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# The Lure of Louisiana

Birdies, Beignets, and Beautiful Waters  
Reign Supreme in the Bayou State



#### ON THE COVER:

The closing holes on Bayou Oaks South Course at City Park, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Photo Courtesy of the Bayou Oaks Foundation

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The 13th hole on the Arthur Hills course at The Highlands (part of BOYNE Golf) is one of the many magnificent holes you'll experience when playing America's Summer Golf Capital in Northern Michigan.



# The *Lure* of Louisiana

Birdies, Beignets, and Beautiful  
Waters Reign Supreme in the Bayou State

*By Glen Turk*



*TPC Louisiana hosts The Zurich Classic on the PGA Tour every April.*

Louisiana has always had an alluring quality for Midwestern travelers. While the Big Easy's Mardi Gras celebration may be the culmination of the state's French influence, everyday life even seems a lot cooler on the Bayou.

Case in point, their counties are named parishes, their donuts are called beignets, and world-class fishing can be found in their brackish waters, a fun name for where salt and fresh waters meet.

And when it comes to golf in the Pelican State (ok, maybe every name isn't as cool as our Midwest counterparts), the formation of the **Louisiana Golf Trails** has been a boon to their already staunch golf scene.

Yes, that was not a typo, Louisiana has instituted multiple regional golf trails throughout the state that pair perfectly with top notch diversions including food, music, gaming, fishing, craft beers and distilleries.

You'd be hard pressed to find a state more diverse than Louisiana and their stable of 150+ courses statewide are equally distinctive. The best of the best in the New Orleans area includes Pete Dye's TPC Louisiana, which hosts the PGA Tour Zurich Invitational each April. The design legend had his work cut out for him, as he was able to transform a flat, swampy terrain into an entertaining

joyride from start to finish. Amazingly, **TPC Louisiana** public green fees start at only \$89, and include all the Tour-style extras i.e. a spacious clubhouse and grill, solid locker room, and stellar practice facilities. Plus, TPC Louisiana is less than 20 minutes from downtown New Orleans.

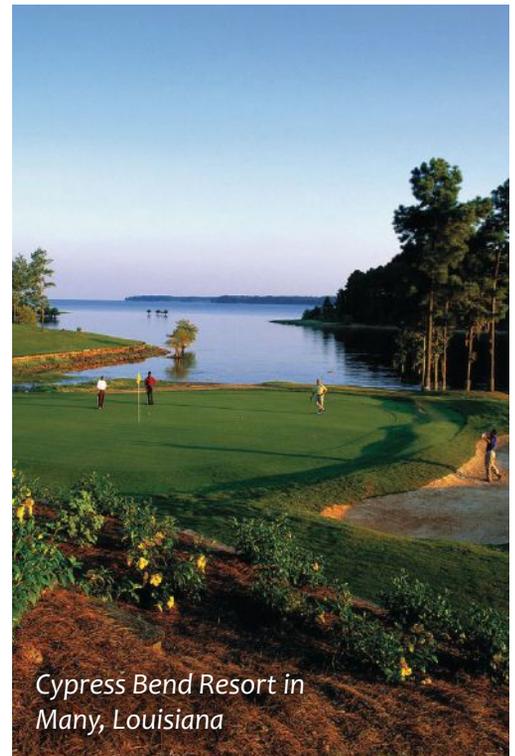
**Bayou Oaks South Course at City Park** resides a few miles north of the French Quarter and America's largest public park (yes, even bigger than Central Park in New York) and is one of the best pure municipal courses in the South. The property's original nine holes, which debuted in 1902, has given way to an 18-hole championship layout, thanks to a stellar renovation from architects Rees Jones and Greg Muirhead in 2017. As the name indicates, the course is home to countless live oak trees, which occasionally will bring an errant drive back into play. It's also important to note that City Park's shorter **North Course** reopened in 2008 after Hurricane Katrina and is ideal for a great emergency round on those longer spring or summer days. Greens fees start at around \$60 and a portion of all proceeds support the city's anti-poverty community programs.

Often best memories are made on short courses that have stood the test of time. Such is the case at the **Golf Club at Audubon Park**. And sometimes cool experiences





*The beautiful Bayou Oaks South Course at City Park was renovated in 2017.*



*Cypress Bend Resort in Many, Louisiana*

start before you even tee it up. The Golf Club at Audubon Park is the only course in America where you can take a streetcar from most points in the city and find yourself on the links. At only 4,200 yards and par-62, it's a must play when near the Big Easy thanks to its tricky bunkering and small push-up greens that are always in great shape. Plus, you'll get to check out a truly historic part of town, from Tulane University to the city zoo. Rates start at only \$25, leaving you plenty of sight-seeing money left over.

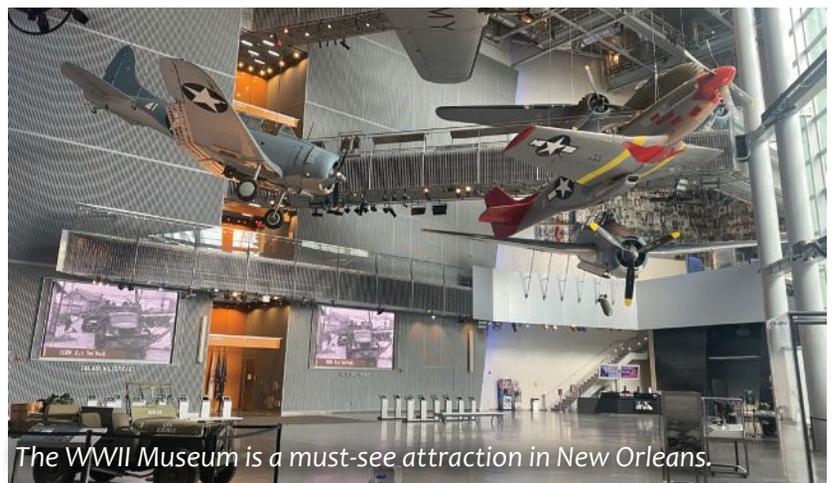
Great golf in Louisiana is not confined to it's largest city, as the statewide Audubon Golf Trail is a circuit of carefully chosen courses that also form the foundation of the themed Louisiana Golf Trails. Most Audubon tracks are within a few hours drive of New Orleans and include favorites like **Koasati Pines** at Coushatta Resort Casino, **Tamahka Trails** at Paragon Casino-Resort, **Black Bear** at Poverty Point State Park, the **Wetlands** in Lafayette and **The Atchafalaya** at Idlewild in Morgan City. The first two courses reside near thriving casinos, so your group will have ample diversions before and after your rounds!

Near the Texas border and Shreveport, LA, resides **Cypress Bend Resort** which features 10 holes along the water and six with shots across hidden coves and inlets. Surrounding hardwood forests, undulating greens, and dramatic elevation changes only add to the challenge and beauty. The resort is

currently closed for renovations but will re-open to the public next spring.

Plus, no matter where you go throughout the Pelican State, you'll be blessed with remarkable tourist opportunities. If you are looking for a moving, memorable experience then a trip to the **WWII Museum** in New Orleans must be on your docket.

Your visit starts with "Beyond All Boundaries," a 45-minute "4D" movie narrated by Tom Hanks. From there you can experience the valor and sacrifice of every major battle in U.S history from Omaha Beach and D-Day to conflicts around the Pacific Rim. All exhibits are encapsulated with personal stories portrayed through multimedia and outstanding physical exhibits of armaments, uniforms, documents, photographs, and film.



*The WWII Museum is a must-see attraction in New Orleans.*

The WWII Museum also features The U.S. Freedom Pavilion and The Boeing Center, with full-sized bombers and fighters suspended from the ceiling and multimedia displays clueing us in on the brave pilots and commanders connected to each vessel. New exhibits are under construction, and the place just gets more amazing by the year. You can spend an entire day there and not regret a second.

If you want to tour a museum on the opposite side of the spectrum, then New Orleans' deep craft cocktail and distillery past is brought to colorful and tasty life at **Sazerac House Museum** at Canal and Magazine streets. This free museum has three stories of booze-fueled fun - informative exhibits, a working distillery on site, stations for sampling famed cocktails such as the rye-based Sazerac and bourbon-based Teresa, a huge retail area and more. This is definitely worth an hour of your time on your way to or from the French Quarter.

New Orleans is also stacked with lodging options including French Quarter hot spots like **Hotel Monteleone** with its famed Carousel Bar. **Harrah's Hotel Casino** is a traveler's dream thanks to its proximity to the Mississippi River. But the **Higgins Hotel**, the official hotel for the spectacular National WWII Museum (which is across the street), anchors the city's Warehouse District and attracts millions of visitors each year. The stunning edifice is the ideal locale for golfers, too, with all New Orleans-area courses within a half-hour drive. Plus, it's walking distance from the French Quarter, waterfront, the **Caesar's Superdome** (Who Dat!?) and popular restaurants like **Cochon** and **Emeril's**.

In summary, the state of Louisiana has done an amazing job of joining golf with what makes bayou life so appealing to locals and travelers alike. Whether you love museums, fishing, food & beverages, music, or gaming, [www.louisianagolftrails.com](http://www.louisianagolftrails.com) has an itinerary for you. And with so many affordable, top-notch courses throughout the land, you are guaranteed to create a memorable trip that won't break the bank.



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