



Rivergator Fall 2014
celebratory expeditions

*Celebrating the opening of the Rivergator:
Lower Mississippi River Water Trail*

Dec 6-16
Vicksburg to Baton Rouge

What are The Rivergator Celebratory Expeditions?

In Fall 2014 we'll be running a series of multi-day expeditions to celebrate the opening of the Lower Mississippi River Water Trail from St. Louis, Missouri through Memphis, and then from Vicksburg, Mississippi to Baton Rouge, Louisiana. By voyageur style canoe. No previous experience necessary, but must enjoy wilderness-style camping and must be willing to paddle! We are reserving at least 4 seats on every segment for writers, photographers and any journalists who will help us share the story about the beautiful and dynamic Mississippi River and the Rivergator Water Trail describing it!

Please contact John Ruskey, 662-902-7841 or john@island63.com to reserve your seat, and for more information. Dec 6-16th Vicksburg to Baton Rouge; Nov 15-26th St. Louis to Caruthersville.

December 6-16 Vicksburg to Baton Rouge

Meet: Saturday, December 6th at 12noon at downtown Vicksburg Yazoo River waterfront (Canal Street Boat Ramp). Park your car and pack your gear into the canoe. Push off around 2pm and start downstream for Natchez. Sites of interest include Le Torneau, Togo, Middle Ground Island, and the mouth of the Big Black River. Sun Dec 7th: Grand Gulf/Port Gibson. Sites of interest: Yucatan Lake, Bondurant, Bayou Pierre, St. Joseph, Waterproof. Monday, Dec 8th Natchez. Tues Dec 9th continue downstream for points south, including St Catherine's Wildlife Refuge, Homichitto River, Ft. Adams, Atchafalaya River, Angola, St. Francisville, Baton Rouge (Dec 16th).

Itinerary subject to adjustment depending on wind, water levels and prevailing weather conditions.

**Itinerary: Dec 6-16
Vicksburg to Baton Rouge**

Saturday, Dec 6

Meet at 12noon at downtown Vicksburg Yazoo River waterfront (Canal Street Boat Ramp). Park your car and pack your gear into the canoe. Push off around 2pm and start downstream for Natchez. Racetrack Towhead.

Sunday Dec 7: Le Torneau, Togo, Middle Ground Island, Mouth of the Big Black River, Grand Gulf/Port Gibson.

Mon Dec 8: Yucatan Lake, Bondurant, Bayou Pierre, St. Joseph, Waterproof, Natchez.

Tues Dec 9 Natchez, St Catherine's Wildlife Refuge, Carthage, Warnicott

Wed Dec 10: Homichitto River, Washout Bayou, Artonish, 3 Rivers WMA

Thurs Dec 11: Ft. Adams, Old River (Mouth of the Atchafalaya River), Angola Ferry & State Penitentiary, Shreve's Bar

Fri Dec 12: Hog Point, Tunica Bayou, Polly Creek, Little Island, Iowa Point

Sat Dec 13: St. Maurice Island, Bayou Sara, St. Francisville

Sun Dec 14: St. Francisville, John James Audubon Bridge, Transmontaigne Chemical, Fancy Point

Mon Dec 15: Thompson Creek, Profit Island, Profit Island, Baton Rouge

Tues Dec 16: Drive back from Baton Rouge

Itinerary subject to adjustment depending on wind, water levels and prevailing weather conditions.

**Rivergator:
Vicksburg to Baton Rouge**

Mileage:

(Measured from the head of Passes, 90 miles south of New Orleans, the center of the birdsfoot of the Mississippi Delta, where all the major channels split and drain into the Gulf of Mexico, South Pass, Pass La'Outre, Main Pass and Southwest Pass)

437 (Vicksburg) Yazoo – Mississippi Confluence
432 Racetrack Towhead
425 Oak Bend
420 Newton Bend
415 Togo Island
410 (Grand Gulf/Port Gibson) Middle Ground Island
408 Mouth of the Big Black
405 Mouth of Yucatan Lake
402 Coffee Point
395 Bondurant/Mouth of Bayou Pierre
391 Goldbottom
390 Cottage Bend
385 Spithead Towhead
380 Top end of Waterproof
377 Coles Creek
375 Bottom end of Waterproof
367 Giles Island
364 Natchez-Under-the-Hill
341 Washout Bayou
323 Artonish/3 Rivers WMA
317 Palmetto Point (Fort Adams)
304 Old River (Mouth of the Atchafalaya River)
300 Angola Ferry & State Penitentiary
292 Tunica Bayou/Tunica Bluff
280 Iowa Point/New Texas
265 St.Francisville
230 Baton Rouge

207 miles total



Rivergator: Vicksburg to Baton Rouge

Food & Gear: Quapaw provides all necessary river gear & emergency equipment. Normally we prepare all food & refreshments, drinks include spring water, juices and milk. Alcoholic beverages BYOB. We will pack all necessary cookware and eating utensils, as well as camp tables and camp chairs.

Bring all personal gear and stuff into our waterproof drybags before launching (or use your own). These are backpack-style bags made of tough waterproof material - great for packing on a rainy day! It takes three complete fold to make them water-proof, be sure to lock all four buckles! If you have any questions, check with your guide.

Be prepared for rain or intense sun UV exposure! Sunlight is surprisingly intense on the river, even in the winter (you get the sun twice – once from above and once reflected from below). Sunburn is our number one complaint and has caused more than one Mississippi River paddler very painful days and sleepless nights. Be forewarned! Sunglasses, sun screen, long sleeve clothing and a wide brim hat are all good ideas, especially for anyone particularly sensitive.

We can supply tents & sleeping bags to anyone who needs them, \$35ea/person/trip regardless of length. Otherwise, bring your own and pack with your gear into our dry bags.

Camping: Remote islands, sandbars, towheads, usually sandy places, sometimes it's necessary to make a muddy landing. In inclement weather it might be necessary to find shelter within the forest. This is primitive camping on a river island, no services of any sort. Bring everything you need to make yourself comfortable. Bring your own toiletry. Bring a change of warm clothing, including summer months, when mornings can be cool. It's always cooler on the river.

Charge: is \$125/day which includes canoes, paddles, lifejackets and all necessary river gear, first aid kits and emergency gear; and meals, which include all the food prep, campfire cooking, cookware and eatware, and cleanup. There is a separate shuttle fee of \$200/person which covers transportation of canoes and gear plus our vehicles and drivers to and from Vicksburg, Baton Rouge, St. Louis or Memphis for drop-off and pickup.

The Rivergator is overseen by the Lower Mississippi River Foundation which is dedicated to access, education, and the betterment of public outdoor recreation on the Middle & Lower Mississippi River.





