



Easy Riding on the Bayou Driving Tour

Celebrate the iconic movie, *Easy Rider*© (1969) that starred Dennis Hopper, Peter Fonda and Jack Nicholson. This low budget counter-culture film follows Billy (Dennis Hopper) and Wyatt (Peter Fonda) on a journey from California to Louisiana for Mardi Gras. The movie became an unexpected hit as social norms were changing.

Day One – New Orleans

Mardi Gras in New Orleans was the reason for Wyatt's and Billy's road trip from California. Interestingly, the producers of the movie miscalculated the dates for Mardi Gras and arrived after the event. They were hoping to use the background of Mardi Gras without the expense of staging.

Enjoy breakfast and walk around the French Quarter or Vieux Carré, the oldest neighborhood in the city of New Orleans. Venture to Toulouse and Bourbon where the fictitious Madame Tinker Toy House of Blue Lights was highlighted in the movie.

After lunch, visit St. Louis #1 Cemetery, 425 Bain Street, New Orleans. It was in this cemetery where Wyatt and Billy dropped acid with two prostitutes in the movie. Visit the statue above the Italian Benevolent Society Tomb. Reservations are recommended. You must be accompanied by a licensed tour guide. www.saveourcemetairies.org. (Check for updates due to COVID. Tours may be canceled or limited.)

If Cemetery is closed, visit one of New Orleans open attractions.
www.neworleans.com/#covidinfo

Day Two – Louisiana Coast

After breakfast or lunch travel west towards Morgan City. From downtown New Orleans, follow Highway 90, South Claiborne Avenue, Jefferson Highway (Same road) to the Huey P. Long Bridge.

The Huey P Long Bridge is a cantilevered steel through truss bridge that carries a two-track railroad line over the Mississippi River. Opened in December 1935, the bridge was the first built in Louisiana and the 29th along the length of the river.

Exit at Highway 1 to visit St. Mary's Nativity Catholic Church in Raceland, located at 3500 Highway 1, Raceland. Drive by the first cemetery featured in the movie as Wyatt, Billy and George drive into Louisiana.

From Highway 1, travel back to Highway 90 west. Exit Highway 24 to view Ducros Plantation in Schriever located at 147 Old Schriever Highway, Schriever. This home is part of scene as Wyatt and Billy are driving from New Orleans back to California. Ducros Plantation was featured in "If These Walls Could Talk," an HGTV program in 2002.

Depending on the time of the day, enjoy one of the area's attractions or make your way to Morgan City. Visit www.lacajunbayou.com for details.

From Old Schriever Highway follow Highway 20 West to Amelia and cross the Amelia Bridge. The Amelia Bridge crosses Bayou Boeuf. You see Wyatt and Billy crossing the bridge during an industrial time for McDermott International. Industrial scenes of Amelia are interwoven including Greenwood Overpass.

Overnight in Morgan City. Enjoy dinner at one of the many open restaurants.
www.cajuncoast.com

Day Three - Morgan City and Franklin

Take your time and enjoy breakfast. Today, you have a leisurely cruise through St. Mary Parish. While there are numerous scenes from St. Mary Parish, interestingly, as Wyatt, Billy and George are on their way to New Orleans, the film was edited east to west instead of west to east which would have been the correct path to New Orleans.

Your first stop is the Morgan City Bridge. The Long-Allen Bridge crosses over the Atchafalaya River. It would have been the only bridge over the Atchafalaya River at the time of the filming. The bridge is seen after Wyatt and Billy leave New Orleans.

Stop and shop along Morgan City's Main Street along the Atchafalaya River, walk along the "Great Wall", Morgan City's flood wall that protects the city during high water or visit the International Petroleum Museum and Exposition on Front Street.

After crossing the bridge, exit in Berwick and visit the Berwick Lighthouse Park and Brown House. Follow Highway 182, the Bayou Teche Scenic Byway to Franklin.

Along the way, enjoy a tour of the Wedell Williams Aviation Museum and Cypress Sawmill Museum or enjoy a 2.5 hour swamp tour with Captain Caviar.

Featured locations along Highway 182 are plentiful. The first is the Garden City Post Office located at 10400 E Main Street, Garden City.

The Garden City Post Office was originally the Hanson Lumber Company Office and is now a private home. The building was placed on the National Register of historic places in 1993.
(Private)

Alice C Plantation located at 10736 Highway 182, Franklin. Alice C reflects eastern seaboard influences and was built by Jotham Bedell. Named by John Calder, a subsequent owner, for his wife, Alice. (Private)

Arlington Plantation located at 11532 Highway 182, Franklin. Arlington Plantation House and Gardens is a majestic neoclassical sugar cane plantation built in the 1830s by the Carlin family. Standing along the serene banks of the Bayou Teche, it has often been referred to as an architectural and structural masterpiece. (Private)

Ice Sign, Gates Drive. The Ice Sign was once on Franklin Main Street under a canopy of live oak trees. Notice it when watching the movie as Wyatt, Billy and George ride through town.

Palfrey House located at 200 East Main Street, Franklin. Featuring Temple of the Winds capitals on its fluted columns, Palfrey House was built in 1851 by Governor Joshua Baker for his daughter Frannie. The portico is repeated in the back. (Private)

St. Mary Parish Courthouse, located at 500 Main Street, Franklin. During the filming, the “new” courthouse was being built and can be seen in the background. The beautiful 1800 courthouse and jail were torn down in effort to be “progressive.” The demolition of the courthouse was the impetus for historic preservation in the City of Franklin.

Franklin Main Street, Ben Franklin Store (Chic & Shabby) located at 716 Main Street, Franklin. Notice in the film that the American Flag was upside down. This was most likely intentional. An upside-down flag means dire distress. It was probably a commentary on America as the social norms were changing.

While in Franklin, stop and walk along Franklin’s Main Street. Tour one of the historic homes including Grevemberg House Museum, Oaklawn Manor or Shadowlawn. Enjoy lunch at Annie Mae’s or the Forest Restaurant.

Next, you’ll drive by Franklin Cemetery located at 1202 Main Street, Franklin. This city cemetery is the final resting place for many Franklin residents since the 1830’s and includes two Louisiana governors, a US Senator, a professional wrestler, professional football player and over 30 confederate soldiers.

Travel back to Morgan City or overnight in Franklin.

Day Four – Charenton, New Iberia, Lafayette

After waking up, your journey to Morganza begins, the location of the pivotal scene in the movie.

Before getting there, stop at Cypress Bayou Casino Hotel for a bit of gaming, tour the Chitimacha Museum in Charenton, exit in New Iberia, home of the world-famous Tabasco Sauce or stop in Lafayette and overnight.

www.cypressbayou.com, www.iberiatravel.com; www.lafayettetravel.com

Day Five: Krotz Springs, Morganza

Begin this journey by traveling on I-49.

If its Friday, Saturday or Sunday and you would like a detour, stop at the Washington Antique School Yard, open 9 am to 4 pm, Exit 25 and you can see the booths that were located at Melancon's Café.

If you choose to detour, you'll need to backtrack to Highway 190 or circle around to Highway 190 on the scenic route from Highway 182, Highway 10 through Palmetto and Melville, turning on Highway 105 to Krotz Springs. Along Highway 105 is the levee road of the location of the culmination of the movie, which is part of the Zydeco Prairie Cajun Byway.

If you choose Highway 190, travel east to Krotz Springs. Turn left onto Highway 105. This levee, located at 30°34'28" N, 91°45'38"W is the spot of the dramatic ending.

Backtrack to Highway 190. From 190 travel east to Highway 81 at Lottie, Highway 77 at Aline, Highway 10 to Morganza to visit Melancon's Café, located at 30°44'16" N, 90°35'37"W. Although Melancon's Café is no longer there, a marker represents the location of the infamous café where young girls were enamored, small towners were hostile and unknowingly enemies were made.

Overnight in New Roads at a B & B or backtrack to Highway 190 for East -West to I-10 or I-49 for North-South route.

Enjoy Easy Rider's soundtrack as you travel

"The Pusher" - Steppenwolf

"Born to Be Wild" - Steppenwolf

"Wasn't Born to Follow" - The Byrds

"The Weight" – The Band

Flash, Bam, Pow – Electric Flag

Kyrie Eleison – The Electric Prunes

It's Alright Ma (I'm Only Bleeding) – Roger McGuinn

If 6 Was 9 – The Jimi Hendrix Experience

Don't Bogart Me – Fraternity of Man

If You Want to be a Bird – The Holy Modal Rounders

Ballad of Easy Rider – Roger McGuinn