

LOUISIANA'S CAJUN BAYOU TOURISM

Meet the Makers Keeping Cajun Culture Alive in Louisiana's Cajun Bayou

Raceland, Louisiana (May 28, 2026) – In Louisiana's Cajun Bayou, the Cajun culture the region is known and loved for isn't kept behind glass. It's simmering in kitchens, rising in ovens and taking shape along the water's edge. Here, traditions are passed down not just through stories, but through skilled hands, time-honored techniques and a deep-rooted sense of community.

Meet a few of the makers who are keeping Cajun culture alive and thriving ... one dish, one craft, one bite and one generation at a time.

Ernie Savoie, Director of the Center for Traditional Boat Building

Along the bayou, Ernie is preserving a different kind of tradition ... one built by hand. The Center for Traditional Boat Building first opened in 1979, when local residents set out to preserve this unique part of Cajun culture. It focuses on the importance of hand-crafted boats that were once vital to the Cajun way of life. As Director of the Center for Traditional Boat Building, Ernie is helping ensure that the skills and craftsmanship that once defined life on the water continue to be passed down for generations to come.



Gina Griffin, Chef at Griffin's Restaurant

At Griffin's Restaurant, Chef Gina is serving more than meals ... she's also serving tradition. With recipes rooted in family and flavors that feel like home, her kitchen is a gathering place where locals and visitors alike can experience the heart of Cajun cooking. "It's important to keep Cajun culture alive because it is our history as a people," Gina says. "We need to keep it alive so that we can share it with the world, not only through our food but through our atmosphere."

