

ITINERARIES

Riding with Robicheaux

New York Times bestselling author James Lee Burke spent his summers growing up in New Iberia. His literary detective Dave Robicheaux visits many locations in Iberia Parish— from Main Street to the plantations of Jeanerette and coast of Cypremort Point. The Books Along the Teche Literary Festival celebrates New Iberia, the hometown of Burke's famous character Dave Robicheaux, each spring. Visitors can take a self-guided tour to some of Dave's haunts and locations mentioned in Burke's novels. Visit IberiaTravel.com/James-Lee-Burke to download a map or pick one up at Iberia Parish Welcome Center.



Simon & Schuster

DAY ONE

MORNING

Breakfast at Victor's Cafeteria

Home of the "Breakfast Club" and Dave Robicheaux's favorite lunch hangout, Victor's Cafeteria is a popular New Iberia Main Street cafeteria-style eatery where Dave is known to take prisoners to lunch from time to time. Also home to Dave's bait shop, Victor's is mentioned in *Burning Angel* and *Sunset Limited*. Breakfast is served daily starting at 6 a.m.



Margaret Melancon

Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes & Main Street

Dave's office was located in City Hall on Bayou Teche with a "grand view of a religious grotto and wonderful oak trees next to the city library." The Iberia Parish Library and Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes make up a public park with a shrine dedicated to veterans from New Iberia. Dave calls East Main Street in New Iberia "probably one of the most beautiful streets in the Old South or perhaps the whole country." This award-winning historic district gets several mentions in Burke's books, and other spots of note include Episcopal Church of the Epiphany at 303 W. Main St., where Dave attends AA meetings, P.R. Burke's Office at 223 E. Main St., operated by Burke's cousin and mentioned in *The Glass Rainbow*, and the Bayou Teche Museum with a permanent exhibit on the author.

Guided and self-guided tours of Bayou Teche Museum are available Thurs.-Sat. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

AFTERNOON

Lunch at Brenda's Diner

Featured in *The New York Times*, this soul food restaurant along Pershing St. is one of the eateries Burke talks about in his novels. Brenda Placide and her staff serve meals "straight from mama's kitchen"—including red beans and rice and crawfish etouffee—Mon. through Fri.

St. Peter's, Mt. Carmel & Bayou Teche

Follow Pershing to French Street and St. Peter's Catholic Church Cemetery. Dave's wife Annie was buried in his family plot at this cemetery in *Heaven's Prisoners*. St. Peter's Church was built in 1836 on land donated by the Frederick Duperier family. Church Alley, now a pocket park between Main Street and St. Peter Street, was left open to fulfill the donation's provision that the church be visible from the Duperier home (where Mt. Carmel is today). In the same novel, Dave and Annie brought Alafair to Mt. Carmel after rescuing her from a plane crash in the Gulf of Mexico. Once the first hospital in New Iberia, the 1850s building became a Catholic girls school in 1872 and was closed in 1988. Stroll to Mt. Carmel and take in the view by walking the boardwalk and crossing over the bayou from P.J. Allain Waterfront Park and Sculptural Garden.

EVENING

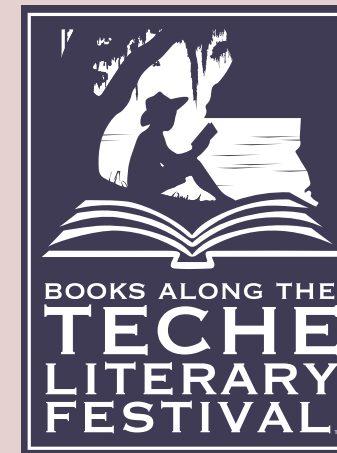
Teche Motel

Perhaps one of New Iberia's oldest locations to stay the night, this motel's motif and character fit into the world of Dave Robicheaux like no other. Dave loved the neon sign that is still on the property today. Cleve also rents a room to live here in the novel *Creole Belle*, and cottage No. 4 was used in the 2009 film version of *In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead*.

Call 337-369-3756 for rates and availability. A complete list of hotels and bed and breakfasts can be found at IberiaTravel.com.

Dinner at Jane's Seafood or Little River Inn

Experience Iberia Parish's bounty of local seafood at one of these local favorites. Crawfish, crab, oysters and seafood dinners are served with a Chinese flair at Jane's family restaurant Tues. through Sun. Little River Inn has been a family tradition since 1932, serving Cajun seafood, steaks and oysters overlooking the famous Bernard F. Trappey Oak, Mon. through Sat.



NEW IBERIA | LOUISIANA
DAVE ROBICHEAUX'S HOMETOWN

Books Along The Teche Literary Festival - April 6-8, 2018

Presented by the Iberia Preservation Alliance, this festival celebrates James Lee Burke's Detective Dave Robicheaux's hometown with bus and boat tours, film viewings, storytelling and publishing workshops, a UL Lafayette Symposium, crime fiction panel discussion, bourée lessons, a 5K run and celebration of great southern writers like Ernest Gaines. For more information, visit TecheFest.com.



Raw oysters are a popular choice at Little River Inn.

ITINERARIES



"In the Electric Mist" featured Albania Plantation.

DAY TWO

MORNING

Breakfast: Cooper Street

Start the day with a 20-minute drive out to Jeanerette, and you'll be rewarded with small-batch coffee, biscuits and pastries at this cozy cafe open Wed. through Sun.

Morning: Jeanerette Plantations & Cypremort Point

Three historic plantation homes located in Jeanerette have been used in Burke's work. Both private homes, Alice and Bayside plantations can be viewed from Hwy. 87 and are designated with historical markers. Alice is a 200-plus-year-old home, while Bayside was built in 1850 by Francis DuBose Richardson, a friend of Edgar Allan Poe. In *The Glass Rainbow*, Dave calls Bayside "one [antebellum home] that is arguably among the most beautiful in the Deep South."

Albania Plantation on LA 182 E. was used in the film "In the Electric Mist" as a stand-in for Bayside. This home was built between 1837 and 1842 on 6,500 acres and is currently the private home of artist Hunt Slonem.

Continue your drive west to Cypremort Point, a sportsman's paradise with a manmade beach where families can experience the outdoors like Dave Robicheaux, who ritually took his daughter Alafair to a fictional open-air restaurant at the Point. Mentioned in *A Morning for Flamingos*, this coastal spot is where many area families spend their summers fishing, boating and swimming.

"We crossed the drawbridge over Bayou Teche. The water was brown and high, the dragonflies flicked over the lily pads in the sunlight. Close along the banks I could see the armored backs of gars turning in the shade of the cypress trees."

- *Heaven's Prisoners*

AFTERNOON

Lunch at Bon Creole Seafood

Head back to New Iberia and visit one of Dave's local eateries. Burke's detective could often be found here chowing down on a shrimp po'boy. Gumbo, seafood baskets and plate lunches are also served seven days a week.

Afternoon: Iberia Parish Courthouse, Burke House & Shadows-on-the-Teche

More of Dave's haunts can be found around New Iberia, starting at the Iberia Parish Courthouse at 300 S. Iberia St.—the location for his office in earlier books. Dave also shared this office with Special Agent Rosie Gomez in *In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead*. Burke's grandfather, Walter Burke, lived in the Burke House on Main Street. As a youth, Burke visited his grandparents, played along the banks of the Bayou Teche and fixed in his mind the romantic image of New Iberia that pervades his books.

"I drove down East Main under the arched live oaks that spanned the street, toward the Shadows, a red brick and white-columned antebellum home built in 1831 on Bayou Teche," Burke writes in *Cadillac Jukebox*. Built for a wealthy sugar planter, the Shadows-on-the-Teche was home to four generations before becoming a National Trust Historic Site. Guided tours of the home and gardens are available.

The Shadows is open year-round, with guided tours offered Mon.-Sat. from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.; tours begin 15 minutes past the hour with the first tour at 10:15 a.m. and the last tour at 3:15 p.m.

Final Stop: Books Along the Teche

The local bookstore where Burke fans can find signed first editions of the Robicheaux novels as well as other modern bestsellers is located just down from the Shadows on Main Street. Books Along the Teche's owners, Howard and Lorraine Kingston, are the resident experts on anything and everything James Lee Burke.

IberiaTravel.com/James-Lee-Burke

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