



New Iberia, Louisiana

Address

KOC Campground
3104 Curtis Lane
Hwy 90, Frontage Rd
New Iberia, LA 70560

Telephone/E-Mail

Office (717)368-8494
Fax (337)276-6403
newiberiarv@mds.mennonite.net

Directions

From I-10/Lafayette, LA
Take 90 South to the South Lewis exit.
Travel West on Frontage Road on the South side of 90.
KOC Camp ground is on the Left.
Note: Be sure to cross small bridge before turning left into campground.
Turn right on Possum Lane as soon as you enter the camp ground.
MDS has sites 119 thru 123 on the left of the lane, just past the laundry.

Location

New Iberia, Louisiana, is located in Iberia Parish (county), 30 miles southeast of Lafayette in the heart of Cajun country.

Demographics

New Iberia was founded in 1779 by a group of Spanish colonists who came up Bayou Teche and settled around Spanish Lake. They called the town *Nueva Iberia* in honor of the Iberian Peninsula of their homeland. French, Spanish, Native American, and African American influences have since blended together to create a unique culture. The population of New Iberia is approximately 33,000; almost 30% of the population lives below the poverty line. The region is famous for its Tabasco sauce, Jungle Gardens, deposits of rock salt, and other natural features such as Avery Island.

Hurricanes Rita, Gustav and Ike

Hurricane Rita came onshore September 24, 2005, bringing only minor wind and rain damage. However six hours after the storm had passed, an 11-foot tidal surge that had built up in the Gulf came onshore. Because of the flat land that gradually rises from the coast, houses

as far as 30 miles inland were flooded, damaging the contents and interior structures. MDS responded to homeowners in need by working in the area for 14 months after the storm.

New Iberia was affected by two more hurricanes during the 2008 hurricane season. Gustav hit the Louisiana coastline on September 1, 2008. Although Gustav's impact wasn't as bad as it was expected to be, New Iberia experienced some flooding, wind damage, and power outages. A little over a week later, Hurricane Ike hit with a storm surge reminiscent of Rita's. Many homes were destroyed once again. MDS volunteers also have the opportunity to be involved in a local revitalization project that assists persons with low income improve their living conditions.

MDS

MDS partners with Southern Mutual Help Association, a local organization that identifies clients in need and secures funding for the rebuilding projects. Since 2006, MDS volunteers and partners have helped bring nearly 100 families home in this community.