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Buc-ee’s set to open 2 locations

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Buc-ee’s, with its beloved beaver mascot and celebrated food items, will soon open its first ever locations in Louisiana.

The chain of massive travel centers is expanding into other states and will be opening one location in Northeast Louisiana and another in the South Central region of the state.

The stores are expected to generate millions in revenue, employ hundreds of workers and welcome thousands of visitors daily.

When is Buc-ee’s location in Ruston, Louisiana expected to open?

Construction crews have begun pouring concrete and laying additional groundwork for the Buc-ee’s building in Ruston, which will be located off of In-

terstate 20 at the Tarbutton road exit.

Ruston’s Buc-ee’s location is projected to open mid 2027, but this could be subject to change depending on construction progress, according to the City of Ruston.

Once completed, the location will span more than 70,000 square feet and include more than 100 fuel pumps.

“This project continues to move forward step by step, and we’re excited to

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Buc-ee’s gas station is shown in Huber Heights on Aug. 5.
JACOB SEBASTIAN/THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER



Juvenile cottonmouths like this example are brighter in color than adults and are often mistaken for copperheads.
BRIAN BROOM/THE CLARION-LEDGER

Cottonmouth or copperhead?

Ways you can tell the differences in Louisiana

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

When you’re out in the woods or on the water, properly identifying snakes can mean the difference between a safe encounter and a deadly one.

Louisiana is home to 48 species of snake, but only seven are venomous, two of which are copperheads and cottonmouths.

It can be hard to identify snakes, but knowing which characteristics to look for can make identification easier.

What’s the difference between a copperhead and a cottonmouth?

Copperheads and cottonmouths are both found in the southern U.S. and are both venomous pit vipers, but differences lie in their habitat and appearance.

Cottonmouths are typically found in wet regions like swamps, marshes, rivers and lakes. This can make them easily mistaken for water snakes.

Copperheads are often found in rocky areas, such as mountains, woods, suburban wood piles and construction zones, according to A-Z Animals.

How to identify a copperhead in Louisiana

The copperhead gets its name from the coppery-tan color found primarily on its head throughout parts of its body down to its tail. Since the copperhead is a venomous pit viper, it has a distinctive triangular head shape.

Bodies of copperheads usually have a pale tan to brown color with an almost light pink tint to it, with a darker brown banded pattern down the length of their bodies that resemble an hourglass shape, says Home & Garden Information Center.

Copperheads also have yellow eyes with a black vertical and elliptical pupil, similar to a cat’s eye, and pink mouths.

How to identify a cottonmouth in Louisiana

Cottonmouths are dark-colored, typically dark olive brown to nearly black. These snakes can be solid colored or have a banded pattern, but dark crossbands in adult snakes are normally indistinct.

Cottonmouths’ heads are noticeably wider than the neck and the top of their heads are dark brown or black. A black stripe may be present from the snout through the eye and onto the neck, with most having a white upper lip and white mouths.

The snake’s belly is cream colored and heavily mottled with dark brown or black blotches and smudges, according to the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Water snake or cottonmouth? How to spot the difference

Water moccasins, also known as

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Why these 3 camping spots stand out above others

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hipcamp has released its annual awards celebrating the best campsites, highlighting the best places to stay in each state.

Hipcamp is an app where people can discover and book incredible campsites, from national parks on public lands to peaceful spots on private property.

Hipcamp identified the best places to stay in each state by analyzing bookings, ratings and reviews across more than 500,000 campsites.

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TastingTable says this restaurant has the best ramen in LA

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you’re looking for great ramen, TastingTable has released a list to help those in search of the best ramen restaurant in every state.

The origins of ramen can be traced back to late 19th and early 20th century, but since then, the dish has skyrocketed in popularity, with ramen restaurants popping up all over the U.S.

TastingTable chose the best ramen restaurants based on high-quality ingredients, atmospheric dining rooms, unique menu items, as well as critical acclaim, awards and reviews from customers.

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