

THE TRAIL:
SITES EXPLORING
THE ATCHAFALAYA'S
WATER STORY

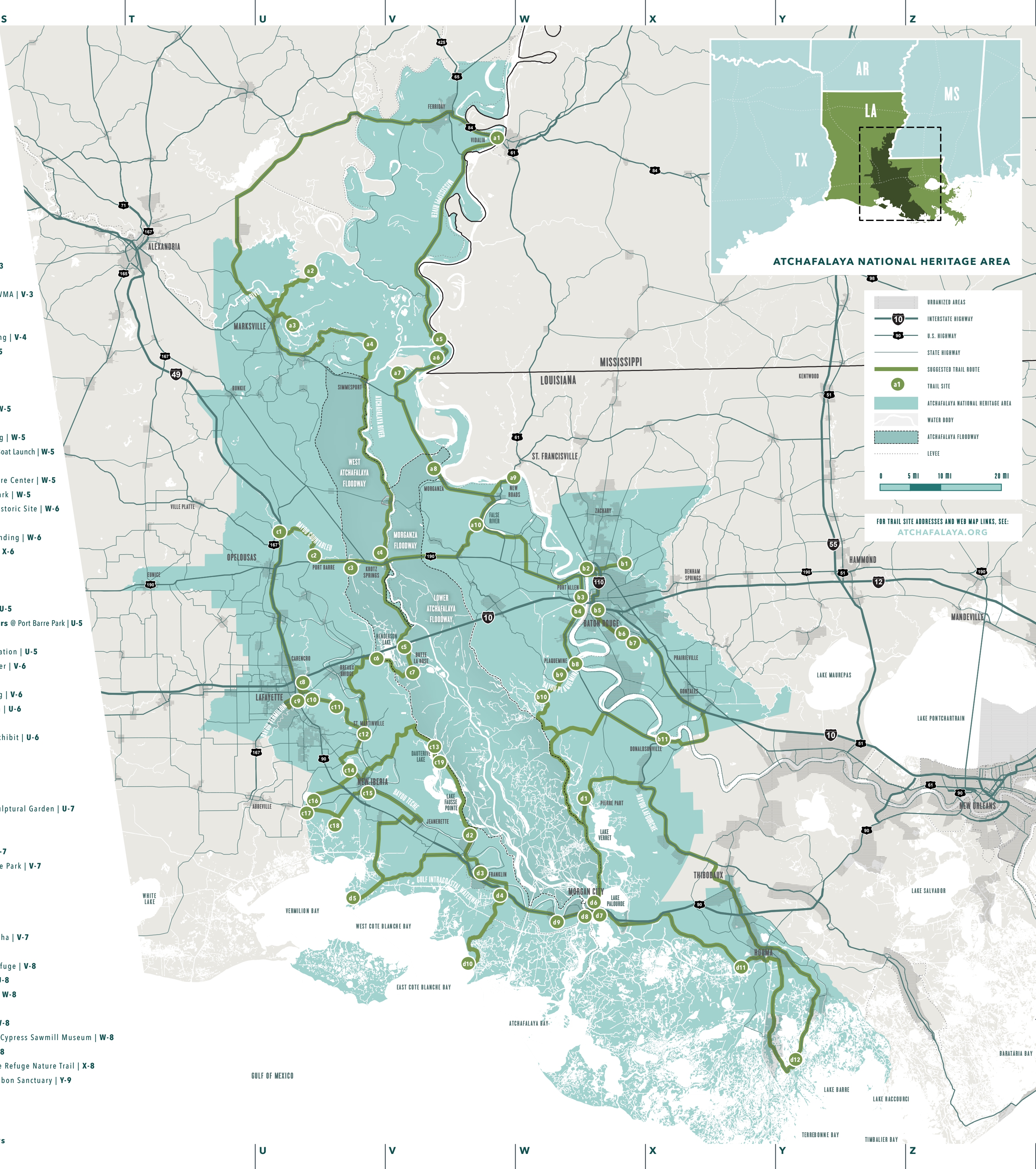
- REGION A:
LAND AT POWERFUL RIVERS
- a1 Mississippi River @ Vidalia Riverwalk | V-1
 - a2 Red River @ Lock & Dam 1 | U-2
 - a3 *Spring Bayou @ Spring Bayou WMA | U-3
 - a4 Bayou des Glaises @ Sarto Old Iron Bridge | U-3
 - a5 Old River @ Old River Control Complex | V-3
 - a6 *Three Rivers Confluence @ Richard Yancey WMA | V-3
 - a7 Old River @ Lock & Dam | V-3
 - a8 Mississippi River @ Morganza Floodway | V-4
 - a9 Mississippi River @ New Roads Old Ferry Landing | V-4
 - a10 False River @ Pointe Coupée Parish Museum | V-5

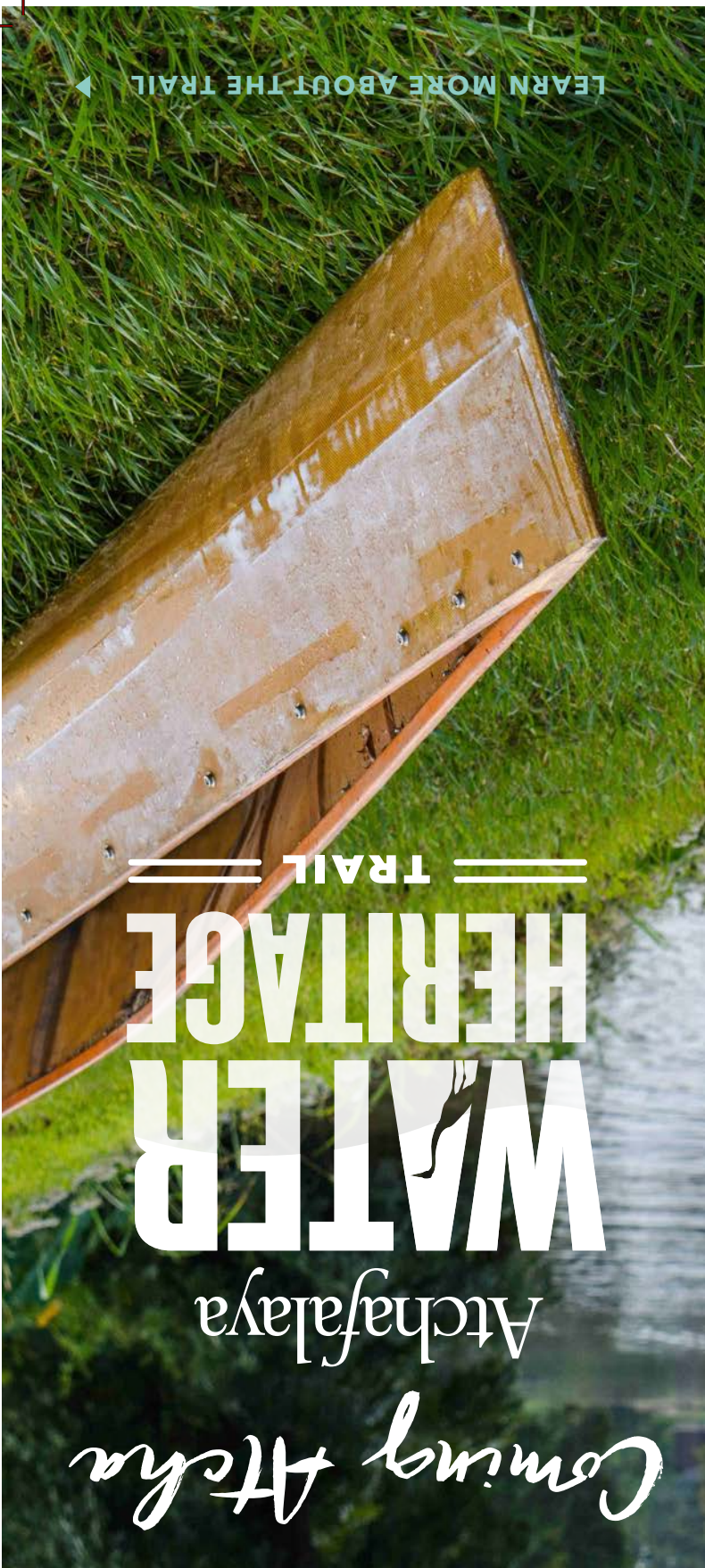
- REGION B:
TERRACES ON THE MISSISSIPPI
- b1 Comite River @ Blackwater Conservation Area | W-5
 - b2 Mississippi River @ Scott's Bluff | W-5
 - b3 Mississippi River @ Port Allen Old Ferry Landing | W-5
 - b4 Gulf Intracoastal Waterway @ Hwy. 1 Intracoastal Boat Launch | W-5
 - b5 Baton Rouge Lakes @ City Park Lake | W-5
 - b6 Bluebonnet Swamp @ Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center | W-5
 - b7 Bayou Fountain @ Highland Road Community Park | W-5
 - b8 Bayou Plaquemine @ Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site | W-6
 - b9 Bayou Plaquemine @ Bayou Road | W-6
 - b10 Gulf Intracoastal Waterway @ Jack Miller Landing | W-6
 - b11 Bayou Lafourche @ Mississippi River Junction | X-6

- REGION C:
RIVER RIDGES TO BAYOU BANKS
- c1 Bayou Courtableau @ Steamboat Turnaround | U-5
 - c2 Bayou Courtableau at Bayou Teche Headwaters @ Port Barre Park | U-5
 - c3 Atchafalaya Floodway @ Indian Bayou | U-5
 - c4 *Atchafalaya River @ Teche-Vermilion Pump Station | U-5
 - c5 Atchafalaya River @ Atchafalaya Welcome Center | V-6
 - c6 Atchafalaya Floodway @ Henderson | U-6
 - c7 Atchafalaya River @ Butte La Rose Boat Landing | V-6
 - c8 François Coulee @ Acadiana Park Nature Station | U-6
 - c9 Vermilion River @ Rotary Point | U-6
 - c10 *Vermilion River @ Vermilionville Watershed Exhibit | U-6
 - c11 Lake Martin @ Cypress Island Preserve | U-6
 - c12 Bayou Teche @ Magnolia Park | U-6
 - c13 Lake Dauterive @ 1,000-Year-Old Cypress | V-6
 - c14 Spanish Lake @ Old Spanish Trail | U-6
 - c15 Bayou Teche @ PJ Allain Waterfront Park and Sculptural Garden | U-7
 - c16 *Lake Peigneur @ Rip Van Winkle Gardens | U-7
 - c17 Bayou Carlin Cove @ Port of Delcambre | U-7
 - c18 Avery Island Salt Dome @ Jungle Gardens | U-7
 - c19 *Lake Fausse Pointe @ Lake Fausse Pointe State Park | V-7

- REGION D:
GROWTH TO THE GULF
- d1 Pierre Part Bay @ Virgin Island Bridge | W-7
 - d2 Bayou Teche @ Sovereign Nation of the Chitimacha | V-7
 - d3 Bayou Teche @ Franklin Historic District | V-7
 - d4 Bayou Teche @ Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge | V-8
 - d5 *Vermilion Bay @ Cypermort Point State Park | U-8
 - d6 Lake Palourde @ Victor Guarisco Lake End Park | W-8
 - d7 Atchafalaya River @ Mr. Charlie Oil Rig | W-8
 - d8 Atchafalaya River @ Morgan City Great Wall | W-8
 - d9 Cypress Swamps @ Wedell-Williams Aviation & Cypress Sawmill Museum | W-8
 - d10 East Cote Blanche Bay @ Burns Point Park | V-8
 - d11 Terrebonne Basin @ Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge Nature Trail | X-8
 - d12 Bayou Petit Caillou @ Marguerite Moffett Audubon Sanctuary | Y-9

*Sites that may have fees or limited hours





The **Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail** is a self-guided driving trail that explores the 14-parish Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, guiding visitors to more than 50 sites to illustrate how water has become the distinctive influence on life here. Through the ages it has created ever-changing geography, shaped local culture, contributed to subtle and catastrophic events and endured a long history of human manipulation. Today a vast network of bayous, rivers, backwater lakes, marshes and the Atchafalaya Basin—America’s largest river swamp—set the stage for complex water control technology necessary for survival. This story is one of man and nature in an often foreboding but always majestic environment centered on a river we call the Atchafalaya.

Use this brochure, along with our website, to explore this driving trail. Many of the sites listed also serve as starting points to enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities, including paddling, birding and hiking.


Atchafalaya.org



YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE
Coming Atcha

The **Atchafalaya National Heritage Area** is a National Park Service program under the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. This vast area is one of the most culturally and ecologically varied regions in the United States. National Heritage Areas are recognized by Congress for their important natural resources, history and ways of life.






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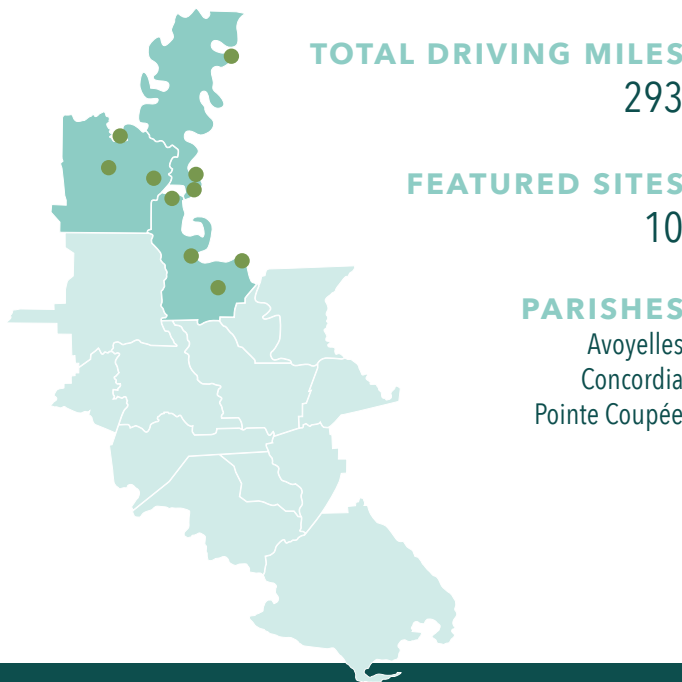
Atchafalaya.org

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:



UPPER ATCHAFALAYA LAND AT POWERFUL RIVERS

The rivers that shaped this area began interacting thousands of years ago, creating intricate landforms representative of a dynamic environment. During the last 300 years, the impact of settlement and development along waterways from here to the Gulf prompted construction of engineering marvels. These structures help minimize the risk that seasonal flooding will change the Mississippi River’s course to that of the Atchafalaya River. For sites in this area, see map Region A on reverse side.




VISITOR INFO:

VIDALIA - FERRIDAY AREA
<http://www.cityofvidaliaa.com>
US 84 Welcome Center in Vidalia | 318-336-7008


MARKSVILLE - MANSURA - BUNKIE AREA
<http://www.travelavoyelles.com> | 318-253-0585 | 800-833-4195

NEW ROADS - MORGANZA - JARREAU AREA
<http://www.pctourism.org> | 225-638-3998



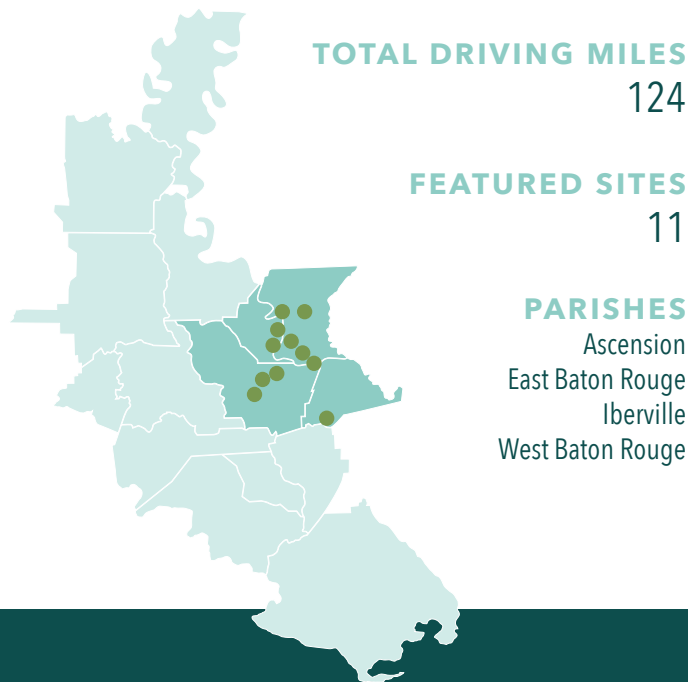
“The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area’s Water Heritage Trail traces the culture and history of the people who have lived near and depended upon the Atchafalaya River for millennia. The Atchafalaya’s flowing waters are used to trace the story of the people, places, and events that have shaped one of the most unique areas in the United States. Its story comes to life for visitors who can drive, walk, and paddle to the 32 informational kiosks strategically placed in the 14 parishes that make up the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. From the Atchafalaya’s source in Concordia Parish, to the shores of St. Mary, Iberia, and Terrebonne Parishes—and all points in between—come and be a part of the Long River’s Journey and find yourself in America’s Foreign County today.”

Billy Mungesser
Lieutenant Governor



BETWEEN TWO RIVERS TERRACES ON THE MISSISSIPPI

This area is made up of features of Pleistocene terraces—the eroded remnants of ice age floodplains—and the modern Mississippi River valley. From prehistory to modern times, major settlements developed on the river’s high, natural, west bank levees and the even higher terraces on the east bank. The Mississippi is a major economic force here. The region depends greatly on water control structures further north to preserve the current course of the river’s massive flow. For sites in this area, see map Region B on reverse side.



VISITOR INFO:

BATON ROUGE AREA
<http://www.visitbatonrouge.com> | 800-527-6843 | 225-383-1825

DONALDSONVILLE - SORRENTO - GONZALES AREA
<http://www.ascensiontourism.com> | 888-775-7990

PORT ALLEN AREA
<http://www.westbatonrouge.net> | 800-654-9701 | 225-344-2920

PLAQUEMINE - WHITE CASTLE - GROSSE TETE - BAYOU SORRELL AREA
<http://www.visitiberville.com> | 877-310-8874



One of the best ways to experience the Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail is to paddle the waters that have shaped it. Explore a portion of the 35-mile Bayou Teche Paddle Trail Corridor, which travels through four parishes and was designated a National Water Trail in 2015. Take a scenic tour of Spring Bayou, or glide along Belle River’s relic *skidded canals* cleared a century ago to pull cypress trees from the swamp.

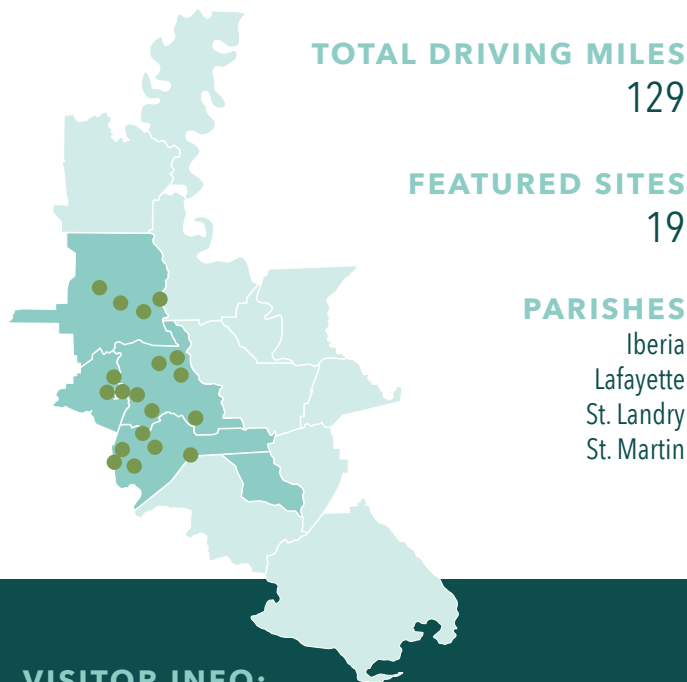
Get a close-up view of the massive infrastructure on its unending quest to reach the Gulf of Mexico. Just one part of a regional system built to regulate central Louisiana, the Morganza Control Structure is landscape and settlement patterns of south and that attempts to control water’s impact on the community of Cocodrie. In the southern-most section of this trail, is a popular fishing destination, and many trail sites offer additional outdoor recreation opportunities. For sites located within a park or refuge, check recreation rules and regulations when planning your visit.

Bring your bike, fishing pole, tent or boat as you explore the Atchafalaya Water Heritage Trail. The community of Cocodrie, in the southern-most section of this trail, is a popular fishing destination, and many trail sites offer additional outdoor recreation opportunities. For sites located within a park or refuge, check recreation rules and regulations when planning your visit.

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BAYOU TECHE CORRIDOR RIVER RIDGES TO BAYOU BANKS

Central to this region is Bayou Teche, a long, slow-moving waterway that was once the primary course of the Mississippi River. Steeped in history, the Teche has many stories to tell. The bayou has served as home for American Indian tribes and ushered in the arrival of the first Acadians to the region. It played an important role in early transportation and trade and saw a major Civil War campaign fought along its banks. For sites in this area, see map Region C on reverse side.



VISITOR INFO:

OPELOUSAS - WASHINGTON - EUNICE AREA
<http://www.cajuntravel.com> | 877-948-8004

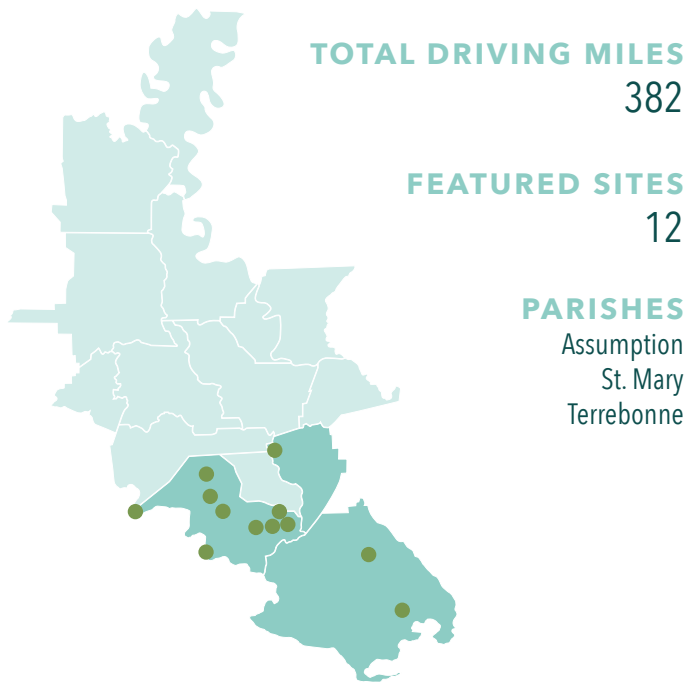
BREAUX BRIDGE - HENDERSON - ST. MARTINVILLE AREA
<http://www.cajuncountry.org> | 888-565-5939
I-10 Atchafalaya Welcome Center | 337-228-1094

LAFAYETTE - SCOTT - DUSON AREA
<http://www.lafayettettravel.com> | 800-654-1958 | 337-232-3737

NEW IBERIA - AVERY ISLAND - JEANERETTE AREA
<http://www.iberiatravel.com> | 888-942-3742 | 337-365-1540

COASTAL ZONE GROWTH TO THE GULF

Wetland habitat loss occurs at high rates in this region’s coastal swamps and marshlands due to processes such as erosion, lack of sedimentation and subsidence. Development has also greatly affected the wetlands here, calling for a delicate (but difficult to achieve) balance between protecting populations and preserving this vital landscape. The Atchafalaya and Wax Lake deltas, unique examples of natural land building here, serve as models for the preservation and restoration of the rest of the coast. For sites in this area, see map Region D on reverse side.



VISITOR INFO:

NAPOLEONVILLE - PIERRE PART AREA
<http://www.assumptionla.com/Tourism> | 985-369-7435

MORGAN CITY - PATTERSON - FRANKLIN - CHARENTON AREA
<http://www.cajuncoast.com> | 800-256-2931 | 985-380-8224

HOUMA - CHAUVIN - DULAC - COCODRIE AREA
<http://www.houmatravel.com> | 800-688-2732 | 985-868-2732