Irresistible Iberville. A parish of awe-inspiring beauty—of magnificent antebellum homes and massive live oaks, of meandering bayous and waterways teeming with life, Iberville is also home to some of Louisiana’s most unique attractions.
PLAQUEMINE LOCK STATE HISTORIC SITE

The Lock is historically significant for a number of reasons: it was designed by Col. George W. Goethals, who was later the chief engineer of the design and construction of the Panama Canal. Construction began in 1895 and was completed in 1905. Dutch-Influenced style. Now a state historic site, it includes a museum, visitors’ center, and an open air pavilion with a display of various watercraft used when the lock was operational. Located at 57730 Main Street. Hours: Open daily, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Phone: (225) 687-7158 or 1-877-987-7158.

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

The magnificent St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church was built in the late 1800s and is the largest Catholic church in the state. The huge Romanesque Revival building is considered the finest example of Italian Romanesque architecture in the South. It features massive exterior columns matched by huge oak doors. Inside, the long walkway to the altar is marked by more columns and intricate stained glass windows made in Germany. The baluster altar, handsome canopied and portico, plus the use of marble for the altar and communion rail, add to the elegance of this great cathedral. Located in Plaquemine across from the Lockhouse, Iberville Museum and Iberville Visitors Center. Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., weekend hours vary depending on services.

IBERVILLE MUSEUM

Completed in 1848, the Greek Revival building first housed the Iberville Parish Courthouse. The museum houses artifacts of life in the parish from the early 1900s, and features a Mardi Gras Room, complete with costumes. It also has an extensive military display from World War II and the Korean War. Located at 57730 Main Street. Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Phone: (225) 687-7197.

IBERVILLE VETERANS MEMORIAL

Iberville's award-winning, $1.5 million veterans memorial is the parish's tribute to military heroes. Made of concrete, translucent blocks, and a water element, it reflects the harshness of war, the strength of our military and aspects of IberVILLE Parish. Absolutely stunning at night, the memorial is lit from within by the translucent blocks.

THE ISLAND COUNTRY CLUB

Sweet! How else can you describe a championship golf course carved out of a sugar plantation? This par 72 course is one of only six courses named initial members of Louisiana's famed Audubon Golf Trail. This challenging course features #4 bunkers, nine lakes as well as Bayou Plaquemine and Bayou Jacob. It's a sweet course in a tranquil setting. Located on Hwy. 77 one mile south of La. Hwy. 1. Pro shop and course hours: Tuesday-Friday 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Closed on Monday. Phone: 225-686-8888. Cypress Grille serves lunch Tuesday-Sunday.

MADONNA CHAPEL

Iberville has a spot in Ripley's Believe It or Not for its beloved Madonna Chapel as the smallest church in the world. Built by Italian farmer Anthony Gulpil in 1924, the chapel is 9 feet by 9 feet. Mass is celebrated from the chapel only on August 15, the Catholic Feast of the Assumption. The chapel is open daily for those who wish to visit and enjoy its solitude. The key is kept in the mailbox. Location: River Road.

IBERVILLE DRIVING TOUR

Meandering Bayou Grosse Tete, draped with massive live oak trees, runs along La. Hwy. 77. Visitors get a real sense of the charm and tranquility of rural life in Louisiana. Beside the picturesque rice fields, there are open fields of sugarcane, corn and soybeans; past rustic fences and pastures of green grass dotted with old barns, visitors will find antebellum homes in a variety of styles. All privately owned, the homes are not open regularly for tours. They include: THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY – A quaint old Presbyterian Episcopal chapel built in 1869; the Church of the Nativity is an old English-style structure unique to the area, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. SUNNYSIDE – A lovely two-story mansion built in 1859. It sits in a grove of live oak trees. TANGEWILD – Built before 1860, Tangewild is a one and a half story raised cottage with a pilcroed front gallery and dormer windows. MOUND HOUSE – Built in 1840, it is one and a half story frame house that sits among moss-draped oak trees. LIVE OAKS PLANTATION – Built by slave artisans who hauled cypress from the swamps and made brick from clay soil found in the area. Live Oaks was built in 1826. It features six columns supporting beautiful galleries on both the first and second floors. TRINITY PLANTATION - a must see for live oak lovers. It is set back from the roadway, with a driveway centered between two rows of tremendous live oaks. Have lunch at BIG HEADS BBQ on LA77.

NORTHERN IBERVILLE

ROBERTO'S RIVER ROAD RESTAURANT

Roberto’s is truly a hidden jewel in south Louisiana, offering a casual Cajun atmosphere and some of the finest Louisiana cuisine you’ve ever experienced. Find out why people keep coming back to Roberto’s River Road Restaurant. Phone: (225) 642-9090.

CARVILLE HANSEN’S DISEASE MUSEUM

The picturesque Indian Camo Plantation was formerly the Gillis Long Hansen’s Disease Center, the only hospital in the nation to treat Hansen’s Disease (leprosy). Patients were shipped to the “hospital” in the late 1800s and early 1900s, where they received minimal care in crumbling slave cabins. By the 1920s the U.S. Public Health Service took over the facility and began extensive renovations. Over the years, hundreds of Hansen’s Disease patients lived out their lives there as medical breakthroughs were made by physicians at the center. The plantation was converted into Louisiana National Guard facilities in the 1930s. A museum/exhibit in the historic buildings at the plantation is dedicated to the history of Hansen’s Disease and the efforts to treat the disease.

EXPERIENCE THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI - To experience the power of the Mississippi River first hand, take a short ferry ride from Plaquemine to east Iberville to see the historic St. Gabriel Catholic Church, Carville Hansen’s Disease Museum and to have a meal at authentic Roberto’s.

MIKE ZITO MULTIPURPOSE CENTER

The multipurpose center is a favorite for equine, bovine and rodeo events, performances, festivals, family reunions and community activities. It features a 275 foot x 125 foot arena with all the amenities, in addition to ample grounds and a pavilion to host outdoor activities. Annual home to the International Acadian Festival each October. Phone: (225) 659-7579.

ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Believed to be the oldest Catholic church structure in Louisiana, St. Gabriel Church was built in 1769 and has been moved several times. The steeple of the church was a gift from the Queen of Spain in 1770. It is located on the River Road and is no longer open to the public.

BAYOU PLACQUEMINES WATERFALL PARK

This breathtaking bayou front park features an extensive boardwalk for a leisurely stroll, fishing or picnicking. Floating piers allows the docking of watercraft. Open during daylight hours.

NOTTOWAY PLANTATION

Certainly Iberville’s “claim to fame,” the majestic Nottoway Plantation is the largest remaining plantation home in the south and recently underwent a multi-million dollar renovation. Guided tours are provided daily. Stay overnight and enjoy the elegant dining of The Mansion at Nottoway, along with the plantation’s newly renovated guest rooms and spa services. Located off La. Hwy. 1 in White Castle. Hours: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., daily, except Christmas. Website: www.nottoway.com. Phone: 225-645-2730.

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TOURIST COMMISSION

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