

## Louisiana PASS



Photograph of water moccasin by John White.

To see photographs of coral snakes, click on this link:

[More Coral Snakes](#)

For information and photographs of cottonmouth snakes, click on this link:

[Cottonmouths \(Water Moccasin\)](#)

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### Coral? Cottonmouth? Careful!

The most common poisonous snakes of the Louisiana Bayou are coral snakes and cottonmouth water moccasins. Coral snakes are about two feet long, with bright bands of dark red, yellow, and black. They look pretty, but be careful—coral snakes release venom when they bite. Poisonous bites from these snakes can be deadly, but not if you go see a doctor right away. However, coral snakes are usually timid unless you bother them, so leave them alone, and they'll do the same for you.

Cottonmouth water moccasins are called "cottonmouths" because the insides of their mouths are white. Much larger than coral snakes (cottonmouths can be up to five feet long!), cottonmouths are also bolder. Cottonmouths aren't nearly as brightly colored (they try to blend in with their surroundings) but don't let this fool you! They are just as poisonous, and much more willing to bite.

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