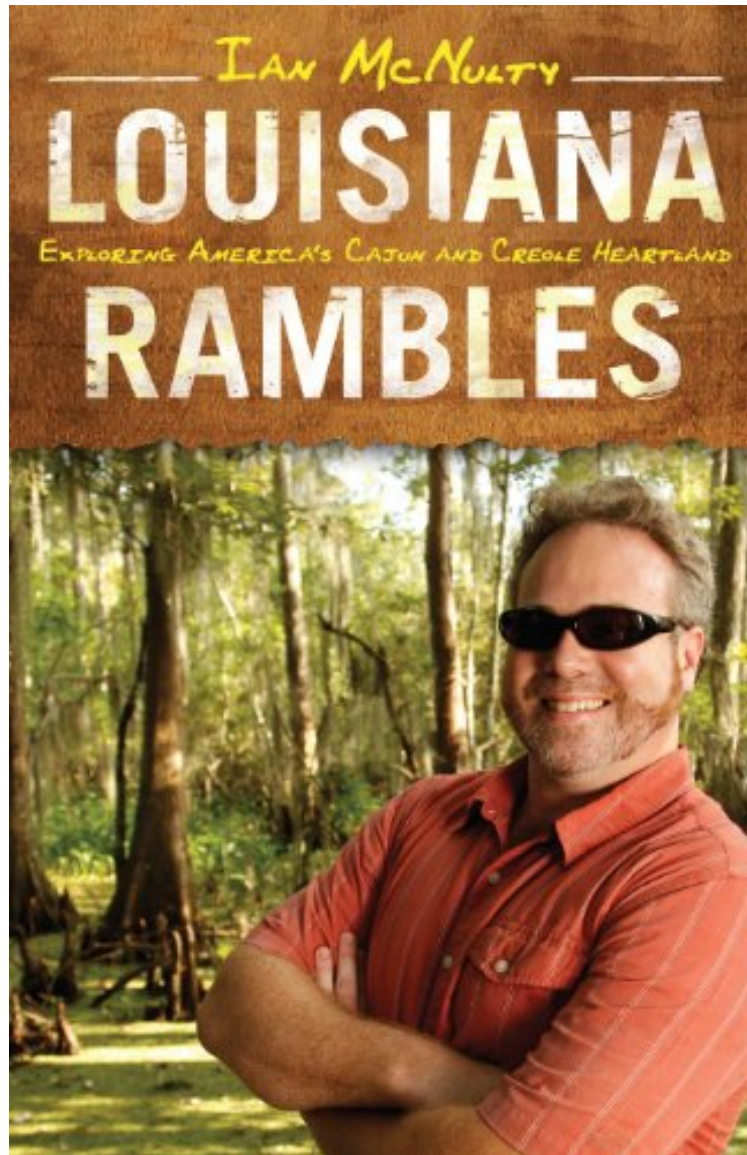


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## Louisiana Rambles: Exploring America's Cajun and Creole Heartland

*Ian McNulty*

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**Ian McNulty : Louisiana Rambles: Exploring America's Cajun and Creole Heartland** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Louisiana Rambles: Exploring America's Cajun and Creole Heartland:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Immigrant to Louisiana Provides Enthusiastic InsightBy

Customer This book is incredible! I read it over two days while deployed to dull brown areas far from the US. For those two days, I didn't feel like I was in a foreign country. My mind was immersed in the Cajun culture of Louisiana and I could almost taste the crawfish. Ian McNulty is a northerner who writes with joy and appreciation about his adopted homeland. Not necessarily a good travel guide for someone visiting the state, this book is best used by people in Louisiana who want a better appreciation of their area. He combed the countryside with one rule: 3 hours from his home in New Orleans. His review covers food, dancing, fishing, history, and sprinklings of ecology. A recurring theme throughout the book is the coastal erosion of the state, but his tone is not that of a hippie environmentalist. Instead, McNulty embraces the culture of the manly fishing, hunting, dancing, horse-riding, cooking, can-do Cajun man who is frustrated that all the wonder and goodness of the Louisiana landscape is disappearing. The book includes towns and specific venues in them with some supplementary info in the appendix, but it needs separate maps and a few websites to be most practical. As I read, I often found myself looking up places and events online or checking out the diversity of the waterways in Google Maps. The style is engaging and upbeat, and it's written for explorers. He does not set expectations too high with the pop culture sense of "wow! look at this glitzy thing!" but instead finds beauty and wonder in small cultural details and the Cajun propensity for having a good time. As a foodie, McNulty quickly learned to carry an ice chest whenever he explored to property take advantage of the possibilities and most of the tales of adventure prominently featured beer. Structurally, the index at the back is thorough and an unexpected surprise in writing that almost sounds like a memoir. The index and the bite-sized chapters make this a great reference for future use over many daytrips. This book is unbeatable in its enthusiasm and is a must-read for anyone appreciative of Cajun culture or looking to find new activities in southern Louisiana. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Buy this book and be entertained. By Peter McLaren Fantastic book. McNulty's descriptions of his travels in LA are delightful stories that entertain and delight. Louisiana Rambles leaves the reader with a sense they have truly experienced the "Ramble". A great read! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book for anyone planning or contemplating a visit to Louisiana. By No Longer a Customer This is a great book. Not a conventional travel guide, but a great resource for ideas about where to go and what to see in Louisiana. The book provides historical information and thoughtful suggestion regarding well-known and not so well-known areas of Southern Louisiana. Very readable.

After Hurricane Katrina laid bare the fragility and environmental peril of South Louisiana, author Ian McNulty set out on a series of daytrips to delve into the area's diverse cultural landscapes. He explored communities staked up and down the Mississippi River, nestled into the teeming bayous, braced along the edge of the Gulf, and planted out on the golden prairie stretching to the west. Louisiana Rambles is his richly evocative guide to those journeys. McNulty delivers an inimitable take on Cajun and Creole Louisiana—the siren call of zydeco dance halls pulsing in the country darkness; of crawfish "boiling points" and traditional country smokehouses; of Cajun jam sessions, where even wallflowers are compelled to dance; of equine gambits in the cradle of jockeys; and of fishing trips where anyone can land impressive catches. In South Louisiana, distilled European heritage, the African American experience, and modern southern exuberance mix with tumultuous history and fantastically fecund natural environments. The territories McNulty opens to the reader are arguably the nation's most exotic and culturally distinct destinations. McNulty quests for the heart of these places and people. Much more than a travel guide or collection of travel narratives, Louisiana Rambles is a seasoned writer's witness to an epic locale that is very often joyous, sometimes heartbreaking, and always vital and stimulating. An extensive, chapter-by-chapter appendix filled with travel tips and notes from the road (or the bayou) will let visitors explore well beyond the beaten tourist paths and help Louisiana residents appreciate their own terrain in a new light.

Ian McNulty's enthusiasm for all things Louisiana is infectious and invigorating, because it is so convincing. In Louisiana Rambles, McNulty portrays the medley of sounds, smells, sights, textures and tastes that arise from a land so rich in culture, heritage, landscape and lore, along with an overabundance of hardship. McNulty provides readers with every reason to visit Louisiana, as well as all the information needed to plan a memorable trip. Judges comments, Silver Medal 2011, Society of American Travel Writers Travel Book Award Ian McNulty captures the spirit and haunting beauty of southern Louisiana, from the bayous to the plantations. As he rambles along the back roads, he offers insights that delight those of us who grew up in the region. All of the tastes, sounds, sights, and smells come alive in this wonderful book. Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of The Aspen Institute in Denver and former president and CEO of CNN From the Inside Flap An experiential travel guide to the nation's most distinct and joyous locale South Louisiana