You could well imagine the Pitch Lake is alive. It burps. It hisses. It consumes, eventually, all that is placed on it. In the middle of the Lake is an area known as the “Mother of the Lake”. This is the most active part of the Lake, and the area where the asphalt is softest.

Certain parts of the Pitch Lake are too soft for visitors to walk on. Please use the services of the official tour guides who can be found at the Visitor Facility. The guides are easily identified by their distinctive red and orange t-shirts and identification-badges.

**Rates and Opening Hours**

**Monday to Sunday and Public Holidays**

- From 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Children under 12 years - $12.00

13 years and over - $30.00

Group Rates Available

Please call 651-1232 to book your tour

For additional information contact:

Tourism Development Company Limited

Level 1, Maritime Centre,

29 Tenth Avenue, Barataria, Trinidad.

Tel: 868 675-7034 - Fax: 868 675-7432

Website: www.gotrinidadandtobago.com

email: info@tdc.co.tt

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**Welcome to the La Brea Pitch Lake!**

The Pitch Lake, nature’s own wonder, is located on Trinidad’s south-western coast. We invite you to soak in natural sulphur pools, enjoy the bountiful bird life, or just stand inspired by one of nature’s true wonders.

The Pitch Lake holds approximately 10 million tonnes of asphalt. It is the world’s largest commercial deposit of natural asphalt, which is mined and exported for use in manufacturing and road paving.

**Come Visit**

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**Take the family on a day of fun and adventure**

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**The Pitch Lake**

La Brea

- Bathe in sulphur pools
- Experience lush vegetation
- Enjoy bird watching
- Learn the history

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**Directions**

- From Port of Spain, head east along Beetham Highway, onto Churchill Roosevelt Highway
- Turn south onto Uriah Butler Highway using the Interchange at the Grand Bazaar junction
- Keep south, heading onto Sir Solomon Naden Highway to San Fernando
- Turn off onto San Fernando Bye Pass, and via the Mon Repos roundabout.
- Head onto the South Trunk Road and through Mosquito Creek
- Continue through villages of Otaheite, Aripo, Rosallie and onto La Brea
- Follow road signs to the La Brea Pitch Lake

Always use official tour guides who can be found within the Pitch lake compound for your safety and enjoyment.

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**La Brea Pitch Lake Visitor Centre**

**Rates and Opening Hours**

- From 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Children under 12 years - $12.00

13 years and over - $30.00

Group Rates Available

Please call 651-1232 to book your tour

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**La Brea Museum and Visitor Centre**

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There have been countless conflicting theories on the origin of the Pitch Lake. One such theory suggests that two geological faults intersect at the Pitch Lake causing crude oil to seep from fractures in the sandstone below the earth. Another belief is that the lake was at one time a huge mud volcano from which muddy asphaltic oil seeped. The lighter portion of the oil and mud mixture evaporated over the centuries and left a thick, viscous residue (asphalt) which is seen today. Although the surface of the Lake is solid enough to walk on, the area is in constant motion. The Lake is at present an oval, lake-like outcrop, composed of oil, clay and water (mud) mixture.

Flora and fauna also thrive in the natural surroundings of the Pitch Lake, which locals call the “Eighth Wonder of the World”. Cashew trees encircle the lake and mango and breadfruit trees are plentiful. Plant species such as water rose, nymph lilies and bird of paradise grow in abundance. The lake is also a bird watcher’s paradise as herons are everywhere along with Humming Birds, Sandpipers, Kingfishers and Ospreys, just to name a few.

Legend

Several Amerindian legends surround the birth of the Pitch Lake. According to one Amerindian folk tale, the Pitch Lake was a punishment from the Gods. This vengeance was dealt to the Chaima Indians who cooked and ate Humming Birds, which were considered sacred, while celebrating a victory over another tribe. This angered the Gods who caused the earth to open up and swallow the entire village, leaving in its place molten pitch. As if to prove the legend true, Amerindian pottery has been recovered from the asphalt and Hummingbirds can be seen fluttering around the Lake. Other artefacts pulled from the Pitch Lake include the bones of a Giant Sloth and a Mastodon’s tooth.

Warm Sulphur pools appears on the Pitch Lake in the rainy season when water collects in the cracks and crevices of the lake. The pools, also known as the “fountain of youth” contain high levels of sulphur, which villagers claim is good for curing anything from skin conditions to joint pain. Visitors should be careful when bathing in the pools as some are very deep.

Formation

There have been countless conflicting theories on the origin of the Pitch Lake. One such theory suggests that two geological faults intersect at the Pitch Lake causing crude oil to seep from fractures in the sandstone below the earth. Another belief is that the lake was at one time a huge mud volcano from which muddy asphaltic oil seeped. The lighter portion of the oil and mud mixture evaporated over the centuries and left a thick, viscous residue (asphalt) which is seen today. Although the surface of the Lake is solid enough to walk on, the area is in constant motion. The Lake is at present an oval, lake-like outcrop, composed of oil, clay and water (mud) mixture.