

FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY

(numbered stars below correspond to numbered stars on map)

FOR VISITOR INFORMATION, CALL THE ATCHAFALAYA WELCOME CENTER

AT 337.228.1094 OR VISIT ATCHAFALAYA.ORG

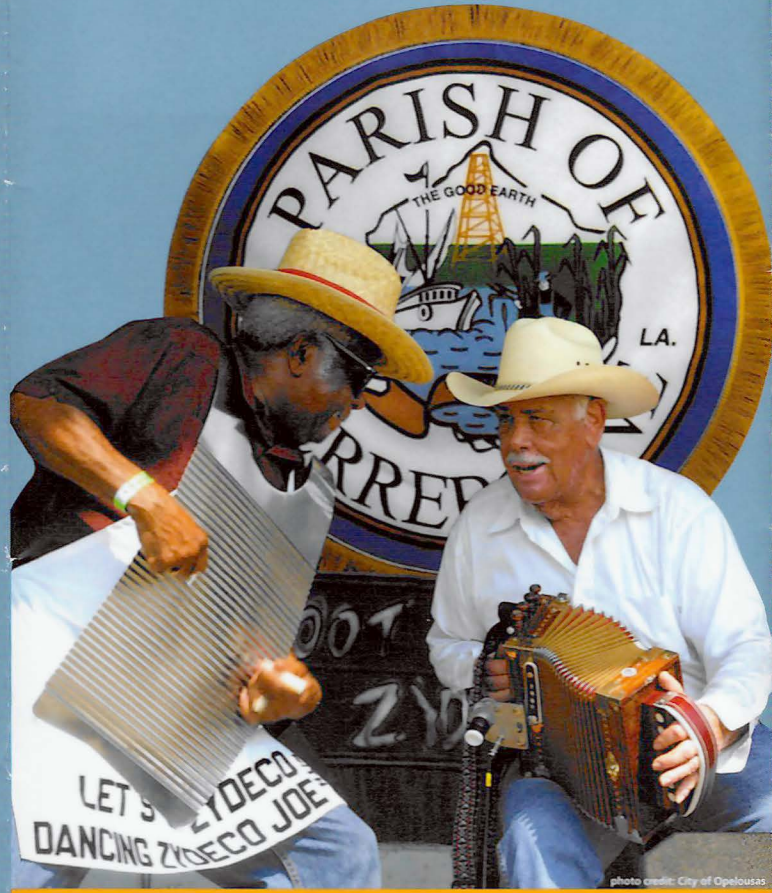


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Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

AMERICA'S FOREIGN COUNTRY



How do you say it? It's easy...it starts like a sneeze:

"uh•CHA•fuh•lie•uh"

What is a NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA?



National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural and historical resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources NHAs tell important stories that celebrate our nation's diverse heritage. These lived-in landscapes support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism and educational projects. Though they are not National Park units, NHAs are affiliated with the National Park Service. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is managed by the Atchafalaya Trace Commission in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the National Park Service.



LOUISIANA
Feed Your Soul.

Atchafalaya
WATER HERITAGE
TRAIL

https://www.waterheritage.atchafalaya.org/

Visit Atchafalaya.org for more information about the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

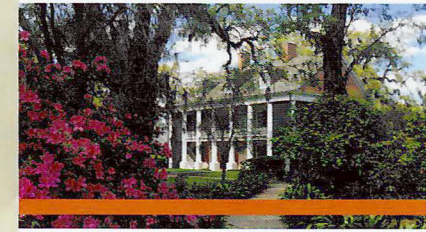
America's FOREIGN Country

Our country's landscape is rich and mysterious. It is filled with twisting bayous, backwater lakes, vast marshes and America's largest river swamp. We have fields of sugar cane and cotton, ancient live oaks and towering cypress trees. Alligators, raccoons and bears roam our lands while 270 species of birds take to our skies. From our waters come catfish, shrimp, oysters and the crawfish that make us so well known.



From this bounty we have created unique food. Our cuisine is an intricate mixture of European as well as African and Native American descent, often using a roux and the trinity—onion, bell pepper and celery. We make sauce piquante, gumbo, étouffée and gâteau sirop.

With food comes celebration. Our area's musicians have inspired the worlds of rock 'n' roll, country, gospel and rockabilly. Our native music is a complex melding of culture to create the Cajun rhythm and the staccato of zydeco. We use the frottoir, accordion, triangle and fiddle. We dance the two-step, waltz and jig.

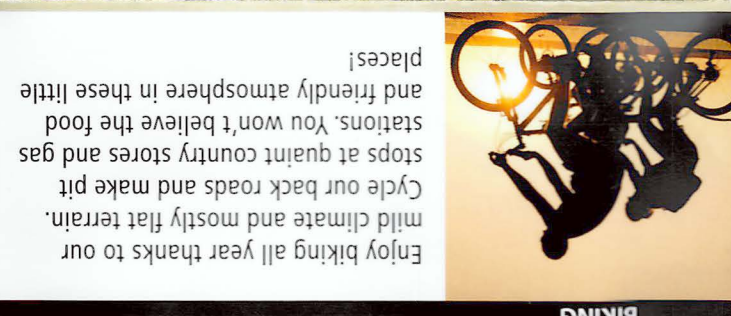


The music and food are emblems of our country's rich culture. From the diaspora of the Acadians from L'Acadie in Canada and colonial French influence comes our French-speaking tradition. This melded with our deep Native American and African roots created the Cajun dialect. Ours is a history of man and

nature in an always majestic but often foreboding environment. Our history and culture remain intact, and we celebrate it with a *joie de vivre* unmatched in other lands. Our country is vast and varied, but we share the story of water and swamp, man and survival surrounding the Atchafalaya River, still traveling its waters as did our forebears.

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

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area - America's Foreign Country Brand Statement



birdwatching
boating
paddling
biking

Discover world-class deep-sea fishing opportunities along the Gulf Coast in the southern part of the heritage area, as well as the best freshwater boat launches.

Head out for a day of paddling beneath cypress tree forests and live oaks faced with Spanish moss. Bring your camera to capture beautiful sunsets, graceful egrets taking flight and ospreys nesting. You may even glimpse an alligator sliding into the water or spot a bald eagle soaring overhead.

The Atchafalaya is home to more than 270 bird species, including waders like herons, egrets, ibis and spoonbills. Forming part of the Mississippi Flyway, the area is a major wintering ground for ducks and geese, and eagles are often spotted. In warmer months it is common to see species such as swallow-tailed kite, Swainson's warbler and Bachman's sparrow.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is home to the nation's largest river swamp. One of only a handful of actively growing river deltas in the world, the area runs about 150 miles from north to south, and its width varies along the course of the Atchafalaya River. The ANHA contains a complex ecosystem that houses more than 85 species of fish and 270 species of birds, from songbirds to waterfowl. It is an exceptional illustration of river systems and lakes, water control technology and recent geologic history, including swamps, marshes, bayous and backwater lakes. With landscapes ranging from coastal wetlands and marshes to rolling hills and prairies, you will find a variety of habitats such as freshwater and saltwater marshes, cheniers, upland pines, cypress-tupelo swamps, bottomland hardwood forests and open meadows.

Experience the ATCHAFALAYA

En français

Whatcha feel like doing?

A COMPLEX ecosystem

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

Louisiana

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

	State Welcome Center		Atchafalaya River		State & Heritage Area Boundary
	Welcome Center		Waterways		National Wildlife Refuges (NWR)
	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park		Water Bodies		Wildlife Refuges & Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)
	Interstates		Atchafalaya National Heritage Area		State Parks
	U.S. and State Highways		Atchafalaya Basin		Urban Areas
	State Roads		National Park Service		Bridge

0 5 10 20 30 Miles