



CAJUN COAST

BIRD OR WILDLIFE WATCHING

The Cajun Coast is a bird and wildlife watchers paradise. Begin the day along the bayous of Stephenville, in particular, Four-Mile Bayou Road. Once only accessible by boat, the roadway literally runs right through the swamp, making birds, turtles, alligators and other animals indigenous to the swamp easy to spot.

Include a visit to Mosquito Bar or Gros Place, where locals hang out on weekends.

After Stephenville, travel to Morgan City but first stop at the Brownell Carillon Bell Tower. This designated bird sanctuary has walking paths throughout the swamp enhanced by the music of the carillon bells that ring every 30 minutes.

From Morgan City, drive west towards Patterson to Cotten Road. Along Cotten Road, depending on the time of the year, you'll see a variety of birds and, if you're lucky even spot a Louisiana black bear.

If you're hungry, stop at the Atchafalaya Golf Course along Cotten Road for beautiful views while lunching in this public course's cypress clubhouse.

After lunch, take a short drive from Cotten Road to Cajun Jack's Swamp Tour in Patterson for a tour into the Atchafalaya Basin, the largest overflow swamp in the U.S. and home to myriad wildlife.

If time permits, drive along the Old Spanish Trail or Bayou Teche Scenic Byway to the Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge has walking and paddling trails for the public. Maps are available.

Other areas of interest for nature watching include Cypremort Point State Park, Charenton Levee Road, Lake End Park, Lake End Park Walking Trail and Berwick Walking Trail.

Overnight at a local B & B or hotel.