

Paddle Trips in Acadiana

Southern Atchafalaya Eagle Loop

This challenging 11 mile loop combines a fantastically beautiful route along natural bayous, through large rivers and lakes. You'll see many of the trees and critters that the Basin is know for: Cypress and Tupelo, Great Blue Herons, migratory songbirds, alligators, snakes and much more. Combine all of this with sightings of majestic Southern Bald Eagles soaring high overhead or perched on stumps and you have a route that is memorable, beautiful, challenging and exciting. For the best chance to view the Southern Bald Eagles, paddle this route between late September through late March.

Conditions to consider:

This route has several challenges:

- 1) The 11 mile length can be challenging for some. Plan on at least 6-7 hours of paddling time (not including breaks).
- 2) The Atchafalaya river segment can have some currents and some boat traffic. Please use caution here.
- 3) The part of the loop that passes through Flat Lake can be rough on a south, southwest or west wind. Use caution in this section.
- 4) There are several turns to make on this route. Be sure to carefully use your map and/or GPS to stay on track.

Directions:

In Morgan City, take Hwy 70 north from I-49.

Look for Doiron's Dock sign on the left and the Chevron station on the right a few miles out of town.

Go into the Chevron Station to pay your launch fee.

The launch is across the street and over the levee.

Day Trip Gear List:

Paddling Gear:

Canoe or Kayak
Paddles
PFD's

Basic Clothing:

Quick Drying shorts or pants
Quick Drying Shirt / SPF Sun Shirt
River Sandals
Sun Protection Wide Brim UPF hat
Raingear

Packing Gear:

Small Waterproof Dry bag or dry box will handle your day clothes, raingear and lunch.
Waterproof bag or box for electronics.

Food and Water:

Snacks and/or Lunch
Water bottles
Water Purification Chemicals, Pump or Steri Pen
Trash bag

Paddling Gear:

Bailer, Sponge
Mesh bag for loose items

Personal Gear:

Basic First Aid Kit
Headlight (for evening or early trips)
Small shovel for answering calls of nature
Toilet paper in ziploc bag
Waterproof SPF 30 (or more) sunscreen, sunglasses
Bug repellent
Camera