

# Louisiana Vital Statistics

### Area

Total: 52,378 square miles (31st)

Land: 43,204 square miles

Water: 9,174 square miles

Coastal water: 2,880 square miles

Inland water: 4,562 square miles

Territorial water: 1,732 square miles

## **Greatest Distance**

North to south: 275 miles

West to east: 300 miles

## Location

Latitude: Between 29° and 33° N

Longitude: Between 89° and 94° W

**Location within United States:** Western part of the Gulf Coastal Plain

**Bordering states:** Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas

**Geographic center of state:** Avoyelles Parish, 3 miles southeast of Marksville

## Elevation

Highest point: Driskill Mountain, 535 feet

**Lowest point:** New Orleans, 8 feet below sea level

Mean elevation: 100 feet above sea level

## **Temperatures**

**Highest:** 114° F on August 10, 1936, in Plain Dealing

**Lowest:** -16° F on February 13, 1899, in Minden

## Parishes

Number of Parishes: 64

Largest: Rapides, 1,323 square miles

Smallest: Orleans, 181 square miles

Most populous (2010): East Baton Rouge, 440,171

Least populous (2010): Tensas, 5,252

## **State Facts**

Admitted to Union: April 30, 1812

Nicknames: Pelican State, Bayou State

Capital: Baton Rouge

Time zone: Central

Population: 4,533,372 (2010) (25th)

**Largest cities (2010):** New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Shreveport, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Kenner, Bossier City, Monroe, Alexandria, Houma



#### West to east: 300 miles

8 = City's Population Rank

North to south: 275 miles



# Louisiana State Symbols



Amphibian: Green tree frog (1993)

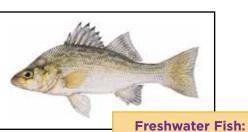






Dog: Catahoula leopard dog (1979)





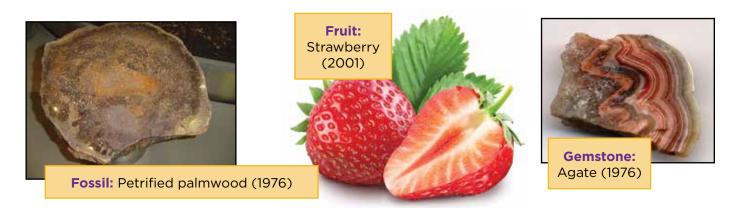
White perch (1993)



Flower: Magnolia (1900)



#### Appendices







Mammal: Louisiana black bear (1992)



Motto: Union Justice Confidence



Musical instrument: Diatonic or "Cajun" accordion (1990)







Vegetable Plant: Creole tomato (2003)



Wildflower: Louisiana iris (1990)

#### Colors

Blue, white, and gold (1972)

#### Painting

"Louisiana" (1995)

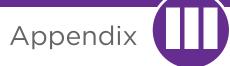
#### Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the state of Louisiana and to the motto for which it stands: A state, under God, united in purpose and ideals, confident that justice shall prevail for all of those abiding here." (1981)

#### Songs

"Give Me Louisiana" (1970)

"You Are My Sunshine" (1977)



# Louisiana Governors

## **French Period**

Term of Office
1699-1702
1699-1700
1701-1713
1713-1716
1716-1717
1717-1718
1718-1724
1725-1726
1727-1733
1733-1743
1743-1753
1753-1763
1763-1765
1765-1766

## **Spanish Period**

Term of Office
1766-1768
1769-1770
1770-1777
1777-1785
1785-1792
1791-1797
1797-1799
1799
1799-1801
1801-1803

## **Transitional Period**

Governor	Term of Office
Pierre Clement de Laussat	1803

## **Territorial Period**

Governor	Term of Office
William C. C. Claiborne	1803-1812

## **State Period**

Governor	Political Party	Term of Office
William C. C. Claiborne	Democrat-Republican	1812-1816
Jacques Philippe Villeré	Democrat-Republican	1816-1820
Thomas Bolling Robertson (resigned)	National Republican	1820-1824
Henry Schuyler Thibodaux	National Republican	1824
Henry S. Johnson	National Republican	1824-1828
Pierre Auguste Bourguigon Derbigny (died)	Whig; National Republican	1828-1829
Arnaud Julie Beauvais	Whig	1829-1830
Jacques Dupré	Whig	1830-1831
André Bienvenu Roman	Whig	1831-1835
Edward Douglass White	Whig	1835-1839
André Bienvenu Roman	Whig	1839-1843
Alexander Mouton	Democrat	1843-1846
Isaac Johnson	Democrat	1846-1850
Joseph Marshall Walker	Democrat	1850-1853
Paul Octave Hebert	Democrat	1853-1856
Robert Charles Wickliffe	Democrat	1856-1860
Thomas Overton Moore	Democrat	1860-1864
George F. Shepley (military governor)	Democrat	1862-1864
Henry Watkins Allen	Democrat	1864-1865
Michael Hahn (military governor)	Free State	1864-1865
James Madison Wells	Republican	1865-1867
Benjamin Franklin Flanders	Republican	1867-1868
Joshua Baker	Democrat	1868
Henry Clay Warmoth (impeached)	Republican	1868-1872
John McEnery (elected, but ruled out)	Democrat; Liberal Republican	1872
P. B. S. Pinchback	Republican	1872-1873

William Pitt Kellogg (declared)	Republican	1873-1877
Francis T. Nicholls	Democrat	1877-1880
Louis Alfred Wiltz (died)	Democrat	1880-1881
Samuel Douglas McEnery	Democrat	1881-1888
Francis T. Nicholls	Democrat	1888-1892
Murphy James Foster	Democrat	1892-1900
William Wright Heard	Democrat	1900-1904
Newton Crain Blanchard	Democrat	1904-1908
Jared Young Sanders	Democrat	1908-1912
Luther Egbert Hall	Democrat	1912-1916
Ruffin G. Pleasant	Democrat	1916-1920
John M. Parker	Democrat	1920-1924
Henry L. Fuqua (died)	Democrat	1924-1926
Oramel H. Simpson	Democrat	1926-1928
Huey P. Long (resigned)	Democrat	1928-1932
Alvin O. King	Democrat	1932
Oscar K. Allen (died)	Democrat	1932-1936
James A. Noe	Democrat	1936
Richard W. Leche (resigned)	Democrat	1936-1939
Earl K. Long	Democrat	1939-1940
Sam H. Jones	Democrat	1940-1944
Jimmie H. Davis	Democrat	1944-1948
Earl K. Long	Democrat	1948-1952
Robert F. Kennon	Democrat	1952-1956
Earl K. Long	Democrat	1956-1960
Jimmie H. Davis	Democrat	1960-1964
John J. McKeithen	Democrat	1964-1972
Edwin W. Edwards	Democrat	1972-1980
David C. Treen	Republican	1980-1984
Edwin W. Edwards	Democrat	1984-1988
Charles E. "Buddy" Roemer III	Democrat/Republican	1988-1992
Edwin W. Edwards	Democrat	1992-1996
Murphy J. "Mike" Foster	Republican	1996-2004
Kathleen Babineaux Blanco	Democrat	2004-2008
Bobby Jindal	Republican	2008-

## Appendix

# Louisiana Parishes

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Parish	2010 Population	Date Founded	Parish Seat	Named For
Acadia	61,773	1886	Crowley	Acadia, Nova Scotia
Allen	25,764	1912	Oberlin	Henry Watkins Allen
Ascension	107,215	1807	Donaldsonville	Catholic Church parish
Assumption	23,421	1807	Napoleonville	Catholic Church parish
Avoyelles	42,073	1807	Marksville	Avoyel tribe
Beauregard	35,654	1912	DeRidder	Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard
Bienville	14,353	1848	Arcadia	Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville
Bossier	116,979	1843	Benton	Gen. Pierre Evariste Jean-Baptiste Bossier
Caddo	254,969	1838	Shreveport	Caddo tribe
Calcasieu	192,768	1840	Lake Charles	Calcasieu River
Caldwell	10,132	1838	Columbia	Locally prominent Caldwell family
Cameron	6,839	1870	Cameron	Robert Alexander Cameron or Simon Cameron
Catahoula	10,407	1808	Harrisonburg	Tensas Indian word for "big clear lake"
Claiborne	17,195	1828	Homer	Gov. William C. C. Claiborne
Concordia	20,822	1807	Vidalia	The cooperation between the Spanish and American governments
DeSoto	26,656	1843	Mansfield	Hernando de Soto
East Baton Rouge	440,171	1810	Baton Rouge	Relative position to Baton Rouge
East Carroll	7,759	1877	Lake Providence	Charles Carroll
East Feliciana	20,267	1824	Clinton	Félicité, wife of Governor Gálvez; "happy land" in Spanish
Evangeline	33,984	1910	Ville Platte	Longfellow's heroine
Franklin	20,767	1843	Winnsboro	Benjamin Franklin
Grant	22,309	1869	Colfax	Ulysses S. Grant
Iberia	73,240	1868	New Iberia	Spanish peninsula of Iberia
Iberville	33,387	1807	Plaquemine	Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville
Jackson	16,274	1845	Jonesboro	Andrew Jackson
Jefferson	432,552	1825	Gretna	President Thomas Jefferson
Jefferson Davis	31,594	1912	Jennings	Confederate President Jefferson Davis

Lafourche 96,318 1807 Thibodaux French for "the fork"   LaSalle 14,890 1908 Jena René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle   Lincoln 46,735 1873 Ruston President Abraham Lincoln   Livingston 128,026 1832 Livingston Edward Livingston   Madison 12,093 1838 Tallulah James Madison   Morehouse 27,379 1844 Bastrop Abraham Morehouse   Natchitoches 39,566 1807 Natchitoches Natchitoches ribe   Orleans 343,829 1807 New Orleans City of New Orleans   Paquemines 23,042 1807 New Roads French for "cut-off point," referring to a lake cut off from the Missispip River   Rapides 131,613 1807 Alexandria Rapids on the Red River   Red River 9.091 1871 Coushatta Red River   Sabine 24,233 1843 Many Sabine River   St. Bernard 35,897 1807 Chalmette	Lafayette	221,578	1823	Lafayette	Marquis de Lafayette
Sieur de La SalleLincoln46,7351873RustonPresident Abraham LincolnLivingston128,0261832LivingstonEdward LivingstonMadison12,0931838TallulahJames MadisonMorehouse27,9791844BastropAbraham MorehouseNatchitoches39,5661807NatchitochesNatchitochesOrleans343,8291807New OrleansCity of New OrleansOuachita153,7201807MorroeOuachitaPlaquemines23,0421807New RoadsFrench for "cut-off point," referring to a lake cut off from the Missispip RiverRapides131,6131807AlexandriaRapids on the Red RiverRed River9,0911871CoushattaRed RiverSabine24,2331843ManySabine RiverSt. Bernard35,8971807ChalmetteName saint of Governor GálvezSt. Anres22,1021807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. James21,0121807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. James22,1021807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. James23,1021807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. Janes2,1021807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. Janes2,1021807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. Janes2,1021807ConventCatholic Church parishSt. Janray33,84 <td< td=""><td>Lafourche</td><td>96,318</td><td>1807</td><td>Thibodaux</td><td>French for "the fork"</td></td<>	Lafourche	96,318	1807	Thibodaux	French for "the fork"
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West Feliciana 15,625 1824 St. Francisville Félicité, wife of Governor Gálvez; "happy land" in Spanish	West Baton Rouge	23,788	1807	Port Allen	-
"happy land" in Spanish	West Carroll	11,604	1877	Oak Grove	Charles Carroll
Winn15,3131852WinnfieldWalter O. Winn	West Feliciana	15,625	1824	St. Francisville	
	Winn	15,313	1852	Winnfield	Walter O. Winn

## Appendix

## Louisiana Colleges and Universities

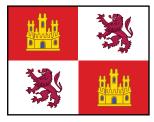
School	Location	Founded	Туре
Centenary College of Louisiana	Shreveport	1825	Private
Dillard University	New Orleans	1869	Private
Louisiana College	Pineville	1906	Private
Louisiana State University System		1965	Public
LSU Alexandria	Alexandria	1959	Public
LSU Baton Rouge	Baton Rouge	1860	Public
LSU Eunice	Eunice	1967	Public
LSU Shreveport	Shreveport	1967	Public
Loyola University New Orleans	New Orleans	1904	Private
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	New Orleans	1916	Private
Our Lady of the Lake College	Baton Rouge	1923	Private
Southern University System		1880	Public
Southern University and A&M Colleg	je Baton Rouge	1880	Public
Southern University at New Orleans	New Orleans	1956	Public
Southern University at Shreveport	Shreveport	1964	Public
Tulane University	New Orleans	1834	Private
University of Louisiana System		1998	Public
Grambling State University	Grambling	1901	Public
Louisiana Tech University	Ruston	1894	Public
McNeese State University	Lake Charles	1939	Public
Nicholls State University	Thibodaux	1948	Public
Northwestern State University	Natchitoches	1884	Public
Southeastern Louisiana University	Hammond	1925	Public
University of Louisiana at Lafayette	Lafayette	1901	Public
University of Louisiana at Monroe	Monroe	1931	Public
University of New Orleans	New Orleans	1956	Public
Xavier University of Louisiana	New Orleans	1915	Private

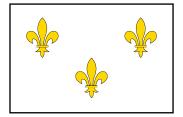


# Louisiana Historic Flags

A visitor to the Cabildo in New Orleans can see, in the second floor gallery, a display of ten flags that have flown over Louisiana from the time of Spanish exploration in the 1500s to the present day. These flags are a history lesson in themselves, reminding us of the unique story of our state.

When Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto traveled through Louisiana in 1541, his soldiers served under the red and yellow banner of Castile and Leon. The flag's images of the yellow castle of Castile on a red background and the red *rampant* (standing on hind legs) lion of Leon on a white background symbolized a union of those two provinces of the land we now call Spain.





In 1682, René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle,

claimed for France the land that he named Louisiana to honor King Louis XIV. He brought to this new possession the flag of the Bourbon kings of France, which displayed three golden *fleurs-de-lis* (lily flowers) on a pure white background. This French flag remained in Louisiana until 1763, when France gave up claim to all its North American holdings after losing the French and Indian War.

Spain, the new owner of Louisiana, brought a new Spanish flag that had only been adopted in 1759. It still displayed the colors of red and yellow—this time in alternating stripes. The wider yellow center stripe contained a small version of the old castle and lion within an oval, topped by a royal crown.

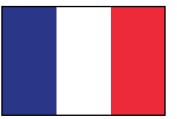




At the same time the Spanish flag was flying

over most of Louisiana, a British flag was waving over British West Florida, which included today's Baton Rouge and the Florida parishes. Great Britain had taken control of Florida from Spain after the French and Indian War. The British Union Flag of the day was a simpler version of today's British Union Jack. It contained only the red cross of Saint George (representing England) and the white diagonal cross of St. Andrew (representing Scotland).

The tricolor flag of France, which had been adopted after the French Revolution, only flew over Louisiana for a brief time. French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte had convinced Spain to transfer Louisiana to France in the secret Treaty of San Ildefonso, which was finalized in 1802. When Napoleon failed in his plan of using Louisiana to help regain control of Saint-Domingue, he lost interest in possessing the vast Louisiana territory.



American negotiators who went to France in 1803 to discuss the purchase of New Orleans were surprised to learn that Napoleon wanted to sell his entire Louisiana territory to the United States—for a bargain price. Once the Louisiana Purchase was ratified, the territory was transferred twice within a month. On November 30, 1803, Spain officially made the transfer to France that had been spelled out in the Treaty of San Ildefonso. Then on December 20, the French tricolor was lowered and the "Star-Spangled Banner" of the United States was raised in what today is New Orle-



ans' Jackson Square. This was a unique version of the United States flag—the only one with more than thirteen stripes. Two additional stars *and* stripes had been added to the nation's flag in 1795 to signify the addition of Vermont and Kentucky to the original thirteen states.



In 1810, Spanish West Florida revolted against Spain and formed the Republic of West Florida. The Republic's distinctive "Bonnie Blue Flag" had a blue field and a single white star. Although independence did not last long and West Florida was soon part of Louisiana, the Bonnie Blue Flag reappeared during the Civil War and is thought to have inspired other flags, like the Lone Star Flag of Texas.

In the months between Louisiana's secession from the Union in 1861 and the formation of the Confederate States of America later that year, our state flew the Louisiana Secession Flag. It resembled the U.S. flag in design, but with some important differences. The familiar thirteen stripes were now of red, white, and blue—harking back to the tricolor flag of France. The single yellow star in a red *canton* (the upper inner corner of a flag) recalled the colors of the Spanish flags.





Once Louisiana joined the Confederate States of America, our state displayed the "Stars and Bars" of the Confederacy. This was not the "rebel" flag that we often think of today as the Stars and Bars but instead consisted of three bars—red, white, red—and a blue canton with a circle of seven stars, representing the seven original Confederate states.

The State of Louisiana did not have an official flag until July 1, 1912, when a blue flag with the motto "Union Justice Confidence" and an image of a pelican feeding her young was adopted by the legislature. This pelican image was not new, however. Governor William C. C. Claiborne may have been the first to suggest a pelican design for Louisiana, and over the years, the bird had appeared on a number of flags—some red, some blue. The pelican symbolizes self-sacrifice,



because people in earlier times mistakenly believed that a mother pelican would tear away part of her breast to feed her young. In 2006, the Louisiana legislature passed a bill that required an addition to the flag of three drops of blood flowing from the pelican's breast. An eighth-grader from Houma had brought about this change when he researched earlier flags and presented his findings to his local state representative! This updated version of the state flag, with a more angular pelican and the symbolic drops of blood, was unveiled in November of 2010. Some people think that the outline of the pelican's head and outstretched wings and the nest of chicks below bears a resemblance to the fleur-de-lis of the old French flag.

When you "pledge allegiance to the flag of the state of Louisiana and to the motto for which it stands," it is good to remember all ten of our flags. They are colorful symbols that reflect the colorful history of our home.