Louisiana Travel Directory: Destination City: Bayou Lafourche

Bayou Lafourche, LA

Bayou Lafourche Area Convention & Visitors Bureau

Bayou Lafourche, LA

In "Bayou Country," things that most people rarely get to enjoy are a part of our everyday, normal life. Come experience a world filled with bayous, great food and outdoor pastimes that live and breathe culture. Come visit us "Down on the Bayou."

The history of Bayou Lafourche can best be told by recounting the history of the French, Spanish, English and German speaking families who settled its banks in the early 1700's. In less than 200 years, their descendants, joined by Acadians expelled from Nova Scotia, merged those cultures, customs and heritages into a society known the world over as "Cajun Country."

Bayou Lafourche, LA

Early settlers explored a descending fork of the Mississippi River that mapmakers had named "LaFourche Des Chetimachas." This distributary bayou, its name soon shortened to "LaFourche" served the early settlers well as a means of communication, a method of transportation, and a source of fresh water. The bayou was even used as a point of reference when giving directions. Today's residents frequently refer to a given location as "up the bayou," "down the bayou," or "across the bayou."

Bayou Lafourche, LA

It was not long before a close knit community of farmers and fishermen had extended the length of the bayou village settlement for many miles, building side by side. Control of the frequent bayou overflows played an important part in the early residents' settlement pattern. Laws held each landowner responsible for the construction and maintenance of a bayou levee for his own protection and that of his neighbors.

Land grants had a width of less than 600 feet but with tremendous depth. Many farmers and plantations in the early 1700-1800's had a depth of at least a mile and a half. A pattern developed consisting of a narrow bayou front farm with a long "ribbon" of land streaming behind it. Each had access to the bayou, and each had less levee to maintain.

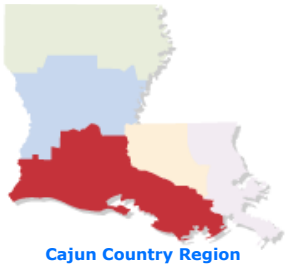
Historians, taking note of the unique pattern of housing development, with one residence after another lined up fronting the for about 50 miles from Thibodaux to Golden Meadow, began referring to it as "the longest street in the world." It is said that a baseball thrown from "front yard to front yard" could be started in Thibodaux and be in Golden Meadow an hour later.

Isolation resulted when Lafourche's residents took advantage of having the bayou for a front door and the swamp as their back yard. The bayou contained an unlimited food supply that could be eaten or bartered. The swamps and marshland contained abundant animal life which could be hunted for food or for their pelts.

Contact Information:

Bayou Lafourche Area Convention & Visitors Bureau
P. O. Box 340
Raceland, LA 70394
1.877.537.5800

Email: **info@visitlafourche.com**
Website: **www.visitlafourche.com**



Cajun Country Region

© 2010 TourLouisiana.com - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
TourLouisiana.com and all related content is owned by AJR Media Group unless otherwise noted.
Content and images displayed on this site may not be used without express, written permission by AJR Media Group.