

ALL AROUND ALTON

Official Visitor's Guide



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Serving Northern Madison,
Jersey and Calhoun Counties

Come for romance. Come for relaxation. Come for fun. We have four seasons for snuggling, unwinding and living the good life once again. Relaxation, recreation and rejuvenation can be found during every season of the year on the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway.

WINTER

Escape from the chill of winter and warm your soul with a weekend retreat. In December, January and February take a drive from Alton to Grafton to Pere Marquette to watch hundreds of American Bald Eagles make their winter home in the region. Call the Alton Visitor's Center at **1-800-ALTON-IL** to receive your free Eagle Watcher's Guide.



SPRING

The purple pink blooms of the red bud trees line the bluffs as a sure sign that spring is here. Experience the singing birds and fresh flora firsthand by foot or bicycle on one of the many hiking, biking and nature trails through-out the region. This is also the season to begin your antique quests. Treasure hunt at flea markets, and rest your weary feet sipping a glass of wine at one of the riverside wineries.



SUMMER

The options are endless in the summer with canoeing, kayaking, boating, swimming, biking, hiking and much more. Cool off from the sizzling summer heat at one of the many waterparks. Festivals and fairs are the signature of summer on the Great River Road. Where the river bends, people come together for live music, great food and tons of fun all summer long.



FALL

Autumn in Alton hails some of the most picturesque scenic drives in the Midwest, according to *Midwest Living* magazine. The crisp air of fall brings with it relaxing afternoons spent cruising along the winding roads of Madison, Jersey and Calhoun Counties. Bring the family and enjoy apple picking, roadside cider stands, pumpkin patches, corn mazes and festivals that take you back in time.

For the full brochure click [here](#).



Call **1-800-ALTON-IL** for your free Fall Color Caravan brochure complete with fall driving itineraries, calendar of events and maps of roadside stops in the region.

www.VisitAlton.com

YOUR GREAT GETAWAY IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Experience the great outdoors with an outdoor adventure. Biking, hiking, boating, canoeing, kayaking and more can be found from Hartford to Alton to Pere Marquette all along the byway.

Enjoy hiking, camping and fishing at **Pere Marquette State Park**. This 8,000-acre park is one of Illinois' largest parks overlooking the Illinois River near Grafton. There are miles of scenic nature trails to explore by foot or bicycle. Stay the night camping under the stars on the park grounds, or book a night within the warm walls of the lodge.

There is no better place for boating, waterskiing, canoeing and kayaking than on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Adventure-seekers may want to test their endurance paddling along the rolling waters of the river in a kayak or canoe. Others may choose a leisurely cruise along the river on the **Grampa Woo** excursion yacht to take in the spring and autumn seasons. If you own your own boat, make the **Alton Marina** your home-away-from-home with first-class facilities. Canoe, kayak and boat rentals are available in Grafton for those wanting to take a spin out on the rivers for the day.

Just off the river, splash around in the sun or soak in some rays poolside at **Raging Rivers Waterpark** in Grafton and the **Aquatic Center in Wood River**. Raging Rivers Waterpark in Grafton is a world-class water amusement park situated in

the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. Be sure to stop at the Alton Visitors Center for discount coupons. Also, the **Wood River Aquatic Center** offers hours of fun in the sun all summer long.



VISITOR FAVORITES

Attractions abound on the Great River Road. Spend the day seeing everything the River Bend region has to offer from new museums to historical tours. Check out these attractions waiting to be explored by kids of all ages!

LEWIS & CLARK INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Come back to where the journey began at the Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. As National Trail Site #1 on the Lewis & Clark Trail, this museum is dedicated to telling the Illinois side of the Lewis & Clark journey. It was here in Illinois that the Corps of Discovery spent five months preparing for the journey. It was here in Illinois that common men became soldiers embarking on a military expedition. It was here in Illinois on May 14, 1804 that the journey westward began. Experience Lewis & Clark like never before with five exhibit rooms, the film "At Journey's Edge" and the 55-foot full scale "cutaway" keelboat.



"R" PIZZA FARM

Come see the only farm in the St. Louis area where pizza is grown. Take a tour of this 2-acre farm in the shape of one of America's favorite foods - pizza! Each slice of the pizza represents a different ingredient, which is organically grown on the farm. Herbs, tomatoes, wheat, pigs... it's all part of the pie and the tour educating young and old alike on the importance of agriculture. Following the tour, indulge in a slice of fresh hot pizza made from the ingredients grown on the farm!

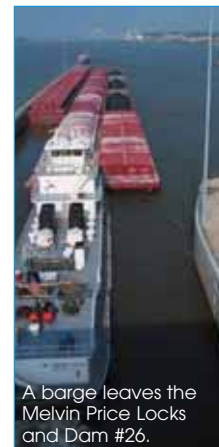
NATIONAL GREAT RIVERS MUSEUM

Situated on the banks of the Mississippi River at **Melvin Price Locks and Dam #26**, the **National Great Rivers Museum** is dedicated to telling the story of the people, nature and wildlife that have shaped our river throughout history. The museum features an exhibit gallery packed with more than 20 highly interactive and computer animated exhibits focusing on the cycles of the river, nature, barge traffic, water consumption and much more.

Visitors are also invited to see the river from a whole new perspective eight stories in the air from atop the Locks & Dam.

ALTON MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART

Winged monsters, explorers, riverboats and a gentle giant...The Alton Museum of History & Art shows the cross-roads of American history right here in Alton. The museum is



A barge leaves the Melvin Price Locks and Dam #26.



located in the historic Loomis Hall, the oldest building in the state of Illinois continuously utilized for education. One of the most popular rooms, the Wadlow Room, pays tribute to Alton's "Gentle Giant" and the World's Tallest Man. The Pioneer Room explores the history of Alton from the Lewis & Clark Expedition to the Civil War with exhibits on Elijah Lovejoy, the Lincoln-Douglas Debates and the "Alton Route" on the Underground Railroad.

HAUNTED ALTON TOURS

Believe it or not, Alton is "One of the Most Haunted Small Towns in America," according to the *Travel Channel* and *Fate* magazine. For years, people have come to Alton to hear the haunted tales, walk the haunted streets and see for themselves the ghosts lurking in the dark corners. Haunted walking tours begin in the spring and continue through the fall.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD TOURS

In the early 1800's, Alton became a safe haven for slaves escaping from the bonds of slavery. Because of the area's neighboring slave state of Missouri, runaways found refuge in the free land surrounding Alton. The tunnels of the Underground Railroad run deep beneath the streets along the "Alton Route." The area was a major stop on the Underground Railroad, hiding slaves in caves, barns and basements throughout Alton, Otterville and Jerseyville.

CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND

Nearly 2.5 million lights will be illuminating the night sky during the holiday season adorning trees, light displays and guiding the way to Santa's Enchanted Forest at the Christmas Wonderland in Rock Springs Park. Cruise through the park by car or take a horse drawn carriage ride and be filled with the spirit of the season. Set aside a little extra time for shopping the streets of Downtown Alton, listening to the sounds of the season at a holiday choral concert or taking part in one of the many holiday home tours in the region.



See how you measure up.

PUTT AROUND

Grab your clubs and get ready to tee off at one of the nine different golf courses in the region, including an Arnold Palmer designed and operated course.

Cloverleaf Golf Course, Alton

As one of the oldest 18-hole courses in the St. Louis area, golfers can expect a leisurely round at an affordable price!

Robert Wadlow Municipal, Alton

This 9-hole course is known for its gentle rolling terrain, wide fairways and medium-size greens.

Rock Springs Golf Course, Alton

With tight tree-lined fairways, this 9-hole course is perfect for beginning and intermediate golfers.

Spencer T. Olin Golf Course, Alton

Built on rolling hills of countryside, this championship 18-hole Arnold Palmer designed and managed course has been rated the #1 course in the St. Louis area.

Woodlands Golf Club, Alton

Consider to be one of the best courses in Alton, water hazards come into play on fourteen of the eighteen holes.

Rolling Hills Golf Club, Godfrey

This affordable course built on rolling terrain with lakes, offers a challenge to golfers of all levels of experience.

Wolves Crossing, Jerseyville

Open year-round, the front nine holes of this course typically play straightaway with the back nine presenting more challenge when water comes into play.

Belk Park Golf Course, Wood River

Recognized as one of the best courses in the St. Louis area and the winner of Golf Digest's "Best Places to Play" award, this 18-hole championship course is known for hole #16.

THE 19TH HOLE

Golf by day, around town by night. Vegas comes to Alton nightly at the downtown casino. We also have regional pubs that are nationally known for good times, cheap food and great live music. Just 30 minutes away in St. Louis, you can join the best fans in the nation as they cheer on the St. Louis Rams, Cardinals and Blues.

Getting All Around Alton



ALTON REGIONAL CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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www.VisitAlton.com