

VISIT
THE NORTSHORE

LOUISIANA'S *Easy* ESCAPE



What's New in "Louisiana's Easy Escape," The Northshore

Mandeville, Louisiana (*January 31, 2024*) – Travelers seeking a destination comprised of picturesque towns, a thriving culinary scene, an abundance of outdoor recreation, and rich cultural heritage can find that and more when visiting [The Northshore](#) in Louisiana. Located less than 45 minutes from New Orleans and Louis Armstrong International Airport (MSY), right along the northern shore of famed Lake Pontchartrain, The Northshore – found on maps as St. Tammany Parish – offers a full array of things for visitors to see and do. And this year, the destination continues to grow. Listed below are a few of the noteworthy accommodations, new dining experiences and attractions to look for when visiting this thriving Southern destination in 2024.



View of Lake Pontchartrain from Fontainebleau State Park.

Credit: Visit The Northshore

Reopening of Fontainebleau State Park's Cabins: After closing in September 2021 due to damage from Hurricane Ida, the popular cabins at [Fontainebleau State Park](#) will reopen in April 2024. The 12 deluxe cabins, which are built over Lake Pontchartrain and offer an unparalleled way to connect with the park's outdoor splendor, each sleep up to eight guests and offer modern conveniences including basic cooking supplies, linens and towels for a cozy bungalow escape. Three cabins are ADA-

compliant, as well, and the park offers an [all-terrain track wheelchair](#) available for use by visitors with limited mobility. An ideal getaway for the outdoor enthusiast or even someone who just wants to luxuriously camp, the cabins provide a unique home base from which to explore the historic park's 2,800 acres, which include hiking trails, a sandy beach, wildlife viewing opportunities and serene lakefront views.

Lodging Expansions and Renovations: The historic boutique [Southern Hotel](#) is working on an expansion project to include 24 hotel rooms, four condominiums, a full-service spa, retail space and parking along New Hampshire Street in Covington. The hotel has also added [The Greenwood](#) event venue to its family of properties, which includes two ballrooms and a 300-year-old live oak tree in the heart of its grounds. Additionally, [Homewood Suites](#) in Slidell began a \$2.5 million renovation set to be complete by March 31, 2024, and both the [Courtyard by Marriott](#) in Covington and [Holiday Inn & Suites Slidell](#) recently finished renovations. For visitors seeking nontraditional lodging options, the destination offers unique Airbnbs like historic and rustic [The Stables at The Giddy Up](#) in Folsom.



Brown butter seared sea scallops at The Dakota Restaurant in Covington, LA.
Credit: Visit The Northshore

Covington, A Food Lover's Paradise: The historic downtown of Covington has seen a surge of new dining establishments pop up in recent months, making it a mouthwatering escape for the foodie. In October 2023, [The Dakota Restaurant](#) reopened with its award-winning contemporary Louisiana cuisine including its signature lump crabmeat and Brie soup. Other notable openings included the Israeli cuisine hot spot [Tavi](#); Spanish-Cajun fusion restaurant, [Valencia](#); [Red Bird Fried Chicken](#), awarded "Best Fried Chicken" at the New Orleans National Fried Chicken Festival in October; and [Crazy Pig Southern Kitchen](#), which features delicious Southern breakfasts, brunches and lunches with a French flair. For those with a sweet tooth, Covington also welcomed New Orleans' popular confectionery [Sucré](#), known for its macarons, gelato and French-inspired desserts.

Noteworthy Eats Elsewhere on The Northshore: While Covington has seen the greatest increase in new dining spots, there are several other new eateries to catch on a visit to The Northshore. Mandeville welcomed [Parish Tacos](#), featuring 12 kinds of tasty taco fillings and traditional Tex-Mex

favorites. Visitors to Mandeville can also try [Desi Vega's Smokehouse & Tavern](#), the elegant [Odellia Café](#) and [Croissant French Bakery & Lagniappe](#). In Slidell, new dining options include [Bistro 55](#), featuring small plates, charcuterie boards and a bevy of signature cocktails, wine and beer; [Donuts, Brunch N' Such](#) for a large assortment of both sweet and savory items, including unique bites like beef and cheese or jalapeno cheddar kolaches; [La Michoacana Plus](#), which uses artisan methods to prepare a wide variety of ice cream pops and chilly treats; and [Pho Hanoi Asian Cuisine](#), including Thai, Chinese and Vietnamese cuisines all on one menu.

New Brews: The Northshore is perhaps best known around the U.S. as the home of [Abita Beer](#), which is made from water that comes from the pristine springs in Abita Springs. But that's not the only brew in town. [Covington Beer Garden](#) recently opened in Covington and features local and domestic beers and mixed drinks, along with special event nights including Bingo, stand-up comedy, runners' socials and more. Additionally, [Chafunkta Brewing Company](#), a nanobrewery featuring 11 brews, has expanded its reach beyond its Tap Room to local bars and restaurants.



Olde Towne Slidell, LA
Credit: Visit The Northshore

Slidell Revitalization: A city known for its art scene and swamp tours, [Slidell](#) has been working on a refresh to its Olde Towne. Last year the area welcomed a whimsical, vibrant art installation, “Antique Umbrella Alley,” which hangs above its Main Street near antiques shops and eateries. In the coming year, Olde Towne Slidell also has plans to redevelop its waterfront, Heritage Park and Main Street areas to better connect the community for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy.

Soft Outdoor Adventures on the Water: Visitors can explore The Northshore’s bayous, river and lake through new paddling opportunities. [Bayou Adventure](#) offers paddling rental services inside Fontainebleau State Park, as well as new rental opportunities at Bayou Stuf in Lacombe. Meanwhile, [Kayaks to Geaux](#) offers fully equipped vessels for rent at any waterway in St. Tammany Parish.

Whether it's a weekend getaway or an extended vacation, St. Tammany Parish offers an easy escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. To learn more about visiting The Northshore and to plan a trip, please go to <https://www.visitthenorthshore.com/>.

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