



## **PRIMITIVE CAMPING IN THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN**

**OVER 1,000 SQUARE MILES OF WILDERNESS - HERE'S A REMINDER ABOUT YOUR SAFETY**

We've chosen some prime spots located on state land for adventurous sorts such as you to really get away from it all. For those who prefer to rough it the good old fashion way with a tent and sleeping bag, here are some simple tips to help you have a successful, safe and eco-friendly camping trip:

- These 31 Atchafalaya Basin Camp Sites have been located on state land; however, if someone disputes the ownership of where you're camping, it's best to relocate and notify us of the problem.
- Leave your campsite how you found it or better than you found it – if someone missed picking up the last bits of trash from their visit, make it better! Please do not build anything at these sites but a fire. Remove all trash from the campsite, and pack it up and bring it with you to dispose of when you can.
- Be careful when building a campfire. What's camping without a campfire to cozy up to at night to make some s'mores? However, campfires should be constructed carefully. Always use a campfire that's already been built instead of building a new one. If you must build a new campfire, make sure to build it away from dry grass or overhanging branches. Also, don't cut down live trees to use for the campfire, instead use branches that are already on the ground or bring your own firewood. Please don't put whole driftwood trees on your campfire – it leaves unsightly half-burned logs. Douse the campfire with plenty of water until it's cool to the touch.

- **Bring reusable utensils and plates. While disposable plates and utensils may seem like the more convenient option to bring along when camping, the excessive use of these products can be wasteful. Plus, you have to carry your trash with you anyway so it can end up being more of a hassle. Bring just enough reusable plates and utensils that are needed for lighter and more ecofriendly travel.**
- **Don't forget the bug spray! You just MIGHT run into some mosquitoes in the swamp. Always keep your tent zipped up tight to prevent as many as possible from entering.**
- **Baby alligators are cute, but their moms are very protective. Leave baby alligators alone! If you disturb them, they WILL call for their momma to come rescue them, and she will heed her maternal instinct.**
- **There are also venomous snakes in the swamp – cottonmouths and copperheads. Keep a keen eye out for any snakes when walking around in the swamp to avoid stepping on one. Leave them alone, and they'll leave you alone.**
- **The Atchafalaya Basin has a lot of boat and barge traffic on main waterways. Practice safe boating, especially when crossing these main waterways, and remember that the larger vessel typically has the right-of-way.**
- **Water levels change in the waterways and in the swamp. Water is generally high during the winter and spring and low during the summer and fall, but this may vary. See our link to [Weather and Water Levels](#) for the latest information.**