

Alton, Illinois, USA

Perched on limestone bluffs above the mighty Mississippi, Alton punches well above its size — abolitionist history, the world's tallest man, and bald eagles soaring the confluence make this small river town a surprisingly rich shore-day stop.

Docked (river pier)

Typical call: 6-8 hrs

USD

English

Eagle watching Nov–Mar

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Alongside at Alton Marina / National Great Rivers Museum dock, adjacent to Clark Bridge

Best For: History buffs, eagle watchers, antique hunters, scenic river drives

Walk to center: 5–10 min walk to Historic Downtown Alton

Don't Miss: Robert Wadlow statue, National Great Rivers Museum (free), Piasa Bird bluff painting

🚗 Getting around: 🚗 **Taxi** ✅ Metered (varies) · 🚗 **Rideshare** ✅ Uber

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Alton Museum of History & Art** — Explore exhibits on abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy, jazz legend Miles Davis, and Robert Wadlow — the 8 ft 11 in tallest man in recorded history, born...
- Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower** — A few miles north of Alton, this tower overlooks the dramatic confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers — the very spot where Lewis and Clark...
- Pere Marquette State Park** — Illinois' largest state park sits 20 minutes west of Alton at the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers.
- National Great Rivers Museum (Free)** — Right at the dock, this free Smithsonian-affiliated museum covers the ecology and commerce of the Mississippi through hands-on exhibits.
- Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site** — A UNESCO World Heritage Site just 30 minutes from Alton, Cahokia Mounds preserves the largest pre-Columbian settlement north of Mexico.

BEST WALKS

- Riverfront to Downtown History Walk** 1.5 miles • Easy • 45–60 min — From the dock, stroll along the Mississippi riverfront past the Clark Bridge, then head into Historic Downtown Alton.
- Piasa Bird Bluff Drive / Walk** Short scenic drive or bike • 3 miles north of downtown — Head north on the Great River Road (IL-100) to see the Piasa Bird — a large Native American mythological creature painted on the limestone bluffs above the river.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		67°	48°	11d
Jun		86°	67°	11d
Aug		87°	69°	12d
Sep		83°	64°	6d
Oct		71°	52°	9d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 6:31AM–7:40PM · Jun 5:46AM–8:25PM · Aug 6:23AM–7:55PM · Sep 6:48AM–7:12PM · Oct 7:13AM–6:28PM

USD

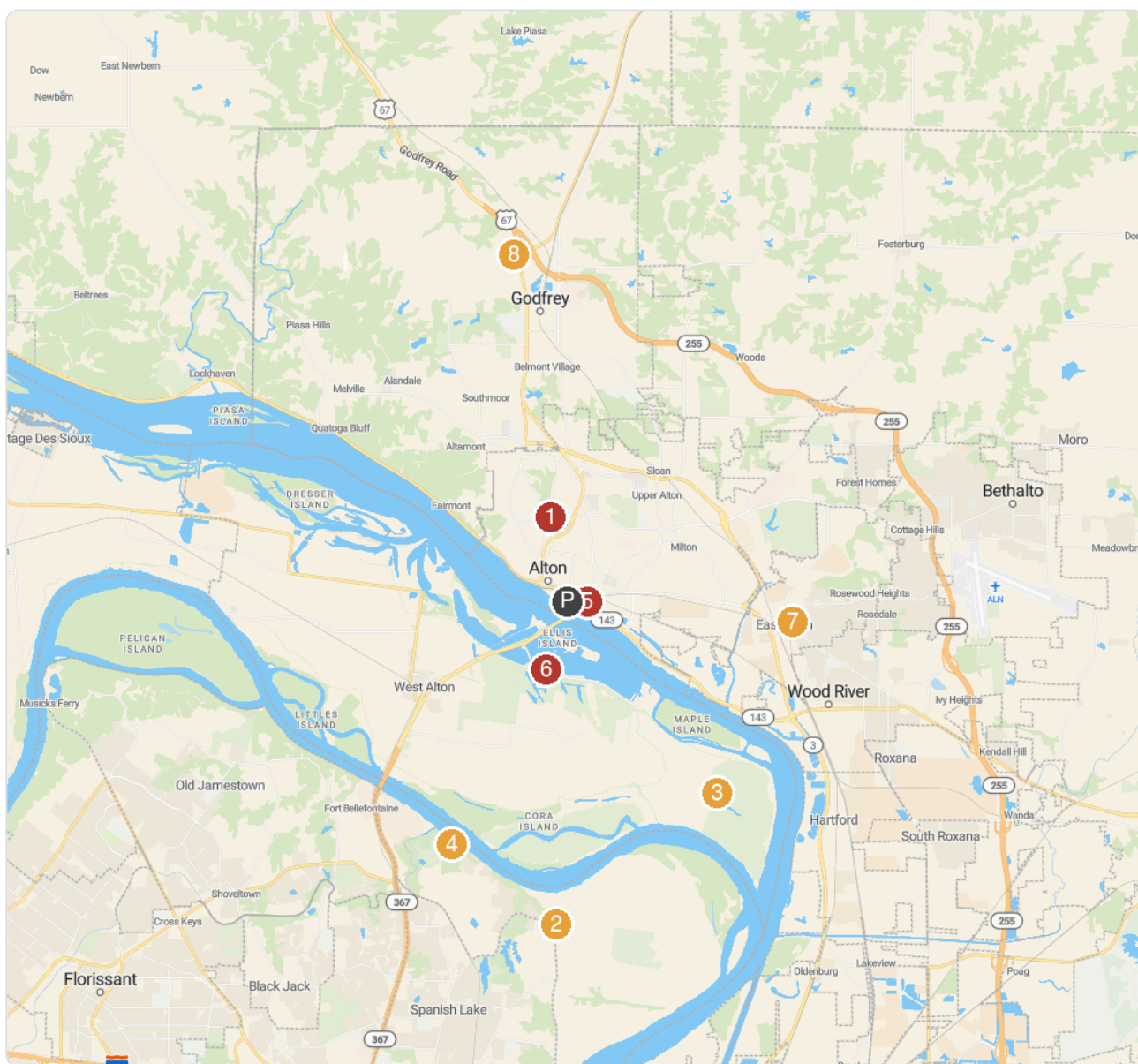
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Free museum right at the dock. The National Great Rivers Museum is Smithsonian-affiliated and free — perfect first stop while you get your bearings.
- Eagle watching is seasonal. Bald eagles flock to the Alton area November through March. Outside those months, Pere Marquette and the confluence area are still beautiful but eagle sightings are rare.
- Rent a car or join a ship excursion for Cahokia Mounds or Pere Marquette — rideshares exist but can be slow. Both sites are worth the 20–40 min drive.
- USD only — no currency needed. Alton is a US city; ATMs are available downtown. Most shops and restaurants accept cards.
- Downtown is compact but quiet on weekdays. The Farmers' & Artisans' Market runs Saturdays. Antique shops are the main draw mid-week.
- River levels matter. High water on the Mississippi occasionally affects dock access. Your cruise line will advise if any adjustments are needed.

Alton, Illinois, USA — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| <p>1 McPike Mansion</p> <p>3 Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park</p> <p>5 Russell Commons Park</p> <p>7 Van Preter Park</p> <p>P Cruise port / terminal</p> | <p>2 Columbia Bottom Conservation Area</p> <p>4 Fort Belle Fontaine</p> <p>6 Audubon Center at Riverlands</p> <p>8 Village of Godfrey Parks and Recreation Department</p> | <p>Historic, haunted mansion; take a tour.</p> <p>State park where the Missouri and Mississippi rivers meet.</p> <p>Local park with green space, playground, and picnic areas.</p> <p>Community park offering playgrounds, sports fields, and walking paths.</p> <p></p> <p>Large conservation area for wildlife viewing and outdoor recreation.</p> <p>Historic fort, first US military post west of Mississippi.</p> <p>Nature center for birdwatching, trails, and environmental education.</p> <p>Department managing Godfrey's parks, trails, and recreational programs.</p> |
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