

*Just ten miles west of New Iberia lies one of Louisiana's best kept secrets — a semitropical paradise you have to visit to believe. This is Jefferson Island. Situated on a prehistoric salt dome, this wooded "island" rises above the surrounding grasslands. It is home to the scenic Lake Peigneur, Rip Van Winkle Gardens, Rip's Rookery, Joseph Jefferson Mansion, and so much more. Come explore its treasures.*

### *Rip Van Winkle Gardens*

Discover a year-round explosion of color as irises, magnolias, hibiscus, camellias, azaleas, springtime bulbs, and annuals paint a landscape against the Southern sky. Peacocks and other exotic birds wander freely among the stately oaks and the beautiful tapestry of the gardens. It's distinctly Louisiana, with a touch of the exotic.



### *Joseph Jefferson Mansion*

This magnificent Southern mansion in the Moorish style boasts a fourth-story cupola and an enviable location in the center of the gardens. Built in 1870 as a winter retreat for the renowned stage actor who portrayed Rip Van Winkle, it is richly appointed with heirlooms, period paintings, rare Louisiana pieces, and fine examples of American and French Empire furniture. And it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



**Tours of the gardens and mansion begin on the hour from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week, year round, except on major holidays.**

## *Best Kept Secret In Louisiana*



### **Getting to Jefferson Island**

**From I-10/I-49**  
Exit Hwy 90 South,  
Take Jefferson Island exit right  
5 miles to Jefferson Island &  
Rip Van Winkle Gardens

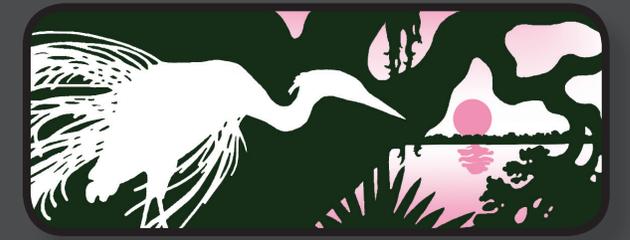
**From Morgan City**  
Hwy 90 North toward New Iberia,  
Take Exit 128A onto Hwy 14  
toward Delcambre, 7 miles to  
Jefferson Island & Rip Van Winkle Gardens

**From Abbeville**  
Take Hwy 14 East,  
Turn left on Jefferson Island Rd. just  
past Delcambre to Jefferson Island &  
Rip Van Winkle Gardens



5505 Rip Van Winkle Road  
New Iberia, LA 70560 • 337-359-8525  
[www.ripvanwinklegardens.com](http://www.ripvanwinklegardens.com)

Photography by Darlene Boucher, Kelly Morvant, Charlie Hohorst  
Graphic Design by MoonShine Studio



## *Jefferson Island*



### *A Wonderland of Flora and Fauna*



### *Rip's Rookery*

This unique rookery is home to 12 species of



exotic birds that attract photographers from around the world. The roseate spoonbills, in particular, are some of

the most numerous and colorful in the region.

### *Café Jefferson*

Nestled in a grove of ancient live oaks, Café Jefferson offers breathtaking views of the gardens and Lake Peigneur — not to mention the most beautiful sunsets in South Louisiana. The food is just as glorious. Cajun favorites like gumbo, crawfish étouffée, seafood bisque, and chicken



sauce piquant draw tourists and locals alike. The café is open year round from 11 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

weekdays, and until 3 p.m. weekends. It is closed on major holidays.



### *Bed & Breakfast Cottages*

In the heart of the gardens you'll find charming Acadian cottages, luxuriously appointed for our overnight guests. Experience Southern hospitality at its finest — with over twenty-five acres of paradise as your backyard.

### *Weddings, Meetings & More*

The spacious Bayless Center overlooking the gardens and Lake Peigneur is the ideal setting for conferences, meetings, weddings, and events of up to 300 people. There's a fully equipped kitchen and other amenities. The smaller Orangerie Room overlooks a lush, aroma-filled rose garden and is perfect for a rehearsal dinner, bridal or baby shower, or small meeting of up to 50 guests.



**For more information and event bookings please call 337-967-5871.**