

Welcome to the BAYOU TECHE



THE TECHE PROJECT

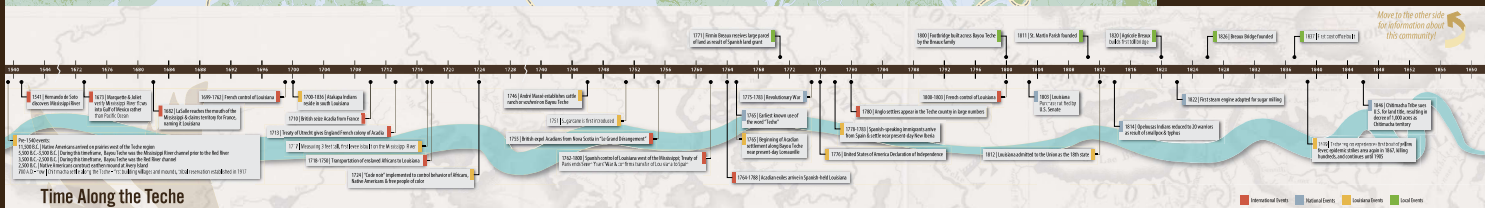
Welcome to the Bayou Teche National Water and Paddle Trail—one of the country's exemplary waterways. The Atchafalaya River and the Bayou Teche are Louisiana's most historic and culturally significant waterways.

- The Bayou Teche was the course of the Mississippi River here 4,000 to 5,000 years ago.
- The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana inhabited the Teche, relied on its resources, and contributed the Legend of the Bayou Teche.
- Creoles of Louisiana are of black, white or mixed European, African, and Native American ancestry and they embrace their history and culture.
- The exiled Acadians—the Cajuns' ancestors—found refuge, settled, and thrived here.
- America's economy, from the late 1700s through today, has relied on the natural and human resources of the Atchafalaya and the Teche.
- Creole, Cajun French, and Native American languages are spoken here.
- The music indigenous to the Atchafalaya and Teche region includes Cajun, Creole, zydeco, and swamp pop. Tune to local radio stations and visit nearby dance halls to experience the homegrown music.
- Locals harvest frogs, crawfish, and catfish for personal consumption.

The best way to enjoy and appreciate the bayou's wonder is to paddle, drive, or bike its scenic, natural, historic, and cultural corridor. Be sure to visit all 16 Trail Towns along the Teche and the Atchafalaya.

Then, you will see and feel why the U.S. Secretary of the Interior recognized this corridor as a National Water Trail in 2015.

The volunteer-based stewardship and management organization for the bayou—The TECHÉ Project—welcomes you!



Time Along the Teche

Sponsor of this Information Kiosk

St. Martin Parish Government in support of its citizens and visitors.



This Information Kiosk honors the legacy of Dona Degaur Richard who devoted her life to conserving, advancing and celebrating the cultural resources of St. Martin Parish.

Long-term stewardship and routine maintenance of this area, the canoe/kayak floating dock, and this kiosk provided by the City of Breaux Bridge and The TECHÉ Project.



Federal and State Partners and Sponsors

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, a program of the National Park Service and the Office of Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser.



EMBRACE It

Celebrate the Bayou Teche with personal experiences, programs, and events for the benefit of local economies, residents, and travelers from around the world.

EXPLORE It

Enhance all travelers' experiences with facilities that ease access and navigation of the Teche corridor so that using the bayou further sustains recreation, economic, and cultural values.

ENRICH It

Improve the overall ecological health and water quality of the Bayou Teche corridor through individual actions, partnerships, and community-based initiatives.

For more information, visit www.techeproject.org

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Tips for your Time on the Teche

- Some boat landings are in rural areas and are not lit at night.
- Tell someone about your paddling plans before you leave.
- Always use personal flotation devices.
- Carry water, sunscreen, and bug repellent.
- Check weather conditions and be aware of current water conditions and flood stages.
- You may encounter crawfish traps, crab traps, float lines, and jig/lug lines in the water. Respect and leave untouched this private property.
- If you see a motorboat, remember to turn your bow into the wake.
- Park in designated areas making sure not to block driveways or interfere with traffic.
- Be courteous to other bayou users.
- Follow the laws and rules of the area.
- Look after the natural environment; avoid damaging the bayou banks and vegetation.
- Protect native species and habitats.
- Keep Louisiana Beautiful! Don't litter and take a few minutes to pick up litter left by others.
- Because cellular coverage may be limited, snap a photograph of these maps to take with you.