How do you say it? It’s easy...it starts like a sneeze:
“uh•CHA•fuh•lie•uh”

National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through their resources, NHAs tell important stories that celebrate our nation’s diverse heritage. NHAs are lived-in landscapes that support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism and educational projects. NHAs are not National Park units but are affiliated with the National Park Service. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is managed by the Atchafalaya Trace Commission, a partnership of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and the National Park Service.

What is a National Heritage Area?
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is home to the nation’s largest river swamp. Host to one of only a handful of actively growing river deltas in the world, the area runs about 150 miles north to south and its width varies along the course of the Atchafalaya River. It contains a complex ecosystem, and is home to more than 85 species of fish, more than 270 species of birds, from songbirds to waterfowl – some of them endangered. Including swamps, marshes, bayous and backwater lakes, it is an exceptional illustration of river systems and lakes, water control technology, and recent geologic history. With landscapes ranging from coastal wetlands to rolling hills and prairies, you will find a variety of habitats including freshwater and saltwater marshes, beneath live oaks dripping with Spanish moss and beautiful sunsets. You may even glimpse an alligator slide into the water. www.atchafalaya.org/content/natural-heritage

The Atchafalaya is home to more than 270 bird species including waders like herons, egrets, ibises and spoonbills. Forming part of the Mississippi Flyway, the area is a major wintering ground for ducks and geese, and eagles are often spotted. Not unusual in the warmer months are sightings of swallow-tailed kites, Swainson’s warbler and Bachman’s sparrow. Visit www.braudubon.org or www.lsu.edu/birdoffice for regional sighting accounts. For world-class deep sea fishing check out Gulf Coast opportunities in the southern part of the heritage area (see below), and the best freshwater boat launches:


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With our mild climate and mostly flat terrain, enjoy biking all year. Cycle our back roads and make pit stops at our gas stations and country stores — you won’t believe the food and friendly atmosphere in these little places! Choose a route at: www.lket.louisiana.com

BOATING

Charter a boat for deep sea fishing off Louisiana’s Coast.

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1. Count the Roseate Spoonbills nesting in an Avery Island tree.
2. Stop for boudin and cracklins along a Louisiana Scenic Byway.
3. Enjoy a fishing trip on beautiful Lake Verret.
4. Watch the sun set from a pirogue under a cypress tree.
5. Learn to play the fiddle and the accordion.
6. Grab your camera to photograph osprey and bald eagles.
7. Visit Old River Lock and Dam where three rivers meet.
8. Kayak under a full moon on Lake Fausse Pointe.
10. Enjoy biking along miles of waterways beneath live oaks dripping with Spanish moss and cypress tree forests. Bring your camera to capture graceful egrets as they take wing, osprey nesting under a cypress tree.

BOATING

PADDLING

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