



## **Rivergator 2014** **exploratory expeditions**

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

**April 12 - 23**  
**Vicksburg to Baton Rouge**

# What are The Rivergator Exploratory Expeditions?

In Spring/Summer 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](mailto:john@island63.com) to reserve your seat, and for more information. April 12 - 23 Vicksburg to Baton Rouge; May 22 - June 8 St. Louis to Memphis

## **April 12 - 23 Vicksburg to Baton Rouge**

Meet: Saturday, April 12th at 1pm 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. April 13: Grand Gulf/Port Gibson. Sites of interest: Yucatan Lake, Bondurant, Bayou Pierre, St. Joseph, Waterproof. Tuesday April 15th Natchez. Grand Opening for the Quapaw Natchez Outpost. April 16th continue downstream for points south, including St Catherine's Wildlife Refuge, Homichitto River, Ft. Adams, Atchafalaya River, Angola, St. Francisville, Baton Rouge. (Note Optional Start: Bluz Cruz Race, Sat April 12th, meet downtown 6:45am; register separately at [www.bluzcruz.com](http://www.bluzcruz.com))

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

**Itinerary: April 12 - 23  
Vicksburg to Baton Rouge**

**Saturday, April 12**

Meet at 1pm at downtown Vicksburg Yazoo River waterfront (Canal Street Boat Ramp). Park your car and pack your gear into the canoe. Push off around 3pm and start downstream for Natchez. Racetrack Towhead.

(Note: Optional **Bluz Cruz Race**, meet downtown 6:45am; register separately at [www.bluzcruz.com](http://www.bluzcruz.com))

**Sunday April 13:** Le Torneau, Togo, Middle Ground Island, Mouth of the Big Black River, Grand Gulf/Port Gibson.

**Mon April 14:** Yucatan Lake, Bondurant, Bayou Pierre, St. Joseph, Waterproof.

**Tues April 15** Natchez. **Grand Opening for the Quapaw Natchez Outpost!** 12noon, Natchez Under the Hill. Spend the day touring the historic City of Natchez.

**Wed April 16:** St Catherine's Wildlife Refuge, Carthage, Warnicott

**Thurs April 17:** Homichitto River, Washout Bayou, Artonish, 3 Rivers WMA

**Fri April 18:** Ft. Adams, Old River (Mouth of the Atchafalaya River), Angola Ferry & State Penitentiary, Shreve's Bar

**Sat April 19:** Hog Point, Tunica Bayou, Polly Creek, Little Island, Iowa Point

**Sun April 20:** St. Maurice Island, Bayou Sara, St. Francisville

**Mon April 21:** Extra Day: St. Francisville

**Tues April 22:** John James Audubon Bridge, Transmontaigne Chemical, Fancy Point

**Wed April 23:** Thompson Creek, Profit Island, Profit Island, Baton Rouge

**Thurs April 24:** 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.

