The Atchafalaya Delta
Come Live The Dream
Come Live The Dream Of Enchantment in the Atchafalaya Delta, the opening to the Gulf of Mexico and its economic prosperity.

Come enjoy the rich traditions, beautiful scenery, distinctive music, and delectable cuisine. Originally inhabited by the peaceful and industrious Chitimacha Indians, the early culture of the Delta was molded by French and Spanish settlers.

By far the most dominant cultural influence, however, occurred in the eighteenth century when French-Acadian refugees from Canada settled and flourished in South Louisiana. Cajuns, as they are called, produced the unique cultural mystique which characterizes “Cajun-country” today. A number of villages and towns in the Delta still retain an unmistakable Cajun character while Cajun music, food, and architecture are becoming well-known throughout the world.

Come discover what the Atchafalaya Delta has to offer: Romantic bayous, antebellum houses, museums, festivals, the Swamp Garden, lakes, parks, water sports, camping, a Carillon tower, and much more.
Work Too!
In the midst of this lush land thrives a fast growing industrial community. At one time shrimping and sugarcane provided the Delta’s primary economic base and they continue to play an important part in the economic and cultural life of the area. The booming petroleum and carbon black industries, however, have radically altered the Delta’s economic profile and have made it an extremely vital contributor to the economy of the entire nation.

Don’t Miss It!
Just two hours from New Orleans in south Louisiana, the Atchafalaya Delta is easy to find. Just follow U.S. Highway 90 from New Orleans or from Interstate 10 at Lafayette.

We’re waiting for you to Come Live the Dream.
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Capture the Romance of the Old South.

A number of antebellum houses in the Delta are open to tourists. See classic Greek Revival plantations and Early Louisiana "Habitations." Enjoy the formal and informal gardens, aviaries, museum exhibits, graceful live oaks, and gift shops these houses offer. Some have been the location for a number of movies. Tours are provided.

Fun and More.

A new 290-acre recreation facility currently under construction, Kemper Williams Park is located off Highway 90 near Patterson. Upon completion, the park will provide athletic fields, tennis courts, golf course, aquatic and equine centers, swimming and picnic areas, a riverfront park, visitors center and much more. Acquired through the generosity of the Kemper and Leila Williams Foundation, the park will also serve as a historical commemorative center.

Located at Morgan City, beautiful Lake Palourde is one of Louisiana's largest natural lakes. It's a popular spot for skiing, swimming and sailboating, and the site of twice annual speedboat racing. Lake Palourde Camp Grounds provides hook-ups for all recreational vehicles, dump station, and boat ramp. Fee charged.

Discover the Lure of the Swamp.

The Original Historic Swamp Gardens in Morgan City is a living museum, designed to recall the heritage of the great swamp and to pay tribute to the courage and tenacity of those people who played such a vital part in the early development of South Louisiana. A tour guide will take you through this 3½-acre park, which is a real swamp in its natural state.

Get Into a Festival.

The Shrimp and Petroleum Festival, the oldest chartered harvest festival in Louisiana, is held annually on Labor Day weekends in Morgan City. The festival recognizes the shrimp and petroleum industries, which are the pillars of the area's economy. Highlights include the ecumenical blessing of the colorfully decorated shrimp fleet, parades, music, crowning of the Festival King and Queen, speedboat racing, and much more.

Visit the Reservation.

The Chitimacha Indian Tribal Center, located at Charenton on the Chitimacha Reservation, is designed to preserve the tribe's history. The Chitimacha is the only existing Indian tribe indigenous to Louisiana. On exhibit are baskets, arrowheads, necklaces and other artifacts. Recently made arts and crafts are for sale.

Let Your Imagination Fly.

Waddell-Williams Memorial Aviation Museum of Louisiana is the Official State Aviation Museum. Located on Louisiana Highway 182 near Patterson, the museum is responsible for the preservation and exhibition of documentation concerning all of Louisiana's aviation history. Exhibits are changed on a regular basis, providing new material for returning visitors.

The Bells Are Ringing.

On the shores of Lake Palourde, this 10-acre park is a beautiful setting for the 106-foot high Carillon Tower. Music from the 61 bronze bells housed in the tower floats gently out over the lake and nearby countryside. The park is planned to show the many plants that grow wild along the ridges of the swamp. Open daily, free admission.

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For more information and brochures, write: Atchafalaya Delta Tourist Commission, P.O. Box 2332, Morgan City, Louisiana 70381.

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