



## Bayou Birds



### Barataria Loop

800-689-3525

[www.jeanlafittetours.com](http://www.jeanlafittetours.com)

or

888-745-0642

[www.plaqueminesparish.com](http://www.plaqueminesparish.com)



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## BARATARIA LOOP

The Barataria Loop retraces the old haunts of legendary pirate Jean Lafitte, who hauled booty up from the Gulf of Mexico through Barataria Bay, and either auctioned it right there along Bayou Barataria, or ferried it up Bayou Segnette where he crossed the levee into the Mississippi River and sold it in New Orleans' "old quarter."

This loop winds through some of the most primeval-looking bottomlands and swamps in all of Louisiana, and the bird life throughout is typically diverse and abundant. Herons, egrets, Wood Ducks, Pileated Woodpeckers, and other swamp denizens can be found at every turn, not to mention numerous alligators, Nutria, various water snake species, and beautiful wetland wildflowers such as Louisiana irises, swamp lily, spider lily, pickerel weed, and many more.

Make a point of stopping at the Barataria Unit of Jean Lafitte National Park where a fabulous array of interpretive exhibits awaits.



## Bayou Segnette State Park

Site 10-1



**Site access:** Fee

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.89978; W 90.15598

**Site contact:** Park Information; 888-677-2296

**Website:** [www.lastateparks.com](http://www.lastateparks.com)

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and I 310/ Exit 220 in New Orleans, go east on I 10 for 6.7 miles to Exit 226/ Clearview Pkwy/ Huey Long Br. Merge onto LA 3152/ Clearview Pkwy and go south 3.3 miles to US 90/ LA 3152. Continue south-east on US 90/ LA 3152 for 2.0 miles. At the roundabout, take the second exit to US 90/ LA 18. Follow this road 1.3 miles to US 90/ Westbank Expy. Merge onto the ramp and go east on Westbank Expy for 1.2 miles to the park.

**Description:** Situated south of New Orleans between Lake Cataouatche and the Mississippi River, this beautiful park dominated by bottomland hardwood is complete with well-planned amenities including campsites, cabins, and dorm-style facilities for groups. The park's proximity to surprisingly wild marshes, swamps, and woodlands results in exceptional year round birding opportunities. Mammals such as Mink, River Otter, Armadillo, and the exotic Nutria are also a big draw. Perhaps the biggest draw of all is the American Alligators which cruise the park's bayous, canals, and lakes.

Bird-wise, look for Great and Snowy egrets, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Marsh Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, and Red-winged Blackbird all year long. Common summer specialties include Anhinga, Little Blue, Tricolored, and Green herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Mississippi Kite, and Prothonotary Warbler. Common winter residents include Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and many more.

## Barataria Preserve, Jean Lafitte National Historical Park

Site 10-2



**Site access:** Free, Daily

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.78394; W 90.11474

**Site contact:** Visitor Center; 504-589-2330

**Website:** <http://www.nps.gov/jela>

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and I 310/ Exit 220 in New Orleans, go east on I 10 for 6.7 miles to Exit 226/ Clearview Pkwy./ Huey Long Br. Merge onto LA 3152/ Clearview Pkwy and go south for 3.3 miles to US 90/ LA 3152. Continue south-east on US 90 for 2.0 miles. At the roundabout, take the second exit onto US 90/ LA 18 and follow it 1.3 miles to US 90 Business/ Westbank Expy. Go east on US 90 Business/ Westbank Expy for 3.4 miles. Continue east on Westbank Expy for 0.3 miles to Ames Blvd. and turn right. Go south on Ames Blvd. for 2.9 miles to LA 45/ Barataria Blvd. Turn right and go west about 9.0 miles to Barataria Preserve.

**Description:** Bird-wise, the 20,000-acre Jean Lafitte National Historical Park's Barataria Preserve is the crown-jewel of the park's 6 sites spread throughout southern Louisiana. Located only 9 miles south of New Orleans, the preserve is comprised of a complex of mature bottomland hardwood forests, cypress-tupelo gum swamps, freshwater marshes, and lakes. Preserve amenities include an excellent visitor's/interpretive center, an educational building, numerous picnic areas, 6 canoe-only trails, and 9 hiking trails.

Over 200 species of birds have been recorded on the preserve and its adjacent lakes. Snowy Egret, Common Moorhen, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred and Eastern Screech owls, Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated woodpeckers, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, and Boat-tailed Grackle are commonly encountered on a year round basis.

Three swamp trails (Bayou Coquille, Ring Levee, and Visitor's Center) provide a wonderful spring spectacle, when acres of iris are boasting their purple-blue blooms, new spring-green foliage adorns the baldcypress, and the air is filled with the cries of newly-arrived Northern Parula, and Yellow-throated and Prothonotary warblers.



The many unique cultures of America's WETLAND are tied intrinsically to its ecosystem. The Mississippi Delta, the Atchafalaya Basin, the Lake Pontchartrain Region and the geology of the Red River are all vital parts of the ecosystem that has helped to define the region and the vibrant cultures found here.



## Jean Lafitte Nature Study Park

Site 10-3



**Site access:** : Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.73733; W 90.12429

**Site contact:** Victoria Inn & Gardens;  
800-689-4797

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and I 310/ Exit 220 in New Orleans, go east on I 10 for 6.7 miles to Exit 226/ Clearview Pkwy./ Huey Long Br. Merge onto LA 3152/ Clearview Pkwy and go south 3.3 miles to US 90/ LA 3152. Continue south-east on US 90 for 2.0 miles. At the roundabout, take the second exit onto US 90/ LA 18 and follow it 1.3 miles to US 90 Business/ Westbank Expy. Go east on US 90 Business/ Westbank Expy for 4.2 miles to LA 45/ Barataria Blvd./ Avenue D. Continue east on Westbank Expy briefly and turn right (south) on LA 45/ Barataria Blvd for 2.9 miles to LA 3134/ Lafitte Larose Hwy. Turn left and go south 7.8 miles to LA 45. Turn left and go west on LA 45 for about 3.4 miles to City Park Drive in Lafitte. Turn left and head east 0.2 miles to Jean Lafitte Nature Study Park.

**Description:** Jean Lafitte Nature Study Park contains several hundred feet of raised walkway which winds through a wonder-filled baldcypress-tupelo gum swamp and associated hardwood ridges of American persimmon, swamp red maple, pumpkin ash, and buttonbush. Be on the lookout for American Alligators, especially if you visit during the spring and summer months.

Commonly encountered resident swamp birds include Great and Snowy egrets, Great Blue Heron, White Ibis, Wood Duck, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Wren. Winter brings additions such as Double-crested Cormorant, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, House and Winter wrens, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, White-throated Sparrow, and American Goldfinch.

During spring and summer, check for Green Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warblers, and Common Yellowthroat. On the ridges and woodland edges, look for additional species such as Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, and Painted and Indigo buntings.

## Victoria Inn & Gardens

Site 10-4



**Site access:** : Fee

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.68512; W 90.09554

**Site contact:** Victoria Inn & Gardens; 800-689-4797  
**Website:** [www.Victorialnn.com](http://www.Victorialnn.com)

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and I 310/ Exit 220 in New Orleans, go east on I 10 for 6.7 miles to Exit 226/ Clearview Pkwy./ Huey Long Br. Merge onto LA 3152/ Clearview Pkwy and go south 3.3 miles to US 90/ LA 3152. Continue south-east on US 90 for 2.0 miles. At the roundabout, take the second exit onto US 90/ LA 18 and follow it 1.3 miles to US 90 Business/ Westbank Expy. Go east on US 90 Business/ Westbank Expy for 4.2 miles to LA 45/ Barataria Blvd./ Avenue D. Continue east on Westbank Expy briefly and then turn right (south) on LA 45/ Barataria Blvd for 2.9 miles to LA 3134/ Lafitte Larose Hwy. Turn left and go south 7.8 miles to LA 45. Turn left and go west 7.2 miles to the Victoria Inn.

**Description:** This lovely bed and breakfast, located near the mouth of Bayou Lafitte, welcomes guest and non-guest birders alike. The inn offers nearly 10 acres of grounds including gardens and surrounding woodlands. A huge impoundment known as "The Pen" is located directly behind this facility, providing outstanding viewing opportunities for wading birds, waterfowl (winter), and seabirds.

The woodlands around the inn are alive with Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Northern Cardinal. Summer neotropical additions include Mississippi Kite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary and Hooded warblers, and Orchard Oriole. Fall migrants include Gray Catbird, Veery, Swainson's, and Gray-cheeked thrushes, Blue-winged, Magnolia, and Black-and-white warblers, Summer Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole.

Spend some time in the gardens which often host hummingbirds and numerous butterfly species such as Hackberry, Viceroy, Monarch, and both Giant and Eastern Tiger swallowtails.



## Brechtel Park

Site I0-5



**Site access:** Fee

**Site contact:** Park Information; 504-286-2136

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.91019; W 90.00755

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 90 Business/ Pontchartrain Expy/ Exit 234C in New Orleans, go south-east on US 90 Business for 2.8 miles. Merge onto LA 428/ General Degaulle Dr. and go east 1.2 miles, continuing another 0.7 miles on General Degaulle Dr. to Lennox Blvd. Bear right (south) on Lennox Blvd. for 0.4 miles to the park.

**Description:** The woodlands of Brechtel Park offer an interesting transition between the slightly drier bottomland hardwoods and the perennially wet swamps which dominate the forested landscapes of southern Louisiana. The dominant nuttall oak, laurel oak, green ash, boxelder, and swamp red maple form a tall and well-developed canopy. This allows bright filtered light to reach the forest floor, decorating it with southern shield fern, white snake-root, mist flower, pigeon berry, and other herbs.

The park's central, 14-acre lagoon hosts Great Blue, Little Blue, and Green herons, Great and Snowy egrets, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Wood Duck, and in spring, fall, and winter, Tree Swallow.

Brechtel Park offers regularly-scheduled bird tours and lectures which capitalize on the park's diverse avian community. During spring, summer, and fall, look for Mississippi Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed, Yellow-throated, and Red-eyed vireos, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, numerous warblers, Summer Tanager, and Northern Cardinal.

Winter brings "northern" birds such as Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, and White-throated Sparrow.



## Woodlands Trail and Park

Site I0-6



**Site Access:** Free

**Site contact:** Katie Brasted; 504-433-4000;

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.89082; W 89.97483

[woodlandstrail@aol.com](mailto:woodlandstrail@aol.com)

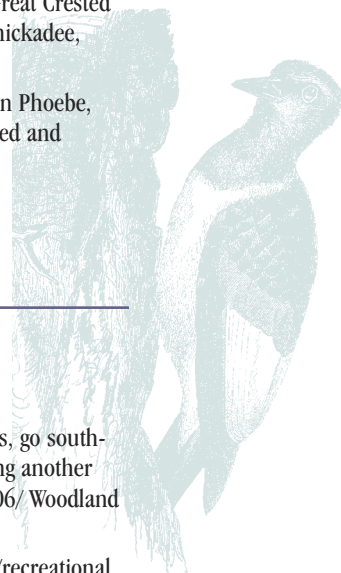
**Website:** <http://woodlandstrail.com>

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 90 Business/ Pontchartrain Expy/ Exit 234C in New Orleans, go south-east on US 90 Business for 2.8 miles. Merge onto LA 428/ General Degaulle Dr. and go east 1.2 miles, continuing another 1.7 miles on General Degaulle Dr. to LA 407/ Woodland Hwy. Go right (east) on LA 407 about 1.3 miles to LA 406/ Woodland Hwy. Turn left and go south-west about 0.6 miles to Woodlands Trail and Park.

**Description:** Woodlands Trail and Park represents an ambitious effort to preserve green space and cultural/recreational opportunities in the peninsula formed by Orleans and Plaquemines parishes. Bordered on three sides by the Mississippi River, this 609-acre wooded site in Belle Chasse, Louisiana has somehow remained in near-pristine condition despite the years of urban expansion around it.

The forest here is a mix of bottomland hardwoods and "back slope" hardwoods. Check these woods for numerous neotropical nesting birds including Mississippi Kite, Red-shouldered and Cooper's hawks, Acadian and Great Crested flycatchers, White-eyed and Red-eyed vireos, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Parula, Prothonotary, Hooded, and Swainson's warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Northern Cardinal, Painted Bunting, and Orchard Oriole.

During the spring and fall, numerous other neotropical migrants such as transient flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, and grosbeaks commonly use these bottomland hardwoods for crucial foraging and roosting purposes. In winter, these woods receive Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers, Swamp, Song, and White-throated sparrows, and American Goldfinch beginning in late October.





## Woodland Plantation

Site 10-7



**Site access:** Fee, Reservations

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.58312; W 89.82807

**Site contact:** Foster A. Creppel, Innkeeper; 800-231-1514

**Website:** [www.woodlandplantation.com](http://www.woodlandplantation.com)

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 90 Business/ Pontchartrain Expy/ Exit 234C in New Orleans, go south-east on US 90 Business for 2.9 miles. Merge onto the ramp for Terry Pkwy and go south-east on Terry Pkwy for 2.6 miles to LA 23/ Belle Chasse Hwy. Go left (south-east) on LA 23 for about 26.0 miles to Woodland Plantation on the left.

**Description:** Woodland Plantation was built in 1834 on the west bank of the Mississippi River some 28 miles south of New Orleans by river pilot cum sugar baron, William Johnson. Today, Woodland Plantation serves as an elegant bed and breakfast, replete with a converted gothic chapel and gourmet dining.

Woodland's 50+ acres include riparian, swamp, bottomland hardwood, and meadow habitats. The bottomland hardwood component offers excellent foraging and nesting opportunities for both resident and transient birds such as Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred and Eastern Screech owls, Red-bellied, Downy, and Hairy woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, and Common Yellowthroat.

Ospreys are often sighted from the Mississippi River levee as they travel and hunt over "Big Muddy." Wood Ducks are also common in "Le Petit Marais," the historical name for the swamp situated between the plantation home and the levee. Look for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and Little Blue Heron in the swamp; not to mention American Alligator.

## Fort Jackson

Site 10-8



**Site access:** Free, Fee, Daily

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.35244; W 89.45711

**Site contact:** Fort Jackson Information; 985-657-

7083

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 90 Business/ Pontchartrain Expy/ Exit 234C in New Orleans, go south-east on US 90 Business for 2.9 miles. Merge onto the ramp for Terry Pkwy and go south-east on Terry Pkwy 2.6 miles to LA 23/ Belle Chasse Hwy. Go left (south-east) on LA 23 for about 61.0 miles to Fort Jackson, which is located on LA 23, about 8.0 miles north of Venice, LA.

**Description:** This stately 82-acre site is generously populated with some of the oldest, most beautiful oaks south of New Orleans. Named after War of 1812 hero Andrew Jackson, at whose urgent behest it was constructed, Fort Jackson was eventually classified as a national historical monument in 1960 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, and restored and reopened in 1962.

The fort offers a spectacular view of the Mississippi River and the Laughing Gulls and Caspian Terns which patrol it on a year round basis. During the fall, winter, and spring months, these birds are joined by American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Lesser Scaup, and Ring-billed and Herring gulls.

To the immediate south of the fort is a large impoundment where Spotted Sandpiper, Double-crested Cormorant, and others commonly hunt and rest. To the immediate south of the impoundment is a large tract of bottomland hardwood forest which hosts a diverse bird community that changes dramatically with the seasons.

In addition to the usual bottomland hardwood-dwelling birds such as Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, Red-bellied, Downy, Hairy, and Pileated woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, the oaks around the fort as well as the associated woodlands often host migrating flycatchers, vireos, thrushes, warblers, tanagers, orioles, and others.



## Old Tidewater Road

Site 10-9



**Site access:** Free

**GPS coordinates:** N 29.25798; W 89.36714

**Site contact:** Plaquemines Parish Economic Development & Tourism; 888-745-0642

**Directions:** From the intersection of I 10 and US 90 Business/ Pontchartrain Expy/ Exit 234C in New Orleans, go south-east on US 90 Business for 2.9 miles. Merge onto the ramp for Terry Pkwy and go south-east on Terry Pkwy for 2.6 miles to LA 23/ Belle Chasse Hwy. Go left (south-east) on LA 23 for about 70.0 miles to its end in the community of Venice. Tidewater Road veers off to the right (west) for 3.5 miles.

**Description:** Although at first glance Old Tidewater Road does not appear to be an impressive site, New Orleans birders have found all sorts of interesting birds over the years. Because of heavy oilfield and fishing traffic, it is recommended to skip the first mile of Tidewater Road. Also, please use extreme caution when pulling off onto shoulders because the marsh creeps right up to the roadway in most places.

Tidewater Road forms the southern boundary of a massive freshwater marsh that is usually teeming with birds. During spring and summer, wading birds such as Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored, and Green herons, Great and Snowy egrets, and White Ibis use this marsh for foraging purposes. Moreover, experienced New Orleans birders consider this site to be the “epicenter” of the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron population in southeastern Louisiana. This site is also an epicenter of sorts for the Osprey, which are especially prevalent during the fall, winter, and spring months.

Winter brings in a plethora of ducks, especially Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Blue-winged Teal. Other common winter birds include American White Pelican, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Belted Kingfisher. Also keep an eye out for American Alligators which can be found in the open pools and canals associated with the marsh.



## Cultural/Historical Attractions

### LOUISIANA MARINE FISHERIES MUSEUM

Located south of New Orleans alongside the world's largest inland estuary, the Louisiana Marine Fisheries Museum focuses on the rich cultural heritage of the Louisiana's coastal communities of Native Americans, African Americans, Anglo Americans, Cajun French, Cambodians, Chinese, Croatians, Filipinos, Isleno Spanish and Vietnamese. The Museum's exhibits depict how these people lived by trapping for fur and alligator, crawfish farming, fishing, hunting, cypress lumbering, moss picking, and ranching/farming. Artifacts include a 3,000-year old dugout canoe, an authentic Lafitte Skiff, a trenasse digger and various other antique boats. For Museum location, hours of operation and general information, call 504-689-3497 or visit [www.fisheriesmuseum.com](http://www.fisheriesmuseum.com)



## Convention and Visitors Bureaus and Chambers of Commerce

Jean Lafitte Tourist Commission  
Town Hall, Hwy. 1  
Jean Lafitte, LA 70067  
Phone: 504-689-4754  
Toll Free Consumer: 800-689-3525  
www.jeanlafittetours.com

Plaquemines Parish Economic  
Development & Tourism  
104 New Orleans Street  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
Phone: 504-394-0018  
Toll Free Consumer: 888-745-0642  
Fax: 504-392-0052  
www.plaqueminesparish.com

Kenner Convention and Visitors Bureau  
2100 3rd Street #10  
Kenner, LA 70062  
Phone: 504-464-9494  
Toll Free Consumer: 800-231-5282  
www.kennercvb.com

Gretna Visitor Center  
Huey P. Long Ave. at Fourth St.  
Gretna, LA 70053  
Phone: 504-363-1580  
Toll Free Consumer: 888-4-GRETNA  
www.gretnala.com

Jefferson Convention & Visitors Bureau  
6640 Riverside Drive, Suite 160  
Metairie, LA 70003  
Phone: 504-780-1909  
Fax: 504-780-8061  
www.jptourism.com

New Orleans Tourism  
365 Canal Street, Suite 1120  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Toll Free Consumer: 888-239-3806  
www.neworleansonline.com

New Orleans Visitors  
Information Center  
7450 Paris Rd.  
New Orleans, LA 70128  
Phone: 504-246-5666  
Fax: 504-246-0201

Westwego Tourist Information  
Center  
10 Westbank Expressway  
Westwego, LA 70094  
Phone: 504-436-9346  
Fax: 504-436-0877

