



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Corps plans 'Experience Atchafalaya Days' events

*Hiking, biking, paddling and horseback riding in Indian Bayou area*

NEW ORLEANS – Citizens will enjoy the wonders of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin at four events unfolding in October on thousands of acres bought specifically for public access by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The events will be part of the 2003 Experience Atchafalaya Days, a festival sponsored by the Corps of Engineers; two state agencies, the Atchafalaya Trace Commission and the Atchafalaya Basin Program, and the Sierra Club.

The four Corps events will be held in the 28,000-acre Indian Bayou area, just north of Interstate 10, near Butte La Rose. Indian Bayou is part of almost 50,000 acres acquired for public access. The events:

**Hike**, Saturday, Oct. 11. Hike almost five miles along Indian Bayou, through scenic woods, over ATV trails and through cypress swamp. The route offers a view of the Atchafalaya River. Reservation and waiver required. Co-sponsor: Sierra Club. **Contact:** Don Thibodeaux, 651 Charter Oak Dr., Baton Rouge 70810, 225-753-9617. **Meet** 9:30 a.m., at I-10 Butte La Rose exit.

**Bike**, Saturday, Oct. 11. Bicycle 10-15 miles over off-road trails with woods, fields and bayous that host abundant species of birds, other animals and plants. Co-sponsor: Sierra Club. Waiver required. Wide tires recommended. Contact: John Engelsman, 1361 Camelia, Baker 70714. 225-774-0841. **Meet:** 9 a.m., at I-10 Butte La Rose exit.

**Paddle**, Saturday, Oct. 11, continuing Oct. 12 and 18-19 off Corps property. Kayaker James Proctor will lead these two overnight canoe trips, ending at Morgan City. Paddlers may paddle one-half day, one whole day or both days with an overnight stop. Co-sponsor: Sierra Club. Reservation and waiver required. **Cost:** \$10 per person. Boats, food and shuttles extra. **Contact:** James Proctor, [proctor@bayoutrails.org](mailto:proctor@bayoutrails.org). 337-739-2410. **Meet:** 8 a.m., at The Levee Landing on Bayou Courtableau, one mile south of U.S. 190 on the west levee road.

**Ride horseback**, Sunday, Oct.26. This traditional trail ride will be a six-hour guided tour of the Indian Bayou area. The trail includes woods, bayous and open fields. This will be a family event: no alcoholic beverages. Horses not provided. Reservation required.

**Contact:** Corps Park Ranger Todd Moreau, Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project Office, 112 Speck Lane, Port Barre, La. 70577. 337-585-0853. **Meet:** 9 a.m., at the main check station at Indian Bayou, located along the levee road about 5.6 miles north of the I-10 Butte La Rose exit.

Experience Atchafalaya will offer over 40 opportunities to explore and enjoy the basin. Though these events will be varied, all focus on the richness and diversity of the Atchafalaya Swamp, a unique wetland that has shaped the culture and history of south central Louisiana. Inside the levees on the Basin's east and west sides, events will be small and guided by people who know and love the swamp. Outside the levees, events range from hands-on opportunities to large multi-faceted festivals. Detailed, up-to-date information on events is available on-line at <http://www.experienceatchafalaya.com/>

**Corps recreation** <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/recreation/index.asp>