

2025-2026 HUNTING GUIDE TO INDIAN BAYOU

WELCOME TO INDIAN BAYOU

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District welcomes you to the Indian Bayou Area located in South-Central Louisiana. The Indian Bayou Area was established in 1995 to provide public access and environmental protection in the Atchafalaya Basin. The area encompasses 28,500 acres located in St. Landry and St. Martin parishes and is located between Baton Rouge and Lafayette, north of Interstate 10 and south of U.S. Hwy 190, west of the Atchafalaya River.

Indian Bayou is in the heart of the Atchafalaya Basin and offers some of the finest bottomland hardwood forest hunting in the South. It offers excellent small game hunting including squirrel, rabbit, woodcock, and snipe. The prime location of the Atchafalaya Basin in the center of the Mississippi Flyway produces superb waterfowl hunting. The 2025-2026 season will be the 27th consecutive year of management under an antler restriction for white-tailed deer.

It is your responsibility to know the hunting seasons and regulations. Please read through this hunting pamphlet prior to hunting for your safety and the safety of the other project visitors. Project boundaries are marked with yellow paint and yellow carsonite posts.

Hunter participation and wildlife harvest data are vital to the successful management of wildlife resources. Complete and accurate harvest information will aid in future management decisions. Volunteers are needed on the project. If you are interested in volunteering, please stop by or contact the Port Barre office for more information.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Hunting regulations are designed to protect visitors as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern hunting on Indian Bayou, under the authority vested by Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 part 327. Hunting will be in accordance with applicable State and Federal regulations subject to the following conditions.

Permits

A 2025-2026 Indian Bayou Hunting Permit is required for all persons regardless of age. Permits must be signed prior to hunting any game and must be carried at all times while in the field. Your hunting permit acknowledges your understanding of these regulations. The cut-out on the cover of this brochure is your annual permit. All persons 16 years or older are required to have a photo identification while in the field.

Firearms

The possession of firearms, ammunition, loaded projectile firing devices, bows and arrows, crossbows, or other weapons are prohibited except during designated area hunts. Hunters must have firearms unloaded at all times while traveling within the area by motor vehicle, ATV, UTVs, horse, bicycle, and while in a vessel under mechanical power. **Loaded weapons are not allowed within 100 feet of designated ATV trails, foot trails, roads and parking areas.** Loaded is defined as shells or cartridges in the gun's chamber, magazine, cylinder, or clip when attached to firearms or crossbows cocked and in the ready position, or caps on muzzleloaders.

Motorized vehicles and All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

All motorized vehicles are permitted only on roads and trails explicitly designated for such use on the official area map. No exceptions are allowed. All designated trails are open from 4:00 a.m. until two hours after sunset. After hours special use permits are available at the Project Office. ATVs, UTVs, E-bikes, and motorcycles must be transported into the area via vehicle or trailer and offloaded only in designated parking areas. Licensed motor vehicles must be parked in designated parking areas only. Parking or blocking gates, roads, or access points is strictly prohibited. Tires on ATVs, UTVs, and motorcycles are restricted to a maximum lug height of one inch (1"). Trails designated as "Physically Challenged" are reserved for individuals with a valid LDWF physically challenged permit and persons aged 60 or older with valid proof of age. These users may also access any other designated ATV trails as shown on the area map.

SPECIFIC HUNTING REGULATIONS

- State bag limits apply unless otherwise specified. The only open seasons are those listed in this brochure. Hunting is permitted area-wide except in designated closed areas as indicated on the area map. All hunting shall be still hunting, except as otherwise specified.

- Only portable stands and blinds may be used. These must be removed from the property at the end of each day. Blinds or stands made solely of natural vegetation and NOT held together by nails or other metallic fasteners may be left in place but cannot be used to reserve hunting locations. Natural vegetation (including corner post) is defined as natural branches that are two inches or less in diameter.
- Migratory bird and small game hunting are prohibited during either-sex gun hunts for deer except waterfowl hunting.
- Horses are permitted throughout the property EXCEPT during open gun and primitive firearm hunts for deer and turkey seasons.
- Dog training allowed April 6 - September 22.
- Hogs, coyote and armadillos may be taken incidental to any area hunt with weapons legal for that hunt. Bobcats may be taken by big game license holders.

Antler Restrictions

Deer hunters are limited to one deer per day. A legal buck shall be defined as deer with at least 4-points on one side or a deer with unbranched antlers commonly referred to as spikes (no minimum length). To be counted as a point, a projection must be at least one inch long and its length must exceed the length of its base. The beam tip is counted as a point but is not measured as a point.

Tagging and Deer Harvest Check-in

Proper use of state tags is required. All deer harvested during gun hunts are required to be physically checked out. The East side Ranger Station located in St. Landry Parish (see map for location) will be staffed during each of these dates. A Park Ranger patrolling the West Atchafalaya Protection Levee may also check a deer during the either-sex gun hunts. Every checked deer will be given a metal validation tag. Successful archery and primitive weapon hunters are required to fill out a deer harvest card prior to leaving the property. Harvest cards are located on area information bulletin boards.

“Hunter Orange” or “Blaze Pink” Requirements

All users EXCEPT waterfowl hunters must display a total of 400 square inches of Hunter Orange and wear a Hunter Orange cap during the open gun and primitive weapon hunts for deer. Hunter Orange must be worn the entire time while in the field. **Hunters participating in the dog season for rabbit, squirrel and woodcock must wear a minimum of a Hunter Orange cap. All hunters and archers (while on the ground), EXCEPT waterfowl hunters, also must wear a minimum of a hunter orange hat or cap during the special dog season for rabbit and squirrels.** All users afield during all other hunting seasons are encouraged to wear Hunter Orange. Deer hunters hunting from concealed ground blinds are still required to wear 400 square inches of Hunter Orange, wear a Hunter Orange cap and must also display a minimum of 400 square inches of Hunter Orange above or around their blinds which is visible from 360 degrees. Additionally, “BLAZE PINK” may be displayed in lieu of Hunter Orange.

YOUTH HUNTS

Only youths 17 yrs. old or younger may hunt. Youths must possess a hunter safety certification or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course. Each youth must be accompanied by one adult 18 years of age or older. If the accompanying adult is in possession of a hunter safety certification, a valid hunting license or proof of successful completion of a hunter safety course, this requirement is waived for the younger than 16 years of age. Youths must possess a valid, original Youth License. Adults may not possess a firearm. Youths may possess only one firearm while hunting. The supervising adult shall always maintain visual and voice contact with the youth at all times. An adult may supervise only one youth during this special hunt. **EXCEPT** properly licensed youths 16-17 years old and youths 12 years old or older who have successfully completed a hunter safety course may hunt without a supervising adult.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED HUNTS

Physically challenged hunters must possess a Physically Challenged Program Hunter Permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. In addition to the special seasons and trails available to our hunters with disabilities, a 350-acre hunting area is reserved exclusively for wheelchair bound deer hunters. For safety reasons, this area is closed for all other activities and access from September 1 through February 28. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register to use a hunting blind, please contact the Port Barre office.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Located in St. Landry and St. Martin Parishes, Indian Bayou Area is 40 miles west of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, north of Interstate 10 and just West of the Atchafalaya River.

To access the East side of the Indian Bayou Area from Interstate 10, take the Butte La Rose exit (exit 121). From U.S. Hwy. 190, exit at Krotz Springs and take LA Hwy. 105 South. To access the West side of the Indian Bayou Area from Interstate 10, take the Henderson exit (exit 115) and follow the West protection levee north. From U.S. Hwy. 190, exit at the Spillway Road (look for sign), go past the Courtableau Control Structure and follow the West Protection Levee Road south to Indian Bayou.

LOUISIANA BLACK BEARS

The Louisiana Black Bear is a protected species. They are not common on the project, but it is possible to encounter one. Please do not feed or disturb them. Bears will usually notice humans and move out of our path long before they are seen. Persons afield should use caution, not fear, when dealing with bears. All bear sightings are to be reported to the Project Office immediately. Black bears seldom attack people unless provoked. Hogs and Bears look alike. KNOW YOUR TARGET!

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE PROHIBITED ON INDIAN BAYOU

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while on ATVs and/or possession of firearms.
- Camping/overnight parking.
- Overnight mooring of houseboats / staying overnight in any boat to hold a hunting area.
- Use of airboats.
- Target practice and skeet shooting.
- Possession or installation of trail cameras.
- Cutting trees, limbs, or brush.
- Climbing trees using new or existing nails or spikes.
- Use or possession of any type of trail markers (paint, flagging, bright eyes, etc.)
- Moving deer or hogs with organized drivers, standers and/or noise-making devices.
- Unattended decoys or equipment in the field or on the water.
- Construction or hunting from a permanent stand or blind.
- Leaving tree stands and/or hunting blinds on the property overnight.
- Baiting, hunting over bait, or the possession of bait, salt or ingestible attractant while on the project at any time.
- Feeding wildlife including alligators.
- Hunting or possessing loaded weapons within 100 feet of pipelines during deer gun and primitive weapon hunts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Port Barre office: (337) 585-0853

Indian Bayou Ranger Station: (337) 228-1313

St. Landry Parish Sheriff’s Office: (337) 948-6516

St. Martin Parish Sheriff’s Office: (337) 394-3071

LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries: Operation Game Thief (800) 442-2511

All Other Emergencies: 911

2025-2026 Indian Bayou Hunting Permit

I have read and understand the regulations governing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Indian Bayou Area. I hereby forever release and hold harmless the United States of America from all liability due to death, injury, or damages arising from the exercise of this hunting permit and will indemnify and save harmless the United States of America from any and all costs, damages, settlements, or judgments arising from death, injury or damage to persons or property arising from the exercise of this hunting permit.

Signature (Permits are not transferable) - Valid only when signed.

2025-2026 Hunting Season Dates

Type	Season Dates	Specific Regulations
Deer-Archery Bucks Only	Oct. 1-15	Antler restrictions apply Deer harvest card required
Deer-Archery Either-Sex	Oct. 16 - Feb. 15	Closed Oct. 25-26 and Nov. 1-2. Either-sex, except during bucks only seasons. Antler restrictions apply. Deer harvest card required.
Deer-Gun Youth and Physically Challenged, Either-Sex	Oct. 25-26 Nov. 1-2	All other seasons closed. Refer to age and certification requirements. No antler restrictions. Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Deer Gun Youth Lottery	Nov. 22 Dec. 20, 23	Lottery applications available at Port Barre office. Application deadline is Oct. 10, 2025
Deer-Gun Either-Sex	Nov. 28-30 Dec. 6-7	All other seasons closed except waterfowl. Either-sex, antler restrictions apply. Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station
Deer-Primitive Firearm, Either Sex	Dec. 12-14	Either-sex, antler restrictions apply. Deer harvest card required.
Deer-Gun Bucks only	Dec. 27 - Jan. 4	Antler Restrictions apply. Mandatory Deer Check at Ranger Station.
Small Game	Same as outside	Closed Oct. 25-26, Nov. 1-2, Nov. 28-30, Dec. 6-7, Youth Squirrel Season Sept. 27-28, No spring squirrel season
Doves, Snipe, and Woodcock	Same as outside	Closed Oct. 25-26, Nov. 1-2, Nov. 28-30, and Dec. 6-7.
Waterfowl	East Zone	Waterfowl hunting after 2 p.m. is prohibited.
Squirrel and Rabbit with or without dogs	Jan. 10 - Feb. 28	See “ Hunters Orange or Blaze Pink ” hat requirements
Raccoon (Nighttime)	Sept. 13-28 and Jan. 12 - Feb. 28	Special Use Permit required to use trail 2 hours after sunset and later. Contact Port Barre Field Office.
Hogs Coyote, and Armadillo		May be taken by properly licensed hunters using legal weapons during any area hunt.
Turkey	Closed	