



Visit [www.atchafalaya.org](http://www.atchafalaya.org) for a tour of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

**Atchafalaya Welcome Center**  
BUTTE LA ROSE, LA  
225-219-1200

**Administrative Offices**  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
225-219-0768



# Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA



## Visit America's Foreign Country

National Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. NHAs are lived-in regions that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is known as "America's Foreign Country," and our country's landscape is rich and mysterious, filled with twisting bayous, backwater lakes, vast marshes, and America's largest river swamp. Alligators, raccoons, and even bears roam our lands while 270 species of birds take to our skies. From our waters come catfish, shrimp, oysters and the crawfish for which we are famous.



**Our cuisine** is an intricate mixture of European, African, Caribbean, and Native American descent using ingredients such as roux, picante, the trinity—onion, bell pepper and celery—filé, and tasso. We make boudin, gumbo, étouffée, and cracklins.

### With food comes celebration.

Our country's musicians have inspired the world of rock and roll, country, gospel and rockabilly. Our native music is a complex melding of culture to create the Cajun rhythm, the staccato of zydeco, and a swampy twist on the blues.



### The music and food

are emblems of our country's rich culture. From the Diaspora of L'Acadie in Canada and colonial French influence comes our French speaking tradition, which is melded with our deep Native American and African American roots to create our Cajun and Creole dialects. Ours is a history of man and nature in an often-foreboding and always majestic environment. Our country is vast and varied but we share the story of water and swamp, man and survival around the river we call the Atchafalaya, still traveling our waters as did our forebears.

**We invite you to journey** through our country and explore our mysterious landscape, dine on our rich cuisine, celebrate with our music, and immerse yourself in our culture. Our country requires no passport, because our country is right here in America.

**More Unique Experiences Await**

Count the **ROSEATE SPOONBILLS** nesting in an Avery Island tree.

Enjoy a **FISHING TRIP** on beautiful Lake Verret.

Learn to play **THE FIDDLE** and **THE ACCORDION** in Acadiana.

Grab your camera to **PHOTOGRAPH** **OSPREY** and **BALD EAGLES**.

Visit **OLD RIVER LOCK** and **DAM** where three rivers meet.

Watch the **SUN SET** from a pirogue under a cypress tree.

**KAYAK UNDER A FULL MOON** on Lake Fausse Pointe.

Play **18 HOLES** at The Wetlands, The Island, and Atchafalaya at Idlewild.

Charter a boat for **DEEP SEA FISHING** off Louisiana's Gulf Coast.

Paddle the 135-mile Tour du Teche **CANOE RACE**.

Stay overnight on a **FRENCH TABLE**.

Go **CRAWFISHING** in the Atchafalaya Basin.

These habitats are home to more than 85 species of fish, over 270 species of birds—from songbirds to waterfowl—with some of them endangered. The Heritage Area is an exceptional illustration of river systems, water control technology, and recent geologic history with landscapes ranging from coastal wetlands to rolling hills and prairies.

**HOW DO YOU SAY IT?**  
It's easy.....  
"jambalaya"  
"ah-CHA-fa-lic-ah"  
"For the trailblazer...."

With our mild climate and mostly flat terrain, you can enjoy exploring almost year round. Cycle our back roads, hike our swamp boardwalks, and make pit stops at our gas stations and country stores – you won't believe the food and friendly atmosphere in these little places!

Host to one of only a handful of actively growing river deltas in the world, the area runs approximately 150 miles with its width varying along the course of the Atchafalaya River. The area contains a complex ecosystem of fresh and saltwater marshes, cheniers, upland pines, cypress-tupelo swamps, bottomland hardwood forests and open meadows.

**For the (semi-) pro photographer....**

The Atchafalaya is home to over 270 bird species including waders such as herons, egrets, ibises and spoonbills. Forming part of the Mississippi Flyway, the area is a major wintering ground for ducks and geese, and eagles are often spotted. Nature not your thing? Our food is photogenic, too! Be sure to check out our vibrant crawfish boils, rich gumbos, and spicy jambalayas!

**ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA IS HOME TO THE LARGEST RIVER SWAMP.**

Head out for a day through miles of waterways beneath live oaks dripping with Spanish moss and cypress-tupelo tree forests. Or experience world-class deep sea fishing on the Gulf Coast in the southern part of the heritage area. Either way, bring your camera along because you will surely see graceful egrets take wing, osprey nesting and beautiful sunsets. You may even glimpse an alligator sliding into the water!

**For the fish out of water....**

**#AtchafalayaAdventure**

**CHOOSE YOUR OWN**

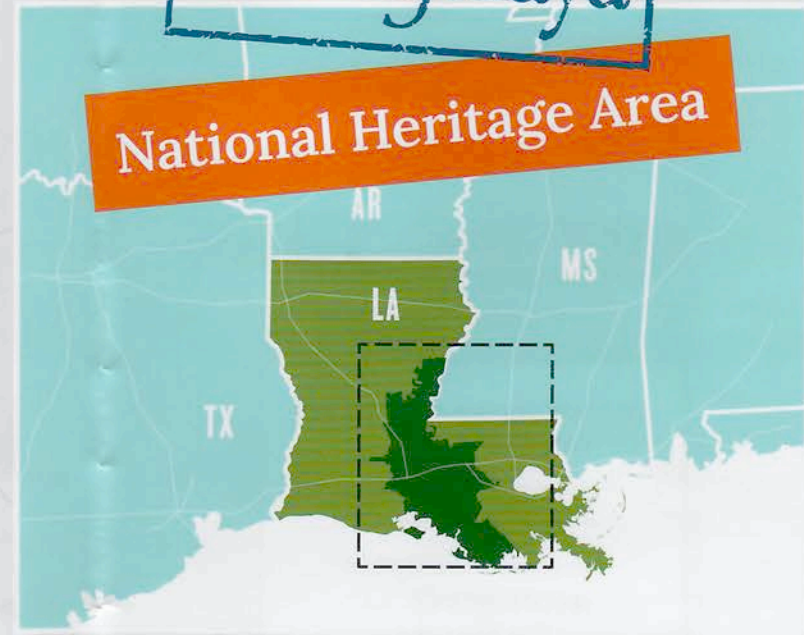
**parle frangais**

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Explore One of America's Most Complex Ecosystems

# Atchafalaya

## National Heritage Area



- STATE WELCOME CENTER
- TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER
- JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
- INTERSTATE
- U.S. HIGHWAY
- STATE HIGHWAY
- ATCHAFALAYA RIVER AND OUTLETS
- ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
- ATCHAFALAYA FLOODWAY
- WATER BODY
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
- ATCHAFALAYA RIVER DELTA
- PUBLIC LANDS

