GUIDED WATER WILDERNESS ECOTOURS INTO AMERICA'S LARGEST RIVER BASIN SWAMP

I am a permanent resident of the Atchafalaya Basin. Born on the banks of the Bayou Teche in New Iberia, I grew up hunting and fishing the bayous, swamps, and marshlands of South Central Louisiana. I now live on a houseboat in Grand Avoille Cove and guide tours through the Basin in order to share my appreciation of this unique part of Louisiana with others.

Generally, most swamp tours are "scheduled" trips which anyone may join and are usually conducted on pontoon boats. My trips are on demand, at your convenience, and include only those individuals in your group or family.

All my tours are guided by me personally in a 20ft. aluminum skiff powered by a 50 hp outboard. This boat is specially designed for getting into the hard to reach interior of the swamp.

Every tour is personalized to your particular interests. Tours generally average two to four hours or can last all day if you prefer. We will see how crawfish and other kinds of seafood are harvested, and how our modern techniques evolved from primitive Indian fishing methods. We will pass through small villages which are accessible by water only. Five hundred year old moss draped cypress trees, osprey fish eagles, wood ducks, herons, owls, woodpeckers and nutria are common sights in the shallow swamp areas of Lake Fausse Point and Lake Chitimacha. Frequent but less common are sightings of Mississippi and swallow-tail kites, beaver, alligator, bald eagle, bear, pelican, otter, wolf, cougar, raccoon, mink, snapping turtle, bullfrog and garfish.

Explore the Indian shell mounds left here by Native Americans who inhabited these wetlands since approximately 300 BC. Visit the site of the old sugar refinery or the saw mills and see the brick foundations left here as the only remnants of once-thriving industries which existed in the swamp prior to the construction of the levee system. Witness the rapid geological evolution occurring in the basin swamp and see how that affects the erosion of our precious coastal marshes.

Expeditions Atchafalaya is your opportunity to experience personally the unique Cajun Culture of yesterday that is still lived by a few local residents in the basin swamp today. Join me at any time of the year for an unforgettable escape into the wilderness wetlands of Louisiana.

Reservations are recommended as these tours are not on a regular schedule. I cater to photographers, naturalists, ecotourists, birders, and anyone seeking the out of the ordinary adventure trip.

Night tours, fishing trips, and sunrise/sunset photosafaris are my specialty. Family oriented trips are wholeheartedly welcome, as are pets. Other services include camping, lodging and meals, canoe trips, and location scouting.

Swamp Tour Rates:

2 Hour Tour: $20 per adult, $5 per child
minimum tour $40

4 Hour Tour: $35 per adult, $10 per child
minimum tour $70

For reservations call:

(318) 923-7149
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(318) 236-4091

Marcus de la Houssaye, Chief Guide
From Lafayette: Travel time is 60 minutes. Take Hwy 90 east to the Baldwin-Louisa exit. At the stop sign, turn left on LA 83. Go under the overpass and proceed to the stop sign at LA 182. Turn right on 182 east. Proceed about 1/2 mile to the red light at Hwy. 326 in Baldwin. Turn left on 326 and approach Charenton about 4 mi ahead. Stay on 326 to Hwy 324 at the Catholic Church on the left and the barber shop on the right. Turn right on 324 and cross the Bayou Teche Bridge. At the stop sign turn left on Hwy. 87; go one block and turn right on Charenton Beach Road. Proceed to the Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and turn left. About two miles ahead, look for our sign on the left immediately after the public boat launch at Grand Avoille Cove.