

## **A LOUISIANA HISTORY TIMELINE**

- 10,000 - 6,000 B.C.            Paleo Indian period
- 7,500 - 2,000 B.C.            Meso Indian period
- 2,000 B.C. - 800 A.D. Early Neo Indian period
- 800 - 1600 A.D.                Late Neo Indian period
- 1541        De Soto discovered Mississippi River
- 1542        De Soto died, probably in Louisiana, and was buried in Mississippi River
- 1600s        Historic Indian cultures
- 1673        Marquette and Joliet explored upper Mississippi
- 1682        La Salle reached mouth of the Mississippi and claimed Louisiana for France
- 1699        Iberville and Bienville retrieved Tonti's 1685 letter to La Salle  
Iberville established Fort Maurepas  
Bienville stopped English plans to colonize Louisiana
- 1700        Fort de la Boulaye (Fort Mississippi) established)
- 1701        Bienville became leader of French colony of Louisiana
- 1712        Antoine Crozat became proprietor of Louisiana  
Cadillac established Superior Council
- 1714        St. Denis founded Fort St. Jean Baptiste (Natchitoches)
- 1716        Bienville built Fort Rosalie at Natchez  
First slaves brought to Louisiana colony
- 1717        Crozat surrendered charter  
John Law and the Company of the West became Louisiana proprietor
- 1718        Bienville founded New Orleans  
Bienville appointed governor
- 1719        Company of the West reorganized into Company of the Indies
- 1721        Collapse of the Mississippi Bubble
- 1723        New Orleans became capital of Louisiana
- 1724        Code Noir established
- 1727        Ursuline nuns arrived in New Orleans

- 1728 Casket girls came to Louisiana
- 1729 Natchez uprising  
Los Adaes designated capital of Spanish Texas
- 1731 Company of the Indies surrendered Louisiana charter
- 1732 Louisiana became French royal colony and Bienville became governor
- 1736 Chickasaw War
- 1742 Pierre Francois de Rigaud, Marquis de Vaudreuil named governor
- 1745 Old Ursuline Convent erected in New Orleans
- 1751 Sugar cane introduced into Louisiana
- 1752 Louis Billouart, Chevalier de Kerlerec named governor
- 1754 French and Indian War began
- 1755 Acadians first evicted from Canada
- 1762 Spain entered French and Indian War on the side of the French  
Treaty of Fountainebleu transferred Louisiana from France to Spain
- 1763 French and Indian War ended  
Treaty of Paris transferred Louisiana east of the Mississippi to Great Britain
- 1764 First Acadians arrived in Louisiana
- 1766 Antonio de Ulloa became first Spanish governor of Louisiana
- 1768 Colonists rebelled against Ulloa
- 1769 Alejandro O'Reilly arrived in colony to restore order and Spanish rule
- 1770 Luis de Unzaga y Amezaga became governor
- 1777 Isleños began arriving in Spanish Louisiana  
Bernardo de Gálvez named governor
- 1779 Spain entered the American Revolution  
New Iberia founded  
Gálvez captured British fort at Baton Rouge
- 1780 Gálvez captured Mobile
- 1781 Gálvez captured Pensacola
- 1783 End of American Revolution; Spain received Florida

- 1785 Esteban Rodriguez Miro named governor
- 1788 Much of New Orleans destroyed by fire
- 1790 Fort Miro (present-day Monroe) established
- 1791 Francisco Luis Hector, Baron de Carondelet became governor  
First theatrical production in Louisiana in New Orleans
- 1793 Members of French nobility began arriving in Louisiana fleeing the French Revolution
- 1794 New Orleans devastated by another fire  
*Le Moniteur de la Louisiane*, first newspaper in colony, founded  
St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans completed
- 1795 Pinckney's Treaty gave Americans right of deposit at New Orleans  
Etienne de Boré produced first successful sugar cane crop  
Slave insurrection in Pointe Coupee Parish
- 1796 First opera performance in the United States at New Orleans
- 1800 Treaty of San Ildefonso transferred Louisiana back to France
- 1802 Right of deposit at New Orleans suspended
- 1803 Louisiana Purchase
- 1804 Territory of Orleans created with William C. C. Claiborne as governor
- 1805 First Protestant church built in New Orleans  
Burr conspiracy revealed
- 1806 Sabine Strip established as neutral buffer zone  
Freeman and Custis led Red River Expedition
- 1808 First public schools in state established in Pointe Coupee Parish
- 1810 West Florida Revolt  
United States annexed West Florida
- 1811 Slave revolt in St. Charles Parish  
Congress voted to admit Louisiana as state  
First institution of higher learning opened in New Orleans (College of Orleans)
- 1812 Louisiana became a state  
First state constitution written  
Steamboat *New Orleans* arrived in New Orleans (January)  
War of 1812
- 1814 Treat of Ghent ended War of 1812

- 1815 Andrew Jackson defeated British at Battle of New Orleans
- 1818 Louisiana State Bank established
- 1819 Adams-Onis Treaty established western boundary of Louisiana
- 1821 John James Audubon set up studio in New Orleans
- 1822 Fort Jesup established
- 1823 First natural gas field discovered in Louisiana
- 1825 Marquis de Lafayette visited New Orleans
- 1828 First Jewish synagogue built in New Orleans
- 1830 Capital moved to Donaldsonville
- 1831 Pontchartrain Railroad built  
Capital moved back to New Orleans
- 1832 Cholera and yellow fever epidemics  
Board of Public Works created
- 1833 Captain Henry Shreve began clearing Red River  
American Anti-Slavery Society formed
- 1834 Whig Party organized in Louisiana  
Tulane founded as Medical College of Louisiana
- 1835 Caddo tribe sold their lands to U.S. government
- 1836 New Orleans city government divided into three separate municipalities
- 1837 Shreveport founded  
*New Orleans Picayune* founded
- 1838 First Mardi Gras parade held in New Orleans
- 1840 Antoine's, the state's oldest continuously operating restaurant, is established in New Orleans
- 1845 Louisiana constitution rewritten
- 1846 Centenary College founded
- 1848 Telegraph lines reached New Orleans
- 1849 Baton Rouge became capital
- 1852 Louisiana constitution revised

- Uncle Tom's Cabin* published
- 1853 Yellow fever epidemic
- 1854 American Party gained control of New Orleans government
- 1856 System of levee districts established
- 1860 Republican Abraham Lincoln elected president of the United States  
Louisiana State University founded at Baton Rouge
- 1861 Louisiana seceded (January) and joined the Confederacy (March)  
Civil War began (April)  
Union forces blockaded New Orleans (May)
- 1862 New Orleans captured (April) and General Butler took control of city (May)  
Butler issued Order No. 18 (May)  
Capital moved to Opelousas (May)  
State Capitol burned (December)  
General Nathaniel Banks replaced General Butler  
First salt mine discovered at Avery Island
- 1863 Emancipation Proclamation (January)  
Confederate government moved to Shreveport (January)  
Longest siege of war ended at Port Hudson (July)  
Henry Watkins Allen elected governor of Confederate Louisiana
- 1864 Red River Campaign (March-May)  
Michael Hahn elected governor of occupied Louisiana  
Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill (April)  
New constitution written abolishing slavery
- 1865 General Lee surrendered to General Grant (April)  
President Lincoln assassinated; Andrew Johnson became president (April)  
Confederates surrendered at Shreveport (June)  
James Madison Wells became governor  
Black Code enacted
- 1866 Mechanics Institute riot  
Major floods on Mississippi River
- 1867 Congress established military Reconstruction  
Shrimp first canned commercially at Grand Terre Island
- 1868 Louisiana's Reconstruction constitution adopted and state readmitted to Union  
Henry Clay Warmoth elected governor and Oscar J. Dunn elected lieutenant  
governor  
Louisiana Lottery Company granted 25-year charter  
First bottles of Tabasco brand pepper sauce produced
- 1869 Louisiana Petroleum and Coal Oil Company made first major discovered of

- sulphur in state  
Leland College opened in New Orleans
- 1870 The *Robert E. Lee* defeated the *Natchez* in the most famous steamboat race
- 1872 Governor Warmoth impeached and removed from office  
P. B. S. Pinchback became acting governor (December)  
Rex, King of Carnival, paraded for the first time on Mardi Gras
- 1873 Colfax Riot  
Unification Movement begun
- 1874 White League formed  
Coushatta massacre  
Battle of Liberty Place (September)
- 1875 Shed Road built
- 1877 Reconstruction ended  
Democrat Francis T. Nicholls elected governor
- 1879 Louisiana constitution rewritten  
Baton Rouge became capital  
Jetty system at mouth of Mississippi completed  
Commercial salt mining began at Avery Island  
Mississippi River Commission established
- 1884 Cotton Centennial Exposition held in New Orleans
- 1886 Laws passed regulating the number of hours women and children could work
- 1887 Crowley founded  
New Orleans got electric lights
- 1888 Francis T. Nicholls became governor
- 1891 Populist Party formed  
Frasch method of mining sulphur developed
- 1892 Murphy J. Foster elected governor
- 1893 Louisiana Lottery Company ceased operations in state
- 1896 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson*
- 1898 State constitution rewritten with grandfather clause  
Spanish-American War
- 1899 State's lowest temperature, -16EF, recorded at Minden
- 1901 Oil discovered in Louisiana in Jennings

- 1907 Natural gas field discovered at Monroe
- 1908 First movie (a silent picture) filmed in Louisiana
- 1910 New Orleans Museum of Art built  
Brotherhood of Timber Workers formed  
Edward Douglass White appointed Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court  
Standard Oil Corporation completed pipeline to Baton Rouge
- 1911 First offshore well drilled in Caddo Lake
- 1912 State flag adopted
- 1913 Louisiana constitution rewritten
- 1914 World War I began in Europe
- 1915 The name *jazz* is given to music of New Orleans origin  
First NAACP chapter in state established in New Orleans
- 1916 Natural gas field discovered near Monroe
- 1917 United States entered World War I (April)  
Carbon black process developed  
First Tarzan movie filmed in St. Mary Parish
- 1918 World War I ended  
Huey Long elected to Railroad Commission
- 1920 Prohibition went into effect  
Louisiana women first allowed to vote  
Democrat John Parker elected governor
- 1921 New Louisiana constitution written  
First movie palace built in New Orleans
- 1922 First radio program in state broadcast from WWL in New Orleans
- 1925 Louisiana passed law making wearing masks illegal (anti-KKK measure)
- 1926 Louisiana's first public airport built in Mansfield  
Canal connecting Lake Charles to Gulf of Mexico dug
- 1927 Major flood on Mississippi
- 1928 Huey Long became governor
- 1929 Stock market crashed and Great Depression began  
Premiere of movie *Evangeline* held in New Orleans  
Governor Long impeached but not removed from office

- 1930 Huey Long elected to the U.S. Senate  
Old Governor's Mansion built  
Congress created Kisatchie National Forest
- 1931 Lucille May Grace became first woman elected to public office in state
- 1932 New State Capitol dedicated
- 1933 Barksdale Field established
- 1935 Huey Long assassinated  
First Sugar Bowl game (Tulane defeated Temple)  
Bonnet Carre Spillway built
- 1936 State's highest temperature, 114°F, recorded at Plain Dealing  
Richard Leche elected governor  
Doris Holland was first woman appointed to state senate
- 1937 Congress passed National School Lunch Act sponsored by Allen Ellender  
Eleanor Roosevelt visited Shreveport (March), and President Roosevelt visited New Orleans (May)
- 1939 World War II began in Europe
- 1940 Sam Jones became governor  
Jimmie Davis wrote "You Are My Sunshine"
- 1941 Mock wars held in Louisiana (August)  
Pearl Harbor attacked (December) and United States entered World War II
- 1944 Jimmie Davis elected governor
- 1945 World War II ended
- 1947 First offshore oil well drilled in Gulf of Mexico
- 1948 Earl Long elected governor  
Russell Long became U.S. senator from Louisiana  
First television broadcast in Louisiana
- 1952 Robert Kennon elected governor
- 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott
- 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*  
Legislature passed right-to-work law
- 1956 Earl Long elected governor again  
Right-to-work law repealed  
Pontchartrain Causeway opened  
Hodges Gardens opened



- 1957 Hurricane Audrey hit Cameron Parish
- 1958 LSUNO (now the University of New Orleans) opened  
Elvis Presley filmed *King Creole* in New Orleans
- 1959 Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival started
- 1960 Jimmie Davis became governor  
New Orleans school crisis  
Sit-ins at S. H. Kress store in Baton Rouge  
French President Charles de Gaulle visited New Orleans
- 1962 Poverty Point designated National Historic Landmark  
Archaeologists discovered remains of Natchez Great Sun's house at Grand Village  
Sunshine Bridge opened to traffic
- 1963 Old River Structure completed  
Alligator hunting stopped
- 1964 John McKeithen became governor  
New Orleans Saints professional football team established
- 1965 Hurricane Betsy struck Louisiana  
A. Z. Young led march from Bogalusa to Baton Rouge
- 1966 Voters ratify constitutional amendment allowing governor to run for reelection
- 1967 New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison indicted Clay Walker for conspiring  
to kill President Kennedy  
Ernest Morial first African American elected to legislature in 1900s
- 1968 John McKeithen became first governor to serve two consecutive terms
- 1969 Toledo Bend Dam completed
- 1971 Chitimacha Tribe received federal recognition
- 1972 Edwin Edwards became governor for first time  
Republican David Treen elected to U.S. House of Representatives  
Lindy Boggs elected to U.S. House of Representatives
- 1973 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education created  
Coushatta Tribe received federal recognition  
I-10 bridge across Atchafalaya Swamp opened
- 1974 Voters ratified current constitution, which includes bill of rights
- 1975 Superdome opened  
Edwin Edwards reelected  
Open primary law passed

- 1976 Louisiana celebrated Bicentennial  
Virginia Shehee became first woman elected to state senate  
Legislature passed right-to-work law
- 1977 Ernest Morial elected first African American mayor of New Orleans
- 1980 David Treen became first Republican governor since Reconstruction
- 1981 Alligator hunting, under strict rules, resumed
- 1982 Pan Am crash at New Orleans airport killed 154
- 1984 Louisiana World Exposition at New Orleans  
Edwin Edwards became governor for third time
- 1986 Education trust fund established  
John Breaux elected to U.S. Senate  
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program established
- 1987 Buddy Roemer elected governor  
The Pope visited New Orleans
- 1988 Pennington Biomedical Research Center complex opened
- 1990 Congress passed the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)  
William Jefferson became first African American elected to Congress in the twentieth century
- 1991 State established lottery to raise money; riverboat casinos became legal
- 1992 Edwin Edwards became governor for fourth time  
State lottery started  
Hurricane Andrew hit Louisiana
- 1994 Lawsuit with Texaco settled  
“Motor voter” law passed  
Marc Morial elected mayor of New Orleans
- 1995 Republican Murphy “Mike” Foster elected governor  
Remains of La Salle’s ship *Belle* discovered in Matagordo Bay, Texas  
Voters approved legislative term limit amendment
- 1996 Mary Landrieu elected to U.S. Senate  
A freighter crashed into the Riverwalk in New Orleans
- 1997 Driving age raised to sixteen
- 1999 Mike Foster reelected governor
- 2000 D-Day Museum opened in New Orleans

Ernest Gaines awarded first Louisiana Writers Award

- 2001 Tim McGraw of Smart won CMA Entertainer of the Year award  
Terrorist attack on New York and the Pentagon; “Spirit of Louisiana” fire truck  
donated to city of New York  
New LaSalle Building opened in Capitol Park
- 2002 State developed national advertising campaign called “Save America’s Wetland”
- 2003 Kathleen Babineaux Blanco became first woman elected governor of Louisiana
- 2004 Republican David Vitter elected to U.S. Senate  
Ernest Gaines nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature  
LSU football team won Sugar Bowl  
Southern University football team won SWAC championship  
Bobby Jindal elected to U.S. House of Representatives
- 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the state
- 2008 Threat of Hurricane Gustav forced 1.9 million people to evacuate southern Louisiana,  
the largest evacuation in Louisiana’s history.
- 2010 British Petroleum (BP) off-shore oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico and a massive  
oil spill occurred-over 65 miles of Louisiana coastline were oiled  
New Orleans Saints won Super Bowl
- 2011 British Petroleum (BP) sued Transocean, the owner of the oil rig that exploded in  
Gulf in 2010, for \$40 billion in damages  
Cedric Richmond becomes U.S. representative for Louisiana’s 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional  
district
- 2012 British Petroleum (BP) reach \$7.8 billion settlement with largest group of plaintiffs  
over 2010 oil rig spill
- 2014 Former New Orleans mayor, Rag Nagin, sentenced to ten years in federal prison