THE ATCHAFALAYA HERITAGE AREA
THE COASTAL ZONE

St. Mary, Assumption, and Terrebonne Parishes

Welcome to one of the most mysterious and dynamic landscapes in the world. Most of the land around you did not exist four centuries ago—and subtly, change shape constantly. Here water seems always within view.

Check out Lake Palourde north of Morgan City on Highway 70 to see what the entire Atchafalaya Swamp looked like before the levee system. Since construction of the levee system along the Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya Basin, the natural flow of water ceased and the ecosystem has been dramatically altered. Massive amounts of oil continue to be deposited, changing the balance of marsh and land, and along with it, the rich ecology of the area. In hurricane season, the marshes absorb storm surges and offer protection for New Orleans. The continuing loss of marshland is raising concern about the ‘big one’ and its potential impact.

The Coastal Zone is the heart of the fishing, shrimping, and crawfish industries and the waterfowls of villages like Pointe aux Chenes are dotted with fishing boats. In the 1930s, oil and natural gas discoveries began a petroleum boom that also transformed this landscape. Drilling operations and a network of pipelines changed the water’s flow and trapped salt, adding to the complexities of the region’s unique ecology. In Morgan City, gateway to off-shore petroleum operations in the Gulf of Mexico, explorers can put on a hard hat and visit a decommissioned drilling rig.

Cultural complexities parallel the ecological ones in the Coastal Zone. In addition to Cajuns and Creoles, two Native American groups - the Houma and the Chitimacha, along with more recent Vietnamese arrivals, make this area their home. Offerings of regional restaurants reflect these cultures.

TURN THE RADIO ON!
WLRZ 100.3 FM, La Rose (near Houma) Swamp pop and Cajun music.
THE ATCHAFALAYA HERITAGE AREA

Franklin
GREGEMBERG HOUSE MUSEUM
Sterling Road, Franklin
Phone: 985-395-7420
A meticulously restored 1851 townhouse, Gregemberg is furnish
ished with fine antiques, documented wallpapers, and early
artifacts of the area.

OAKLAWN MANOR
3296 Oaklawn Drive, Franklin
Phone: 337-826-0434
This 1873 Greek Revival plantation mansion is one of the resi
dence of Governor Martha J. "Mike" Foster. The home is furnish
ed with European antiques, Louisiana bird carvings, and an exten
sive Audubon collection.

For additional information contact: Cajun Coast Visitors
Convention Bureau, 985-395-4905 or 800-256-2931

Morgan City
TURNOF THE CENTURY HOUSE
AND MARDI GRASMUSEUM
715 Second Street, Morgan City
Phone: ... contact: Houma-Terrebonne
Tourist Commission, 985-868-2732 or 800-688-2732
Call 225-342-2181 or visit www.atchafalaya.org

Patterson
CAJUN JACK SWAMP TOURS
118 Main Street, Patterson
Phone: 985-395-7420
Explore the natural beauty of the Atchafalaya Basin and learn
about Cajun culture, rain trapping, and crawfishing. Calling ahead
is strongly recommended.

LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM - PATTERSON
(WEDDEL-WILLIAMS AVIATION MUSEUM)
3917 Louisiana Avenue, Patterson
Phone: 985-395-7067
The official state aviation museum exhibits numerous aircraf
and displays trophies and memorabilia from the heyday of air
travel.

For additional information contact: Cajun Coast Visitors
Convention Bureau, 985-395-4905 or 800-256-2931

Charenton
CHITIMACHA INDIAN MUSEUM
3289 Chitimacha Trail, Charenton
Phone: 985-223-4480
This newly renovated museum presents the story of the first
inhabitants of this area. The Chitimacha tribe was especially well
known for their extraordinary basketweaving skills, a tradition kept
alive by a few tribal members today.

ARMOS COFFEEHOUSE
731 Main Street, Charenton
Phone: 985-580-4044
Locals love the newly opened North Burger serve here at lunch,
which brings your appetite.

BAYOU VUE CAFÉ
7913 Main Street, Houma
Phone: 985-872-3605
This friendly restaurant serves up the best in Creole cuisine.
Enjoy the deck overlooking Bayou Black.

JOLLY INN, INC.
7032 Main Street, Houma
Phone: 985-872-6114
In addition to being a fine lounge, the Jolly Inn is also Houma's
Cajun dance hall and lounge. Call for a schedule.

A CAJUN MAN'S SWAMP CRUISE
3109 Southdown Mandelay Road, Houma
Phone: 985-886-4625
Alligators, Cajun music; and swamp town highlight the exper
ience when you join local celebrity Ron Guidry for a great time on
the bayou.

Houma
SOUTHDOWN PLANTATION
1208 Museum Drive, Houma
Phone: 985-851-0154
Victorian plantation house with original furnishings. Featured
exhibits include Southdown and the rich Cajun industry, the Houma
and other native peoples, and local crafts. Southdown also
holds events and arts and crafts festival in the spring and fall.

BAYOU TERREBONNE WATERLIFE MUSEUM
7910 West Park Avenue, Houma
Phone: 985-580-7200
Through numerous interactive exhibits, visitors gain a new apprecia
tion for the cultural, ecological, and industrial aspects of life on
south Louisiana's water.

A BEAR'S CAFÉ
809 Bayou Black Drive, Houma
Phone: 985-872-6205
Savor the Cajun flavor and homemade desserts at this Houma
tradition since 1963—live music every Friday night.

HOUMA BAYOU NATURE LANDING
3011 Bayou Black Road, Houma
Phone: 985-872-3268
Enjoy an excursion through the Mandalay National Wildlife
Refuge, which huts over 250 species of birds and other wildlife.

CHACAHOULA CANOE BASE
1804 Savanne Road, Houma
Phone: 985-872-8114
Take off on this exciting tour as you turn into bayous, streams and
other waterways that are otherwise unreachable by boat. Meet at Bayou Black
Marina on LA 182. Hours vary by season, call ahead.

CHANTILLY BAYou CRUISES
709 May Street, Houma
Phone: 985-872-5167
Join Capt. Tony and friends for a tour of the Atchafalaya Basin. Special packages
include meals and lodging. Call for reservations.

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THE COASTAL ZONE

Napoleonville
MADEWOOD PLANTATION
4250 Highway 308, Napoleonville
Phone: 1-800-375-7151
You can stay the night in an elegant splendor in Madewood, a
classic Cajun Revival mansion. Candlelight dinners, canopy beds,
and stunning antiques enhance your experience.

PIERRE Part STORE
PIERRE PART STORE
3421 Highway 70, Pierre Part
Phone: 985-253-6261
Locais purchase everything from groceries to fishing equipment.

For additional information contact: Assumption Parish Chamber of Commerce, 985-369-2816

Gibson
ATCHAFALAYA BASIN BACKWATER ADVENTURE
6202 North Bayou Black Drive, Gibson
Phone: 985-575-2371
www.bayoubusiness.com/backwatertours
An intense 3-hour plus guided tour, taking you through thou
sand years of nature, including history, evolution, flora,
fauna, swamp medicine and survival. With a minimum of
4 persons per boat, you are guaranteed personal attention
and participation. Call 800-303-8030, the thrill of the
by 10:30 AM, appropriately dressed, in the bus parking
special departure times $70.00 per person.

For additional information contact: Houma-Terrebonne
Tourist Commission, 985-868-2732 or 800-688-2732

Schriever
CHACAHOUlia CANOE BASE
117 Horseroe Road, Schriever
Phone: 985-446-6999
Take a guided canoe trip through the Chacahoula swamps and view otheri
ngulls, birds, and other wildlife. Paddling instruction included, 3 person maximum.
Requires no previous experience, paddling supervision, or time

For additional information contact: Houma-Terrebonne
Tourist Commission, 985-868-2732 or 800-688-2732

St. Mary
HAMMOND'S CAJUN SEAPLANE TOURS
3718 Southdown Mandalay Road, Houma
Phone: 800-341-5441
This customized tour gives you the best of the bayous and
waterways by seaplane. Tour includes meals and
catering facilities.

MUNSON'S WORLD FAMOUS SWAMP TOURS
979 Bull Run Road, Schriever
Phone: 985-851-3569
Take a unique adventure by boat into a private stretch of
swampland off-limits to the public. See abundant
wildlife and large lizards hand-fed.

For additional information contact: Houma-Terrebonne
Tourist Commission, 985-868-2732 or 800-688-2732

Chauvin
COCO MARINA
106 Pier B, Chauvin
Phone: 800-648-2626
Take advantage of the waterfowl watching, restaurants, and
accommodations available at the full service marina. RV hook
ups, grilled, sandy, boat launch, and tow charter boats available.

Call 225-342-2181 or visit www.atchafalaya.org

Contact: Cajun Coast Visitors
Convention Bureau, 985-395-4905 or 800-256-2931

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