



[Home](#) [News](#) [Opinion](#) [Movies](#) [Music](#) [Events/Exhibits](#) [About Us](#)



Bay St. Louis: Back in business

Cheré Coen
timesedit@timesofacadiana.com

As the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast slowly recovers from the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, hard-hit Bay St. Louis, which lost most of its town, has made a tremendous comeback and is back in business.

In fact, on a recent weekday the downtown area was busy with tourists and the newly opened Mockingbird Café had a line for its lunch offerings of delicious panini sandwiches, wraps, pizzas and salads.

Down the street at Antique Maison, tourists and locals visited with owners Ed and Sylvia Young, natives of New Orleans who now live on the coast, operating the massive store with approximately 25 antique vendors.

"It's never slowed down," said Ed Young.

Alicen and Martin Chambers came home to an empty downtown after the storm, bought a historic home on Second Street, restored it and opened the Mockingbird Café, which offers coffee beginning at 7 a.m., lunch and dinner daily and a bar until 11 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays.

The Mockingbird features live music on Thursdays, a "Spoken Word" poetry night the first Wednesday of the month, a songwriter's night and original artwork for the Second Saturday art show on, naturally, the second Saturday of each month.

In addition, there will be live music beginning at 6 p.m. Saturdays during the



Bay St. Louis is about 45 minutes past New Orleans, approximately a 2 1/2-hour drive from Lafayette. Take Interstate 10 to Baton Rouge, then veer left to Interstate 12. Travel to Slidell and pick up I-10 once again, then exit at Bay St. Louis, just over the Mississippi state border. Once off the interstate, it takes about 15 minutes to reach the Gulf town.

A place to stay

Accommodations downtown include the Palm House Bed & Breakfast, a 19th century West Indies-style home on the National Registry that's surrounded by

summer, special pitcher nights and Family Tuesdays.

Down along the water's edge, the story isn't quite the same, where recovery continues and several buildings appear as if bombs have gone off inside. But the beaches are open and active with bathers and many of the old beachfront homes still line the winding road.

live oaks and palms and only a short walk to the beach and downtown shops. Palm House offers two rooms on the first floor or a cabin out back that sleeps up to four adults. Rates are \$110 to \$125, based on double occupancy.

Only a block or two off the water are numerous shops, antique stores and art galleries, plenty of places to visit and shop while enjoying the ambiance of the old Mississippi Coast town as it builds itself back up. Tourists can enjoy shops like Maggie Mays original artwork, Bay Books independent bookstore, Clay Creations Gallery and The Artists co-op.

Like Lafayette's ArtWalk, Bay St. Louis offers a Second Saturday gallery opening and special events from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. every second Saturday of the month, with shop owners and galleries offering food and drink. The monthly event — the next one will be Saturday — occurred regularly before Katrina, and Second Saturday was the first city event to be re-established after the storm. 6

 [Print this article](#)  [E-mail this to a friend](#)

Copyright ©2007 The Times of Acadiana. All rights reserved.
Use of this site indicates your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)
(Terms updated 7/20/05)