



Louisiana's Sacred Places: Churches, Cemeteries and Voodoo

Deborah Burst

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From New Orleans across the back roads of St. Tammany, Pointe Coupee and both East and West Feliciana Parishes, Burst brings an eccentric collage of cultures and customs to the page. It's a colorful journey to the cities of the dead, the serenity of country churchyards, and the mesmerizing calling of spirits in a Voodoo ceremony.

Witness full-page photographs of the Moorish architecture inside the stunning Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church, the ghastly history of Our Lady of Guadalupe church, and a close up of St. Roch Chapel's chamber of miracles. Moving west learn the telling portraits of Civil War casualties laid to rest under weeping oaks in Clinton and St. Francisville. More than churches and cemeteries, the book follows the legends of Pointe Coupee planter homes and river road wonders.

Along the cypress bayous in St. Tammany, learn first hand the history of Covington and Lacombe along with mysteries of the Creole tradition in lighting the graves on All Saints Day. In one of the most intense chapters, Burst shares the Voodoo religion including interviews with Voodoo Priestess Sallie Ann Glassman. The book closes with some dark humor in how New Orleans celebrates its dead with jazz funerals and post-mortem parties fit for a king.

Louisiana's Sacred Places: Churches, Cemeteries and Voodoo Details

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From Reader Review Louisiana's Sacred Places: Churches, Cemeteries and Voodoo for online ebook

Sharon says

This short book is a rather nice overview of several historically important churches and cemeteries in Louisiana. The author not only includes her impressions (and photos), but also travel information like websites and location information. Her historical research is impeccable and her authorial voice entertaining.

The author lives in Louisiana and provides an insider's perspective on the sites she discusses. Nicely done.

Clarissa Simmens says

I believe the title "Seeker of Knowledge" has morphed into "Information Junkie" but whatever your preference, you will read the last page of Deborah Burst's excellent regional book and come away with an incredible understanding of Louisiana's hallowed locations. Travel notes at the end of each chapter include relevant websites, availability of maps, and restaurants. The photography is exceptional. I read this on my 6 inch Kindle Fire and can see every crevice or piece of dirt captured in photos that are full-size. Whether looking at the Chamber of Miracles where plaster and plastic limbs hang on a crumbling wall, or a geometric wrought iron gate surrounding a cemetery, or a child's grave, each photo will linger like a ghostly imprint, affecting your emotions. There are no shambling zombies in the chapter on Voodoo, just a sensitive explanation that "Voodoo is the essence of the Spirit that fills the universe." The book concludes with a look at funeral traditions and is followed by a comprehensive bibliography. Definitely recommended for those who desire an interesting armchair tour of a fascinating Southern state.

Tori Miller says

I visited 3 places I hadn't heard about before the book and the book pointed out things to look for that I never would have noticed on my own. Quick read before a trip.

Jamie says

An excellent read. The only thing it really lacked, if you could say that, is maps. I would have found them helpful and convenient as I set off to Covington and St. Francisville after being inspired by the book. My phone GPS did just fine though. I want to check out St. Roch Cemetery next!

Rachel says

Deborah Burst's book *Louisiana's Sacred Places* does an amazing job of introducing the reader to the incredible history of New Orleans and the rest of Louisiana. Integrated among a large number of beautiful

photographs is a wonderful explanation of the history, culture and life of the state. The book is a both a great primer for individuals who have yet to visit New Orleans and Louisiana and also a sea of new information for veterans to the area. Having lived in New Orleans for many years, I was surprised just how much I learned from this book.

Among the beautiful pictures, you'll find such intriguing information as: the Islamic influence on the architecture of the Immaculate Conception Jesuit Church in New Orleans; the role of Our Lady of Guadalupe in helping the city during the epidemics of the 1800s; pictures of the Chamber of Miracles that commemorates miracles; and as much expository information about Voodoo as you could ask for.

I recommend this book both for individuals who are strangers to the state and its most famous city and for long-time veterans of the area. There are travel information and tips for those who are newer to the area, but the book would also make a beautiful memento or coffee table book for those who know the area well.
