



Rainy Day Itinerary

With 214 days of sunshine per year, the weather in Iberia Parish is generally bright and sunny, but thunderstorms are known to pop up in this subtropical climate. Lined with museums, shops, restaurants, bars and theaters, Historic Downtown New Iberia has plenty of indoor activities for those rainy days, no matter the season. Just be sure to bring an umbrella to help keep you dry getting from place to place.

MORNING

Breakfast at Victor's Cafeteria

109 W. Main St., New Iberia

Fans of the author James Lee Burke will want to start their day at Victor's Cafeteria on Main Street, where his famous character Dave Robicheaux is known to dine. Bacon, eggs, grits, waffles, pancakes, French toast, biscuits and coffee are on the menu from 6-10 a.m. daily. Your next stop at Bayou Teche Museum doesn't open until 10, so we suggest sleeping in and getting a late start. It's a lazy day after all.

Bayou Teche Museum

131 E. Main St., New Iberia

Step into this museum to explore one of the country's most colorful, bountiful and historically significant areas. Fun for all ages, interactive exhibits showcase the spicy blend of cultures, artists, industries and lore that sprang from the land surrounding the snakelike curves of the peaceful South Louisiana bayou.



Guided and self-guided tours of the museum are available Thurs.-Sat. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Shopping along Main Street

Take out the umbrella and stroll under the balconies of downtown New Iberia, stopping along the way to browse boutiques, antique shops and art galleries. Books Along the Teche has signed copies of James Lee Burke novels, along with other regional books and rare early editions, while Taunt Na Na's Flea Market has more than 50 vendors selling souvenirs and collectibles.



AFTERNOON

Lunch at Bojangles

101 E. Main St., New Iberia

Main Street's sushi and oyster bar serves a Japanese-inspired daily lunch special that includes miso soup and salad. Sushi, fried rice and hibachi are also among the options, and the regular lunch menu features fresh salads, fried shrimp and tempura. While the food has a modern twist, Bojangles' location is historic with exposed brick and a wooden planked ceiling inside.

Conrad Rice Mill

307 Ann St., New Iberia

Just off St. Peter Street, this is the oldest rice mill in America and a major tourist attraction in the area. Tours start in the KONRIKO Company Store with a presentation on Cajun culture and continue through the rice mill and gift shop, where guests can sample products and take home some Wild Pecan Brown Rice or KONRIKO Creole Seasoning.

Tours of Conrad Rice Mill are at 10 and 11 a.m. and 1, 2 and 3 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

HOPE Spa or Yoga Class

Pamper yourself a bit with a visit to HOPE Spa (439 E. St. Peter St.), which promises a peaceful and relaxing experience. From facials to massage, body polish, foot soaks, makeup application and more, HOPE uses Aveda products and Young Living Oils in their chemical-free services available Tues.-Sat. Iberia Parish Recreation offers yoga classes at various locations in the parish. Check iberiarecreation.com for dates and times.



EVENING

Go To The Theater

126 Iberia St., New Iberia

Iberia Performing Arts League puts on at least five plays and an annual musical to bring Broadway to the bayou. Shows are performed August through May on the Essanee Theater stage, dating to 1937 and featuring an Art Deco style. IPAL also offers Teche Classic Movies in the theater monthly and a youth theater production in the summer.

Wine at Carabella's

109 Iberia St., New Iberia

End the evening with a glass of wine or cocktail at Carabella's Bar across the street from the theater. They often have live music on weekends and whiskey specials and karaoke on Wednesdays.



DINNER AT LITTLE RIVER INN

833 E. Main St.

The Hurst family has been serving great seafood for more than 85 years and through three generations. At Little River Inn in New Iberia, they focus on fresh fish and seafood, along with steaks and Cajun staples like gumbo and crawfish bisque.