ALTON RESTAURANT WEEK • JAN. 15 – 24

TAKE A BREAK FROM YOUR EAGLE WATCHING ADVENTURE AT ONE OF THE LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED RESTAURANTS PARTICIPATING IN ALTON RESTAURANT WEEK.

For 10 delightfully delicious days restaurants in Alton, Bethalto, East Alton, Godfrey, and Grafton will offer great lunch and dinner specials that will tempt your taste buds and your wallet. Fixed price lunches are available for $12 and dinners are $30 or, in some cases, two can dine for $30.

Pick up your commemorative Alton Restaurant Week glass following your meal. Just bring your receipt from a participating restaurant to the Alton Visitor Center, 200 Piasa St., Alton, and receive your free glass. This year’s glass features an image of the famous Piasa Bird.

( Glasses are available while supplies last.)

Visitor Center hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
EAGLE ADVENTURES AWAIT!

The on-going COVID-19 pandemic has meant some eagle events have moved from in person activities to virtual experiences. The eagles don’t know that though! Make plans now to enjoy some eagle-eyed fun this winter in the Great Rivers & Routes region.

KICK OFF EAGLE SEASON THIS YEAR WITH THE ANNUAL ALTON AUDUBON EAGLE FESTIVAL FROM 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. SATURDAY, JAN. 2. Although the event is now virtual rather than in person, there are plenty of opportunities to learn about eagles, meet a live bald eagle and take part in a Do-It-At-Home craft all via Zoom and Facebook Live.

All events are free and will be hosted on Zoom or Facebook Live. Please go to RiversandRoutes.com for a complete schedule and specific links for each activity.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Meet and Greet with American Bald Eagle Liberty and his handler Jen Jones from the World Bird Sanctuary.
- Live Ice Carving Demonstration
- Do-It-Yourself Craft Activity
- Eagle Conservation Story featuring Audubon Center staff
- Best Places to See Eagles including representatives from Pere Marquette State Park, Audubon Center at Riverlands, National Great Rivers Museum and Two Rivers National Wildlife Center.
- Habitat Management for Eagles by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Follow the birds of winter with a road trip of your own to the seasonal home of majestic American Bald Eagles and the serenely beautiful Trumpeter Swans. Discover eagles in their natural habitat on the hunt for their next meal or simply sitting on an ice floe enjoying a different sort of river cruise.

Pack the binoculars, winter coats, hats, gloves and masks. Hop in the car and journey to southwest Illinois where the Great River Road and the Mother Road of Route 66 come together and create your own winter getaway. Escape the day-to-day stresses of the on-going pandemic with a safe road trip adventure. Explore Great Rivers & Routes. RiversandRoutes.com

The open road is a beckoning…”
William Least Heat Moon

EAGLE WATCHING TIPS

- Scan the tops of the trees along the Mississippi, Illinois and Missouri rivers for the white capped heads of American Bald Eagles. Their dark feathered bodies tend to blend in with the color of the wintering trees but they are easily spotted by their heads.
- Eagles enjoy sitting on ice floes in the rivers. See if you can spy the dark form of an eagle on the ice as it searches for fish.
- Eagles are more likely to be active just after dawn and just before sunset.
- If you spot an eagle while driving, be sure to pull off the road in a designated pull off location for your safety and the safety of other drivers.

EAGLE WATCHER’S PASSPORT

Take your eagle watching adventure to the next level with the new Eagle Watcher’s Passport. Download the passport here: Explore.RiversandRoutes.com starting Jan. 1. Visit five of the 10 highlighted eagle destinations, check in with the PIN provided at each location and register to receive a FREE Eagle Watcher’s T Shirt. (Sizes and quantities are limited! T Shirts will be mailed to recipients.) Learn more about each location with video links provided on the passport. The videos were created by Pere Marquette State Park site interpreters and provide helpful eagle watching tips.

Follow the birds of winter with a road trip of your own to the seasonal home of majestic American Bald Eagles and the serenely beautiful Trumpeter Swans. Discover eagles in their natural habitat on the hunt for their next meal or simply sitting on an ice floe enjoying a different sort of river cruise.

Pack the binoculars, winter coats, hats, gloves and masks. Hop in the car and journey to southwest Illinois where the Great River Road and the Mother Road of Route 66 come together and create your own winter getaway. Escape the day-to-day stresses of the on-going pandemic with a safe road trip adventure. Explore Great Rivers & Routes. RiversandRoutes.com

MASTERS OF THE SKY WILL BE RETURNING FOR PRESIDENT’S DAY WEEKEND!
Check RiversandRoutes.com for more details on this virtual event!