

Morgan City Facts

- Atchafalaya is an Indian word meaning “long river”. The Atchafalaya River is 135 miles long. It is a living delta and the main distributary of the Mississippi River.
 - The first Tarzan movie was filmed in Morgan City in 1917 starring Elmo Lincoln.
 - From 1862-1865 Federal troops occupied Morgan City. They set up two forts – Fort Star and Fort Buchanan.
 - In 1947, Morgan City successfully produced the first offshore oil rig out of sight of land.
 - The present 22-foot seawall was completed in 1985 after the floods of 1973 flowed over the previous 13-foot seawall.
 - The Atchafalaya Basin is over 500,000 acres, covers 1/3 of Louisiana, and is the largest overflow swamp in the United States.
 - Through a system of levees and floodways, the Corps of Engineers controls the Mississippi River’s direction, preventing it from its preferred course of merging with the Atchafalaya.
 - The Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival is the oldest state-chartered harvest and a top 20 Southeast Tourism Society event.
 - Morgan City, Berwick, and Patterson played a major role in the timber industry. Patterson once had the largest cypress sawmill in the United States.
 - Morgan City is home to the world’s largest commercial marine fleet, *Tidewater, Inc.*
 - Morgan City is home to the world’s largest helicopter pad. It is owned and operated by *Petroleum Helicopters, Inc.*
 - Patterson is the historical home of speed aviation. The Flyer “44” which was built and flown by Jimmy Wedell in Patterson, was the first land plane to exceed 300 mph.
 - The “Mr. Charlie” was the first submersible drilling rig, the first transportable offshore rig, and the first retired rig to be converted into a museum.
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