



## Lake Pontchartrain Facts

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As you drive across the Causeway Bridge, you are surrounded by beautiful Lake Pontchartrain.

1. The lake covers an area of 630 square miles... It measures 40 miles from west to east and 24 miles from south to north.
2. Lake Pontchartrain is not really a lake... It is an estuary... that means that the water is brackish... a mixture of salt water from the Gulf of Mexico and fresh water from north shore rivers such as the Tchefuncte, Tangipahoa and Bayou Lacombe.
3. The mixing of fresh and salt water produces a bounty of fish and shellfish including speckled trout, blue crabs and shrimp.
4. From time to time, even manatees have been spotted as they migrate into the lake from the Gulf of Mexico.
5. The average depth of the lake is approximately 12 to 14 feet with a maximum depth of 65 feet in some places.
6. Because the lake is shallow...waves can be choppy as the wind stirs up the water. Sometimes you can see white caps while driving across the bridge.

7. The lake is very important to the commercial fisheries industry...making a large contribution to the economy of the region.
8. Lake Pontchartrain is a great recreational resource for fishing, boating, kayaking and swimming.
9. Much work has gone into improving the lake's water quality. You can help by making sure your home sewage system is properly maintained, throwing your trash in a can, and refraining from dumping motor oil, paint and other chemicals down a storm drain or into a ditch.

If you get a chance... get out there and enjoy our lake!



**GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION**

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