

## TOURING TIPS FOR CARAVAN TRAVELERS

There are several tips to make your visit an even greater experience. Consider these "insider secrets" when making your plans:

**Call ahead** - Call a week ahead at 1-800-258-6645 for a free Visitors Guide of the region with information on attractions, shops, restaurants, and lodging. If you're already on the road, stop at the Visitors Center at 200 Piasa Street, across from Argosy's Casino Alton to pick up your guide. We are open weekends 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Spend a night or two** - Whether you're looking for romance or a little relaxation, there are more than 20 bed & breakfast inns, guest houses and a host of hotels to pamper you.



Click [www.VisitAlton.com/getaways](http://www.VisitAlton.com/getaways) for a full listing of Fall Getaway Packages.

**Plan your drive** - The traffic going upriver from Alton to Elsah to Grafton on weekends is heavy, but the fall colors make the drive worthwhile. When taking the upriver drive, plan an extra hour for the trip to Grafton from Alton. If you would rather feel the wind blowing through your hair, consider one of the alternative itineraries to make your drive a pleasure.

**HINT:** Have breakfast or lunch in Alton before you head upriver. Plan a comfort stop at the Visitors Center and check on alternative driving routes.

## ACCESSING THE ROUTES:

### ■ From Southern Illinois:

All three driving routes are easily accessible from anywhere that you might be traveling. Start in Downtown Alton where you can begin the drive along the Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Route and connect with the Calhoun County Loop, or travel north along US 67 along the Country Loop.

### ■ From Northern Illinois:

If you are coming from Springfield, Jacksonville or another of our northern neighbors, considering entering the region on the northern end of the US 67 Country Loop via US 67.

### ■ From the West:

From St. Louis, begin in Downtown Alton to connect with the route of your choice. From St. Charles, St. Peters or Hannibal, there are a number of entry points to the region via the ferries making up the Calhoun County Vistas and Ferries Loop. You can stay on this loop or cross the Brussels Ferry to travel the Meeting of the Great Rivers Scenic Route, just north of Grafton. You may choose instead to take Hwy 94 to the Grafton Ferry, ferrying across the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, landing you in the heart of Grafton and the Meeting of the Rivers Scenic Route.

### ■ Stay Awhile:

Extend your stay with us beyond just a day. Check out the fall getaway packages available online at [VisitAlton.com](http://VisitAlton.com). There is plenty to do in the region nearly every weekend in the fall.

Call 1-800-258-6645 to receive your copy of the Fall Great Rivers Roadtrips, offering a complete listing of all the fall festivals, fairs and events.



For more information or to receive a free Visitors Guide please call

**1-800-258-6645 or stop by  
[www.VisitAlton.com](http://www.VisitAlton.com)**

Alton Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau  
200 Piasa St. | Alton, Illinois 62002



**ILLINOIS. MILE AFTER MAGNIFICENT MILE.**

## THE OFFICIAL ILLINOIS ALL AROUND ALTON

# Fall Color Caravan

There is no better time for a getaway than Autumn.

There is no better place than touring All Around Alton!





Apple picking orchards, roadside produce and cider stands, and pumpkin patches can be found around nearly every bend and turn of the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway. Spend the night or take a daytrip and experience some of the wonderful attractions all around Alton. You can take a drive along the byway, visit quaint river towns like Elsah and Grafton, and then enjoy a country ride to Jerseyville, Godfrey, and Hardin. While you're on the road, make a stop to shop in the antique and boutique stores throughout the region and enjoy a delicious meal in one of our many home-style or fine dining restaurants. Plus, every weekend from September through November discover new and different festivals, fairs and fun for the whole family! You'll never run out of things to do when you spend the weekend all around Alton.



# FALL COLOR DRIVE ITINERARIES

## 1 MEETING OF THE GREAT RIVERS SCENIC ROUTE

It's the road most traveled, about 60 miles roundtrip, heading west on Rte. 100 from Alton to Elsah, Grafton and Pere Marquette State Park and back. The average weekend warrior takes this drive because it is the easiest run to remember, but it has the heaviest traffic on Autumn Saturdays and Sundays. Expect long lines and a slow pace. On pretty days, it could take 90 minutes to make the trip from Alton to Pere Marquette. For those wanting to feel the wind whipping through their hair, consider the next route...



## 2 US 67 COUNTRY LOOP

This is the road less traveled. Consider it the best country day drive in the state of Illinois. Enter anywhere along this loop, but remember: drive counter clockwise and see the Scenic Byway by driving downriver – the view of the bluffs is absolutely the best. Take Rte. 67 north through Alton to Godfrey. Go northbound on Rte. 67 to Jerseyville.



**FULL DAY ROUTE:** (About 100 mile loop) At Jerseyville, turn west at Rte. 16. Cross Jersey County to the intersection of Rte. 16 and 100. Continue 2 miles and turn right onto Eldred Rd. to Eldred. Go west on Rte. 108, and take the Free Ferry into Kampsville. Head south on Rte. 100 (Great River Road) and back down into Calhoun County. Continue southward over the Hardin Bridge and back to the intersection of Rte. 16 and 100; take Rte. 100 southbound. This parallels the Illinois River and takes drivers directly to Pere Marquette State Park. Continue southbound on Rte. 100, but it will bear eastbound as the Great River Road turns to head back down to Grafton, Elsah and Alton.

**HALF-DAY ROUTE:** (About 70 mile loop) At Jerseyville, turn west at Rte. 16. Cross Jersey County; turn southbound on Rte. 100. Drive down the Illinois River Road directly to Pere Marquette State Park. Continue southbound on Rte. 100, and it will bear eastbound as the Great River Road turns to head back down to Grafton, Elsah and Alton.

## 3 CALHOUN COUNTY VISTAS & FERRIES LOOP

Rolling hills, winding roads, wooded bluffs and miles of countryside create the perfect scenery for a peaceful drive through Calhoun County. You will want to spend the day exploring the orchards, restaurants, quaint towns and crossing the ferries that can be found along the loop.

There are several locations to enter the loop, including crossing the Winfield (Toll) Ferry from Rte. 79 in Winfield, MO or crossing the Golden Eagle (toll) Ferry connecting from I-70 at St. Charles. While you can enter the loop at several locations, the ideal place to start is crossing the **Brussels (free) Ferry**, just north of Grafton's Main Street, into Calhoun County.



Once in Calhoun County, continue on the Illinois River Road for 22 miles, through the quaint village of Brussels and then on to Hardin and across the Hardin Joe Paige Lift Bridge. After crossing the bridge, continue along Rte. 100/16. Continue on the loop by turning left and heading north on Eldred Road. In Eldred, turn left onto Rte. 108, and cross the Illinois River via the Kampsville (free) Ferry into Kampsville.

In Kampsville, turn left on Rte. 100 and continue south back to Hardin and across the Joe Paige Lift Bridge. Once across the bridge, continue south on Rte. 100 to Pere Marquette State Park and back toward Grafton. If you began the loop at the Winfield Ferry or Golden Eagle Ferry, simply cross the Brussels Ferry back into Calhoun County to access those ferries and return to Missouri.

**DISCLAIMER:** Please call ahead to verify the hours of operation, exact address location and directions. Roadside attractions do change locations frequently. The addresses noted here represent most, but not all, of the many seasonal attractions in our region. The CVB made an effort to locate as many roadside cider stands, pumpkin patches and orchards as possible prior to publication.