



DAY TRIP TO INDIANOLA

From Port Lavaca · Calhoun County, Texas



RIVER AND
LAKE



Photo: Thomas Flintoff, Wikimedia Commons, Public domain

MOSTLY UNDER THE BAY

Little survives of the old town. A small fishing village, markers and the La Salle statue stand on the public shore.

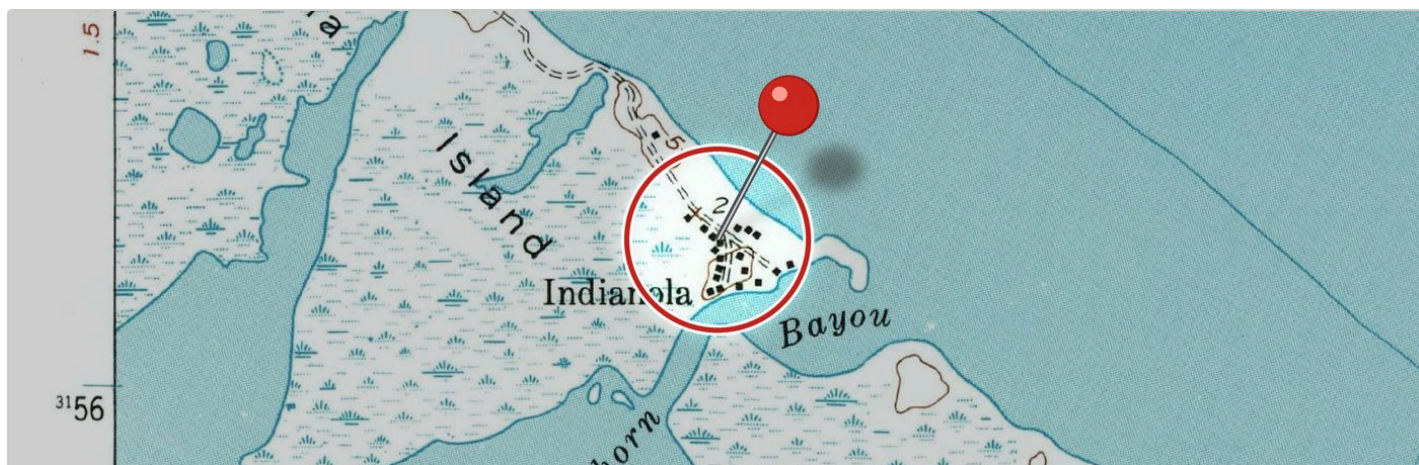
Indianola makes an easy half day from Port Lavaca. Start at the Calhoun County Museum for the story of the port, then drive down to the shore to read the markers and see the La Salle statue. Services at the site are few, so plan to eat in Port Lavaca.

A SAMPLE DAY

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|---|--|
| ☐ Morning | Visit the Calhoun County Museum in Port Lavaca. |
| ☐ Late morning | Drive to Indianola and walk between the immigration and camel markers on the shore. |
| ☐ Midday | See the La Salle statue and the Indianola marker, and walk the shore where the town stood. |
| ☐ Afternoon | Back to Port Lavaca for lunch. |

WHAT TO PHOTOGRAPH

- **The La Salle statue.** Shoot from low down with the bay behind it.
- **The empty shore.** A wide view of the water where the town stood tells the story better than any ruin.
- **The camel marker.** The metal cutout of a soldier and his camel beside the marker makes a good foreground.



USGS topographic map, 1951 (public domain). The ring and pin mark the town.

DAY TRIP ESSENTIALS

DRIVE	15 mi, about 32 min each way from central Port Lavaca. From Houston: 142 mi, about 3 h 23 min.
OPEN	The markers and statue stand on the public shore with no posted hours.
ADMISSION	Free.
MUSEUM	The Calhoun County Museum, next to the county courthouse in Port Lavaca, has an 8-foot diorama of Indianola, items from La Salle's ship the Belle and the Fresnel lens from the 1852 Matagorda Island Lighthouse. Its website didn't list hours when we checked, so call ahead.
FOOD AND WATER	None at the markers. Port Lavaca has restaurants and stores.
WEATHER	The shore is flat and open to the sun and wind. Bring sun protection and water.

BEFORE YOU GO

- Check the status with the land manager before you go; conditions change.
- Keep out of unstable buildings and off fenced ruins.
- Leave artifacts where they lie. Removing them can be a crime.
- Carry water, a paper map and a charged phone; signal is often poor.

Coordinates 28.51194, -96.48750 • 28°30'43"N
96°29'15"W

Full guide abandonedtowns.com/texas/indianola/

Directions [Google Maps](#)

Details checked October 2026. Hours, prices and access change: confirm before you go.