Jean Lafitte
National Historical Park and Preserve

Trail Rules
- Stay on boardwalks and trails.
- Food is not allowed on boardwalks and trails. Wild animals should never associate humans with food. Do not feed animals.
- Leave plants and animals as you find them. Do not pick flowers or dig up plants.
- Do not tease, throw objects at, or try to catch animals, insects, or reptiles.
- Leave your pets at home. Pets are not allowed in buildings or on boardwalks and trails. Do not leave unattended pets in vehicles.

Trail Tips
- In hot weather, take your time and move at a leisurely pace. Drink plenty of water and use sunscreen.
- Avoid mosquito bites by using insect repellent and wearing long pants and long sleeves.
- Watch your step! Fire ants, poison ivy, and snakes are found throughout the preserve, so give them plenty of room.
- All preserve trails are considered easy walks. Heat and humidity are the major challenges.
- For the latest information, stop by the visitor center or check the bulletin boards at the beginning of Twin Canals Trail, Bayou Coquille Trail/Marsh Overlook Trails, Visitor Center Trail, and at Pecan Grove (see map for locations).
- Don’t get locked in! Gated parking lots are open 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. If you will be on the trails after hours, park outside the gate, safely off the highway.
- Lock valuables in trunk of your vehicle or at least put them out of sight.

Emergency? Need help?
Emergency
Call 911. The preserve address is 6588 Barataria Blvd. Nearest hospital is West Jefferson Medical Center near Highway 45/Barataria Blvd. and Business Route 90/Westbank Expressway.

If you need help or see a violation of preserve rules like littering, poaching, or harassing wildlife
If no uniformed park personnel are in sight, call the park law enforcement dispatch line 855-289-7412.

Walking Trails (boardwalk and gravel; most are wheelchair and stroller accessible)

Bayou Coquille Trail       Length: 0.5 miles (0.8 km) one way. Boardwalk and packed gravel. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Access: Bayou Coquille Trail Parking Area. Highlights: giant live oaks, Bayou Coquille, American Indian shell mound, the "Monarch of the Swamp" (600-year-old baldcypress tree), seasonal wildflowers, cell phone tour, trailside signs with information on history and nature.

Marsh Overlook Trail       Length: 0.4 miles (0.7 km) one way. Boardwalk trail with stairs and bridges over waterways. Access: Bayou Coquille Trail (distance does not include walk along Bayou Coquille Trail; see map). Highlights: alligators, wading birds, turtles, view of downtown New Orleans from bridge over Pipeline Canal/Upper Kenta Canal, panoramic view of marsh from raised platform at trail’s end, cell phone tour, trailside signs with information on history and nature.


Palmetto Trail            Length: 0.9 miles (1.5 km) one way. Boardwalk trail. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Access: Visitor Center Trail (distance does not include walk along Visitor Center Trail; see map) and Bayou Coquille Trail parking lot. Highlights: forest birds, dwarf palmetto plants, less visited than other boardwalk trails.

Ring Levee Trail          Length: 0.6 (1 km) one way. Gravel and boardwalk. Access: Christmas Road (gravel trail; distance does not include walk along Christmas Road; see map). Highlights: Stands of baldcypress trees, alligator viewing during high water.

Hiking Trails (dirt or gravel; in rainy periods, most are muddy and may be impassable)

Wood Duck Trail          Length: 0.4 miles (0.7 km) one way. Access: Christmas Road (distance does not include walk along Christmas Road; see map). Highlights: hardwood forest, ponds during wet weather, forest birds.

Plantation Trail         Length: Loop A--1.8 miles (2.9 km) round trip; Loop B--1.4 miles (2.3 km) round trip. Loop distances include Christmas Road (see map). Access: Pecan Grove Parking Area. Highlights: giant live oaks, remnants of irrigation ditches from plantation and farming days, deer, armadillos.

Old Barataria Trail      Length: 1.4 miles (2.3 km) round trip. Access: Pecan Grove Parking Area picnic area or via Christmas Road (see map). Old irrigation ditches cut across trail and may contain water during rainy periods. Highlights: varied habitats, less visited than other hiking trails, dwarf palmetto plants.

Twin Canals              Length: 0.6 miles (1.0 km) one way. Access: Twin Canals Parking Area. Hardwood forest, small footbridge, views onto canals, fishing from bank is allowed (a valid Louisiana state fishing license is required).