

# *Cajun Coast Day Trips*

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## ***Adventure***

Overnight aboard a cabin or houseboat for a weekend adventure on the bayou. There are many ways to view and tour the Atchafalaya Basin, the largest overflow swamp in the U.S. Allow Cajun Jack guide you into the basin on a swamp tour aboard the pontoon vessel. If you enjoy paddling, pick up a Cajun Coast Paddle Trail brochure or visit [www.cajuncoastpaddle.com](http://www.cajuncoastpaddle.com) to find recommended trails. To explore by foot, visit the Brownell Memorial Park and Carillon Tower, a 9.5 acre designated bird sanctuary and a must for naturalist and photography buffs or visit the Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge, a habitat for the Louisiana black bear. Other things to do while visiting the Cajun Coast include chartering an offshore, saltwater or freshwater fishing trip or following the America's Wetlands birding trail throughout the Cajun Coast.

## ***Downtown Main Street***

The Morgan City Main Street program is revitalizing the downtown area. Shop at several stores along the waterfront and within the historic district. Tour the downtown area with a walking tour brochure, get a bird's eye view of the Atchafalaya River on the 21 ft. seawall, tour the International Petroleum Museum & Exposition, the Mr. Charlie, the first submersible drilling rig ever built. Learn about the oil industry's past and present. Enjoy lunch at Rita Mae's, Latin Corner, or Café Jo Jo's. To view historic churches, make arrangements to tour Sacred Heart Catholic Church or Trinity Episcopal Church both boasting magnificent stained glass windows.

## ***Culture & Nature Based***

Tour the swamps and bayous with Cajun Jack's Swamp Tour. For a walking tour and interpretation of the Cajun people, tour Swamp Gardens. Nature lovers will enjoy a drive to the Brownell Carillon Bell Tower. View wildlife and walk to the edge of the swamp for a magnificent view of the lake. Afterwards, drive to the Mosquito Bar & Grill down Stephenville road for a beverage, snack and an opportunity to meet locals. To view wildlife, drive along Four Mile Bayou Road, one of the many trails highlighted in the America's Wetlands Birding Trail. For boiled seafood, try Scully's, Susie's Seafood Restaurant or Patty's One Stop.

## ***Heritage***

Overnight at the Provost House Bed & Breakfast or Fairfax Inn located in downtown Franklin. Visit Franklin's Main Street and walk around the historic district with over 400 noteworthy properties many of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Stop at Medric Martin's plantation grocery store off of Irish Bend road. Although it may look closed, it's usually open. The site of movies, videos and photography backdrops, Mr. Martin delights in telling stories about the area. For a view of antebellum homes, visit Grevemberg House Museum, an authentically restored town home of the 1800's or Oaklawn Manor,

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the former governor of Louisiana's private home, which boasts European Antiques, wooden bird carvings and an extensive Audubon collection.

For lunch, try a hamburger from Iberia Cash Grocery. Gumbo and sweet potatoes at Charlie's of Franklin, crawfish cooked three ways at the Forest Restaurant or one of the specials at Main Street Café.

For dinner enjoy Mr. Lester's Steakhouse, located in the Cypress Bayou Casino. Although a bit pricey, you'll dream about the crab cakes and the crawfish bisque! After enjoying the bread pudding soufflé, play a few rounds of craps, blackjack, or the slot machines.

### *Special Interest*

Aviation buffs will enjoy touring the Louisiana State Museum that houses the Wedell Williams Aviation Collection and the Cypress Collection. The museum documents Louisiana's aviation history from 1920 until the present.

The first settlers to the region were the Chitimacha Native Americans. To learn more about Native Americans, visit the Chitimacha Museum in Charenton.

Golfers will delight in playing the Atchafalaya at Idlewild, the newest addition to the Audubon Golf Trail. The Atchafalaya was highlighted as one of the best courses to play under \$75.00 by *Golfer's Digest*.

### *Culinary*

Follow the food chain through the Cajun Coast. First watch local fishermen as they make their own traps and nets. Next, spend time at a local seafood dock viewing crabs, crawfish, shrimp and a variety of fish as they are brought in from the Atchafalaya Basin and the Gulf of Mexico. Ameripure Oyster Company is an oyster purification and distribution plant that will gladly give a personalized tour of their facilities. Meet Mrs. Belle Guidry, a local Cajun cook who has penned several cookbooks and Charlie Faul, a local restaurateur who was instrumental in the development of the Tur-Duc-Ken (a boneless turkey stuffed with a boneless duck stuffed with a boneless chicken). Tag along with a local sugar cane farmer and learn all about this sweet industry.

### *Festivals*

The Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival, the state's oldest chartered harvest festival, voted the best Louisiana festival in its category by the Louisiana Fairs & Festivals Association, a top 100 American Bus Association event and a top 20 Southeast Tourism Society event, celebrates every Labor Day weekend with the

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Historic Blessing of the Fleet and water parade, street parade, arts & crafts, the Children's Village, continuous live music and much more.

The Cypress Sawmill Festival, a top 20 event by the Southeast Tourism Society takes place the last weekend of March/early April of each year in Patterson. The Festival features live music, an old engine display, artifacts of the cypress industry, food, crafts, a petting zoo and more.

The Cajun Coast's newest festival, the Bayou Teche Bear Festival, celebrates the Louisiana black bear and features live music, educational seminars and exhibits, children's activities and more

Christmas on the Cajun Coast offers a variety of Christmas activities including a lighting display, light trails, downtown functions, plantation homes decorated in Christmas finery and much more.

Mardi Gras on the Cajun Coast includes eight parades, a Mardi Gras Museum and homes decorated in purple, green & gold.