

"The Airboat Adventure on Atchafalaya"

On June 13, 2019, I went on my first airboat tour with my mother and my sister Cameron. First, we got our life jackets and earmuffs then we got second row seat on the boat! Before we took off we saw an alligator swimming in the water. It was so cool! Then our driver (Mr. Nick) started the boat for takeoff.

I started taking pictures of the swamp. It was gorgeous! I like how the trees opened up to the lake, and I thought the hanging moss was pretty. Then we came to a stop and Mr. Nick called in the first alligator, Samuel. He smacked the oar on the water to call him to the boat. He was feeding it some kind of raw meat. Another alligator came by named Roxanne, and I was taking lots and lots of pictures. Then Peanut came by, the smallest alligator of them all. I thought it was really amazing to see the alligators up close on an airboat.

After we visited the alligators for a while, we started to move on to the next part of our trip. While we were riding we saw an alligator sunbathing with his mouth open on a log. We stopped and turned around to see the alligator, but it jumped off frightened into the water so we resumed our ride. Soon we came to open waters and saw osprey perched on a cypress in the middle of the Atchafalaya. It was fascinating to see an osprey nest. One was a baby and would soon leave in 3 or 4 days.

Next, we went underneath the Atchafalaya bridge. The view from below felt like walking in an old temple. The boat turned sideways four times, and I really liked it when it went super fast. There was a lot of open area that we drove to before we got to our second stop and saw our next alligator Suzette. There was another alligator swimming to the boat when Suzette chased it off. Suzette was very territorial. The driver said Suzette sometimes tries to climb in the boat. He gave her some meat as well. Mr. Nick petted Suzette without her biting him which is outstanding to see because most of the time if you stick your finger out to an alligator they would bite it off in a blink of an eye. Right before we saw Suzette, I saw the biggest wasp nest I've ever seen. I didn't want to be anywhere near it. We also saw a deer stand while stopping to see Suzette.

After Mr. Nick was finished talking about the alligators and the Atchafalaya Basin, we started on our route back home. He said I've never been lost but I've gotten confused; not lost but confused. Whenever we were going back to the dock, we were going speedy fast -just how I like it. I loved the feel of the cool breeze and seeing the white waves made by the boat.

My airboat tour on the Atchafalaya was so much fun. The experience allowed me to see alligators face to face. When we got back to the dock, we had a quiz on how many teeth alligator have. Alligators have 80 teeth. I got 2 alligator teeth, a duck call, and an alligator pen as souvenirs. The

swamp is one of our biggest resources in Louisiana, and it has so much beauty to it. I was so happy to have the privilege to glide through the swamp.