMMER 2023

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Riders from the Major Taylor Cycling Club are among the many patrons of the Tammany Trace.

Photography by Kevin Garrett



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FROM THE EDITOR

Heat Up Before You Cool Down

"Alexa, play Jimmy Buffett's 'Boat Drinks.'"

It's time to put those Arctic blast days behind us and welcome the warm spring and summer offerings on the Louisiana Northshore! We're so glad you picked up the latest issue of *Explore*—our seasonal inspiration guide bursting with activities and events for the whole family to enjoy. I've always loved this time of year and my childhood memories are overflowing with spring and summertime antics. Our family was always heading to the community pool, a favorite local restaurant or just riding bikes with friends until dusk. The summer that I could ride my bike all the way to the sno-ball stand was especially triumphant. (I'm still not sure my mom knows about that.)

It's time to make your next memory here in St. Tammany Parish, and our editors have been hard at work delivering new and noteworthy options. On page 23, don't miss a new feature on five crawfish dishes and where to find them, a profile on legendary restaurateur Chef Sal Impastato of Sal & Judy's restaurant on page 24, and deep-fried delights on page 28. We've also added a collection of frozen delights on page 30 for anyone attempting an especially long summer bike ride that ends with a cool treat.

Speaking of bike rides, check out our cover story on page 34 featuring the many ways you can enjoy the Tammany Trace, a 31-mile (50 km) asphalt trail for walking, hiking, cycling and wheelchair use. The Trace (as it is locally known) is a unique gem for our area and it seems as though you're never far from an entry point. Our Louisiana Northshore team members walk on it regularly near the Koop Drive trailhead. My husband and I have had the pleasure of biking it several times with our kids, Max and Grace. In fact, my daughter



had a birthday bike ride on the Trace with root beer floats at Abita Brew Pub at our halfway point. Like mother, like daughter.

When you're ready for those boat drinks, be sure to visit Louisiana Tours and Adventures (page 40) for a relaxing river cruise. Captain Mike will have you immediately immersed in the breathtaking scenery on the water. On his constantly evolving tour, you will enjoy the songs of indigenous birds dotting the trees on the lushly vegetated riverbanks, all woven together seamlessly with native plants. Ready to relax and unwind even more? Discover our local spas and shopping opportunities starting on page 46.

There's more where this came from, so we invite you to visit our website or find inspiration with us on social media to start planning your next memory. We can't wait for you to Visit The Northshore and once you're here, don't forget to tag your images with #LANORTHSHORE and #TAMMANYTASTE. You can also use the QR code on page 5 for a chance to have your pictures published. We know you'll find a sweet spring or summer memory here! 🦋

Katie
Katie Guasco
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Explore

THE NORTHSHORE

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*Explore the Northshore is
dedicated to Renée Kientz.*



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Explore the Northshore is a biannual publication of the St. Tammany Parish Tourist & Convention Commission. The STPTCC provides visitor information and assistance to leisure and business travelers in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Find comprehensive listings for accommodations, attractions, dining and events at the STPTCC's official website: www.LouisianaNorthshore.com

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[ExploreLouisianaNorthshore](https://www.facebook.com/ExploreLouisianaNorthshore)
and on Instagram @lanorthshore

Printed in the USA



Tranquil waterfront views at
Fairview-Riverside State Park.

CELEBRATE

Girod Street Stroll
in Mandeville

JOIN THE PARTY

There's always something fun afoot on the Northshore. We celebrate the blues, food, antiques and art—and just about anything else that brings joy our way.



The Northshore Planner

Check out the full events calendar at LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO RESCHEDULING, CANCELING OR POSTPONING. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR CURRENT INFORMATION.

APRIL 1-2

St. Tammany Collectors Convention

APRIL 2

Abita Springs Busker Festival

APRIL 22

Louisiana Bicycle Festival

APRIL 22

All-You-Can-Eat Crawfish Cook-Off

APRIL 29-30

Covington Antiques & Uniques Festival

MAY 20

**Louisiana
Veterans Festival**

JUNE 1-30

**A Taste of Covington Food, Wine,
Music & Art Festival**

JULY 1

Sparks in the Park

JULY 1

Slidell Heritage Festival

JULY 2

Light up the Lake

JULY 4

Madisonville Old Fashioned 4th Of July Celebration

JULY 15

Kokomo Stroll

AUGUST 1-31

Tammany Taste of Summer

SEPT. 27-OCT. 1

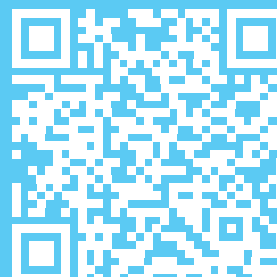
St. Tammany Parish Fair

SNAP, SCAN & UPLOAD YOUR EXPERIENCE

Do you have pictures of Louisiana Northshore that you would like featured in this magazine, on our social media platforms or in our user generated website galleries?

Show us your photography talent and stay tuned for prizes!

BY UPLOADING CONTENT, YOU AGREE THAT YOU HAVE ALL RIGHTS AND PERMISSIONS TO DO SO AND AGREE TO ALLOW LOUISIANA NORTHSHORE TO EDIT PHOTOS IN ANY MEDIA.





Taste your way through the family friendly competition for the best crawfish in St. Tammany Parish.

Crustacean Carnival

Savor the spice of life and pinch da tail at Slidell's all-you-can-eat crawfish cook-off

BY ROBERTA CARROW JACKSON

Family life and social life in Louisiana intersect and revolve around food. Nothing illustrates that better than crawfish season. Arrivals of the year's first sacks of crawfish usually merit an announcement on the evening news, kicking off a feeding frenzy that lasts for months. Though the season can vary a little, supplies are most plentiful (and reliable) from January to June.

At peak season, usually in April, Louisianans celebrate spring with huge crawfish boils, cooking up 30 and 40-pound sacks of the crustaceans in cauldrons of spiced-up boiling water. There's almost always crab boil involved as well as cayenne pepper, salt and lemons. Different cooks favor varied additions—corn on the cob, potatoes, mushrooms, whole garlic pods and sausage among them. The crawfish et al often are dumped, steaming, into a vessel resembling a small boat, or onto a tall table that has been lined with newspaper and family and friends gather around, standing to feast, drink, laugh and repeat.

Occasionally, visitors are invited to these convivial crawfish boils (or are lucky enough to take part in one at Cajun Encounters swamp tours, which sometimes hosts them for visiting groups). But seafood markets and restaurants get in on the action, too, selling hot boiled crawfish by the pound. (Expect to eat, on average, 3-to-5 pounds each!)



The world's largest single-day crawfish boil is Slidell's annual All-You-Can-Eat Crawfish Cook-off, taking place on April 22, and benefiting Hospice Foundation of the South. The feast includes over 40,000 pounds of crawfish and 17,000 pounds of fixings boiled by 60-plus teams, all competing for the title, "Best Crawfish in St. Tammany Parish," selected by celebrity judges and the teams themselves. Included in your admission is all the crawfish you can eat and three well-known bands entertaining the crowd of over 7,000. Beverages and other food will also be available for purchase. 🦞

Tammany Taste of Summer in August

Try something new at your go-to eatery or discover your next new favorite

Life's a feast on the Louisiana Northshore, so we're celebrating with Tammany Taste of Summer. The program is free for both patrons and participating tourism-related businesses. Notable Northshore restaurants are eager to welcome Tammany Taste of Summer patrons with inventive, discounted prix fixe menus and other dining discounts. Past participants include, in Slidell, Palmettos on the Bayou and Restaurant Coté; in Covington, The English Tea Room, Del Porto Ristorante and Lola; in Mandeville, Hambone and Liz's Where Y'at Diner; in Madisonville, Tchefuncte's Restaurant and Abita Roasting Company, and all four of award-winning restaurateur Pat Gallagher's eateries.

Be on the lookout for this year's participating restaurants for new places to discover and great deals on dishes at your favorite restaurant. And, if you share your divine dining experiences on social media, be sure to tag #TammanyTaste to have your photos featured. TAMMANYTASTE.COM 🦀



St. Tammany is for the Birders

EXPERT BIRDWATCHERS AND NOVICES alike travel from all corners of the U.S. and from other countries to St. Tammany Parish for prime bird watching. On some days in spring, more than one million birds reach Louisiana's coast, migrating through south Louisiana from Mexico and South America on their way to their summer territories. As many as 150 different species have been seen during the spring migration.

The Louisiana Northshore has more than 80,000 acres of wildlife preserve, much of it in the Mississippi flyway, making it a particularly good migratory route because birds tend to follow these north/south running rivers as they migrate to their summer homes. Refuges include the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area, Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Lacombe, the Nature Conservancy's Abita Flatwoods Preserve near Abita Springs and the Northlake Nature Center just outside Mandeville. Each area has its own character of black water swamp and marsh, longleaf pine mixes and bottomland hardwood habitats and can be explored on foot or by pontoon boat, or paddled canoes and kayaks.

The Louisiana Birding Trails are continuously updated and in 2022, St. Tammany had eight spots chosen based on habitat, bird species, access and amenities. In addition to the spots listed above, birders can also visit Fairview-Riverside State Park, Fontainebleau State Park, Lake Ramsay Savannah Wildlife Management Area and the Mandeville lakefront.

Find more information about St. Tammany's premier birding locations with the East Florida Parish Loop of America's Wetland Birding trail, part of the Great American Trails Network. Visit louisianatravel.com for current updates. 🦋



Grabbing the Reins

Come visit The Giddy Up in the Village of Folsom for a turnkey art-and-leisure experience BY JYL BENSON

As the owner of Envirotech Systems, an oilfield manufacturing company, Frank Richerand's business took him all over the world. Wanting to share the international experiences with his family, Frank's wife and their six children frequently left the family home in Folsom to join him on his travels. Decades later, the result is a closely knit family with a global perspective and a deep appreciation of art in all its forms.

The Giddy Up, opened by the Richerands in March 2016 as a coffee shop, has become a community center and, increasingly, a regional hub as people gravitate to the intersection of Hwy. 25 and Broadway Street. Out front are two EV chargers—the kind usually limited to high-powered stations in urban settings—for charging Teslas and other electric vehicles. They are free for use. Within, The Giddy Up is central to driving a movement to make the Village of Folsom a destination for artists, artisans and those who find enrichment in their work.

Throughout the rustic clusters of seating areas, the plush leather sofas and armchairs gathered around generously sized coffee/cocktail tables encourage groups to socialize. Ron Jenkins, a friend, customer, world traveler and collector, has loaned his extensive and fascinating collection of equine stirrups from throughout the world to adorn a place of honor on a wall between two seating areas. The ages of the pieces in the collection range from 300 to 1,000 years old. The display is framed by two brilliant stained-glass windows by local artist Carol Flannery that bathe the space in a warm glow. "It's a place to hang out," says Ashley Richerand Penton, general manager of the growing business.

In addition to coffee, breakfast and lunch, The Giddy Up now serves wine, beer and cocktails to crowds that show up for everything from free community breakfasts with guest speakers to book signings. A fan favorite activity is the jazz and art show on the first Friday evening of every month, as well as live music every Saturday afternoon in the open paddock out back. The stage to

one end of the paddock welcomes musicians (high caliber acts like Bonerama and Mark Mullins), an art and farmers market, school groups for recitals, Pilates classes and, as Frank puts it, "anything to bring the community together. A lot of customers feel like family. Many of them come here every day."



Father/daughter team -
Ashley Richerand Penton
and Frank Richerand



Local artist, Ben Bensen, III
enjoying a cup of coffee and
sketch at The Giddy Up

ART IMITATING LIFE

“This is a town of 800 and many of them are artists. They used to complain that there was nowhere to show their art.” As a result, Frank opened Far Horizons Art Gallery in November 2020. Situated adjacent to The Giddy Up, the 60,000 square foot gallery shows an impressive array of original art from Southern artists, most of whom originate within a 50-mile radius of the gallery, and many of whom have international followings including Craig McMillin


(pottery), Bill Binnings (sculpture and sketches), Carol Flannery (stained glass), Ben Bensen, III (paintings and drawings), Judy Merrell (paintings) and Bernard Mattox (paintings). Gallery events are frequent and displays change month to month.

In November 2021, life was restored to a dilapidated early 1900s miniature building, adjacent to the Paddock. It was once a shed that evolved into the area library to serve generations of children before falling into ruin. The small building, now The Village Library Museum, is the “unofficial” Folsom Branch of the St. Tammany Parish Library. Many of the books on hand are available for the taking via book swaps. However, a permanent collection of donated books copyrighted before 1980 is retained for available-to-the-public research use. Jerry Laiche, a local historian, is often on-site as a volunteer librarian.



TILT A CHAIR AND LOAF AWHILE

The family has opened a four-unit bed and breakfast in two century-old buildings across Broadway Street. Each unit has vaulted ceilings, either one or two bedrooms, and one bath. The bed and breakfast is located next door to the family’s existing Bee Sweet Snowball Stand.

“It just keeps going on and on,” says Ashley Penton, “but that’s my dad. He’s a social butterfly, a builder, a do-er, a fixer, an embellisher.” GIDDYUPFOLSOM.COM 



Live Music at the Oldest Virtually Unaltered Rural Jazz Social Hall

Concert-goers flock to the world-famous Dew Drop for their popular Spring and Fall concerts

The unpainted cypress structure doesn't look like much from the street, just a raised building with few windows, a pitched roof and an easily missed marker out front. But the tiny Dew Drop Jazz & Social Hall looms large for aficionados looking to understand the history of jazz. Area musicians say gigs there feel special, maybe even spiritual, and a devoted clutch of German jazz musicians makes the journey every couple of years just to play on the rustic stage of what is believed to be the world's oldest rural jazz hall.

The Dew Drop Social and Benevolent Hall was opened in what is now Old Mandeville in 1895 by a group of civic-minded African-American residents as a venue for raising funds for needy individuals in the community. Located on the 400 block of Lamarque, just blocks from the Mandeville lakefront, the Dew Drop looks much as it did more than a century ago when musicians

playing a new type of music called jazz took steamboats across the lake from New Orleans to play at the hall. Among them were early greats Buddy Petit and Kid Ory; later a young Louis Armstrong (whose family lived nearby) played there.

The Dew Drop is still hosting fine regional musicians on its stage, brought in by the Friends of the Dew Drop organization, which presents fall and spring concert series there. The audience arrives early for prized seating on benches inside the little building, while others set up lawn chairs outside under large oaks and enjoy the music spilling out old windows, shutters opened wide. Purchase a glass of wine or an Abita Beer from a table out front, or a dinner plate from one of the church ladies at First Free Mission Baptist next door.

Don't forget to purchase Dew Drop merchandise and souvenirs. There's more than music in the air at the Dew Drop. There's magic. 🦋



Scan here to see the latest schedule at the Dew Drop.

DISCOVER

GilliGil's Island
in Slidell

DAY TRIPPIN'

Less than an hour away from
Baton Rouge, New Orleans and the
Gulf Coast, hop on I-10, I-12, or I-59
to experience Louisiana North-
shore's unique towns and
vibrant personalities.



A DAY IN...

Abita Springs



Abita Creek
Flatwoods Preserve

Abita was originally inhabited by the Choctaw, who believed in the healing powers of its springs. The tiny town is nestled near the scenic Abita River in a lovely little hamlet among longleaf pines and artesian waters. In 1887, a Covington doctor tested water from the springs and declared it positively medicinal, which led to scores of summer tourists from New Orleans vacationing in Abita Springs at the turn of the century. They arrived by train and stayed in grand hotels and boarding houses to escape the heat and

yellow fever prevalent in New Orleans. Today, Abita Springs has a fun and funky personality like the artists, scholars and painters who have flocked here for its feel-good vibe. Visitors to Abita find themselves breathing fresh air as they take a relaxing ride along the Tammany Trace—and taking a large sip when they sidle up to the bar at the birthplace of Abita Beer. The chic and charming Abita Springs Hotel is right in the heart of town. For more accommodations, visit LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS.

IT'S A MYSTERY

The eccentric and off-color John Preble is just as likely to throw you an insult as a compliment, and his **Abita Mystery House**—also known as the UCM Museum—attracts the curious from far and wide. More a roadside attraction than a museum, it's a wildly wacky collection of found items, tongue-in-cheek displays and outsider art, and Abita has John's brilliant mind to thank for some of its best events, including the **Louisiana Bicycle Festival**, the **Busker Festival** and the **Krewe of Push-Mow Mardi Gras Parade**.



RIDE A BIKE

Rent bikes via mobile device at the **Brooks' Bike Shop** rental stand (or bring your own) and ride a section of the 31-mile **Tammany Trace** to the **Abita Brewery**, the first and largest craft brewery in Louisiana. The packed-with-personality **Abita Springs Trailhead Museum** is worth a wander inside if a volunteer is onsite, usually 10-4 Fridays and Saturdays and 11-3 Sundays during the weekly **Art & Farmers Market**.



ABITA SPRINGS TRAILHEAD PARK

Stroll around and admire the **Abita Springs Pavilion**, on the National Register of Historic Places and built in 1888. Back then, before it was moved from proximity to Abita River to higher ground, there were four drinking fountains under the pavilion, enabling tourists access to the artesian springs. Today, a bronze statue of the Choctaw Princess Abita tells the legend of her recovery thanks to the healing waters. There's a cheerful **playground** and a path leading to a bridge over the **Abita River**, as well as a splash pad and the **Abita Spirit Stick**, a totem pole that honors Choctaw symbology while celebrating local businesses and attractions.

WELCOME MORNING

Locally roasted coffee, fresh pastries and beignets will help you get a fresh start to a memorable morning.

ABITA SPRINGS CAFÉ

Visit this cozy café offering breakfast, lunch and dinner. Be sure to grab a cup of coffee, produced locally by the Abita Roasting Company. Beat the heat with a sno-ball from the stand beside the shaded patio.

22132 LEVEL STREET
(985) 400-5025

MAPLE STREET BAKERY

Muffins, cinnamon rolls, pastries.
72066 MAPLE STREET
(843) 416-8923

ABITA FARMERS MARKET

Fresh fruits and vegetables, jellies and honey at this permanent roadside stand.
22056 LA-59
(985) 892-0711



GOURMET (BUT NOT FANCY) FARE

There are several spots a stone's throw away where you can dine-in or pick-up a picnic and soak up the sunshine.

ABITA BREW PUB

Great seafood, killer burgers, live music on weekends, growlers and outdoor games in the birthplace of Abita Beer.

72011 HOLLY STREET
(985) 892-5837

MAMA D'S PIZZA & MORE

Hand tossed artisan pizzas and pastas.
22054 LA-59
(985) 809-0308

ARTIGUE'S ABITA MARKET

Satisfying hot plate specials, grab-and-go meals and eclectic grocery.
22069 LA-59
(985) 892-7300



A DAY IN... Covington

The Rick Samson Project at
Columbia Street Taproom



On the National Register of Historic Places, the quaint and welcoming Division of St. John in Covington is thoughtfully laid out in a grid pattern, with free parking areas called Ox Lots centrally located throughout the town. This harkens back to days when schooners came down the Bogue Falaya River to trade goods from Covington and surrounding Northshore areas with New Orleans. Traders brought their wares and parked their oxen in the squares.

Downtown Covington is booming with shops, art galleries, museums, live entertainment, festivals, a bountiful farmers market and more than 25 restaurants in this walkable district, many of which are in historic cottages. The town is nestled at the convergence of three scenic rivers, the Bogue Falaya, the Abita and the Tchefuncte. The elegantly restored boutique Southern Hotel has been welcoming guests since 1907, and the Blue Willow B&B and Camellia House B&B offer visitors comfortable accommodations in the walking district. For a complete list, visit LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS.

STROLL THE SHOPS

Grab your partner and shop the boutiques, antiques and art galleries along Lee Lane, E. Rutland, N. New Hampshire Street and Columbia Street. This little stretch is home to a variety of shops in cute-as-can-be cottages and offering all kinds of shopping temptations. There's custom jewelry, boutique clothing and vintage finds. And don't miss **H.J. Smith and Sons General Store and Museum**, family owned and operated since 1876.



BE ARTSY

Check out Covington's art community at galleries around downtown, including **Marianne Angeli Rodriguez**, **SALADINO**, **Rutland Street Gallery** and **Armbruster Artworks**. Explore your own creative side and inquire in advance about making your own masterpiece at **Hammer & Stain**.

THIS IS A GOOD MORNING

Begin your day sunny side up in Covington at any number of delightful breakfast spots, where you'll find heavenly benedicts, crêpes, creamy grits, artisan roasts, beignets and more.

ABITA ROASTING CO.

Buttermilk Beignets
and Princess Abita Coffee
1011 VILLAGE WALK
(985) 246-3345

ENGLISH TEA ROOM

Windsor High Tea
734 EAST RUTLAND STREET
(985) 898-3988

MATTINA BELLA

Blue Crab Benedict
421 E. GIBSON STREET
(985) 892-0708



GET OUTSIDE

Rent bikes, paddleboards or kayaks at **Brooks' Bike Shop** and pedal around downtown or along the 31-mile **Tammany Trace** (see related story on page 34) or launch from the paddler's launch at Bogue Falaya Park. **Canoe and Trail Adventures** offers canoe and kayak rentals from **The Chimes**. The Bogue Falaya's scenic waterway offers many sandy banks to pull up and splash around on, and clear water to spot schooling fish.

DECADENT DINNERS

Enjoy an evening out worth remembering with elegant surroundings, craft cocktails and impeccable service from some of Covington's charismatic chef-owners.

NEW: TAVI

CHEF FARIZ CHOUMALI

Made-to-order pita from a wood-fired oven, elaborately finished hummus plates, and small and large plates
330 N. NEW HAMPSHIRE STREET
(985) 200-2045

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Lively lunch spots offer relief from the mundane and opportunity to try fresh and exciting dishes and drinks.

NEW: THE PINK AGAVE

Quesabirria Tacos
19124 W FRONT STREET
(985) 327-7214



THE CHIMES COVINGTON

Buttery and garlicky chargrilled oysters by the half-dozen
19130 W FRONT STREET
(985) 892-5396

NEW ORLEANS FOOD AND SPIRITS

Voodoo Rolls—a Cajun twist on crawfish eggrolls
208 LEE LANE
(985) 875-0432



GALLAGHER'S GRILL

CHEF PAT GALLAGHER

Eggplant Orleans, Filet with Jumbo Lump Crabmeat and White Chocolate Bread Pudding
509 S. TYLER STREET
(985) 892-9992

DEL PORTO RISTORANTE

CHEFS DAVID AND TORRE SOLAZZO

Seasonal Fresh Fruit Martini, Yellowfin Tuna Crudo, Cavatelli, Tiramisu
501 E. BOSTON STREET
(985) 875-1006

MERIBO

CHEF GAVIN JOBE

Bee Sting Mule, Neapolitan-style pizza
326 LEE LANE
(985) 302-5533

THE GLORIETTE

CHEF STEVEN MARSELLA

Inside the Southern Hotel with seasonal, French-inspired cuisine and luxe décor
428 E. BOSTON STREET
(985) 202-8090

A DAY IN... *Madisonville*



Picnic Lunch at
Fairview-Riverside
State Park

On the Tchefuncte River, the Town of Madisonville creates the perfect picturesque backdrop. Celebrating maritime history year-round, Madisonville is an ideal location for boat and river lovers alike. At Fairview-Riverside State Park, launch your own boat, camp, birdwatch or fish. Enjoy the several restaurants that line

the riverfront in the downtown area while watching watercrafts pass by. A river cruise to view the Tchefuncte River Lighthouse is the perfect way to watch the sunset. The 1837 lighthouse stands sentinel and symbolizes the town. It is a beacon to all those on Lake Pontchartrain.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPS

Grab a seat outside at a café table and watch the world go by. Madisonville may be small, but it's big on charm. Abita Roasting Co. has been sourcing, roasting and preparing coffee from around the world since 2006. Take a bag with you on your journey.

ABITA ROASTING CO.

Abita Roasting Co. Coffee or
a Mimosa Flight with Eggs Cochon
504 WATER STREET
(985) 246-3340



TCHEFUNCTE RIVER CRUISE

A private pontoon tour along the Tchefuncte River is a great opportunity for the family and friends to experience Madisonville like a local and see the lighthouse, too. Two captains know their way around the Tchefuncte River, and both offer different experiences for their guests.

Captain Rob Rouyer with **Tchefuncte River Charters** is not only a captain, but also a DJ by trade, and his 26-foot pontoon party barge is equipped with a sweet setup that includes a bar, LED lighting system, sound system with Bluetooth and onboard restroom. This watercraft experience makes for a great parent's night out or a party with your closest friends.

Captain Mike Jones is the charming host of **Louisiana Tours & Adventures** (see related story on page 40), and he's eager to introduce guests to the waterways he grew up on.

Both Captain Mike and Captain Rob know the great spots to stop and can point out local hangouts that feature live music and waterfront views. Before boarding, pick up a spread of snacks to enjoy while onboard from a local restaurant.

TCHEFUNCTE RIVER CHARTERS

(504) 237-1029

LOUISIANA TOURS AND ADVENTURES

(985) 789-9602

CHOW DOWN

Seafood is the best when out on the open water.

TRIPLE NICKEL GRILL

BBQ Shrimp Pasta
305 COVINGTON STREET
(985) 792-7292

TBT MARINA CANTINA

Royal Reds
100 MARINA DEL RAY DRIVE
(985) 290-5390

LIGHTHOUSE PIZZA & DAIQUIRIS

Cajun Shrimp Pizza
101 LA-22
(985) 792-3058



MARITIME MUSEUM LOUISIANA

It's hard not to imagine the nearby Tchefuncte River filled with schooners, war ships and steamers when you visit the **Maritime Museum Louisiana**. Located on the site of the former Jahncke Shipyard, the museum tells the story of the Northshore's seaport roots through well-done exhibits, artifacts (have you ever climbed inside a Civil War submarine?), detailed dioramas, video and replicas of everything from bateaux to pirogues.



NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN

A fabulous day exploring Madisonville requires equally fabulous food.

TCHEFUNCTE'S

CHEF RYAN GALL

Redfish Meuniere on the Half Shell
407 ST. TAMMANY STREET
(985) 323-4800

KEITH YOUNG'S STEAKHOUSE

House Cut Filet
165 LA-21
(985) 845-9940

IMPASTATO CELLARS

Redfish Marianna
240 LA-22
(985) 845-4445



A DAY IN... *Mandeville*



Mandeville Lakefront

Once a peaceful haven for wealthy New Orleanians seeking an escape for the summer, Mandeville has continued to be a place for those wishing to relax and get away from it all. Residents and visitors find themselves drawn to the public green spaces that line the lakefront. Families and friends congregate to walk their dogs, go for a bike ride or jog along the seawall.

Cruise down the lakefront or venture through the streets with ease with a bike rental from Brooks' Bikes/Trikes & Beyond of Mandeville. A bike ride east of the Mandeville Trailhead via the 31-mile Tammany Trace hike-and-bike path, you'll find Fontainebleau State Park. The park offers camping, primitive glamping with Tentrr, RV parking, fishing, nature trails and more. For a complete list of accommodations, visit LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS.

START THE MORNING

The best way to start the day is to enjoy a hearty breakfast.

LIZ'S WHERE Y'AT DINER

Big Easy Benedict
2500 FLORIDA STREET
(985) 626-8477

LA LOU

Brioche Stuff
200 GIROD STREET
(985) 231-7125

CRAZY PIG SOUTHERN KITCHEN

Sticky Chicken
4700 LA-22 STE. 1
(985) 792-7900



HIT THE STORES

There are plenty of shopping opportunities all along Girod Street in Old Mandeville. Find ladies clothing, antiques, art and gifts galore in the quaint shops. Score designer finds from **Gran's Attic Thrift Shoppe**. Antique treasures wait to be discovered at **Mae's and Tallulah's Vintage Market**. Get chic at boutique clothing store **Cameo**. Unique gifts and art can be found at **Wild Osprey Gallery** and lovely Louisiana gifts from **Das Schulerhaus: A Christmas & Gift Gallery**.



Kid's Konection
Playground near
Koop Drive
Trailhead

KIDS DAY OUT

History comes alive for kids at the **Children's Museum of St. Tammany**. Read stories while sitting in a miniature lighthouse or pretend to fish in Lake Pontchartrain while learning about life in St. Tammany Parish. Nearby, visit the **Kids Konection Playground**. This inclusive playground at the Tammany Trace Trailhead at Koop Drive is accessible to kids of all abilities. **The Candy Bank** is every kid's dream. This two-room store is filled with sweet treats. Have a blast cooling off at the Mandeville Lakefront splash pad or visit the one inside **Fontainebleau State Park**. **Culinary Kids** offers cooking classes specifically for children. They'll follow a recipe and learn kitchen safety basics.

AFTERNOON DELIGHTS

DUMAN ARTISAN KITCHEN

Turkish meatballs
821 GIROD STREET
(985) 231-7663

GIROD STREET MARKET & DELI

Mushroom and goat cheese quesadilla
529 GIROD STREET
(985) 629-4260

THE BARLEY OAK

Reuben sandwich
2101 LAKESHORE DRIVE
(985) 727-7420

HAMBONE

Luke's Fried Chicken Sandwich
544 GIROD STREET
(985) 778-0531



SUPPER TIME

Ring the supper bell and have a seat at a local restaurant.

BEACH HOUSE BAR & GRILL

Aloha Burger
124 GIROD STREET
(985) 624-9331

PAT'S REST AWHILE

Gulf Fish Almondine
2129 LAKESHORE DRIVE
(985) 951-2173

BOSCO'S ITALIAN CAFÉ

Fish Giovanna
2040 LA-59 STE. D
(985) 624-5066

CAFÉ LYNN

Crispy Duck Confit
2600 FLORIDA STREET
(985) 624-9007





From the quaint area known as Olde Towne Slidell to the outskirts of the city where the pristine Honey Island Swamp can be found, Slidell has much to be discovered. Hop aboard a swamp tour to get up close to the local wild fauna. Stroll through nature at Camp Salmen Nature Park or launch a boat or kayak on Bayou Bonfouca at Heritage Park.

Step away from nature and meander through Olde Towne Slidell.

Take a selfie in front of the murals spread around town. Play a round of miniature golf and enjoy a scoop of ice cream at Old Town Slidell Soda Shop. Slidell is bound to make you feel at home as you discover more.

When the day is done, you're sure to find comfortable and convenient accommodations in the Slidell area. Check out LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/HOTELS for more.

FOOD FOR COMFORT

BIG MAMA'S COUNTRY KITCHEN

Seafood gumbo

2170 GAUSE BLVD., STE. 117

(985) 781-0907

TAQUERIA HABANEROS

Big Birria burrito

3805 PONTCHARTRAIN DRIVE

(985) 284-9271

CRAWFORD'S 1-STOP

Smothered turkey necks (Tuesday special)

715 OLD SPANISH TRAIL

(985) 445-1199

KY'S OLDE TOWNE BICYCLE SHOP

Hand pressed burger

2267 CAREY STREET

(985) 641-1911



FROM LAKE TO LAND

Charter fishing trips depart from the **Rigolets Marina** and offer an opportunity to fish like a local. Charter captains strive to find the best fishing spot on Lake Pontchartrain and its surrounding canals. Catch redfish, black drum, speckled trout, flounder, sheepshead and more. Can't make a chartered trip? Enjoy a taste of Louisiana seafood at local restaurants.



STOP AND SHOP

Shop the local boutiques and big stores, too. **Fremaux Town Center** is home to well-known brands and restaurants, and a few locally owned eateries. In Olde Towne Slidell, browse antique shops, **Green Oaks Apothecary** or make your own creation at **Lori's Art Depot**. Find local produce, baked goods, homemade arts and crafts, and artisan soaps while browsing the **Camellia City Market**.

RELAX BY THE WATER

GILLIGIL'S ISLAND

Baja Shrimp Tacos
4826 PONTCHARTRAIN DRIVE
(985) 201-8824

PALMETTOS ON THE BAYOU

CHEF ROSS DOVER
Pan Seared Duck Breast
1901 BAYOU LANE
(985) 288-5440

PHIL'S MARINA CAFÉ

Snapper Pontchartrain
1194 HARBOR DRIVE
(985) 641-0464

EIGHT60 WINE WHISKEY BITES

Korean pulled pork sandwich
860 OAK HARBOR BLVD.
(985) 259-4051

NATHAN'S RESTAURANT

Trout Christopher
36440 OLD BAYOU LIBERTY ROAD
(985) 643-0443



SAVOR THE SEAFOOD

PEARL'S SEAFOOD MARKET

Charbroiled oysters
502 GAUSE BLVD.
(985) 214-9014

KENNEY SEAFOOD

Seafood platter
400 PONTCHARTRAIN DRIVE
(985) 643-2717

PECK'S SEAFOOD

Boiled shrimp salad
2315 GAUSE BLVD.
(985) 781-7272

SOUTHSIDE CAFÉ

Seafood muffuletta
3154 PONTCHARTRAIN DRIVE
(985) 643-6133

MIDDENDORF'S SLIDELL

Thin fried catfish
1951 OAK HARBOR BLVD.
(985) 771-777

NORTHSHORE INDULGE



TAKE A BITE

Life's a feast on the Northshore, where the culinary perspective has been shaped by the area's diverse cultures as well as the bounty of the bayou. Whether you choose poboys from a mom-and-pop or Gulf-inspired fare from talented chefs, there's a great meal waiting for you.

NorthShore
Ice Company
in Mandeville



Crawfish mac and cheese
at Abita Brew Pub



Crawfish beignets
by Patton's Catering



Crawfish sacks at
Salmen-Fritchie House

Five Ways to Crave Those Crustaceans

The best way to welcome crawfish season is to eat your way across the Parish **BY JYL BENSON**

Crawfish season, as we say around here, comes when it comes. If the southern Louisiana winter is harsh, the cherished crustaceans may not appear until late February. If late autumn is mild, they might show up as early as late January. They are easy to find, and most seafood restaurants offer boiled crawfish when in season. Throughout the season crawfish boils are a popular form of social gathering.

What to do when crawfish are out of season? The meat from Louisiana crawfish tails freezes beautifully, so dishes featuring crawfish are abundant in Northshore restaurants no matter the time of year. Here are a few of our favorite places to enjoy crawfish any time:

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT THE SALMEN-FRITCHIE HOUSE

Patton's Catering food booth at the annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival has been hugely popular in the 33 years they have been working it. Among the favorites are their crawfish sacks—a thin crepe filled with juicy crawfish tails and seasonings, hand tied with a strip of green leek, then flash fried—and crawfish beignets—an airy dough mixed with seasonings and crawfish tails then fried until golden and served with a white remoulade dipping sauce. Patton's owns the historic Salmen-Fritchie House and serves a specialty brunch every Sunday, often with one or both items on the menu, which hits the website every Tuesday.

127 CLEVELAND AVENUE, SLIDELL, PATTONS.COM

ABITA BREW PUB

The original brewery for Abita Beer became the Abita Brew Pub when the brewery outgrew the space in 1994 and moved on to larger digs nearby. This is a casual spot with a lengthy list of beers on tap. Check out the crawfish mac and cheese and the crawfish cornbread.

72011 HOLLY STREET, ABITA SPRINGS, ABITABREW PUB.COM

TREY YUEN

The Wong family's elevated Cantonese cuisine is served at their showplace restaurant, Trey Yuen, designed by both American and Chinese architects to emulate a Chinese palace with rosewood ceilings, carved wall panels, antique furnishings, statues and art-work as well as inlaid mother of pearl dining chairs. Lush gardens, waterfalls, pagodas and koi ponds inspire tranquility. The crawfish in lobster sauce is deeply savory and satisfying. Tong cho crawfish are lightly dusted in flour, crisped in hot oil then served with Trey Yuen's signature sweet-hot pepper and garlic sauce.

600 N. CAUSEWAY BLVD., MANDEVILLE, TREYYUEN.COM

THE CHIMES RESTAURANT & TAPROOM

With a series of decks overlooking a wooded area, The Chimes Restaurant & Taproom is popular with all ages. The crawfish fries are a heap of thin, crispy fries topped with an abundance of fried crawfish tails then covered with a mixture of cheeses and broiled until crisp.

19130 W. FRONT STREET, COVINGTON, THECHIMES.COM

TRIPLE NICKEL GRILL

Recently opened in Madisonville, Triple Nickel Grill is popular for poboy, burgers and seafood. Start off with an order of crawfish balls—plump crawfish tails blended with seasonings, spices and just enough breading to hold it all together, then fried and served with a zesty remoulade sauce.

305 COVINGTON STREET, MADISONVILLE, TRIPLENICKELGRILL.COM



Chef Sal Impastato
working the line
at Sal & Judy's

Now You're Cooking with Gas

At 80 years young, Lacombe chef Sal Impastato is still packing in the patrons **BY BETH D'ADDONO**

Most octogenarians are retired. Then again, most 80-year-olds aren't chef Sal Impastato, who still puts in 12-hour days at his restaurant, Sal & Judy's, in Lacombe. It's a work ethic that was bred into him growing up on his family farm in Cinisi, a small seaside town outside of Palermo, Sicily.

"All of us worked," Impastato recalls. "We always cooked as a family. We had big Sunday suppers. We made our own olive oil. We didn't call it 'farm to table,' it was just how we lived." Growing up he learned to make fresh cheese from goat's milk; olive oil from his family's olive groves; wine from his family's vineyards; and homemade tomato sauce with freshly picked tomatoes from the garden.

That love for fresh ingredients, appreciation for homemade Italian and Sicilian dishes and commitment to quality, is still with him today. It has fueled his career in hospitality and is the reason so many regulars come to his restaurant in Lacombe, which he opened with his then-wife, Judy, in 1974. Although the couple parted ways in 1984, the restaurant was already an institution. "Why would I change the name? We'll always be Sal & Judy's."

A Passion Ignited

Impastato's passion for hospitality was sparked at 18 when he immigrated to America from Sicily. After a stop in New York, he came to New Orleans and went to work for his Uncle Joe, at the Napoleon House in the French Quarter. Owned and operated by the Impastato family from 1914 to 2015, Napoleon House is where

the young Impastato got his first taste of the restaurant business. It was also where he hung his hat—he lived in an upstairs apartment at the fabled restaurant on Chartres Street.

The French Quarter was truly Bohemian in the 1960s. Impastato relished the scene, bartending at the Napoleon House and working in the kitchen at the Royal Orleans Hotel. "I learned a lot on that job," says the chef. "But most of what I learned, I learned from Chris."

A Friend and Mentor

"Chris" refers to the late chef Chris Karageorgiou, who was last in the kitchen at his country French restaurant, La Provence, in Lacombe. The two met in the kitchen when Impastato moved to Dallas to hone his skills at a swanky country club. A fast and lifelong friendship was forged in the two years they worked together, continuing after they both returned to work in New Orleans.

"Chris was like family," Impastato says. Photos of the two hang throughout Sal & Judy's, keeping company with family photos and pictures of Chef Sal with sports and entertainment celebrities. Renowned throughout New Orleans, Karageorgiou was known for the French country food that came out of his kitchen and for his warm presence in the dining room.

In the early 70s, Karageorgiou approached Impastato about going into a partnership in the Lacombe restaurant that would become La Provence. "I wanted to do my own thing, but because of Chris, I found Lacombe," he says.



Ready for the table - sautéed crab claws marinated in a white cream sauce

A Dream Realized

In the 1970s, Lacombe was rural with lots of farms and fishing. “It reminded me of my hometown,” Impastato says, who still maintains his family home in Cinisi. He found a humble spot on Route 190 and Sal & Judy’s became a reality. “It was like a gas station, a car wash,” he recalls.

There were plenty of naysayers who said he was crazy, opening an Italian restaurant in such a remote spot. “I knew the people would come,” he says.

And they did.

From the start, Impastato minded his family’s recipes for a menu that is a mix of traditional Italian dishes, Sicilian specialties and Creole favorites. The meaty lasagna, for instance, was his mother’s recipe. “We could never take that off the menu,” he says. “Or the veal parmesan. My customers would go crazy.”

A few signature dishes include the cannelloni made with home-made pasta and filled with a mixture of ground veal, parmesan cheese and fresh herbs, finished with a tomato cream sauce. The baked oysters Cinisi, named for his hometown, include plump oysters in a casserole with chopped mushrooms, onions, cheese and white wine. There’s also a seafood gumbo swimming with local seafood. Creole dishes include trout amandine and fried local soft shell crab in season. Brucioloni is a Creole-Italian version of braciola, tender steak rolled around a bread stuffing rich with cheese and sausage, braised in red gravy with pasta on the side.



Chef Sal taking time to greet his guests




Sal & Judy’s - A family business

Impastato quickly outgrew the quaint gas station/car wash-sized restaurant, but it wasn’t until 2001 that he renovated Sal & Judy’s, doubling its size and adding banquet rooms for private parties.

A Family Operation

When Sal Impastato cooks, he’s as sure of himself as a prizefighter in the ring; his movements fluid and economical. On a recent week-night, he was preparing one of the menu’s signature dishes, crabmeat au gratin. Offered as both an appetizer and an entrée, it’s a rich, creamy simmer of seafood, provolone cheese and spices, studded with broccoli florets and mushrooms. Impastato doesn’t measure a thing: He just eyeballs the amount of butter, cream sauce and cheese it takes to bind 10 pounds of jumbo lump crabmeat. “This is a great business, but it’s hard work,” the chef says as he stirs the crab into the pot’s bubbling ambrosia. “If you want to do it right, be consistent and do everything from scratch. That takes time.”

Impastato still inspects every bit of produce and every piece of meat that comes into his kitchen. His son, Jimmy, is also a chef, cooking side by side with his father. “He’s cooked since he was 8 years old.” Another son runs the family’s pasta sauce business that has the patriarch’s smiling face gracing jars of Creole tomato cream sauce, red gravy, marinara and pizza sauce, along with a line of dressings and salsas.

“Our customers, they’ve been coming for generations—we fed them, then their kids, their grandkids,” the chef says proudly. “We have people working here for 30 years, then their kids work here, too. We are like a family. We do what we need to do to take care of our customers.” SALANDJUDYS.COM 

#TammanyTaste

The Northshore's deep and diverse restaurant scene feeds your hunger for authentic culinary experiences



NAN'S NEW ORLEANS CAFÉ AND POBOYS

700 FLORIDA STREET, MANDEVILLE

Nan's New Orleans Café and Poboys focuses on Cajun, Creole and signature New Orleans style dishes that will put the heart and soul back into mealtime. They use fresh ingredients including local seafood, with every menu item made from scratch.



RESTAURANT CÔTÉ & THE MAPLE ROOM

2219 CAREY STREET, SLIDELL

The restaurant's name is taken from the Creole word meaning "at the home of," and Chef Jeremy Reilly's food definitely offers comfort made from scratch. Fried green tomatoes, Shrimp and Oyster Rustica, the Côte burger and blackened shrimp are made with ingredients that originate from within 60 miles of the restaurant (and many vegetables are grown in the garden out back).



HAMBONE

544 GIROD STREET, MANDEVILLE

Hambone takes an upscale approach to Gulf Coast comfort foods. Think fried bou-din with crab boil mozzarella, decadent char-broiled oysters, a rockin' gumbo—all served in a cute-as-can-be cottage.



DEL PORTO RISTORANTE AND THE GREYHOUND

501 E. BOSTON STREET AND
705 E. BOSTON STREET, COVINGTON

The husband-wife chef team of David and Torre Solazzo are three-time semifinalists for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef South award, and their contemporary Italian fare at Del Porto has an emphasis on locally sourced ingredients. (Most Saturdays, you'll see David shopping for his restaurants at the Covington Farmers Market.) Their newest endeavor, The Greyhound, is a casual gastropub with a wood-burning oven serving pizza, burgers, fish and chips, German sausages and Reuben sandwiches with house-made pastrami.

CAFÉ LYNN

2600 FLORIDA STREET, MANDEVILLE

Chef Joey Najolia's French and Creole cuisine has been satisfying his loyal Northshore following since he and his wife, Brandi, opened their restaurant in 2007. Savor classic French dishes cooked to a consistent perfection in a casual yet refined setting—escargot au garlic, filet au poivre and crispy duck confit.



ANNADELE'S PLANTATION

71518 CHESTNUT STREET, COVINGTON

For a romantic and intimate dining experience rooted in history, make your way to Annadele's Plantation. Taste classic Creole cuisine at the fine dining restaurant that even offers overnight stays at their bed and breakfast.



CURED. ON COLUMBIA

415 N COLUMBIA STREET, COVINGTON

Chef Amanda Birdsong and her partner, Anna Watkins opened Cured. On Columbia in October 2020. Together, they created a space where everyone can relax, enjoy great food, sip on delicious coffee and feel at home.

LOLA

517 N NEW HAMPSHIRE STREET, COVINGTON

Talented husband-wife chef team Keith and Nealy Frenz make magic in a caboose kitchen attached to Covington's old train depot. The pair met when both were chefs at world-famous Brennan's in New Orleans. House-made everything pleases LOLA's lunch crowds with blue plate specials, great salads and desserts. Dinner is more upscale but fresh, smart and creative—and especially fun in LOLA's darling vintage dining car.



PARDO'S RESTAURANT

5280 LA-22, MANDEVILLE

Pardo's offers European and American cuisine in a flavorful and relaxing atmosphere with a variety of foods from handmade pasta to prime steaks. Don't miss the artfully hand-crafted cocktails.



PYRE BBQ

71174 LA-21 SUITE 400, COVINGTON AND 2020 WOODROW STREET, MANDEVILLE

Chef Jeff Mattia's Pyre locations are all about barbecue with all the classic side dishes for a hearty lunch or dinner--or your next catered event. Starters include Pyre's popular Crispy Brussels, hot wings, gator sliders, boudin balls, egg rolls and Totchos--smoked pulled pork, queso, pickled red onions and jalapeños.



Dusting hot beignets
at Abita Springs Café



Jules' Shrimp Boat
and Seafood Platter
at Pearl's Seafood

Deep Fried Deliciousness

“Batter up” for these golden delicacies
on the Northshore **BY KATIE GUASCO**

Here in the South, you can't miss the mouthwatering temptation of our deep-fried fare. From platters to poboys, most dives and fine dining establishments have some sort of crispy creation on their menus. On the Northshore, we are blessed with fresh waterways such as the Abita River, Tchefuncte River, Bogue Falaya River and Lake Pontchartrain, as well as nearby Gulf coastal waters that keep our offerings fresh and exciting. We've rounded up a short list of favorites, but the options are truly limitless. Come to the Louisiana Northshore hungry, and don't miss:

ABITA SPRINGS CAFÉ

Take your taste buds on a sweet and savory journey at this Abita landmark with Gulf seafood poboys and beignets. ABITACAFE.COM

MANDEVILLE SEAFOOD MARKET & EATERY

Mandeville Seafood has you covered for everything from shipping and traveling to dine-in and event catering. Here, you can have seafood fried by the pound or try the takeout family dinners of shrimp and thin-fried catfish served with fries and a loaf of Leidenheimer French bread. MANDEVILLESEAFOODMARKET.COM

MIDDENDORF'S SLIDELL

The original Middendorf's is a long-standing seafood restaurant in Manchac, Louisiana, best known for its “World Famous Original Thin Fried Catfish.” In 2019, its 85th anniversary, the restaurant opened its second location in Slidell featuring the same menu. Catfish is the prized dish, though other sought-after entrées include shrimp served a dozen different ways and soft-shell or stuffed crab. MIDDENDORFSRESTAURANT.COM



Onion Rings at
Pontchartrain
Po-Boys

PONTCHARTRAIN PO-BOYS

The claim “overstuffed” gets thrown around a lot by poboy joints, but this one is an authentic treasure. Don't miss their boudin egg rolls and fried catfish, oyster, soft-shell crab and shrimp poboys, or combine them all on one of their incredible platters. PONTCHARTRAINPOBOYS.COM

PEARL'S SEAFOOD MARKET AND RESTAURANT

Dine in or carry out at Pearl's Seafood Market and Restaurant for fried seafood delicacies like the Jules' Shrimp Boat served with 30 tail-on fried shrimp in a buttery bread boat with fried hush puppies. PEARLSSEAFOODMARKET.COM

BEAR'S RESTAURANT

Nothing fussy about this Covington staple—just great food. This counter-serve poboy kitchen is known for their famous roast beef poboy so try their surf and turf for the best of both worlds. LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/LISTING/BEARS-RESTAURANT/369/ 🦀



Sip and Slow Down

Savor the atmosphere and experience of slow-aged drinks and comforting vibes

BY SARAH HILL

Louisiana is known for its libations, and the charming establishments in St. Tammany Parish are serving up the good stuff. Whether you're a spirit or wine enthusiast, there are a variety of choices for you to sip on.

Walk inside Whiskey and Ashe in Olde Towne Slidell, order an Old Fashioned and experience one-of-a-kind service. This place is cozy, relaxing and the perfect mix of masculinity and femininity. Whiskey & Ashe makes it easy to unwind in the beautifully appointed lounge and humidor room. Enjoy one of the many bourbons, ryes and whiskeys lining the wall behind the bar, design your perfect cocktail or choose a glass of wine. For the perfect pairing of wine and a cigar, try pairing an oaked chardonnay with a slightly sweet, light bodied cigar or a bold, fruity malbec with an earthy, spicy cigar. Ask your bartender for more pairings or attend a whiskey tasting night to expand your knowledge and your tastebuds. WHISKEYANDASHE.COM



Wild Bush Farm + Vineyard takes guests on a journey from vine to bottle. Wines made on property are available for tasting and purchase during regular hours of operation and while attending on-site, outdoor concerts. Once known as Pontchartrain Vineyards, Wild Bush has carried on the seasonal music series, Jazz'n the Vines. Each spring and fall, concert attendees bring their chairs or blankets, picnics and flashlights to enjoy a night out at the vineyard. Bands play an array of genres including jazz, funk, blues and more. Throughout the year, Wild Bush also offers educational wine classes to give a more in-depth look at the winemaking process and pairing. WILDBUSHFARMANDVINEYARD.COM 🍷



Old Town Slidell
Soda Shop

Stay Cool

These ice-cold sweet treats are necessary in the summer, though great all year long **BY JYL BENSON**

Save for a few weeks—if that—in the depths of winter, Louisiana’s Northshore has a breezy and comfortable climate that allows for the enjoyment of ice cream, sno-balls and other cold, sweet treats all year long.

The sno-ball is a New Orleans-area confection made with finely shaved ice and sweetened flavored syrup, sometimes with the addition of cream. Not to be confused with the snow cone, which is popular throughout the rest of the U.S., the ice used to make a sno-ball is very finely shaved and fluffy. The fine texture allows for the absorption of the syrup, resulting in a creamy confection. The ice used for a snow cone is ground, resulting in a crunchy, granular texture.

HOODOO ICE CREAM

Billy Sussky, once a carpenter by trade, started making ice cream and tinkering with flavors on weekends before he started selling his confections at the Covington Farmer’s Market. He used dairy products from Mauthè Progress Milk Barn—also a vendor at the market—and local produce and ingredients. One of his early successes was Creole cream cheese ice cream made with a tangy fresh cheese that was once popular in the region. Sussky was inspired to develop the flavor in memory of his grandfather, who enjoyed the old-fashioned taste. It is still the most popular of Sussky’s flavors, all of which are house-made.

After two years of being consistently busy at the market, Sussky called his friend, George Schenck, a chef, to ask if he would like to join him in quitting his job and open up shop.



HooDoo
Ice Cream

Schenck agreed and the duo opened Hoodoo Ice Cream in 2018 in downtown Covington. They worked together on outfitting the interior of the stylish shop with booths made of local cypress, exposed old brick walls and colorful local art.

There are always eight mainstay flavors on offer at the shop as well as four-to-six seasonally driven or specialty flavors such as Blueberry Creole Cheesecake, Matcha, Bananas Foster, Peach Bourbon Habanero and Olive Oil Gelato with basil and lemon.

Future plans include opening franchises that use only ingredients local to them.

“That way each shop will be unique unto itself,” Sussky says.
405 N. COLUMBIA STREET, COVINGTON,
INSTAGRAM @HOODOO.ICECREAM



HooDoo
Ice Cream



Magic Unicorn Shake at Epic Creamery Milkshake Bar



NorthShore Ice Company in Mandeville

EPIC CREAMERY MILKSHAKE BAR

Creativity, Instagram and Blue Bell ice cream power the gravity defying, over-the-top confections at Epic Creamery and Milkshake Bar.

Angelle Nesbitt “took a leap of faith” and bought the shop in August 2021 from friends.

What started as the occasional novelty milkshake or sundae has morphed into a menu of creations that often tower above the vessels into which they are built. The strawberry cheesecake milkshake is made with strawberry cheesecake ice cream, a vanilla icing rim covered with graham cracker crumbs that is topped with an entire slice of cheesecake, then whipped cream, fresh strawberries, chocolate chips and a chocolate drizzle. A hidden skewer holds it all together.

A sand pit and play area make this spot a favorite for birthday parties. 70380 LA-21 SUITE 3, COVINGTON
INSTAGRAM @EPICCREAMERY

NORTHSHORE ICE COMPANY

NorthShore Ice Company is serving up homemade ice cream, desserts and of course sno-balls, a Louisiana confection of finely shaved ice and flavored cane sugar syrup. Best of all, they are open year-round and have an inside seating area.

700 FLORIDA STREET, MANDEVILLE

MOO MOO'S FROZEN CUSTARD

What sets frozen custard apart from ice cream? The eggs used to enrich the base of the frozen dessert, resulting in a final product that is higher in fat and a bit lower in sugar than its counterpart, making for a rich, creamy base for sundaes, splits and scoops. A menu of “Stockyard” favorites features burgers, wraps, barbecue, hot dogs and hot tamales. There are sno-balls, too.

2660 FLORIDA STREET, MANDEVILLE, LOUISIANA
NORTHSHORE.COM/LISTING/MOO-MOOS-FROZEN-CUSTARD/421

JUST CHILLIN' SWEET TREATS

Since its opening in 2011, Just Chillin' has evolved to operate year-round offering an array of sno-balls, stuffed sno-balls (a sno-ball stuffed with ice cream) and 30 flavors (standard, rotational and seasonal) of house-made ice cream on any given day. Flavors include banana malt, honeycomb, apple pie, king cake and so many more. All natural and sugar-free sno-balls are also available.

3799 HWY. 22, MANDEVILLE, INSTAGRAM @JUSTCHILLINSWEETTREATS

OLD TOWN SLIDELL SODA SHOP

In 1988, Old Town Slidell Soda Shop ignited a renaissance among small businesses in Slidell's historic district. With an environment that feels like a step back into the 1950s and soda jerks serving ice cream, malts, sundaes, banana splits and root beer floats, it has been a destination ever since. Antique ice cream scoops line the walls, and a jukebox is stocked with doo-wop tunes. There is a menu of burgers, fries and the like as well as an old-fashioned candy and toy store, arcade games and an 18-hole mini golf course outside.

301 COUSIN STREET, SLIDELL, INSTAGRAM @OLDTOWNSODASHOP 🦋

NORTH LAKE EXPLORE

COME ON IN

Experience the beauty of Honey Island Swamp, meet the wildlife (giraffes and gators included), bask in nature or explore with your furry friend. There's a lot to discover.

Hiking at Northlake
Nature Center in Mandeville



See you later at Insta-Gator

Learn all about Louisiana's favorite reptile, even hatch one in your hand, at Insta-Gator Ranch

If you're interested in alligators—and, really, who isn't?—we've got the place for you. Insta-Gator Ranch and Hatchery near Covington is home to more than 2,000 alligators and a few humans who interact with them. Insta-Gator offers fun and educational tours and programs that will teach you all about the pre-historic reptiles and even give you a chance to touch one.

The ranch is open year-round but is more active when the gators are. Spring and summer are great times to visit, especially August when you can make a reservation to actually hatch a baby gator in

your hand! It's quite an experience to hold an egg and see the little creatures emerge from the shell.

Visitors hear all about the harvesting of gator eggs, often from area waterways like Bayou Castine, and watch a video before visiting alligators in tanks in their covered barns. Catch gators at the family-friendly, tabletop catch pools and visit the gift shop at Insta-Gator to top off an unforgettable, interactive education on conservation and the history of this incredible species. 🦎



Members of the Major Taylor Cycling Club of Louisiana enjoying the Tammany Trace



A sunny bike ride on the Tammany Trace trail

Take the Scenic Route

Walk, bike, ride, run—just make sure you experience the Tammany Trace **BY ERICA SWEENEY GLORY**

For a unique way to explore the Louisiana Northshore, hop on a bike and pedal. The charming towns of St. Tammany Parish are all linked via the Tammany Trace, a beautiful winding path through the tall pines of the parish. The 31 miles of Rails-to-Trails conversion was the first of its kind in Louisiana. Each town culminates with a trailhead at its center—a hot spot for revelry, gatherings, events, music performances, farmers markets and other fun. You'll find many places to park and enter the Tammany Trace while having nearby trailhead amenities such as bathrooms, water fountains, splash pads and more.

After the Illinois Central Railroad line was abandoned, it was later remodeled into a hiking/biking/walking trail to be enjoyed by all for both leisure and for a workout. The Tammany Trace stretches from downtown Covington through Abita Springs, Mandeville, Lacombe and currently ends in Slidell with more plans for expansion.

It also serves as a wildlife conservation corridor and tracks through parks and wetlands, bayous and rivers with scenic overlooks throughout. You'll find wildlife including exceptional locations for birding enthusiasts, as well as native flora and fauna. Live oaks and other trees provide a canopy of shade throughout your time on the Trace as well.

Accessible for All

The Tammany Trace is ADA accessible. Whether you are venturing out for fun or looking to train with serious riding and running groups, patrons of all abilities are welcome. The Trace is home to many races that use its length and ideal flat terrain for 5K's and bicycle races.

If you feel like horsing around, the Tammany Trace also has an accompanying horse trail that runs parallel to the paved trace for equestrian activity.

Friendly Local Bike Shops

If you don't have your own bike or didn't bring it on your trip with you, there are multiple local bike shops that rent and are conveniently located along the Trace.

Brooks' Bike Shop is a Veteran-owned business by Patrick Brooks and has been around for years. Even if you have your own gear, you can stop in for a tune up, fill your tires with air or even grab some fresh fruit.

Brooks operates three bike shops on the Northshore with Trace access: one near the Mandeville lakefront, one in Slidell and another in downtown Covington at the start of the Tammany Trace bike path. He also has self-serve rental stands in Abita Springs. Guided tours of Old Mandeville, Covington and the Trace can be scheduled with as few as three people, and there's even a brewery tour by bike.

New this year are rentable electric bikes with pedal assist to take the Trace with ease. These e-bikes are allowed to travel up to 15 miles per hour on the Trace. You can also rent pull-behind carts for kids, gear changing bikes, etc. Visit BrooksBikeShop.com for more information. 🦋





Experiences Along the Way

A whole itinerary can be filled for your short travel between towns. Here are some things to see and do along the way/near each trailhead:

COVINGTON

Abita Roasting Company

Shopping on
Columbia Street

Covington Beer Garden

ABITA SPRINGS

Abita Springs
Trailhead Museum

Abita Café

Abita Snoballs

Abita Brewing Company
Tasting Room

MANDEVILLE

Lakefront path diversion

Old Rail Brewing
Company

Historic Mandeville

Koop Drive Trailhead/Children's
Museum of St. Tammany/ Kids
Konnection playground

Northlake Nature Center on the
way from Mandeville to Lacombe

Fontainebleau State Park

LACOMBE

Bayou Lacombe

Sal & Judy's Restaurant

Bayou Lacombe Museum

SLIDELL

Olde Towne Slidell

Camp Salmen Nature Park
Heritage Park

THE TAMMANY TRACE IS ALWAYS IMPROVING SO CHECK TAMMANYTRACE.ORG FOR ANY POTENTIAL CLOSURES AND AVAILABLE DETOURS.



Where the Wild Things Are


You feed the animals on safari at Global Wildlife Center in Folsom

The excitement builds on the approach. Scenery along rural, tree-lined Highway 40, as it ribbons through the northwestern corner of St. Tammany Parish, begins to subtly change. Suddenly open grassland resembles an African savanna — and in more ways than one. The sight of zebras and Father David deer, giraffes and elands signal that you are about to enter a special place.

Global Wildlife Center is the largest free-roaming wildlife preserve of its kind in the U.S., home to more than 4,000 exotic and endangered animals living on 900 scenic acres. Visitors have a few options to explore Global. Many opt for the safari tours in large motorized wagons that travel the grounds, providing on-high views and the opportunity to toss feed to many of the animals as they approach the wagon.

The private Pinzgauer tours are a great choice for families and animal lovers who want a unique and once-in-a-lifetime encounter. Seating up to 8 people, the 4x4 vehicles put guests eye level with Global's inhabitants who often follow or surround the vehicle. Stroke a giraffe's neck as she leans over your shoulder. Amazingly beautiful up close, the giraffes are persistent — they want that food! — but they're gentle. Touch the massive, wooly head of an American bison, or the horns of Watusi cattle as they feed from your hand. Deer, llamas and zebras come up close, and gaggles of geese waddle at top speed behind the Pinz as it pulls away.

Safari tours are given several times daily; Pinzgauer tours require reservations. All make unforgettable memories for kids of all ages. Call (985) 796-3585 for tour availability.

26389 HIGHWAY 40, FOLSOM 

Book a tour on the Honey Island Swamp

An authentic Louisiana adventure for the whole family

The Honey Island Swamp, on the northeast edge of St. Tammany Parish, is pristine and lovely, especially in the spring when cypress trees go from dormant to brilliant green. Everything surges to life, the flora and especially the fauna; there are deer and boar, raccoons and nutria, and an abundance of bird life circling, soaring and building nests.

You'll see turtles, too, sometimes several of them, soaking in sunshine from the tops of old logs. And yes, there are gators. Watching warily from muddy banks, cruising by your tour boat with curiosity. There are several tour companies, like Dr. Wagner's and Cajun Encounters, which take visitors into the Honey Island Swamp. Reservations are a good idea. Most tours run about two hours and are given on easy-to-board boats launching from Slidell.

The Honey Island Swamp encompasses almost 70,000 acres, more than half of which is preserved for posterity as part of the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area. Keep an eye out for pileated woodpeckers and great blue herons stalking a bullfrog dinner. And for the Honey Island Swamp Monster, a Bigfoot-like creature some say has called the marsh home for centuries. 🦋

Go to LouisianaNorthshore.com/swamp for tours and operators.



NORTHSHORE ADVENTURE

EXPERIENCES

Get in touch with your inner adventurer on the Northshore, where you can go boating, hiking, biking, fishing and paddling all year long. Rent gear or take a charter, but get out there and play!



Sunset paddle on the lake in Madisonville



Canoe and Trail Adventures
kayaking on Cane Bayou

Get on the Water

Our serene waterways await the curious and adventurous

With scenic rivers, bayous and Lake Pontchartrain to explore, the Northshore is a great spot for paddlers. There are a number of easily accessible launch spots in the area. You can bring your own gear but you don't have to. Kayaks, canoes and paddleboards are available for rent at several locations for paddling at your own pace, and there are tour operators happy to take you out for a day on the water.

Canoe and Trail Adventures' guides are Louisiana Master Naturalist certified, and are great for pointing out the wildlife along the way and sharing knowledge about the waterways and its flora and fauna. The locally-owned business is operated by a father and son team and has been providing outdoor experiences for locals and visitors alike since 1972. Passionate about the outdoors and consciously eco-friendly, Canoe and Trail Adventures' guides are as comfortable on the water as they are on land (and they're also happy to lead birding expeditions and naturalist hikes).

Moonlight & Twilight guided paddling tours with Canoe and Trail Adventures on the beautiful Cane Bayou in Mandeville are unforgettable. The three-hour excursion takes you on a leisurely paddle down

meandering Cane Bayou, arriving at the mouth of the bayou where it empties into Lake Pontchartrain—just in time to catch a glorious pink, purple or gold sunset. Cane Bayou has plenty of wildlife spotting opportunities. Paddlers regularly spy osprey and great blue herons soaring over cypress trees and alligators in the reeds near the banks. After the sun sets, excitement is palpable as the symphony of night sounds envelop paddlers on their journey back to the launch site. Bring a flashlight to illuminate the flora and fauna along the way.

Canoe and Trail Adventures also offers rentals of paddleboards, family canoes and kayaks launching from the popular Chimes Restaurant on the scenic Bogue Falaya River. There are many sandbars to splash around on, making the river paddles perfect for fun-filled family adventures. After you work up an appetite paddling, slurp some fresh Gulf oysters shucked onsite, or enjoy Louisiana specialties like alligator, crawfish étouffée, BBQ shrimp or red beans and rice. The kids will love playing on the boardwalks and meeting The Chimes' resident goats. Their parents will appreciate the extensive collection of beer on tap. Visit Canoeandtrailadventures.com to book a tour or for rentals.

FIVE SPOTS

... to make a splash

FONTAINEBLEAU STATE PARK

This 2,800-acre park not only has a splash pad, it also has a sandy beach with shallow water to wade in, too.

62883 LA-1089, MANDEVILLE

COQUILLE SPORTS COMPLEX

This large splash pad area and playground has lots of shady space for watchful parents.

13505 LA-1085, COVINGTON

MANDEVILLE TRAILHEAD

Children love to splash at the Tammany Trace Trailhead in Mandeville and climb the steps to the lookout.

675 LAFITTE STREET, MANDEVILLE

ABITA SPRINGS PARK

The Abita Brew Pub, the Abita River and a playground are nearby this popular splash site.

22044 MAIN STREET, ABITA SPRINGS

LAKESHORE DRIVE

Playgrounds, a swing set and a sandy beach are part of this splash pad complex.

1545 LAKESHORE DRIVE, MANDEVILLE

HONEY ISLAND SWAMP

Two local outfitters offer guided tours of Honey Island Swamp by kayak. Cajun Encounters has been offering tours of the pristine ecosystem via 22-passenger flat-bottomed boat since 1997, and their experienced local guides recently began taking more adventurous visitors on a two-hour kayak paddle down Eagle Slough. Expect utter serenity and a stunning and verdant area of the swamp filled with old-growth cypress trees on your paddle, as well as fun-loving guides with insight into the area's ecosystem and the wildlife that can be found there. Call Cajun Encounters at (504) 834-1770 to book. Transportation from New Orleans is available.

Jessica's Honey Island Kayak Tours is a family-owned business with outdoor enthusiasts as guides and offers customizable and intimate tours for small groups—they're even pet-friendly. The paddle will take you through the heart of the swamp where you'll learn about the diverse ecosystem and wildlife that inhabit the island. HONEYISLANDKAYAKTOURS.COM 🦋



Rolling on the Tchefuncte River

Get to Know Captain Mike Jones of Louisiana Tours and Adventures BY BETH D'ADDONO

For Master Captain Mike Jones, taking guests on tours of the Tchefuncte River isn't just his business, it's personal. The 28-year-old local grew up on the river, exploring the bayous and hidden coves that provide a habitat for a rich trove of wildlife, including egrets and blue herons, pelicans and of course, alligators. A keen student of both nature and history, Jones feeds his thirst for local lore with ongoing research that informs his tours, all adding up to a rich Louisiana experience for both locals and visitors from out of town. Guests who are fans of the film *Where the Crawdads Sing* feel a tug of the familiar as they tour with Captain Mike. Much of the Reese Witherspoon-produced movie was filmed in Madisonville on the scenic waterway that connects Lake Pontchartrain to the piney woods of St. Tammany Parish.

Jones has been doing these river tours for seven years and recently partnered with Fairview Riverside State Park in Madisonville, where the two, three and five-hour tours commence.

The park, with secure parking options close to the dock, sits on the Tchefuncte River, a name traced back to the Choctaw word for a native species of chestnut tree. As he makes those kinds of connections—to the land and waterways, to history and to First Nations—Jones brings a sense of place sharply into focus.

SHARING A LOVE OF THE NORTHSORE

As far back as Jones remembers, the Tchefuncte was his natural playground, a place to go tubing, swing out on a rope over the water, loiter on sandbars and fish for sac-au-lait and bass. Initially, the idea of working and making a living on the river wasn't his plan. On track to work in the oil and gas industry, Jones' first job was working as a landman, interacting with property owners about land rights. It didn't take long for him to realize that the confines of an office and the lack of control over his own destiny was not for him.

An entrepreneur with vision and pluck, Jones started his com-



pany Louisiana Tours and Adventures in 2015, investing in a comfortable 24-foot-long Bentley pontoon boat and jumping with both feet into the waterway he loved. Finally, he felt at home and able to share his passion for this South Louisiana waterway with his guests. Jones has grown his business to hosting close to 1,300 passengers annually, a mix of locals and visitors who sign up for his intimate, personalized tours.

A CUSTOM EXPERIENCE

Jones has no doubt that the Tchefuncte offers an experience for everyone. After getting a sense of what his guests are interested in, he tailors the tour to their interests.


For history lovers, he can dig a little deeper into the region's past, passing by the Jahncke Shipyard where wooden cargo ships were built during World War I, pointing out the remains of shipwrecks along the way. At the entrance to Lake Pontchartrain, he'll point out the historic Tchefuncte River Lighthouse, a working beacon dating back to 1837.

Nature lovers are treated to views of ospreys, great blue herons, snowy egrets and alligators gliding silently through the water. Jones can identify the flora as well, pointing out moss draped cypress trees, palmettos and swamp azaleas.

Some guests really just want to relax and have fun. The spacious pontoon boat can host a party, with its Bluetooth sound system—playlists welcome—168-quart ice chest for food and drinks, swim ladder, water toys and retractable Bimini top to let in the sunshine. Whether it's swimming and picnicking at Brady Island or supporting local restaurants like the Madisonville Country Club and The Anchor at Tchefuncte's, guests get a taste of local flavor.

GOING BUMP IN THE NIGHT

Always on the quest for a new kind of guest experience, Jones designed a popular night tour this year. The boat leaves out of Madisonville around sunset, traveling down the bayou as the swamp comes alive. Captain Mike takes his guests into the river's backwaters, using a commercial spotlight to illuminate the bayou, showing alligators when they are most actively hunting at night. Guests can shine the spotlight to spy glowing gator eyes, the sound of bullfrogs and cicadas providing a natural refrain.

Taking small groups of locals and visitors from around the region, the U.S. and the world is Captain Mike Jones' passion. His calling is to share the Tchefuncte's beauty and mystery with others, a constant in his life that like the river, will continue to flow. LOUISIANATOURSANDADVENTURES.COM 



Charter fish with a pro

Catch your limit and a good time

FISHING'S A FAVORITE PASTIME ON THE Northshore and a fun activity year-round for families who can throw out a line from Lake Road's marshy banks in Lacombe, Sunset Pier in Mandeville, or from the St. Tammany Parish Fishing Pier in Slidell. But there's action for serious anglers, too, thanks to the many charter captains working out of Northshore marinas.

With easy access to the Lake Pontchartrain, Lake Borgne, the Rigolets Pass and the Biloxi Marsh, charters are a great way to spend the day on the water. Area captains know where to go for trophy trout, record redfish, largemouth bass and more. Some, like Mike Gallo of Angling Adventures of Louisiana and Dudley Vandendorre, famous for his Deadly Dudley lures, make regular appearances on Louisiana fishing shows, sharing expertise and tips on where fish are biting.

BASIC INFO: Charters often start just before daylight and end early afternoon. Most charters can carry five or six people. You don't need to know the difference between spinnerbait and jigging spoons; most welcome anglers of all skill levels and all ages, too. You'll need to make a reservation. You won't have to clean your fish; your captain does that for you. Out of state licenses can be obtained online at WLF.LOUISIANA.GOV. 🦋



Fontainebleau State Park

Two Waterfront State Parks

Fun at Fontainebleau and Fairview-Riverside

Fontainebleau State Park in Mandeville is Louisiana's most visited, and for good reason. The picturesque 2800-acre park is bordered by Cane Bayou and Bayou Castine and draped along the northern shores of Lake Pontchartrain. The Tammany Trace, a 31-mile hike-and-bike trail, ribbons through the park and a fishing pier, sandy beach and splash pad are among the amenities visitors enjoy. Deer grazing at dusk under the ancient alley of the oaks is a sight to behold, and a bathhouse with showers makes beach-going easy. There are all sorts of overnight options—a lodge, glamping, group camping, primitive camping, improved sites with water, electricity, grills and picnic tables. RVers appreciate the convenient dump station. Don't forget your fishing license for catching fresh and salt water fish in the ponds, bayous and brackish water of Lake Pontchartrain.

Just two miles east of Madisonville, Fairview-Riverside State Park sprawls over 99 acres along the banks of the scenic Tchefuncte River. Campers and day visitors can bring their own boats

and launch from the campground. Pontoon tours of the river with Louisiana Tours and Adventures launch directly from the park and are a great way to explore the area and Madisonville's history, as well as see the 1837 lighthouse at sunset. There's a designated area for tent camping with bathrooms nearby, as well as 81 RV sites with electricity and water hook-ups, nearby bathrooms and showers (as well as the necessary dump station). Trolling for crabs, fishing, picnicking and wandering the park's nature trail are leisurely ways to spend the day. 🦋

Fontainebleau State Park

62883 HWY. 1089, MANDEVILLE
(985) 624-4443

LASTATEPARKS.COM/PARKS-PRESERVES/FONTAINEBLEAU-STATE-PARK

Fairview-Riverside State Park

119 FAIRVIEW DRIVE, MADISONVILLE
(985) 845-3318

LASTATEPARKS.COM/PARKS-PRESERVES/FAIRVIEW-RIVERSIDE-STATE-PARK

NORTHSHORE CONNECT

LOOKING BACK

Northshore residents live among the ghosts of St. Tammany's past. Experience history at our Louisiana State Parks, myriad museums or on a self-guided walking tour of Old Mandeville.

Maritime Museum Louisiana

St. Tammany Timeline

Originally home to Choctaw and other tribes, the Parish has been shaped by various cultures and events

1600 B.C.

The Choctaw inhabit the northern shore of Lake Pontchartrain, which they called Ok-wa'ta (meaning "wide water").

1699

Explorers Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d'Iberville and Jean Batiste LeMoyne Sieur de Bienville check out the Northshore.

1803

The U.S. acquires 828,000 square miles of territory in the Louisiana Purchase, which does not include St. Tammany Parish.

1810

The Republic of West Florida is formed to revolt against Spanish authority in the area — and lasts 74 days.

1812

Louisiana admitted to the Union in April. West Florida resists but becomes part of the state five months later.

1830

Bernard de Marigny builds sugar plantation (now Fontainebleau State Park), then founds Mandeville a few miles west.

1887

Tourism boom begins in Abita Springs when a doctor declares the area's local springs have restorative qualities.

1956

First span of the 24-mile Pontchartrain Causeway is built, creating the longest continuous bridge over water in the world.



Maritime Museum Louisiana

It's hard not to imagine the nearby Tchefuncte River filled with schooners, war ships and steamers when you visit the Maritime Museum Louisiana in picturesque Madisonville. The museum tells the story of the Northshore's seaport roots through well-done exhibits, artifacts (a Civil War submarine!), video and events like wooden boat building classes and the Wooden Boat Festival held each October.

The museum is custodian of the nearby Tchefuncte River Lighthouse, built in 1837 and still standing but put at risk by storms and shoreline erosion. You can't tour the lighthouse but you can visit the lightkeeper's cottage, moved from the mouth of the Tchefuncte where it long stood next to the lighthouse.

133 MABEL DRIVE, MADISONVILLE 🦋

HJ Smith & Sons

YOU CAN'T MISS THE OBVIOUSLY HISTORIC WOODEN structure on Covington's Columbia Street, with its wagon out front, vintage swing and Bonanza vibe. Opened in 1876, HJ Smith & Sons General Store and Museum is still operated by the Smith family who've stocked it to the rafters with everything from camo to garden gnomes, and the precise nail needed for a home project. You'll find everything you didn't know you needed here, and more.

Floors creak and history hangs in the air, especially when a small ramp leads you into the original general store, preserved by the family in all its mercantile glory as a free museum. It's fun to see the artifacts of Covington's past including a cast iron casket, 20-foot cypress dugout and old-timey cases crammed with detergent-box china, farm tools and dry goods. Introduce yourself to Larry Smith while you're here; he's a wealth of information and is proud to share his family's history and Covington's heritage. 308 N. COLUMBIA ST., COVINGTON 🦋





Visit the Slidell Museum

Built in 1907, the historic building that housed Slidell Town Hall until 1954 and the jail until 1963 is an unassuming building that belies the extensive collection of artifacts inside. The museum displays two floors of photos and memorabilia from Slidell's history as well as the South's role in the Civil War. Visitors learn about Slidell's history as a railroad town, as well as some of its illustrious original European inhabitants, including Fritz Salmen, whose empire included brickmaking, lumber, shipbuilding, farming and more. Also featured in the museum is Baron Frederick Erlanger, who named the town and railroad station

after his father-in-law, John Slidell (who, incidentally, never set foot in the city that bears his name). Guests to the museum get a kick out of going inside the jail cells (claustrophobics, beware) and taking an Instagram-worthy photo behind bars. On display is a register of every person booked into the jail, and longtime residents find folly as well as relatives on the list. On the second floor is the Mardi Gras Museum, with more than 800 items of Carnival memorabilia including glittering Krewe costumes and throws. Call (985) 646-4380 before you go. Normal hours are Wednesday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2020 FIRST ST., SLIDELL 🦋

Bayou Lacombe Museum

History and culture meet in the newly reopened Bayou Lacombe Museum. Housed in the oldest existing wooden schoolhouse in St. Tammany Parish, the building was constructed in 1912 and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Museum exhibits explore 18th, 19th and 20th century life in Lacombe. Some feature the Choctaw and their beloved Father Adrien Rouquette, a Catholic missionary they would come to call "Chahta-Ima," meaning "like a Choctaw." Others showcase rural life, as well as the primary industries that built the town (lumber,

brickmaking, crabbing, boat-building and shipping goods to New Orleans). The little museum's Hall of Heroes is dedicated to residents who served in the military.

The museum is open Thursday-Sunday, so stop by. Beginning in April, every third Sunday at 2 p.m., the Bayou Lacombe Museum is presenting a guest speaker series, "History on the Bayou." Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for seniors and free for children under 12 accompanied by an adult, as well as for school groups. 🦋

Visit Bayoulacombemuseum.com for hours and guest speaker information.

FIVE SPOTS

... to visit history

FONTAINEBLEAU SUGAR MILL RUINS

Dating to 1829, the old brick ruins are all that is left of the sugar plantation and mill built by Bernard de Marigny de Mandeville, founder of the town that would take his name. Located on the lovely grounds of Fontainebleau State Park. 62883 HIGHWAY 1089, MANDEVILLE

ABITA SPRINGS TRAILHEAD MUSEUM

This special space right on the Tammany Trace is known for history exhibits, arts and culture festivals, and its location in the heart of town. You can't miss it.

22044 MAIN STREET,
ABITA SPRINGS

OLD MANDEVILLE

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

Start at the Mandeville Trailhead, located at 675 Lafitte Street (the old rail depot) and look for the QR (Quick Response) Code. Scan it with your mobile smart device to bring history to life. From there, visit 40+ points of interest around Mandeville.

CITYOFMANDEVILLE.COM

WALKER PERCY TRAIL

The noted author and Covington resident moved to the Northshore in 1948. It was here that he wrote his most famous books, including the National Book Award-winning *The Moviegoer*.

LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM/WALKERPERCY

THE LANG HOUSE

Tour the Jean Baptiste Lang House, one of the few "Anglo-Creole" structures still standing in Old Mandeville and hear the history of Mandeville as a resort community for antebellum New Orleans.

605 CARROLL ST., MANDEVILLE
OLDMANDEVILLEHISTORICASSOCIATION.ORG

NO SPLURGE

TREAT YOURSELF

Some of us just need to shop.
You'll find plenty of shopping
ops on the Northshore,
so let's go!

Shopping at Fremaux
Town Center in Slidell



Columbia Street
Mercantile

Get your retail therapy

Boutique and antique shops are sprinkled all around the Northshore. You'll see them on your way to the large shopping plazas, so be sure to stop and browse and meet a friendly local shopkeeper. You'll find all sorts of treasures you'll want to take home. Looking for something out of the ordinary?

ST. TAMMANY SOUVENIRS

ABITA BREWERY

166 BARBEE ROAD, ABITA SPRINGS
ABITA.COM

ABITA MYSTERY HOUSE

22275 LA-36, ABITA SPRINGS
ABITAMYSTERYHOUSE.COM

AQUISTAPACE'S COVINGTON SUPERMARKET

125 E 21ST AVE., COVINGTON
ACQUISTAPACE.COM

AQUISTAPACE'S WINE & CHEESE

631 N CAUSEWAY BLVD, MANDEVILLE
ACQUISTAPACE.COM

ACQUISTAPACE'S WINE WAREHOUSE

191 GAUSE BLVD WEST, SLIDELL
ACQUISTAPACE.COM

BLACK FLOWER APPAREL

203 N NEW HAMPSHIRE STREET, COVINGTON
BLACKFLOWERAPPAREL.NET

Consider monk-made soaps and candles from the St. Joseph Abbey Gift Shop; Abita Beer cookbooks, growlers, t-shirts and other merch from the Abita Brewery Gift Shop; and for whimsical sterling silver jewelry featuring all things Louisiana, Jose Balli has the perfect memento. 🦩

CREATE DAT

311 ROBERT STREET, SLIDELL
CREATEDAT.NET

DAS SCHULERHAUS

611 GIROD STREET, MANDEVILLE
(985) 727-7778

FLEURTY GIRL

2885 HWY 190 STE C, MANDEVILLE
FLEURTYGIRL.NET

JOSE BALLI

3424 US-190, MANDEVILLE
JOSEBALLI.COM

ST. JOSEPH ABBEY GIFT STORE

75376 RIVER ROAD, COVINGTON
(985) 867-2227
SAINTJOSEPHABBEY.COM/GIFT-SHOP

THREE DIVAS & A SUGARDADDY

2306 FRONT STREET #5, SLIDELL
(985) 288-5550

FIVE SPOTS

... to shop

FREMAUX TOWN CENTER, SLIDELL

Tenants at this sprawling center include Best Buy, Dillards, Dick's Sporting Goods, TJ Maxx and numerous restaurants. Located off the Fremaux exit. (If you're looking for antiques, head to Olde Towne Slidell, a few minutes away.)

DOWNTOWN COVINGTON

The town's historic district is a walkable feast for shopaholics, with quaint streets, cottage boutiques, restaurants, galleries and so much more. Check out Lee Lane, Rutland and Columbia streets for sure. You'll find antiques, art, jewelry, gift items, clothing and free parking, too.

PREMIER SHOPPING CENTERS, MANDEVILLE

The Gap, Old Navy, Banana Republic and Loft are among the shops at this large center on Highway 190.

RIVER CHASE SHOPPING CENTER, COVINGTON

Located at I-12 and Highway 21, the center beckons with Best Buy, Marshall's, Target, Lane Bryant and more. (Restaurants and a multiplex movie theater, too.)

PINNACLE NORD DU LAC, COVINGTON

Find Kohl's, Kirklands and Academy here, as well as Escapology, which runs live escape games for small or larger groups.



Stone Creek Club & Spa

Spa Daze

When you're on vacation, sometimes it's best to power-down and relax

Nestled along the northern shores of Lake Pontchartrain and a respite for any soul, the Northshore boasts relaxing spas and salons inviting you to take time for yourself. New Orleanians have considered the Northshore an escape since the 1880s, when steamboats brought them across the lake to stay in resorts and the deep-spring water was believed to cure ills and calm nerves. Whatever you're craving for self-care, rest easy ... you're here.

If you're looking for a peaceful solo massage, couples treatment, mother/daughter spa day or girlfriends' getaway to tranquility, the Louisiana Northshore has options for you. Book a weekend retreat, shop galore and unwind at these spas in Covington, Slidell and Mandeville.

EARTHSAVERS RELAXATION SPA

Earthsavers' Mandeville location offers manicures and pedicures, facials, massage, spa treatments, healing treatments, hair removal and makeup services. This day spa is also a retail store carrying locally made relaxation products. EARTHSAVERSONLINE.COM

LOTUS SPA AT CHRISTWOOD

Lotus Spa at Christwood Community Center is a full-service day spa offering therapeutic massage, facials, waxing, tinting, manicures and pedicures, and has a full-service hair salon. They offer standard Swedish relaxing massage, lymphatic drainage massage to help reduce inflammation and foot reflexology to alleviate stress. All visits by appointment. Age 18+ only. LOTUSSPACHRISTWOOD.COM

NIRVANA MASSAGE THERAPY

Nirvana Massage Therapy's team of massage therapists provides consistent, tailored high-quality therapeutic massage. Combining technique and experience, their goal is to relieve pain, release stress, improve performance and restore balance to mind and body. NIRVANABALANCE.COM

OASIS DAY SPA

Oasis Day Spa's services include manicures and pedicures, facials and makeup service, spa treatments, massage therapy and waxing and tinting. Full day spa packages, seasonal packages, clinical treatments are available, as well as some services just for men.

THEOASISDAYSPA.NET

SPOIL ME ROTT'N DAY SPA FOR KIDS

A luxury day spa that caters exclusively to kids, services include manicures and pedicures, tropical sugar scrub massage, bubbly bath salt soaks, cucumber melon facials, glitter tattoos and other add-ons. Group packages available. It's a spa party venue for adults, too, for paint parties and more. SPOILMEROTTN.COM

STONE CREEK CLUB & SPA

At Stone Creek, enjoy a luxurious spa service along with the spacious weight and cardio areas, three group fitness studios, a Pilates reformer studio, adult-only locker rooms, 15 tournament quality tennis courts, salt-water lap pool and resort pool, basketball gym, childcare and full-service cafe. Guests are welcome at the Stone Creek Spa. STONECREEKCLUBANDSPA.COM

WOODHOUSE DAY SPA SLIDELL

Slidell's full service, luxury day spa was voted the #1 spa in Louisiana by the Travel Channel. Choose from a variety of advanced body and skin care treatments. Spa services include manicures and pedicures, waxing and sleep treatments. Massage services include Swedish, deep tissue or 90-minute volcanic hot stone massage. Full day packages available. [@WOODHOUSE_SLIDELL](https://www.instagram.com/woodhouse_slidell)

To start your reboot, visit a full list of options at LOUISIANANORTHSHORE.COM and type "spa" in the search. 🦋

COMING SOON

Southern Hotel is expanding and adding a new building to be named the Summer House, which will feature a full-service spa. Visit SOUTHERNHOTEL.COM for the latest updates.



Poolside at
The Southern Hotel



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