

Just beyond the outskirts of New Orleans, nestled in the lush natural beauty of Southeast Louisiana, lies the historic, cultural oasis of St. Bernard Parish. Meandering through the parish, the San Bernardo Scenic Byway follows the Mississippi River. This 25-mile stretch transports you back more than two hundred years.

The St. Bernard community was established under the Spanish government in 1780. The Isleños people, natives of the Spanish Canary Islands of the coast of Africa, flocked to the area joining the French settlers who arrived in the 1720's. The natural abundance of wildlife in the marshland was ideal for hunting, fishing and trapping – the mainstay of those early settlers. Italian, German and Irish pioneers later arrived with natives of various other countries. The resulting cultural diversity remains an influential part of the St. Bernard community.

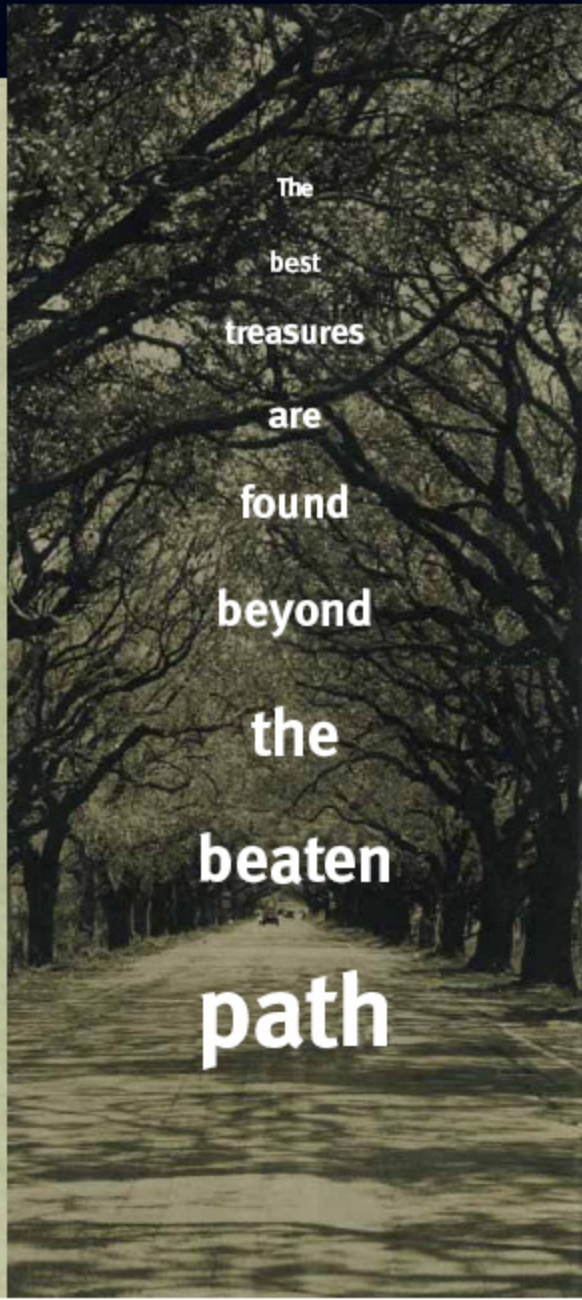


The impact of these rich cultures is evident in the activities and heritage of this warm Southern community. Each year the parish holds several festivals celebrating the food, language, crafts and cultural traditions of its unique heritage.

The San Bernardo Scenic Byway is Louisiana's only State Scenic Byway in the New Orleans metro area. The Byway takes visitors past 19th century military barracks and the site of the Battle of New Orleans.

Ancient oaks and fragrant magnolias guide visitors past plantation homes and cemeteries where the past and the present come together.

The Byway tour ends at the world-class fishing sites of Hopedale, Delacroix, Yscloskey and Shell Beach. Watch as the boats bring in the catch of the day or try out your own rod and reel.



The
best
treasures
are
found
beyond
the
beaten
path

To Scenic Byway (LA 46)

From the east:
Take I-10 to Exit 246A (I-510 south / LA-47 south)
and follow Paris Road to LA-46

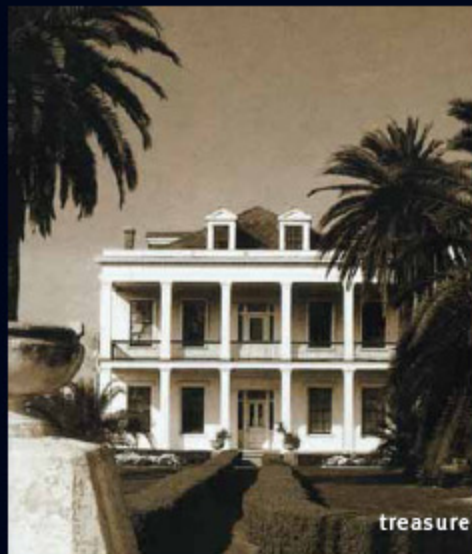
From downtown New Orleans:
Take LA-46 south (North Rampart Street in downtown
New Orleans) all the way into St. Bernard Parish.

*Please note that North Rampart Street becomes
St. Claude Avenue before LA-46 leaves New Orleans.*

SAN BERNARDO



SCENIC BYWAY



ST. BERNARD PARISH
TOURIST COMMISSION

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OLD ARABI HISTORIC DISTRICT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A. St. Bernard Voice

The building dates back to 1870 but does not stand on its original plot. In 1912 the structure was moved from the riverfront to its present location, 234 MeHe Avenue, to allow for levee construction. It has been the home of the parish's weekly journal since 1890. The journal was started, and continues to be run, by the Roy family.



B. The Old Jail

This was St. Bernard's first prison and was completed in 1911. It is located near the river on Hernandez Street, a block before Friscoville Avenue. The bars embedded inside its walls run from the ceiling to the floor. The walls, as well as the bars, are original.

C. LeBeau Plantation

This once magnificent home was completed in 1854 for Francois LeBeau. Although it is in a state of disrepair, this is one of the last great plantation homes in the metro area. It can be seen from behind the Disabled American Veterans hall on Friscoville Avenue. (private)



D. The Mausum Center

St. Bernard's first high school was housed in this building on Friscoville Avenue at Royal Street. The first graduating class of Joseph Mausum High School was only nine students back in 1932. Prior to becoming the area's community center, the building was the home of Arabi Elementary.



Recognized by the National register of Historic Sites, the Old Arabi Historic District was subdivided in the 1860s and flourished through 1900.



E. Cavaroc House & Domino Sugar Refinery

James Dankin used the distinctive Greek Revival style of architecture for the home of Paul Darcantel. Charles Pierre Cavaroc, the owner from 1860-1886, gave the house its present name. An extraordinary alley of date palms stretches toward the Mississippi River from the front of the house. The house also contains a magnificent rosewood staircase.

Seventy-five acres of land for the refinery, as well as the house, were purchased in 1905. At the time, the plant was known as the Chalmette Refinery of the American Sugar Refining Company. May 17, 1909 marked the first day raw sugar was melted at this facility. Today the plant is owned by America's biggest sugar producer, Domino Sugar. As one of the largest employers in the area, the refinery plays a vital role in the workings of the community. (private)



JANUARY

Battle of New Orleans

FEBRUARY

Mardi Gras Parades

MARCH

Los Isleños Festival

Louisiana Crawfish Festival

Irish Italian Isleños Parade

APRIL

Art in April Festival

MAY

Tomato Festival

Chalmette Boat Blessing

JUNE

Kids Fishing Rodeo

JULY

4th of July Celebration

AUGUST

Blessing of the Fleet

OCTOBER

Italian Festival

Violet Oyster Festival

Trick or Trick

NOVEMBER

All Saints Day Mass and Ceremony

DECEMBER

Isleños Christmas

Christmas Tour of Homes

Community Christmas Concert

Santa on the Bayou



1. Jackson Barracks & Military Museum

This has been the site of Louisiana's National Guard since the 19th century. The antebellum homes date back to the 1830s and are surrounded by the original French drainage system. The museum across the street houses artillery from various wars. The barracks' library is an excellent resource for genealogists. Famous military personalities such as P.G.T. Beauregard, Andrew Jackson, Robert E. Lee and Jubilee Early were trained at this site.



2. Old Arabi Historic District

The next five sites are recognized by the National Register of Historic Sites. This area was subdivided in the 1860s and flourished through 1900. (See map enlargement)
A. St. Bernard Voice
B. The Old Jail
C. LeBeau Plantation
D. The Maumus Center
E. Cavaroc House & Domino Sugar Refinery

3. Chalmette National Historic Park

The battle of New Orleans has been called the greatest American land victory of the War of 1812. Fought on the Chalmette Plantation on January 8, 1815, the American forces were led by Major General Andrew Jackson. His motley troops were half the size of the British army and were made up of many men who had little or no formal military training. Though the odds were seemingly not in their favor, Jackson led his men to a victory, preserving the United States' claim to the Louisiana purchase. Jackson became a national hero and later president of the United States. The park includes monuments and exhibits of this remarkable battle.

4. The Obelisk

The Obelisk was designed by Newton Richards. Although Jackson has selected the site in 1844, the monument was not completed until 1911. Jackson's rampart has been recreated behind the historic Rodriguez Canal. Color paintings along the road illustrate the fighting at critical points on the ground.



5. The Malus-Beauregard House

The Beauregard House was built on this site after the war in 1832. This antebellum home was originally named for Rene Beauregard, the son of General P.G.T. Beauregard.

6. Chalmette National Cemetery

Established by a congressional act in 1864, Chalmette National Cemetery is a significant stop for any visitor to the park. Veterans of the Battle of New Orleans and subsequent wars have been laid to rest here.

7. The New Courthouse

Inspired by a drawing of the Grand Temple of Mesopotamia, construction on the courthouse began in 1936 and was finished in 1939. It houses the largest courtroom in the state of Louisiana, holding about 500 people. This historically modern building has a unique limestone construction in the Art Deco style. The two-story wood paneling has impressive, stylized wall carvings, including one of blind justice extending her scale. A stained glass window depicting the Battle of New Orleans was recently installed in the courtroom during renovations. From the bold terrazzo floor to the four magnificent chandeliers of white glass and metal that adorn the foyer, this is a most impressive building.



8. De La Ronde Ruins

De La Ronde Plantation was built around 1805 and was owned by Colonel Pierre Denis de la Ronde of the Louisiana militia. When the British invaded, they commandeered the home to be used as temporary headquarters and a makeshift hospital. The remaining ruins are the only surviving structure from the battle. In 1821 Colonel de la Ronde planted the alley of oaks extending from the house to the Mississippi River.

9. Pecan Grove Plantation

This plantation is a rare example of the French Colonial style of architecture. The precise date of this home is unknown, but there are records tracing residency by the Pierre Adoiphe Ducros family to as early as 1832. The original features of the house have been maintained: French doors, a hip roof, beaded ceilings and the double fireplace sharing one stack. (private)

10. Dockville Oaks

Beautiful live oak trees canopy this portion of the San Bernardo Scenic Byway, Highway 46. Dr. Louis A. Meraux planted these trees in the 1930s. A pecan grove borders the north side of the oak alley.

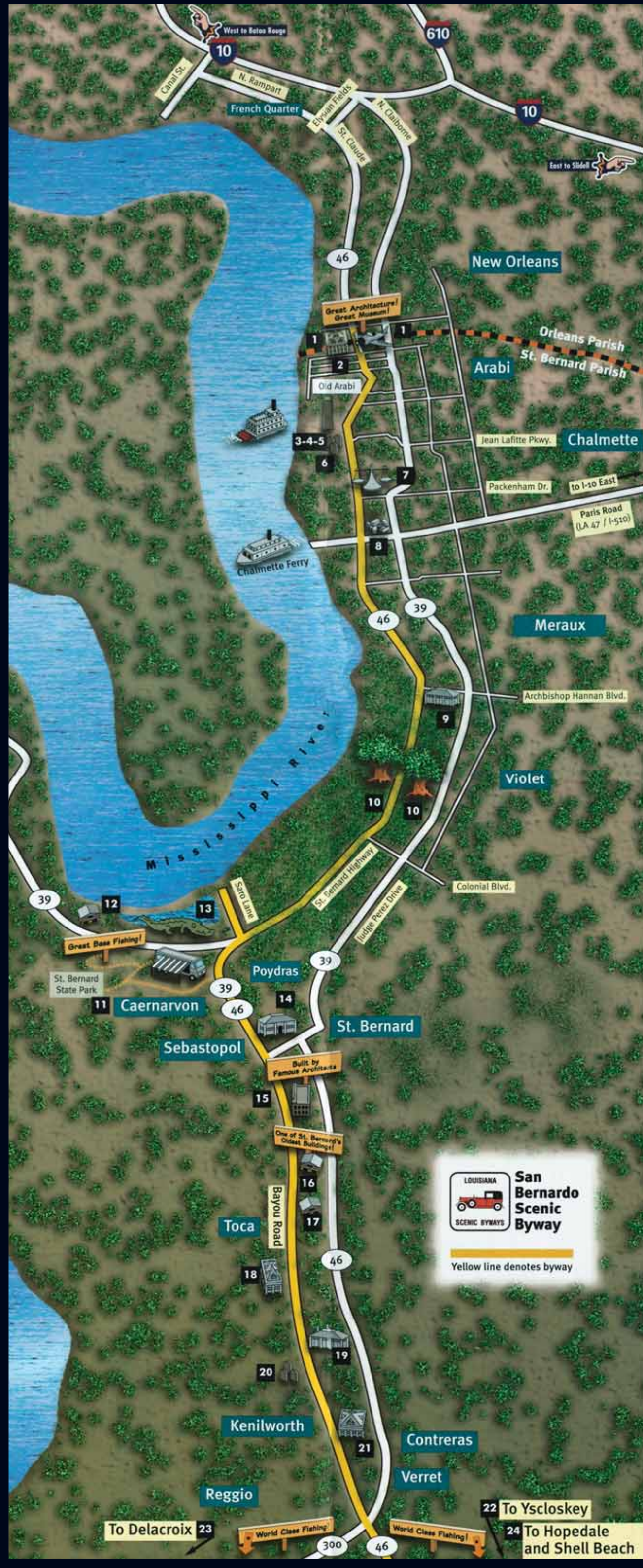
11. St. Bernard State Park

358 acres for relaxing and enjoying nature on the Mississippi River await every visitor to the park. There are 51 campsites with water and electricity. The park is equipped with restrooms, hot and cold showers and dump stations. Tents and RVs are welcome. One of the "cooler" attractions is the Olympic-sized swimming pool with an adjacent bathhouse. The lagoon is a great spot for bass fishing.



12. Canary Islands Descendants Museum

The museum is housed in a 100 year-old structure donated by the Lopez Family. Canary Islands Descendants Association (CIDA) offers a variety of educational resources including a genealogy room. Classes are offered in Tenerife lace making as well as other native crafts. This century-old structure has been transformed into a living history museum, keeping alive history of an Island people, the Isleños.



LOUISIANA San Bernardo Scenic Byway
SCENIC BYWAYS
Yellow line denotes byway

13. 1922 Crevasse

Behind Saro Lane in Poydras there is a deep, tree-lined lake. This is known as the Crevasse. In 1922 the Mississippi River exploded through the levee and flooded much of the surrounding area. Today the Crevasse is a placid and picturesque addition to St. Bernard and home to abundant Louisiana wildlife, including a large bass population.



14. Sebastopol Plantation

Sebastopol dates back to 1830. It was built by Pierre Marin and Evariste Wagan. It became the temporary site of the St. Bernard Branch of Citizens Bank of Louisiana in 1836. Ignatius Szymanski bestowed the home with its name to honor the impressive Russian defeat of the Crimean War. (private)

15. The Old Courthouse
Now serving as Beauregard Middle School, the Old Courthouse dates back to 1915 and served as the parish courthouse until 1939. It was designed by the Freret Brothers architectural firm and built for an astonishing \$64,893. The land on which it sits was donated to the parish by Vincente Nunez.



16. Ducros Museum

Dating back to around the 1800s this structure is one of the earliest in St. Bernard Parish. It is an authentic Creole cottage donated to the parish in 1971 by the Ducros family. Conditions of the donation require that it be used as a museum and library.

17. Los Isleños Museum & Village

The museum is housed in an 1850s building donated by the Molero family. In 1980 it was transformed into the Isleños Museum. It is dedicated to celebrating and preserving the culture of the Canary Islanders who came to the area around the 1780s calling themselves Isleños. Crafts, such as duck carving, lace making and basket weaving are displayed at the museum. The village is an expanding showcase of the lifestyles of the Isleños and other early settlers.



18. Creedmoor Plantation

In the 1830s Laurent Millaudon consolidated his land into a large sugar plantation, Creedmoor Plantation. The home, a fine example of Greek Revival architecture, was built by Richard Richardson in 1842. The original millwork and ceiling medallions remain today, as well as the overseer's house, stable and privy. (private)

19. Magnolia Plantation
Louisiana's sugar industry can trace some of its roots to this site. Antonio Mendez, the original owner, along with Manuel Solis, refined sugar cultivation techniques here. This plantation has been in existence since 1794. Abundant, fragrant magnolia trees are scattered around the yard of the home. (private)



20. St. Bernard Cemetery & Church

As one of the oldest burial grounds in the state, the St. Bernard Cemetery has served as a final resting-place since 1787. The interment of Joseph Messa is the earliest in the cemetery. P.G.T. Beauregard's family plots are here as well. The first church built on this site was constructed in 1785 making St. Bernard the first Catholic parish below New Orleans. The present church dates back to 1915.



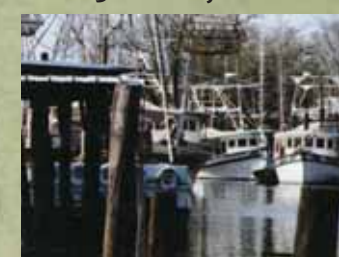
21. Kenilworth Plantation

One of the most photographed plantation homes in the area is Kenilworth. The French and Spanish influences are evident in the design of the home. Its construction was completed in 1818. One of the most extraordinary features of the house is the way in which it was physically assembled—no nails were used. The house is held together by mortising and wooden pegs. (private)



22 & 23 Yscloskey & Delacroix

These Isleños villages date back to the early 19th century—when the residents began trapping, fishing and hunting as a way of life. Experience and enjoy the authentic Isleños traditions as you watch the boats come in at the end of the day. The community's main industry today is commercial fishing. This area has also been ranked as one of the world-class sport fishing destinations in the country.



24. Shell Beach, Proctor's Landing and Hopedale

Shell Beach and Hopedale are other hot spots for sport fishing in eastern St. Bernard. The community of Proctor's Landing has expanded in the last several years and now includes a number of lavish fishing camps.