



Activities at Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites

Information brought to you by the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism – Office of State Parks

Disc Golf

18-basket courses at Bogue Chitto, Lake Bistineau, Lake Claiborne, Lake D'Arbonne and Sam Houston Jones State Parks. Free with park entrance; loaner discs might be available, guests should call ahead to confirm.

Tennis

Four courts at Lake D'Arbonne State Park; call the park at 318-368-2086 to reserve.

Nature Trails (hiking, biking)

For the serious trail/mountain biking enthusiast, we usually recommend the bike trails at Chicot State Park near Ville Platte, which has 22 miles of trails (the largest trail in our system, as the trails at the other sites run about 2-5 miles in length). Lake Claiborne State Park and Lake D'Arbonne State Park, in the northern part of the state, also have bike trails available; their hilly terrain would also be enjoyed by serious mountain bikers. Fontainebleau and Fairview-Riverside State Parks, located on the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain, are close to the Tammany Trace, a 31-mile "rails to trails" conversion that goes from Slidell to Abita Springs.

Nature Trails (equestrian)

Bogue Chitto State Park (985-839-5707) - A 14-mile trail winds through some of the most interesting topography of southern Louisiana, with gullies and bluffs hosting a variety of wildlife to encounter. The trailhead is located near Fricke's Cave, just inside the park. Bogue Chitto State Park is located off Hwy. 25, about 5 miles south of Franklinton.

Chemin-A-Haut State Park (318-283-0812) - Located 10 miles north of Bastrop in Morehouse Parish, this park has an eight-mile equestrian trail loop. Beginning at the campground where riders can overnight with their horses, the trail goes through a mixed pine and hardwood forest, bottomland cypress flats and along Chemin-A-Haut creek.

Hodges Gardens State Park (318-586-4020) - The White Horse and South Lake Trails, totaling about 15 miles, are open to the public while the rest of the trails are closed due to their proximity to the Foundation timber farming areas. The corral at the former landing strip area is still available, and overnight unimproved campsites are available. Hodges Gardens State Park is located about 25 miles north of Leesville. *Note: Entrance fee at Hodges Gardens State Park is \$4/person.

Lake Bistineau State Park (318-745-3503) - On the recently-opened equestrian trail at Lake Bistineau State Park, a variety of wildlife can be seen as the trail winds 6.5 miles through pine and hard wood forests and along Bistineau Lake. The relatively flat terrain allows for a relaxed, comfortable ride. Stalls, a paddock

and corral are provided free of charge to accommodate horses overnight. Lake Bistineau State Park is located 40 minutes southeast of Shreveport in Webster Parish.

Swimming (pools open Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend)

Wave pool at Bayou Segnette State Park (Westwego); open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays, \$10/adult, \$8/child (under 4 ft.) wave pool fee.

Swimming pool at Lake D'Arbonne State Park (Farmerville); open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesdays through Sundays. Free with park entrance fee.

Beach swimming areas are open year-round at Cypremort Point, Fontainebleau, Grand Isle, Jimmie Davis Lake Bruin, Lake Claiborne, Poverty Point Reservoir and South Toledo Bend State Parks. Swimming is allowed from sunrise to sunset.

Water Playgrounds

Louisiana State Parks' water playgrounds operate Tuesdays through Sundays, April 1 through October 31, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; the facilities will be closed on Mondays for cleaning and maintenance. Contact the park directly, to confirm specific operating schedules. Water playgrounds are located at Bogue Chitto, Chicot, Fontainebleau, Lake Bruin, Lake Fausse Pointe, Palmetto Island, Poverty Point Reservoir, St. Bernard, and Tickfaw State Parks.

Fishing

All visitors to Louisiana State Parks sites must abide by the policies established by the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries. Fishing licenses are required for persons age 16 and older; more information is available at WLF's website: www.wlf.Louisiana.gov.

Nature and Historic Programs (LaStateParks.com >> News & Activities >> Calendar of Events)

*Programs of note (free with park entrance):

Sundays, Fontainebleau State Park, Mandeville – *Primitive Woodworking*, 1-3 p.m. This demonstration features the use of a froe for splitting wood and the use of a shaving horse, draw knives, pocket knives, hand saws and other basic 19th century tools to make wooden objects. Pieces such as spoons, paddles, canes, hiking sticks and tool handles can be observed as they are being made. For more information call 888.677.3668 toll free or 624.4443 locally. **(monthly event)**

Fridays and Saturdays, Port Hudson State Historic Site, Zachary – *Musket Demonstration*, 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Watch demonstrations of various Civil War Small Arm weapons and hear about the experiences of the riflemen from either the Union or Confederate armies. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. For more information call 888.677.3400 toll free or 654.3775 locally.

June 3 and 17, Fort Jesup State Historic Site, Many – *Wednesday is for Spinning*, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Every first and third Wednesday of the month, Fort Jesup State Historic Site staff will provide spinning demonstrations while discussing how fabric was created and used during colonial days. For more information call 888.677.5378 toll free or 256.4117 locally. **(monthly event)**

June 13, Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site, St. Martinville – *Conversations around the Coffee Pot*, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. This program provides Cajun French speakers an opportunity to gather and converse monthly to reconnect with their culture, as well as provide visitors with firsthand experiences of

traditional Acadian activities. For more information call 888.677.2900 toll free or 394.3754 locally.
(monthly event)

June 13, Lake Bistineau State Park, Doyline – Dutch Oven Cooking Class, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The park will host the Bayou Pots Dutch oven cooking group for a cooking demonstration and sampling. Participants can learn about this increasingly-popular form of cooking, the actual Dutch oven pots and much more. For more information call 888.677.2478 toll free or 745.3503 locally.

June 20, Locust Grove State Historic Site, St. Francisville – *The Dead of Locust Grove Cemetery*, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Learn about the inhabitants of this historic cemetery through figures like Sarah Knox Taylor, the daughter of President Zachary Taylor and short-lived wife of Jefferson Davis, and Eleazar Ripley...Major General and Hero of the War of 1812. There also will be a short class on gravestone rendering. Both the program and site on this day are free of charge. For more information call Audubon State Historic Site at 888.677.2838 toll free or 635.3739 locally.

June 27, Chicot State Park, Ville Platte – *Guided Canoe Tour*, 9 – 11 a.m. Join the site naturalist for a guided canoe tour of Chicot Lake. Canoeing experience is recommended, and preregistration is required. For more information call 888.677.6100 toll free or 363.6289 locally. **(monthly event)**

June 27, Audubon State Historic Site, St. Francisville – *In the Footsteps of Audubon*, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Follow the paths where John James Audubon once walked, in 1821. The program includes a video, presentation on the prints created by Audubon during his time at Oakley Plantation, and a house and grounds tour. For more information call 888.677.2838 toll free or 635.3739 locally.

June 27, Forts Randolph and Buhlow State Historic Site, Pineville – *Dulcimer Jam*, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enjoy Civil War-era music, played by a local dulcimer group. Come early for a chance to visit with the group and learn about the instrument. For more information call 888.677.7437 toll free or 484.2390 locally.

August 1, Louisiana State Arboretum, Ville Platte - *Junior Ranger Short Programs*, 10 a.m. Interested on getting started on becoming a Junior Ranger? There will be two 30-minute programs covering nature topics about the Arboretum so future Junior Rangers can complete their program requirements in one weekend. This will also include time to work Junior Ranger workbooks and time to swear in new Junior Rangers who have completed all the steps of the program. For more information call 888.677.6100 toll free or 337.363.6289 locally.

August 8, Centenary State Historic Site, Jackson - *1800s Children's Toys and Games*, 10 a.m. Learn about the history of, then participate in, the many different toys and games played by children in the 1800s. Included will be the Cup and Ball, Bilbo-Catchers, Jacob's Ladder, Chess and Checkers, Graces, Hoop and Stick, Croquet, Horseshoes, and many, many more. For more information call 888.677.2364 toll free or 225.634.7925 locally.

August 20, Poverty Point World Heritage Site, Epps - *Tool Demonstration*, 1 - 4 p.m. Come and watch the rangers demonstrate the tools used by early inhabitants to build, hunt and create other articles used in their culture. For more information call 888.926.5492 toll free or 318.926.5492 locally.