

Play on the Bay



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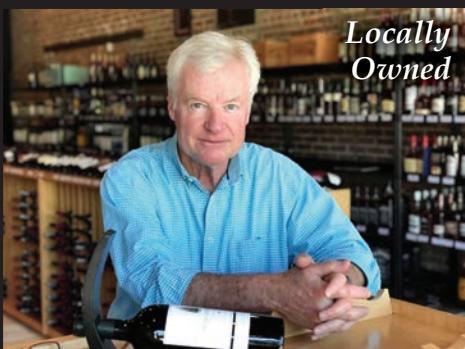
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Hancock County



McKenzy
Northington

As Executive Director of Hancock County Tourism, it's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2025-2026 edition of Play on the Bay. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a long-time friend of our coastal communities, we're honored to have you exploring our little slice of paradise.

Nestled along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Hancock County is where vibrant culture, natural beauty, and Southern charm meet. Start your journey at our Visitors Center inside the historic L&N Train Depot in Bay St. Louis—our “Front Door” to Hancock County. This Mississippi Landmark is not only a hub for maps, guides, and local insight, but also home to the Alice Moseley Folk Art Museum and the Bay St. Louis Mardi Gras Museum.

This guide is your passport to experiencing the very best of Hancock County—where live music, art markets, coastal cuisine, and Southern charm come together with unique shops, historic sites, outdoor adventures, and unforgettable events. Inside, you'll find everything you need to plan your visit, from local attractions and dining to accommodations and festivals. Whether you're seeking adventure, relaxation, or a little of both, we invite you to “Play on the Bay” in your own way—and hope you discover your next memory, your next visit, and maybe even your next favorite place.

On behalf of our entire team, thank you for supporting local businesses, exploring our towns, and helping us share the story of Hancock County.

We're so glad you're here.

*McKenzy Northington
Executive Director,
Hancock County Tourism*

4 hancock county guide

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L&N Depot, Bay St. Louis

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Y'all



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Historic Bay St. Louis

L&N Train Depot

Standing proudly at 1928 Depot Way, the Bay St. Louis L&N Train Depot is far more than a picturesque building—it is a living chronicle of Mississippi's Gulf Coast. Completed in 1929 in the Mission Revival style, with stucco walls, Moorish arches, and terracotta trim, the two-story structure replaced a 1876 wooden depot lost to fire. Today, it remains one of the most iconic train depots along the Gulf Coast, a designated Mississippi Landmark, and part of the Old Bay St. Louis Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

L. & N. R. R. Depot, Bay St. Louis.

Circa 1910



Originally constructed by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the depot marked Bay St. Louis as a key stop along a vital coastal rail line stretching from New Orleans to Mobile. Its opening celebration on April 20, 1929, drew crowds in the hundreds. For decades, it pulsed with the energy of daily life—commuters bound for New Orleans, children waving to engineers, and vendors selling pralines, fish sandwiches, and fried oysters through open train windows. For many, “meeting the train” became a cherished local ritual.

The depot hosted famed L&N passenger trains like the Pan-American, Humming Bird, and Gulf Wind, later joined by the Southern Railway's Crescent and Piedmont Limited. It carried troops during World War II, hosted carrier pigeon training on its grounds, and served as a lifeline for local commuters throughout the 1950s and 60s. Community memories recall club cars filled with card games and cocktail hours, ice-cold water at the station's fountain, and fathers timing their evening pickups by the sound of a distant train whistle.

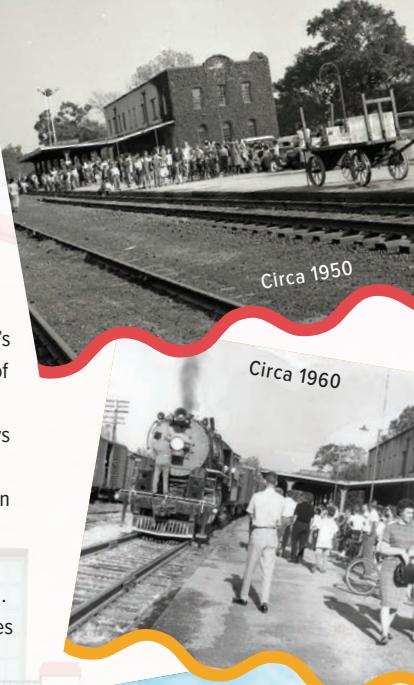
The golden age of passenger rail faded with the rise of highways and air travel. By 1970, regular service ended. Amtrak's Sunset Limited returned briefly in the 1990s, but service was halted again in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Yet the story didn't end there. Purchased by the City in 1991 and restored with the help of a \$1 million grant, the depot was reborn. It reopened in 1993 as a venue for public events and today houses the Hancock County Tourism Office, Visitor Center & Mardi Gras Museum, and the beloved Alice Moseley Folk Art Museum. Its cultural legacy even reached Hollywood as the backdrop of the 1966 film "This Property is Condemned," starring Robert Redford and Natalie Wood.

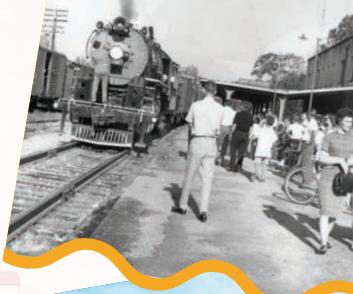
Through more than a century of storms, shifting transportation tides, and community change, the Bay St. Louis Depot remains a symbol of resilience, heritage, and connection. For locals and visitors alike, it is a place where history boards the train and never truly departs.

Excitingly, Amtrak service is returning in summer 2025. The new Mardi Gras line will connect New Orleans to Mobile with two trains running in each direction daily—totaling four passenger stops every day at the Bay St. Louis Depot. A new chapter in this historic station's legacy is just around the bend.

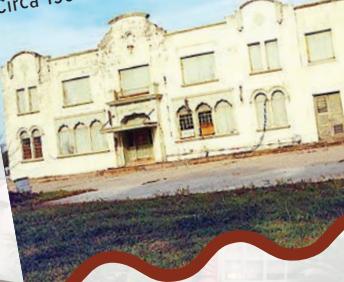
Bay St. Louis Museum inside the L&N Depot



Circa 1960



Before restoration
Circa 1991



Mardi Gras Museum inside the L&N Depot



Meet Our Cities!

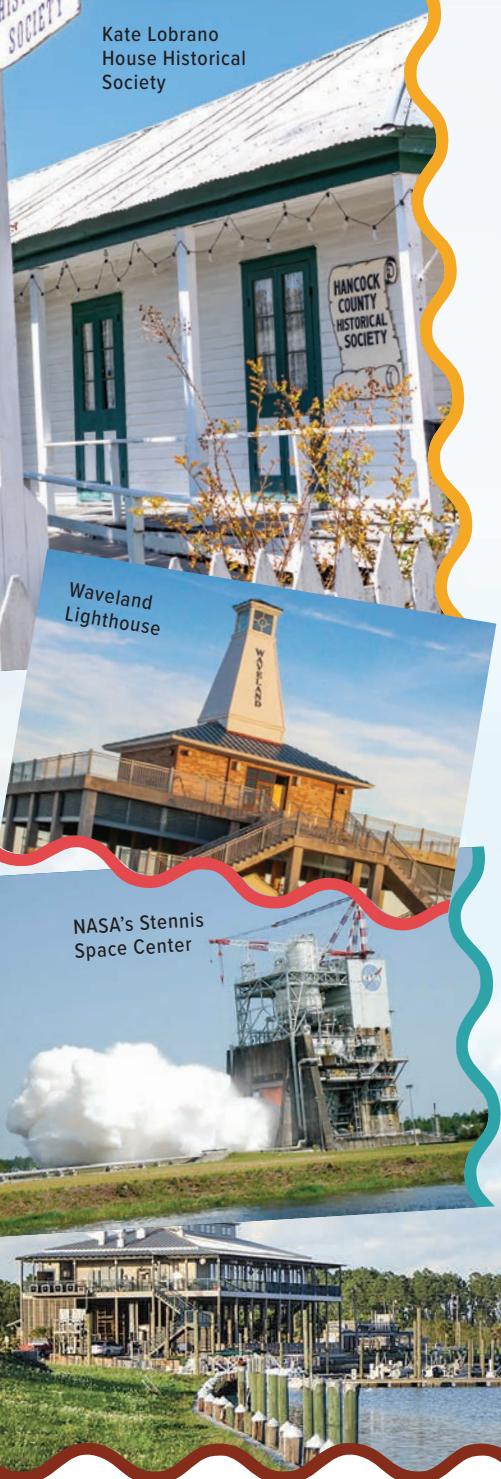
From pristine beaches to infinity and beyond, Hancock County offers picture-perfect getaways for nature lovers, outdoor enthusiasts, art aficionados, and knowledge seekers. Visitors and newcomers alike can take a leisurely drive down the scenic Beach Boulevard Byway to experience the charming seaside towns dotting the shoreline. Stops will include unforgettable old-world Southern charm, the freshest seafood, and stunning views of the Gulf of Mexico. Let us give you an introduction to the cities that make up Hancock County!

BAY ST. LOUIS

This relaxed, artsy coastal city exudes small-town charm while offering a beach lover's paradise and many historic sights. It's famous for its trendy Old Town area that offers shopping, dining, and lots of history. Learn about this walkable beach town while making stops at historical spots such as Kate Lobrano House that is home to the Hancock County Historical Society. Just one visit to Bay St. Louis and you'll quickly see why it was named "One of the Coolest Small Towns in America."



Kate Lobrano
House Historical
Society



WAVELAND

It's the perfect beach town if you want to avoid crowds and it's also home to a coastal state park. The 1.8-mile nature trail at Buccaneer State Park takes you through the wetlands with a chance to check out the local wildlife and has a waterpark and an 18-hole disc golf course to enjoy. And you don't want to miss a sundown beach stroll because wide-open sunsets are just more glorious in "The Hospitality City."

DIAMONDHEAD

Named after a volcanic tuff cone on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, the name was selected in hopes that it would attract quick-witted coastal residents or clever travelers looking to relocate. It seemed to work, as Diamondhead was deemed the smartest city in the state, with only three percent of its residents not possessing a high school diploma. Diamondhead is also a top choice for snowbirds looking to relocate due to its countless amenities.

In addition to these cities, Hancock County also incorporates Kiln and Pearlington, two censure-designated places that have an atmosphere all their own. Kiln (pronounced "Kill") is a local favorite, known for McLeod Park, Lazy Magnolia Brewery, and The Broke Spoke, a bar made famous by Brett Favre himself! Over in Pearlington, get ready to blast off at INFINITY Science Center, a learning experience that's out of this world. Pearlington is also home to the NASA's Stennis Space Center, NASA's primary rocket propulsion test site and the largest of its kind in America.

Diamondhead
Marina



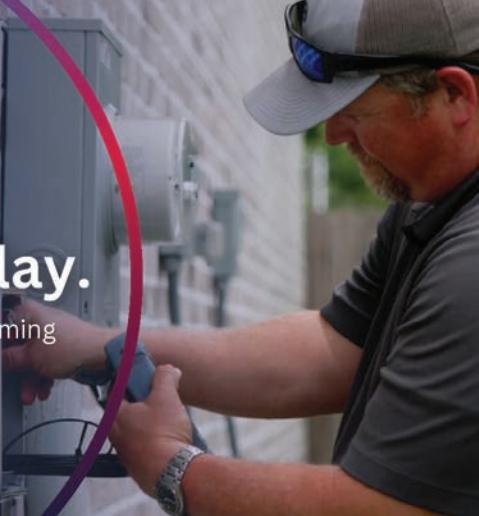
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The Bay St. Louis Rotary Club, founded in 1925, established the Hancock Chamber that same year.



Celebrating 100 Years of Welcoming Visitors



The Hancock Chamber of Commerce is celebrating a remarkable milestone: 100 years of extending a warm welcome to visitors in Hancock County. With 1,500 dedicated members, the Chamber has been a cornerstone of the local business community since its inception in 1925.

“We have so much to celebrate,” said Tish Williams, executive director. “I know our founding members would be proud to see the impact the Chamber continues to make to grow the business community and improve quality of life in Hancock County.”

Situated at the Historic City Hall Building in Bay St. Louis, the Chamber Office serves as a hub for information and assistance, inviting all to explore the area’s attractions and businesses.

“We love our home and welcome you to take advantage of all there is to see and do,” said Williams. “We invite you to make your first stop a visit to the Chamber Office at the Historic City Hall Building in Bay St. Louis.”

First Chamber Office



LEFT TO RIGHT

Founding President Horatio “H.S.” Weston
Current President Heather Ladner Smith



The Chamber Office is in the heart of Old Town Bay St. Louis mid-way between the Old Town and Depot Districts at 300 South Second Street. The capable staff is there to answer your questions and guide you to your next tour of attractions and local businesses. "All are welcome here," said Williams.

The Chamber's influence extends beyond traditional business advocacy, encompassing two notable non-profits: Partners for Stennis & Michoud and the Hancock County Community Development Foundation. These organizations play vital roles in promoting economic development, education, and cultural enrichment throughout the county.

With a board comprising members from all industries, the Chamber continues to champion Hancock County as a destination of choice for visitors and residents alike.

The collective efforts of their membership, comprising businesses, community leaders, educators, and engaged citizens, have fueled an ecosystem of growth and opportunity. With innovation and inclusivity at the forefront of their endeavors, members of the Hancock Chamber remain dedicated to shaping a vibrant and prosperous future for all who visit and long to call Hancock County home.





Hancock County Community Committee

Hancock County Fair, Elves in the Park, and the Easter Egg-travaganza

The Hancock County Community Committee is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to fostering community spirit through events that celebrate Hancock County's heritage, agriculture, industry, and businesses. Their mission is simple yet powerful: to create enjoyable family events where both young and old can showcase their skills and hard work to their community.

Each year, the Hancock County Fair is a beloved tradition that brings thousands together for four days of excitement and entertainment. The 12th Annual Hancock County Fair will take place September 10-13, 2025, at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Kiln, Mississippi.

With live entertainment, midway games and rides, local arts and crafts, livestock exhibits, and food from local restaurants and vendors, there's truly something for everyone. Wednesday features Christian Night, Thursday

hosts barrel racing, Friday spotlights high school rodeo, and Saturday features horse races and junior high rodeo. Plus, 80 percent of fair profits go toward improving the Hancock County Arena and its facilities—helping to enhance this community space for future generations.

Beyond the fair, the Committee hosts several free family-friendly events throughout the year. The Committee also hosts Elves in the Park on December 18, 2025, and the Easter Egg-travaganza on April 4, 2026—both free events full of holiday fun, contests, and community cheer at McLeod Park.



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Open *doors*



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Calendar

July 2025

7.3.25
Diamondhead 4th of July Celebration
Diamondhead

7.3.25-7.5.25
41st Annual Crab Fest
Bay St. Louis

7.12.25
10th Annual Frida Fest
Bay St. Louis

7.15.25
Wednesdays at the Depot
Bay St. Louis

August 2025

8.20.25
Wednesdays at the Depot
Bay St. Louis

8.28.25-8.31.25
100 Men Hall's 6th Annual Booker Fest
Bay St. Louis

8.31.25
WaveFest
Waveland

September 2025

9.10.25-9.13.25
Hancock County Fair
KiLn

9.13.25
Art WithOut Walls Art Market
Bay St. Louis

9.17.25
Wednesdays at the Depot
Bay St. Louis

9.27.25
Paddle Paradise
Diamondhead

9.28.25
100 Men Hall's ONE MISSISSIPPI
Bay St. Louis

October 2025

10.5.25-10.12.25
Cruisin' the Coast
Coastal

10.8.25
Hot Rods & Hospitality
Waveland

10.8.25
Blessing of the Classics
Diamondhead

10.9.25
Mopar Day in Da Bay
Bay St. Louis

10.15.25
Wednesdays at the Depot- The Arts Takeover
Bay St. Louis

10.16.25
National Night Out Against Crime
Diamondhead

10.18.25
Art WithOut Walls Art Market
Bay St. Louis

10.18.25
Boo in the Bay Parade
Bay St. Louis

10.25.25
Witches Walk
Bay St. Louis

10.31.25
Historical Society Cedar Rest Cemetery Tour
Bay St. Louis

November 2025

11.2.25
100 Men Hall's Día de los Muertos
Bay St. Louis

11.8.25
Port-Air-Space Day in the Bay
Bay St. Louis

11.8.25
Bud & Burgers
Bay St. Louis

11.8.25
Art WithOut Walls Art Market
Bay St. Louis

11.8.25
BBQ & Brews Festival
Diamondhead

11.8.25-11.9.25
Mermaids Arts & Crafts Show
Bay St. Louis

11.12.25
Taste of Hancock County
Bay St. Louis

11.16.25
100 Men Hall's Cigars Under the Star
Bay St. Louis

11.19.25
Wednesdays at the Depot Season Finale
Bay St. Louis

11.22.25
Waveland Christmas Bazaar
Waveland

11.27.25
Turkey Trot 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run
Bay St. Louis

11.29.25
Christmas in the Bay: Parade and Tree Lighting at the Depot
Bay St. Louis

December 2025

12.4.25
Nativity Walk
Bay St. Louis

12.6.25
Christmas on the Town Green
Diamondhead

12.13.25
Santa Stroll
Bay St. Louis

12.13.25
St. Rose de Lima's Reindeer Fun Run/Walk
Bay St. Louis

12.13.25
Art WithOut Walls Art Market
Bay St. Louis

12.13.25
100 Men Hall's A Soulful Christmas
Bay St. Louis

12.18.25
Elves in the Park
KiLn

12.21.25
The Arts' Winter Solstice Lantern Walk
Bay St. Louis

12.21.25
100 Men Hall's The Matzo Ball
Bay St. Louis

of Events

12.31.25

Oyster Drop
Bay St. Louis

January 2026

1.2.26-1.4.26

100 Men Hall's BSL
Film Fest
Bay St. Louis

1.10.26

Dolly Should
Bay St. Louis

1.17.26

100 Men Hall's Rock
'N' Roux
Bay St. Louis

1.30.26-1.31.26

Homegrown: A
Writer's Exchange
Kilm

February 2026

2.7.26

Krewe of Kids Parade
Bay St. Louis

2.8.26

Krewe of Nereids
Mardi Gras Parade
Bay St. Louis &
Waveland

2.11.26

The Arts' Black Arts
Exhibition
Bay St. Louis

2.14.26

Krewe of
Diamondhead Mardi
Gras Parade
Diamondhead

2.16.26

Mystic Krewe of the
Seahorse: Lundi Gras
Golf Cart Parade
Bay St. Louis

2.17.26

Annual Krewe of Real
People Mardi Gras
Parade
Bay St. Louis

2.22.26

Krewe of Pawseidon
Parade
Bay St. Louis

March 2026

3.14.26

Souper Mudfest
Bay St. Louis

3.14.26

St. Patrick's Day
Parade
Waveland

3.21.26-3.22.26

ARTS ALIVE!
Bay St. Louis

3.22.26

Parade of Homes
Hancock County

3.28.26

Waveland Easter
Parade and Egg Hunt
Waveland

April 2026

4.4.26

100 Men Hall's
Swamp(gr)Ass Get
Down

4.4.26

Hancock County
Community Committee
Easter Egg-travaganza

4.15.26

Wednesdays at the
Depot
Bay St. Louis

4.18.26

Waveland Crawfish
Cookoff
Waveland

4.26.26

Hancock County
Library System Fan
Fest
Bay St. Louis

May 2026

5.2.26

The Arts' Under the
Flower Moon
Bay St. Louis

5.20.26

Wednesdays at the
Depot
Bay St. Louis

5.1.26-5.16.26

Pirate Day in the Bay
Bay St. Louis

5.28.26-6.1.26

Jeepin' the Coast
Bay St. Louis

5.30.26

Bay Fest
Bay St. Louis

FOR MORE EVENTS



*Dates subject to change

Weekly:

Silver Slipper Casino
Hotel Rumble on the
Gulf: Beachside Rally
Thursday from March 13
– Oct 30, 2025 5-9pm
Bay St. Louis

Diamondhead Farmers
Marketplace: Fridays,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m. & Third
Sundays 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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Hancock County
Farmers Market:
Saturdays,
8 a.m. – 12 p.m.
3068 Longfellow Dr.,
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100 Men Hall's Lava
Lounge 5-7pm- most
Thursdays

MS Gulf Coast Run-'N'-
Chug- Wednesdays
6:30pm-9pm
Bay St. Louis

Monthly:

2nd Sunday Blues
Brunch at 100 Men Hall

Wednesdays at the
Depot- 3rd Wednesdays
April-November
5:30-8:30pm

Second Saturday, Old
Town Bay St. Louis
Waveland Food Truck
Friday- 2nd Friday,
Coleman Ave., Waveland

Open Jam Night s- 3rd
Thursday of each month
on Town Green in
Diamondhead, 6-8pm

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HANCOCK COUNTY



Kiln



Hancock County Fairgrounds



Diamondhead

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WELCOME TO HANCOCK COUNTY!

Nestled on the Mississippi gulf coast, Hancock County blends small-town charm with coastal beauty and a laid-back lifestyle. From the artsy streets of Bay St. Louis to the scenic trails of McLeod Park, these communities offer the perfect balance of outdoor adventure, rich history, and Southern hospitality. With top-rated schools, a thriving local economy, and easy access to everything, Hancock County is more than just a place to live—it's a place to call home.



Wednesdays at the Depot:

A Monthly Celebration of Local Culture

Every third Wednesday from April through November, the historic L&N Train Depot Grounds in Bay St. Louis comes alive with music, food, art, and community spirit during Wednesdays at the Depot—Hancock County Tourism's signature monthly event series.

Founded in 2024 by McKenzy Northington, Wednesdays at the Depot was created as a way to bring locals and visitors together to celebrate the culture, creativity, and connection that define our coastal community. What began as a vision to activate the Depot District has grown into one of the most anticipated monthly events in the local area.

Each event is free and open to the public, welcoming attendees of all ages to enjoy an evening under the oaks in the heart of Bay St.

Louis. Guests can expect live performances from incredible local bands, food and drink from beloved area chefs, and a curated marketplace featuring all local artists and small businesses. With its laid-back charm and festive atmosphere, this monthly gathering has quickly become a favorite for residents and a must-experience outing for visitors.

Whether you're grabbing a bite, shopping for something special, or simply soaking in the live music, Wednesdays at the Depot offers the perfect midweek boost. The event not only supports local talent and businesses but also highlights the unique blend of hospitality and creativity that makes Hancock County so special.

So mark your calendar, bring a blanket or lawn chair, and come "Play on the Bay" with us at Wednesdays at the Depot—where the community gathers, the music plays, and memories are made.





Join the Chamber!

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Taste of Hancock County

A Culinary Celebration of Community

Since its inception in 2022, Taste of Hancock County has grown into one of the area's most anticipated annual events—bringing together food lovers, local chefs, and community members for an evening of flavor, fellowship, and fun. Held each November at the Bay St. Louis

Community Hall in the historic Depot District, the event offers a delicious glimpse into the rich culinary traditions of our area.

Guests can sample signature bites from more than 25 local restaurants, caterers, and food artisans—each showcasing the best of Hancock County's diverse dining scene. From coastal classics and savory entrees to creative confections and sweet treats, there's something to satisfy every craving. Live music and a festive atmosphere make the evening even more memorable.

The event also features a silent auction packed with unique local goods, gift baskets, and experiences—all benefiting Hancock County Tourism and its mission to support and promote our coastal communities.

This year's Taste of Hancock County will take place on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, and tickets can be purchased at www.playonthebay.org.

Whether you're a local or a visitor, this flavorful evening is the perfect way to support small businesses, connect with neighbors, and celebrate the culture and hospitality that make Hancock County so special.





You're invited to be a pArt.

Come visit our members gallery and view work by local artists, or discover your own creativity in one of our many classes.

And join the fun at AWOW - Art Without Walls, our outdoor art market featuring local makers and artists.

Tues - Fri 10a - 5p & Sat 10a - 3p



The Arts, Hancock County

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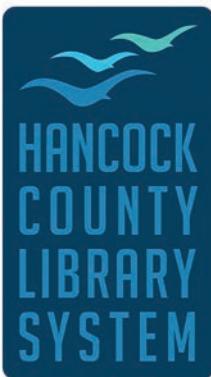
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hancockcounty.ms.gov/mcleod-park-campground/

Office Hours: 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Daily

Attractions

When you Come Play on the Bay, you will not be bored because there's always something to do. We have everything from exciting casino gaming and museums to art galleries and historic walking and biking tours.

Our attractions feature the state-of-the-art Infinity Science Center, plenty of outdoor and ecotourism activities including kayaking, bicycling, fishing, boating and two parks — Buccaneer and McLeod — or bring your own boat to the Bay St. Louis Harbor and Marina.

The museums provide a wealth of information and entertainment. Historical sites that take you back in time include the Bay St. Louis Train Depot and Old Town Bay St. Louis. Special tours include the latest addition to our attractions, the Mystic Ghost Boat Tours.

Gulf Coast Eco Tour



FREE ADMISSION

Alice Moseley Folk Art Museum

honors nationally acclaimed Folk Artist,
Alice Latimer Moseley
(1909-2004).



"The House is Blue, But the Old Lady Ain't"
The museum features over 100 original paintings, a gift
shop and much more!

Located in the Historic L&N Train Depot
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228-467-9223

www.alicemoseley.com
Open Monday-Saturday
FREE ADMISSION!!

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To INFINITY

From the Ocean's Depths to the Far Reaches of Space

Have you heard about the virtual reality exhibit that lets you unleash your perception? Or the hurricane prediction lab that allows you to monitor and track massive storms? What about the carnivorous plants conservatory? Sounds exciting, doesn't it?

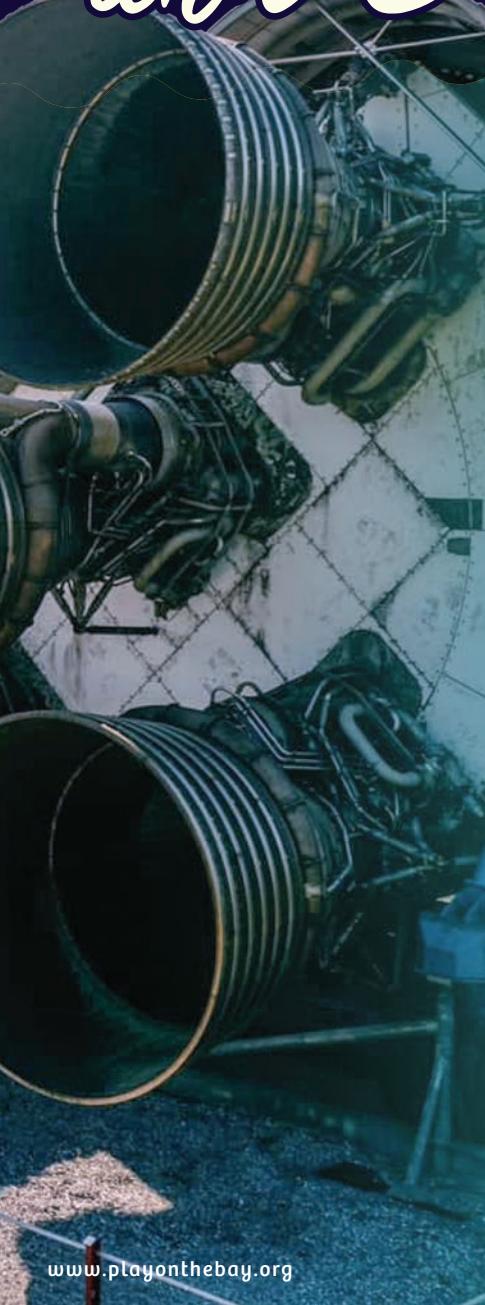
That's just a handful of exhibits you can explore without bounds at the official NASA visitor center host, the INFINITY Science Center in Pearlington. This unique science museum includes two stories of indoor and outdoor exhibits and more than 50 years of NASA history on display. The non-profit, self-guided facility delivers an engaging learning experience for guests of all ages with numerous exhibits that focus on space, but that's not all. The state-of-the-art center also features an immersive blend of space exploration, Earth science, engineering, and technology. Annually, it sees more than 75,000 visitors.

The fun begins before you even walk through the door thanks to massive outdoor sites like a colossal rocket engine. Just inside the front entrance, you'll find science galleries with hands-on learning experiences like Perception Unleashed and Deep Ocean Explorer. You'll also see the conservatory filled with more than 200 species of carnivorous plants.

As you make your way through the museum, you'll come across the Hurricane Prediction Lab and you can even catch a movie while you're at INFINITY in the 3D Immersion Theater. The theater offers films such as "Dinosaurs of Antarctica," "Astronauts: Oceans to Orbit," "Secrets of the

and Beyond

Story by
Cherie Ward
Photos
courtesy of
INFINITY
Science
Center



Universe," and "Oceans Our Blue Planet" shown on 30-minute loops so you never have to miss any of the interactive action with your friends and family.

After spending some time in the Immersion Theater, you'll definitely want to check out the second floor where you can explore Biloxi native and NASA Astronaut Fred Haise's Gallery and the Apollo 4 Capsule.

Every facet of this facility is filled with a chance to learn something scientific, even the Infinity CaFe that's spelled out with symbols and abbreviations of elements from the periodic table. The eatery offers items such as a Grilled Cheese Reaction, Cosmos Burger, and Atomic Chicken Club.

Make your plans now to travel to infinity and beyond Wednesdays - Saturdays from 9:00am - 4:00pm (August - May). We will be open Wednesday - Sunday from 10:00am - 5:00pm June and July. One step inside and you'll see, INFINITY Science Center is dedicated to unveiling the sights, sounds, textures, and smells of great past discoveries, and offers a rare glimpse at future missions into uncharted territories.



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the100menhall.com

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Listings provided by the Hancock County Tourism and Hancock Chamber of Commerce. *For more information, visit playonthebay.org.*

LOOK FOR THE NAMES OF HANCOCK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS IN TEAL!





100 Men Hall

The 100 Men Hall represents a notable structure, a rare architectural monument to African American life on the Gulf Coast and is one of the few standing sites on the Mississippi Blues Trail.

The 501(c)(3) nonprofit—still using the name “Hundred Members Debating Benevolent Association”—returns the Hall to a meaningful role in the community, with the intention of forming a bridge between its original mission and the current needs of the community. The Hall serves as a living heritage museum that carries the unique cultural and musical history particular to the Gulf Coast into the 21st



Century. Those familiar with the Hall consider it a beloved community treasure; those learning about it for the first time are instantly captivated by its storied past.

The Hall was built in June 1922 and was dedicated in July 1923. The dedication is inscribed in a cornerstone still visible on the front right footing. Having survived Camille (1969), Katrina (2005) and Zeta (2020), the Hall celebrated its centennial (2022) with community events to engage people of all ages in its history, significance and mission.

The 100 Men Hall’s mission is to promote and preserve the music, art, historical legacy and culture of the 100 Men Hall, a centuries-old nexus of social justice and artistic expression. Founded in 1894 for and by a population historically denied access to exhibition venues, the Hall is one of very few remaining landmarks within the famed Chitlin Circuit. The Hall’s enduring success is a powerful testament of art’s role as a vehicle for activism.

Over many decades, the Hall sheltered and inspired culture bearers to defy and endure the



The Hall hosts a variety of music, performance, community and cultural events during the year. Find out what's happening at www.100menhall.com!



303 Union St., Bay St Louis, MS 39520

228.231.1920

www.100menhall.com



Arts Hancock County

Come Be a pArt!

OH, SO MANY WAYS TO CONNECT WITH CREATIVITY HERE ON THE COAST.

Looking to enjoy the talents of local artists? Curious about expressing your own creativity? As the centerpiece of all things art-related, we represent the way art can transform community—and people.

Whether through visual media, culinary arts, music, theater, dance, writing, or storytelling, The Arts, Hancock County offers an inspiring array of ways for both adults and kids to connect with creative expression.

ART IS MEANT TO BE EXPERIENCED.

We're home to a surprising range of opportunities for you to get in on the fun. Our year-round activities include:

- Annual festivals
- Art markets
- Member's gallery
(There's always something to see.)
- Classes
- Lively monthly meetings (Open to all.)
- Gallery openings
- Quarterly Story Slams
- Special events



PLAN AHEAD AND YOU WON'T MISS OUT.

The Arts, Hancock County invites you to build your next Gulf Coast get-away around these dates:

June 14 - Art Without Walls Art Market

July 9 - Member Gallery Opening Reception

September 10 - Member Gallery

Opening Reception

September 13 - Art Without Walls Art Market

October 15 - The Arts Wednesdays at

the Depot Takeover

October 18 - Art Without Walls Art Market

October 23 - November 15 Alex Brown /

Jerry Dixon Collection show
and silent auction

November 8 - Art Without Walls Art Market

December 10 - Member Gallery Opening Reception

December 13 - Art Without Walls Art Market

December 21 - Winter Solstice Lantern Walk

2026 Events:

February 11 - Black Arts Exhibition

March 21–22 - ARTS ALIVE!

May 2 - Under the Flower Moon

THE ARTS, HANCOCK COUNTY

405 Blaize Ave., Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

228.342.4521

hancockarts@gmail.com • www.hancockarts.org

HOURS:

Tues-Fri, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.



Facebook @The Arts, Hancock County, MS

Instagram @hancockarts





Dining

When you Play on the Bay, bring a hearty appetite! Hancock County is the crown jewel of the Mississippi Gulf Coast dining scene. Dining choices offer a wide range of cuisine. We have whatever you're craving — seafood, regional, Creole/Cajun, Mexican, Asian, Italian, and much more.

We're known for our famous fresh seafood that includes fish, oysters, soft shell crab and shrimp. You just can't beat oysters on the half shell, gumbo, or a shrimp poboy on French bread. Regional favorites are jambalaya, shrimp Creole, crab cakes and shrimp and grits. Want a break from seafood? Red beans and rice is also a popular regional favorite.

Not to be overlooked is our typical Southern food that includes fried chicken, vegetables, roast beef and spicy barbecue. There are restaurants serving mouth-watering steaks and those featuring pizza, sandwiches and burgers. Luscious desserts, doughnuts, artisanal breads and ice creams complete the tasty choices.

The dining atmosphere runs the gamut, too. Relax with a cold beer and a burger overlooking the bay, sit at a bar surrounded with history while you sip a cocktail and eat charbroiled oysters, or dine in a beautiful setting to celebrate a special occasion.



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www.playonthebay.org



hancock county guide 37

From Island Time

story and photos

courtesy of The Blind Tiger

The Blind Tiger

Beach Vibes & Gulf Coast Flavors

Located at 119 N. Beach Blvd., The Blind Tiger (TBT) in Bay St. Louis offers an open-air island experience with stunning views of the Bay St. Louis Harbor. This family-friendly beach bar and grill is the original TBT restaurant, which opened in May 2013. Guests can enjoy live music on weekends while relaxing on the outdoor patio, and kids can play in the sandbox. The restaurant also fronts Bay St. Louis Municipal Harbor, offering 500 feet of piers with easy access for boats of all sizes.

The menu features a variety of fresh Gulf seafood specials rotating daily on the chalkboard, including Ruby Red Shrimp, Smoked Tuna Dip, and Chargrilled Oysters. Popular dishes include the Fried Redfish Sandwich, Tacos, and the TBT Smash Burger. For a refreshing drink, try the Bushwacker or the Cucumber Cilantro Margarita. Taco Tuesdays offer \$3 beef or chicken tacos, or \$9.99 shrimp or Mahi tacos.

While the Bay St. Louis location is the flagship, TBT also has locations in Biloxi Beach and Fairhope, Alabama, each offering their own unique atmosphere and menu items.



To Backyard Vibes

Butcher Block Steak House & Bar

Don't-Miss Daily Steak Specials

Situated at 126 Blaize Ave. in the Depot District, Butcher Block Steak House & Bar is a rebranded establishment from the former TBT Butcher Shop and Deli. The restaurant offers daily steak specials, including an 8oz filet or 12oz ribeye for \$19.99, and a 12oz New York Strip for \$24.99.

In addition to the steak specials, the menu includes a variety of items, such as fresh salads, sides, grilled entrees, local favorites, and butcher's selections.



The Backyard Beer Garden

Relaxed Atmosphere & Family Fun

Located directly behind Butcher Block Steak House, The Backyard Beer Garden is the newest hangout in the Bay St. Louis Depot District. This family-friendly atmosphere offers fun for everyone with a full-service bar featuring more than 20 beers on tap, a kids' play area, a fenced-in dog park, private party seating areas, and its own golf cart parking lot.

Whether you're enjoying a cold drink, watching the game on the large TV, or watching your kids play in the sandbox, The Backyard Beer Garden provides a relaxed and enjoyable environment for all ages.





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for those
special occasions

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gardeniatearoom.com

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Biloxi, Miss. 112 Court St



131 South Second St. Bay Saint Louis



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Bay St. Louis

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228.466.8032
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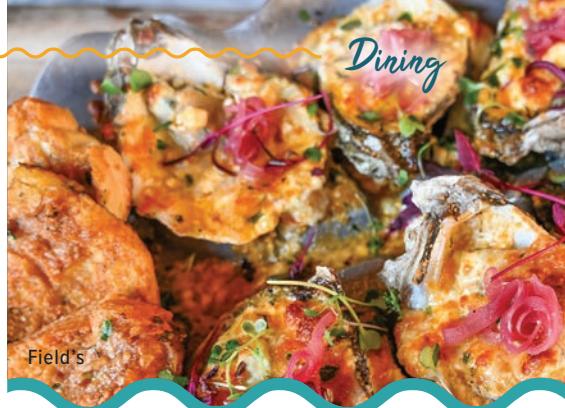
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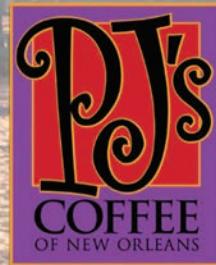
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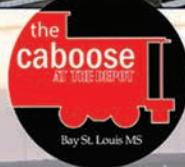
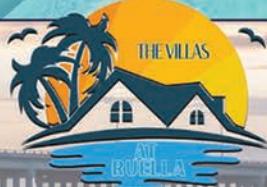
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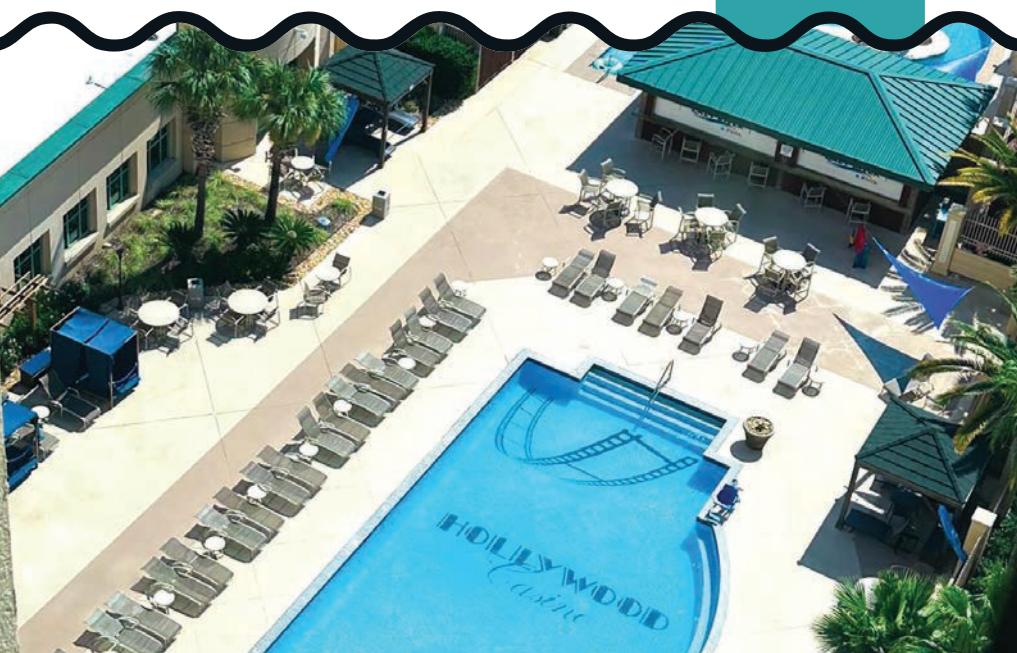
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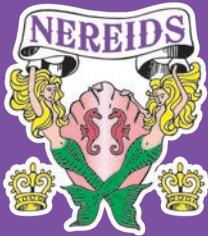
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Jane Evans Designs



Hancock County Library System

To locals, the Hancock County Library System (HCLS) is more than just books. As a hub for information, technology and community connection, HCLS offers a wide range of free programs and services for all ages—including visitors.

The innovative Library of Things lets patrons borrow items like pickleball paddles, sewing machines, ukuleles, tarot card kits, microscopes, Wi-Fi hotspots, Tonieboxes and even metal detectors.

You can also check out Oral History Kits to record interviews with loved ones.

HCLS is also known for hosting some of the Coast's most exciting events.

The annual Holiday Tree Celebration, now in its 31st year, fills all five branches—Bay St. Louis, Diamondhead, Kiln, Pearlington and Waveland—with more than 150 custom-decorated trees each December.

In January, HOMEGROWN: A Writers Exchange brings together over 30 acclaimed Southern authors for a free, full-day event of literary discussions and book signings.

Come April, FAN★FEST—the library's own mini-Comicon—delivers a day of pop culture fun with video games, cosplay contests, and regional vendors.

See the full calendar at www.hcls.info, or stop by and experience one of the South's most dynamic library systems.



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Relocating

to Hancock County

More and more retirees are finding what they're looking for in Hancock County. The quaint towns and bustling communities offer a relaxing lifestyle and have a rich history and culture that has appealed to new residents for decades.

New residents have easy access to all the information they need about relocation by visiting www.hancockmsmyhome.com, including real estate, taxes, healthcare, education, movers, utilities, attractions and amenities. Packets are also available upon request from the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission.

Cheryl and Joe Doyle retired to Diamondhead and find the living is easy in this Hancock County town with its long list of activities. "We're known as the 'do-it-all' Doyles and we are," Cheryl said.

John and Ning Wiebner, Bay St. Louis residents, said, "We've lived and traveled all over the world during our careers. In retirement we chose the Bay and every day here we celebrate our decision."

Waveland resident Karen Aderer says her town is "everything you could want in a small town."

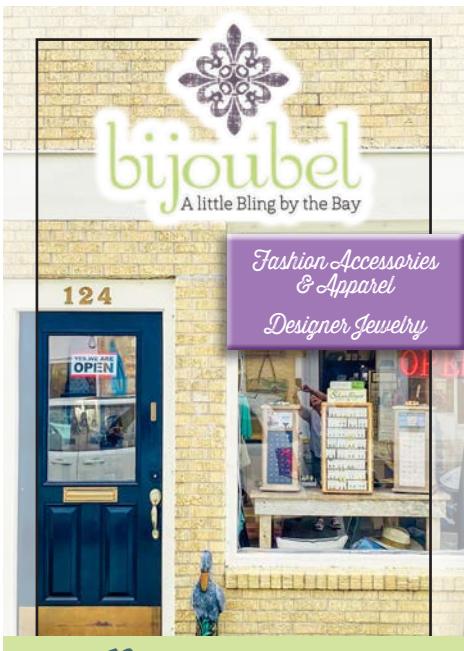
"Hancock County is the perfect place for those looking to enjoy the outdoors and the peace and quiet that comes along with it," say the Kiln residents Mark and Leslie Henderson.

BAY ST. LOUIS



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- **Pirate Day in the Bay Festival:** Family-friendly, parades, live music, costume contest, fireworks, fun! May 15 & 16, 2026, third weekend in May.

For more information visit our website at www.mkotsh.com. Like and follow us on Facebook for other pirate activities.



www.coastal-hearing.com

Top Row Left to Right:
Sydney Smith, Au.D., Lauren O'Keefe, Au.D., Mindy Eads Taylor, Au.D.

Bottom Row Left to Right:
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