



# HOUMA



Welcome to bayou country! Founded in 1834, Houma was named after the Native American tribe who settled here, the Houmas Indians. The area features many marshes and swamps and some 50 bridges built to cross all of these bodies of water. The city has become a must-see Louisiana destination for its bayous, but also for its Cajun culture, traditions, music, cuisine, and legendary hospitality. The locals love to discuss their culture with tourists. You will quickly discover their joie de vivre!

ONE OF THE BRIDGES IN THE CITY OF HOUMA

## WHAT TO DO

### BAYOU BLACK DRIVE

**Bayou Black Drive** in Houma attracts many tourists because of its charming **B&Bs** and **small local restaurants**. If you are lucky enough to run into any Native Americans (there are still a few families in the area), don't hesitate to start a conversation and ask them about their history.

### SOUTHDOWN PLANTATION / THE TERREBONNE MUSEUM ★

Four generations of the Minor Family, along with hundreds of workers and their families, lived and labored at **Southdown Plantation**. You can tour the 19th century sugar plantation and manor house, which is filled with objects from the past. The on-site **Terrebonne Museum** presents exhibits on plantation life, the sugar industry and life in 19th century southern Louisiana. Check website for updates on the opening of the main building.

1208, MUSEUM DRIVE, HOUMA

985-851-0154

WWW.SOUTHDOWNMUSEUM.ORG



SOUTHDOWN PLANTATION / THE TERREBONNE MUSEUM

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#### AUTHENTIK TIP

You're in a wetland! Don't forget your **insect repellent**. The mosquitoes can be very annoying when visiting the bayou...

### HISTORY OF SUGAR

For more than **150 years**, sugar was king in South Louisiana, enticing pioneers to the region and rewarding them with prosperity and progress. The city of **Houma** in Terrebonne Parish was home to **86 sugar mills** during the industry's boom years. The last operational mill in the Parish was the Southdown Mill, located adjacent to Southdown Plantation House. It closed in 1979.



ALLIGATOR IN THE BAYOU

© Unsplash, Jen Palmer



SUGARCANE

© Creative Commons, Matthew Forest & Kim Starr





BOAT TOUR OF THE BAYOU



HOUSE BUILT ON STILTS



## NEARBY

### ARDOYNE PLANTATION ★

This **sugar cane plantation** was founded in **1838** by a **Scottish family**. At the time, the 1100-acre farm had 67 slaves. Fifty years later, the land was purchased by Louisiana senator **John Dalton Shaffer**, and the house was completed in 1894. Ardoyne Plantation House is listed in the **National Register of Historic Places** as the largest and most elaborate example of **rural Victorian Gothic architecture** in the state of Louisiana. A tour of the house reveals original family furniture, china and plantation memorabilia. Currently closed for repairs following Hurricane Ida in September 2021. Check website for updates.  
**2678, HIGHWAY 311, SCHRIEVER**  
**985-804-2271**  
[WWW.ARDOYNEPLANTATION.COM](http://WWW.ARDOYNEPLANTATION.COM)

### BOAT TOUR OF THE BAYOU ★

If you haven't yet had the chance, treat yourself to a **guided tour** on one of the region's many bodies of water: it's a don't miss experience! You will **see alligators** and learn more about local wildlife and vegetation. Several companies offer **90-minute tours**, such as **Cajun Man's Swamp Cruise** ([www.cajunmanadventures.com](http://www.cajunmanadventures.com) / 985-868-4625) and **Bayou Black Airboat Swamp Tours** ([www.bayoublackairboatstours.com](http://www.bayoublackairboatstours.com) / 985-665-8571). Reservations are necessary in high season. Tours leave from **Bob's Bayou Black Marina** at 251 Marina Drive, Gibson

### GREENWOOD GATOR FARM AND TOURS ★

**Greenwood Gator Farm** ★ offers a **one-hour tour through the back swamps of Houma**, where many surprises await! You can also visit the **alligator farm** and find out how alligators

are part of Louisiana life. You will even get to hold and meet a live alligator face to face! Reservations are necessary. You must also call ahead to book your swamp tour with the Captain.

**125, GATOR CT., GIBSON**  
**985-804-0744**  
[GREENWOODGATORFARMTOURS.COM](http://GREENWOODGATORFARMTOURS.COM)

### COCODRIE ★

Time permitting, pay a visit to the charming village of **Cocodrie** ★, less than an hour from Houma along **Highway 56**, where you will find a unique and friendly community. The **houses are built on stilts** and, like their ancestors, most of the village residents make a living from **fishing**. It's a unique, authentic place that looks and feels like the end of the world.

## WHERE TO EAT

### THE SHACK OF HOUMA (\$-\$)

The Shack is a popular Houma eatery known for its Cajun cuisine and seafood. There is something for everyone on the menu: shrimp, crawfish, frog legs, grilled, boiled or fried crabs, served in a sandwich, salad or in a dish, with a choice of potatoes, steamed vegetables, onion rings or red beans and rice.

**1226, GRAND CAILLOU ROAD, HOUMA**  
**985-868-9996**  
[WWW.THESHACKOFHOUMA.COM](http://WWW.THESHACKOFHOUMA.COM)

### BOUDREAU & THIBODEAU'S CAJUN COOKIN (\$\$)

This popular seafood restaurant has been offering authentic Cajun cuisine and warm hospitality in a relaxed atmosphere since 1998. The menu features local, fresh and high-quality products. You can taste oysters, crayfish and "hushpuppies" (cornmeal fritters), a southern favourite.

**5602, WEST MAIN STREET, HOUMA**  
**985-872-4711**  
[BNTCAJUNCOOKIN.COM](http://BNTCAJUNCOOKIN.COM)

### BIG MIKE'S BBQ SMOKEHOUSE (\$\$)

Specializing in barbecued meat, this restaurant is a family affair. You will love the cozy, welcoming atmosphere. Framed photos of musicians, roadside ads and pictures of logs decorate the walls. A live band sometimes plays in the evening.

**3034, BARROW STREET, HOUMA**  
**985-876-4477**  
[WWW.BIGMIKESBBQSH.COM](http://WWW.BIGMIKESBBQSH.COM)



ARDOYNE PLANTATION

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