

Lake St. John Paddling Trail

Mississippi River Old oxbow lake. St. John is ringed by houses and fields on all but its northeastern extremity. Hence the best paddling, and most plentiful wildlife is found at the same. At writing time (2013) the only reliable public access close to north end was found at the Spokane Fishing Resort, but we were told by locals a public access was being planned for an old primitive ramp located in the far NE end of the lake, in a smaller but connected pond/wetlands swamp.

Please use custom-made google map by going to:

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=217859314001592865582.0004ee8bb7ddc153fd47f&msa=0&ll=31.662295,-91.497059&spn=0.178693,0.32341>

<http://goo.gl/maps/z80Pe>

Private Boat Ramp -- Spokane Fishing Resort 31.699767, 91.45936

Good concrete boat ramp with lots of parking can be used at the Spokane Fishing Resort, 4269 Hwy 568, five miles northeast of Ferriday, Louisiana. (318) 757-4303. \$8 ramp use fee. Cabins for rent, seasonal restaurant, and convenience store.

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Ten-mile round trip route for canoeists or kayakers (or SUPs) to reach the best part of the lake. Long paddle, but the effort is well worth it! The north end of Lake St. John teems with wildlife amongst extensive stands of large cypress trees. Paddlers can easily slide through forested tree trunks over which a vibrant vaulted canopy looms. Biggest trees of any of the NE Louisiana oxbow lakes. Thickly vegetated shoreline full of shrubs, flowering bushes and tall grasses, as well as pockets of water hyacinth. Evidence of beaver, raccoons, and invertebrates such as crawfish and mussels. Plentiful waterfowl and songbirds (during migration season).