

ITINERARIES

War History Itinerary

DAY ONE

MORNING

Breakfast at Cooper Street

214 Cooper St., Jeanerette

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 Wednesday through Sunday.

Beau-Pre Marker

7605 E. Old Spanish Trail (Hwy. 182), Jeanerette

On Hwy. 182 traveling north to Jeanerette, .04 miles south of LSU Bridge Road, is a marker for a historic home that escaped destruction during the Civil War. Originally known as Pine Grove and later called Beau-Pre, this plantation home was bought in 1830 by John W. Jeanerette, the first postmaster between New Iberia and Charenton, and for whom Jeanerette is named. The home is no longer standing, and the land is now a cemetery.

In his book *Teche*, historian Shane Bernard notes that although the Teche country was located far from the major Civil War battlefields of Bull Run, Shiloh and Gettysburg, the region still “experienced its share of wartime turmoil.” After Union troops captured the surrounding areas of New Orleans, Baton Rouge and present-day Morgan City, they “swept up Bayou Teche,” Bernard writes. “Both Union and Rebel forces regarded the Teche as vital to their respective war efforts.”

The Teche country experienced three Union campaigns and two occupations, the first in the spring of 1863. Bernard cites Union General-in-Chief Henry W. Halleck as saying the “Teche country was to the war in Louisiana what the Shenandoah Valley was to the war in Virginia. It was a sort of back alley, parallel to the main street, in which the heavy fighting must go on.”

When the war ended in the spring of 1865, the “Teche lay choked with burned bridges and sunken vessels.” Mansions of the sugar planting families had been looted, and acts of arson resulted in more charred ruins. Bernard writes that “Years would pass before the Teche country recovered, and in some ways it never did.”

Remnants of war can still be found in the Teche country's museums, historical landmarks and memorials, with several historical markers designating important sites.

Jeanerette Museum

500 Main St., Jeanerette

Honoring Jeanerette's soldiers and all those from Iberia Parish killed in action during World War I, II, Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan wars, Jeanerette Museum features local exhibits and history. A memorial wall out front is inscribed with the names of Iberia Parish soldiers, and those from the city have a designated marker by their names. Visitors can find war artifacts—including helmets, uniforms, ration books, patches and more—in the military room inside the museum. A shipping container that covered the coffin of the first Jeanerette soldier killed in action during World War II is also on display, along with photos of the German prison camp located in Jeanerette during World War II. Military research materials and more photos round out the collection.

The museum is open Tues.-Fri. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; the last tour begins at 3 p.m.



LUNCH AT RESTAURANT 1868

Hwy. 329, Avery Island

Avery Island's on-site restaurant has a casual, cafeteria style and serves Tabasco-infused Cajun favorites like Avery Island Red Beans & Sausage, Pepper Barrel Crawfish Etouffee, a Boudin Po Boy and Crawfish Corn Maque Choux daily. Dine outside on the wraparound porch with a view of the Tabasco factory and country store.

AFTERNOON

Avery Island

Hwy. 329, Avery Island

Visitors to the Tabasco Museum on Avery Island will learn about John Avery McIlhenny, who resigned from McIlhenny Company in 1898 to join Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders cavalry regiment. His uniform and saddle are on display, along with an autographed copy of Roosevelt's memoir of the Cuban campaign in which the Rough Riders fought. John's son, Walter S. McIlhenny, who served in the U.S. National Guard and U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, was a co-founder, trustee and president emeritus of the Marine Military Academy. Also on display in the museum are Walter's Model 1903 Springfield rifle, the bullet he was shot with at Guadalcanal and his USMCR boots and campaign cover (hat).

In addition, the Tabasco Museum contains a military section that includes items sent to McIlhenny Company by U.S. military personnel during wartime—as tokens of thanks for sending them Tabasco products. There is even a bottle of Tabasco sauce salvaged from a U.S. mine sweeper that hit a mine and sank in the Mediterranean during World War II.

The Tabasco Museum is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily.

EVENING

Drive Down Admiral Doyle

1404 Hangar Dr., New Iberia

The longest—and perhaps the most famous—street in New Iberia is Admiral Doyle Drive, named for Vice Admiral James Henry Doyle, a member of the U.S. Navy who fought in World War II and the Korean War. Doyle came to New Iberia after the Korean War to work at the former Naval Air Station located on the present-day site of Acadiana Regional Airport. Admiral Doyle Drive's 15-mile route stretches from the airport to St. Peter Street in Jeanerette.

Dinner at Jane's Seafood

1201 Jane St., New Iberia

Owner Khai Tran and his wife Ngoan came to the United States from Vietnam in 1982. Khai worked as a fisherman until opening Jane's Seafood & Chinese Restaurant in 1991. His youngest son, Vu, has since taken over the restaurant, a local favorite for fresh seafood. Crawfish, crab, oysters and seafood dinners as well as Chinese dishes are served Tuesday through Sunday from 4-10 p.m.

Stay at a Bed & Breakfast

A range of bed and breakfast lodging in New Iberia is available at IberiaTravel.com.



DAY TWO

MORNING

Breakfast at Cajun Glaze Donuts

724 E. Admiral Doyle Dr., New Iberia

Donuts, kolaches, biscuits and breakfast sandwiches make up the menu at this local spot. They open at 4 a.m. and stay open until noon, so you can either sleep in or get an early start. The coffee is hot and you have to try a Swamp Fritter.

City Hall War Memorial & Grotto

445 E. Main St., New Iberia

Located next to Iberia Parish Library and City Hall, the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes was originally erected in 1941 in memory of the pioneer families of New Iberia and was rededicated in 1967 to the Veterans of Foreign Wars from New Iberia, who died in the service of their country.

Veterans Memorial Building

500 Marie St., New Iberia

Just across the bayou in New Iberia City Park off of Marie Street, the Veterans Memorial Building was built on property purchased by the Iberia Parish Police Jury in 1948 during the period of patriotism following World War II. Designed by noted Louisiana architect A. Hays Town and constructed in 1949, the building was first known as the Iberia Parish War Memorial. It originally housed offices for various veterans' organizations and now hosts social events and meetings for veterans' groups. Featuring a trilingual historic marker erected in 2012 by the Iberia Cultural Resources Association, the building honors all veterans who have served our country, and inside is a collection of memorabilia from several wars. A Navy jet located outside is from the Korean War era.



Shadows-on-the-Teche

317 E. Main St., New Iberia

"To the Commander in Chief, or any Officer – We appeal to you as a gentleman to protect us against the outrages & annoyances of your men. We are alone having no gentlemen with us. Please send us a guard. Respectfully, Mrs. Moore" - November, 1863

Builder of the the Shadows with her late husband David, Mary Weeks Moore was left to protect the house during the Civil War. Her second husband John joined the refugees to avoid capture, and the rest of her family fled to northwestern Louisiana. Abandoned, she soon learned that Gen. Franklin had chosen the Shadows as headquarters from which to direct the Federals' defense of New Iberia. He took over the outbuildings and the ground floor of the main house while Mary, her sister-in-law Hannah Jane Conrad and slave house-servants Louisa, Charity and Sidney occupied the family quarters on the second and third floors. Perhaps due to Mary's bravery or her frequent prayer, the Shadows was the only home in New Iberia that was relatively undamaged after the Civil War. Mary died in December of 1863 and was buried in her gardens. The war ended shortly after.

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.



Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

303 W. Main St., New Iberia

Legend has it that during the Civil War, this church on West Main Street in New Iberia was used as a stable for horses and as a hospital, guard house and barracks for Union soldiers encamped in the area. Union Gen. Nathaniel Banks and his troops occupied the church and mutilated the windows, burned some of the original pews and wrote graffiti on the walls. Some say the teeth marks from the horses can still be seen on the remaining pews original to the church. After the war, the church interior was restored and a stained glass window behind the altar added as a focal point. According to oral history, many women of the church donated their gold jewelry to collect money for the commissioning of the window. When the amount collected was not enough, Louis Comfort Tiffany of the Tiffany Glass Company graciously donated the window. *New York Times* bestselling author James Lee Burke's Det. Dave Robicheaux is a Vietnam veteran who also attends AA meetings at the church in the book series.

AFTERNOON

Bayou Teche Museum & Teche Shipwreck

131 E. Main St., New Iberia

When President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in January 1863, he excluded from its jurisdiction (along with certain other places in the South) the parishes of St. Martin and St. Mary—parts of which would one day become Iberia Parish. The Bayou Teche Museum tells more of the Civil War story in the Teche region through permanent exhibits.

The museum also has an exhibit dedicated to the *Teche* Shipwreck, New Iberia's nationally registered wreck that occurred just down the street. The wreckage of *Teche* lies buried below the surface and is marked with a kiosk and historical marker (109 N. Weeks St., New Iberia) along the Bayou Teche Boardwalk. The steamship, built in 1860, was



LUNCH AT BON CREOLE

1409 E. St. Peter St., New Iberia

Serving fresh seafood since 1982, Bon Creole is the place for an overstuffed po boy, shrimp basket or daily plate lunch. The restaurant is open for lunch seven days a week, with plate lunches served Mon.-Fri.

constructed for commercial use, and the Confederate Army converted the ship to a cottonclad warship to command the White River during the Civil War. After capture in Arkansas by the Union Army, *Sugg*, the ship's name at the time, was re-commissioned as *U.S.S. Tensas* and converted to an armored gunboat. She was renamed *Teche* in 1865 and used by the Attakapas Mail Transportation Company for trade between Morgan City and New Iberia, docking at the foot of the Weeks Street Landing. In 1868 after a wreck, the vessel was pulled against the shore for salvage. In 2004, *Teche* was discovered sunken at the present location and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.

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



AFTERNOON (Continued)

Acadiana Regional Airport

1404 Hangar Dr., New Iberia

Originally constructed as New Iberia Naval Air Station, from 1960-1965, the present-day airport was operated by the U.S. Navy as an advanced flight training base with Training Squadron Twenty Seven (VT-27) as the principal assigned unit. The base was closed in 1965 when VT-27 was reassigned to NAS Corpus Christi, Texas, and control of the airfield reverted to the local civilian government. Acadiana Regional Airport still serves as a helicopter flight training location for several companies and is also used on a regular basis by NASA, the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy as a cross country flight training destination. Two bunkers are located on the property, and in 2017, the airport's first passenger terminal named for Brigadier Gen. Wiltz P. Segura opened in honor of New Iberia's native general and decorated fighter pilot who served three decades in the military.

Camp Pratt at Spanish Lake

117 Spanish Lake Rd., New Iberia

From 1862-1863, Camp Pratt was the official Confederate camp of conscription and instruction for South Louisiana. At one time as many as 3,000 conscripts were stationed here. A small compound for Union prisoners of war were also located at the camp. A historical marker is located on West Old Spanish Trail (Hwy. 182) one mile from Spanish Lake Road on the right when traveling north.

Spanish Lake, which was named for the Spanish settlers who took up residence along its banks, also has a wartime connection to hometown author James Lee Burke. Det. Dave Robicheaux and Elrod Sykes, an alcoholic actor, see ghosts of Confederate soldiers and General John Hood Bell at the lake during a filming of a movie in his novel *In the Electric Mist with Confederate Dead*.

EVENING

Dinner at Pelicans on the Bayou


5 Jefferson St., New Iberia

Contemplate wartime on the bayou as you dine either outside or inside Pelicans. Fresh seafood, po boys, award-winning gumbo, salads and burgers make up the menu, served on the banks of Bayou Teche Mon. through Sat.

IberiaTravel.com 

STARS & STRIPES - A MUSICAL CELEBRATION

June 30, 2019
3-4:30 p.m.
Sugar Cane Festival Building
In an effort to honor Iberia Parish war veterans, a special free concert of patriotic and WWII-era music by the Acadiana Symphony Orchestra performing with the Iberia Community Concert Band is held each summer.



IBERIA PARISH

Known for our rich culture, delicious food, unique history, economic growth potential and southern charm, Iberia Parish is the gem of the South and the perfect place to build your business and family.

View the beauty of our coast, shop our local boutiques and businesses, enjoy a taste of our food and hospitality and attend our festivals.

Visit Iberia Parish today and experience the hottest, sweetest, oiliest, and saltiest place on Earth.

Parish President M. Larry Richard
300 Iberia St. Suite 400. New Iberia, LA 70560
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