



DISCOVER LOUISIANA'S OUTBACK

Return to the glory days of driving and adventure. Motorcycle, car, bus or RV, the 180-mile Creole Nature Trail All-American Road is your back road to discovery!

Located on the Central and Mississippi Flyways, the Creole Nature Trail hosts millions of migrating waterfowl, and an abundance of migrating songbirds and butterflies which utilize the cheniers and marshlands as a stopover en route to Mexico and Central America. Birders flock here to see roseate spoonbills, spring warblers and Vermilion flycatchers, to name a few.



Along the roads that traverse the marshlands, warm, sunny days bode well for sightings of American alligators. Broad of face with a flat, round snout, this predator feeds on fish, frogs, snakes, turtles, birds, mammals, and carrion. Ranging in length up to 14 feet, alligators can readily be seen lounging on land or drifting along on a slowly moving canal. With a population greater than 10,000, alligators outnumber people along the Creole Nature Trail!



Teeming with life, Louisiana's coastal wetlands represent an estimated annual economic value in excess of \$40 billion, and contribute either directly or indirectly (seafood, natural gas, oil) to the lives of everyone in the United States.



Three wildlife refuges along the Creole Nature Trail encompass more than 210,000 acres of protected lands. Mainly focused on habitat, land stewardship and research, the refuges also offer numerous opportunities to explore.

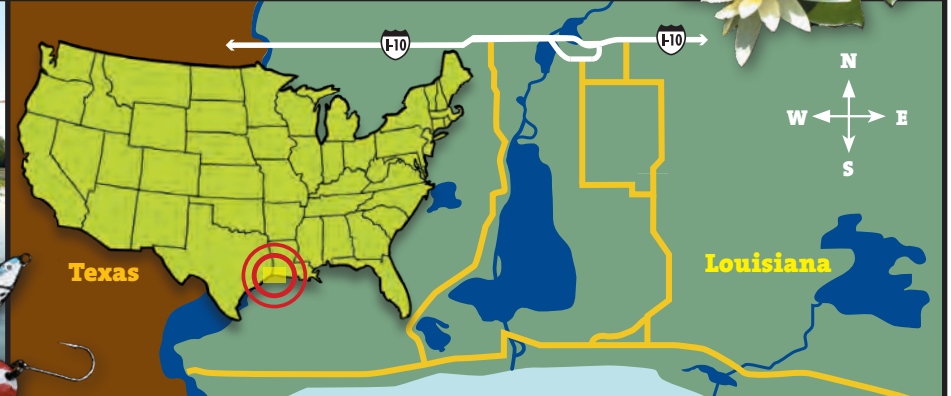


Deposits from the Mississippi River's southeast tidal flows fill the 19 miles of natural beaches along the Creole Nature Trail with a large variety of shells, including welks, cockles, angelwings, cateyes, olives, wentletraps, periwinkles and many more.



The fertile lands along the Creole Nature Trail support:

- 28 species of mammals
- more than 300 species of birds
- millions of monarch butterflies
- 35 species of amphibians and reptiles
- 7 commercial species of mollusks
- 132 species of fish.



Fishing opportunities in Louisiana's Outback are almost too numerous to count. Choose between freshwater, brackish or saltwater fishing. And then, decide if you want to fish from a boat or the shore. Surf fishing is excellent along the beaches, and from May through September, crabbing is a time-honored activity.



Glittering casino gaming, excellent restaurants, abundant accommodations, world-class golf, museums, antiques, and much more can be found in the Lake Charles, hub city of the Creole Nature Trail. Known as Louisiana's Festival Capital, the area annually hosts more than 75 fairs & festivals (including the 2nd largest Mardi Gras in Louisiana!) and is home to the "Charpentier" Historic District, on the National Register. VisitLakeCharles.org



For more information, call (337) 436-9588 or visit CreoleNatureTrail.org

