



Creole Nature Trail Itineraries - East Side Itinerary

One of only 43 so designated scenic byways in the USA, and affectionately known as *Louisiana's Outback*. With a total of 180 miles – you might want to break up the trip. Here are 2 itineraries that will take you along both the east and west sides of the trail. Feeling adventurous? Take on the full mileage! Let's gas up the car and start road trippin', Lake Charles-style!

Remember – these are just ideas. Enjoy your visit your way!

Trip Mileage: 113 miles, Driving Time: 1hr 24 mins
Estimated Activity Time: 3hrs 45 mins (includes 1hr for lunch)

Depart for the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road.

*The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road offers world-class bird and alligator populations make this byway a natural wonder while top-notch fishing, hunting, crabbing, boating, nature photography and other outdoor opportunities distinguish the byway as a recreational paradise. **Free tour app, search "Creole" in your app store or click here to download.***

Make a stop at the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center.

Engage in wildlife exploration at the Visitors Center featuring talking dioramas as well as multiple over-water boardwalks and viewing areas. Open Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A quick drive from the Visitor Center, you will not want to miss the Pintail Wildlife Drive & Boardwalk.

This 3 mile driving loop is a wonderful place to view alligators and birds. Bird watching, photography, and sightseeing are encouraged year-round on the refuge. Spring and summer are the best times to see long-legged wading birds and shorebirds. The half mile boardwalk is a prime area for those interested in photograph/videography, especially since strategic areas of the boardwalk expand to allow for camera or viewing tripods. Open daily during daylight hours.

Time to eat!

Enjoy a seafood dinner, poboy, or choice of plate lunches at a locally owned eatery in the area.

Note you are on the east side of the trail, keep that in mind while searching through listings

Life's a Beach. Make your way to Rutherford Beach to spot shore birds and do some shellin'.

The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road has more than 26 miles of Gulf Coast beaches and Rutherford Beach is just one example of our rustic beaches that are prime seashell collecting territory!

The Scenic Route.

You've completed the east side of the Creole Nature Trail. Head back to the city for more fun.

Feeling ambitious? Continue your excursion along the Trail with a ride on the [Cameron Ferry](#) that will take you (in your vehicle!) across the Calcasieu River Ship Channel. Keep a sharp eye, porpoises are a common sight among the boats in the ship channel, hoping for an easy meal. Once you are back on land, head west towards Hackberry and Sulphur, LA.
Estimated Round Trail Trip Mileage: 162.6 miles, Driving Time 3hr 55mins