

Boston Herald

Halloween spots get creative with spooky drive-in, zip line fun



OCT. 25, 2020 – The glow from myriad carved jack o’lanterns greet visitors driving through the Jack O’Lantern Spectacular at Roger Williams Zoo. Photo courtesy Visit Rhode Island

By **MOIRA MCCARTHY** |

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Like most things in 2020, Halloween is not going to be typical this year.

Whether your town is allowing Halloween or not, whether you’ve opted to keep things small or go big, this doesn’t have to be the year of missing out.

Let’s call it the year of opportunity. Because here in the Northeast, where foliage reigns and pumpkins grow just about everywhere, Halloween is embraced — pandemic or not.

While some classic spots have had to pivot what they offer this year (there’s not really a chance for a full-on indoor haunted house experience, for instance), that still spells good news for lovers of all that is ghoulish.

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From spooky drive-ins to pumpkin-lit drive-throughs, there are plenty of ways to amp up your Halloween fun. Consider these this week.



OCT 25, 2020 – The Jack O'Lantern Spectacular at Roger Williams Zoo offers Halloween thrills, but is also family friendly. Photo courtesy Visit Rhode Island

Roger Williams Zoo Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular, Rhode Island: A longtime favorite that's drawn guests from all over New England, the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular is alive and well and still has spots for you this week.

The zoo pivoted from its usual walk-through setup to a drive-through setup that lets you cruise past thousands of uniquely carved pumpkins.

You'll see them along the driving path, in trees, on rocks and more. Think countless jack-o'-lantern faces gazing at you from above, beside and below.

The bonus? The warmth of your car. The chance for your little one to doze off without having to head back. And of course, the spooky fun of gliding through the dark night with those faces glowing all around.

The ride through takes about an hour, and there's music that coordinates with the pumpkin themes as you view them.

Another bonus: With the glowing pumpkins all around you, there's not a bad seat in the car, which means less sibling bickering.

There are other to-be-kept-secret spooky surprises too.

You can visit any night through Nov. 1 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets are sold for each half-hour, which is your arrival and start time. You can meander the park as long as you wish. You can learn more and make a reservation at rwpzoo.org.