

Louisiana PASS



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The Red Stick

The name "Baton Rouge" is French for "red stick." Want to know why? When the French explorer, Iberville, came to the area now known as Baton Rouge in 1699, the land was inhabited by Native American tribes. A red stick marked the boundary between two of the tribes. Using the stick as a boundary is similar to putting tape on the floor through the middle of a room you share with your brother (or sister). The tape would mark the boundary between your side of the room and your brother's side, so you could each have your own space. That's what the purpose of the red stick was also. Since then, the "Red Stick" has become a very large, fun city.

Before Baton Rouge was a part of the United States, it changed governments very often. In fact, in a span of only 75 years, Baton Rouge was a part of France, Spain, England, and the United States! Baton Rouge is now the capital of Louisiana, but it hasn't always been. It was first named the capital in 1849. However, during the Civil War, Baton Rouge became an independent colony. It wasn't until 1882 that Baton Rouge became the capital for good.

Baton Rouge is an interesting and fun place to be because of its varied culture, which was influenced by the French, English, Spanish, Canadian, and even German cultures. Because of this blend of cultures, the city is a wonderful place to explore. There are museums, the symphony, the zoo, and many styles of food and music that are unique to Baton Rouge! And, Baton Rouge is also home to Louisiana State University and the Tigers, their national championship football team!

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