



Join the Harlan White Pelican Watch

Best Pelican Viewing Venues

Near Alma

Methodist Cove Campground, located approximately 2.5 miles east and slightly south of Alma off Corps Road B. White Pelicans can also often be observed from the boat dock and walking trail located at the south edge of Alma.

Near Republican City

North Shore Marina and adjacent parking areas, south of Republican City off Corps Road B; Gremlin Cove boat launch area, south of Republican City; and Patterson Harbor, south of the Harlan County Dam off Road 3.

Bald Eagle Viewing

Bald Eagle viewing venues include the above as well as the North and South Outlet Campgrounds, located east of the Harlan County Dam off Corps Road A, and the River's Edge Nature Trail, located at the far eastern end of the North Outlet area.

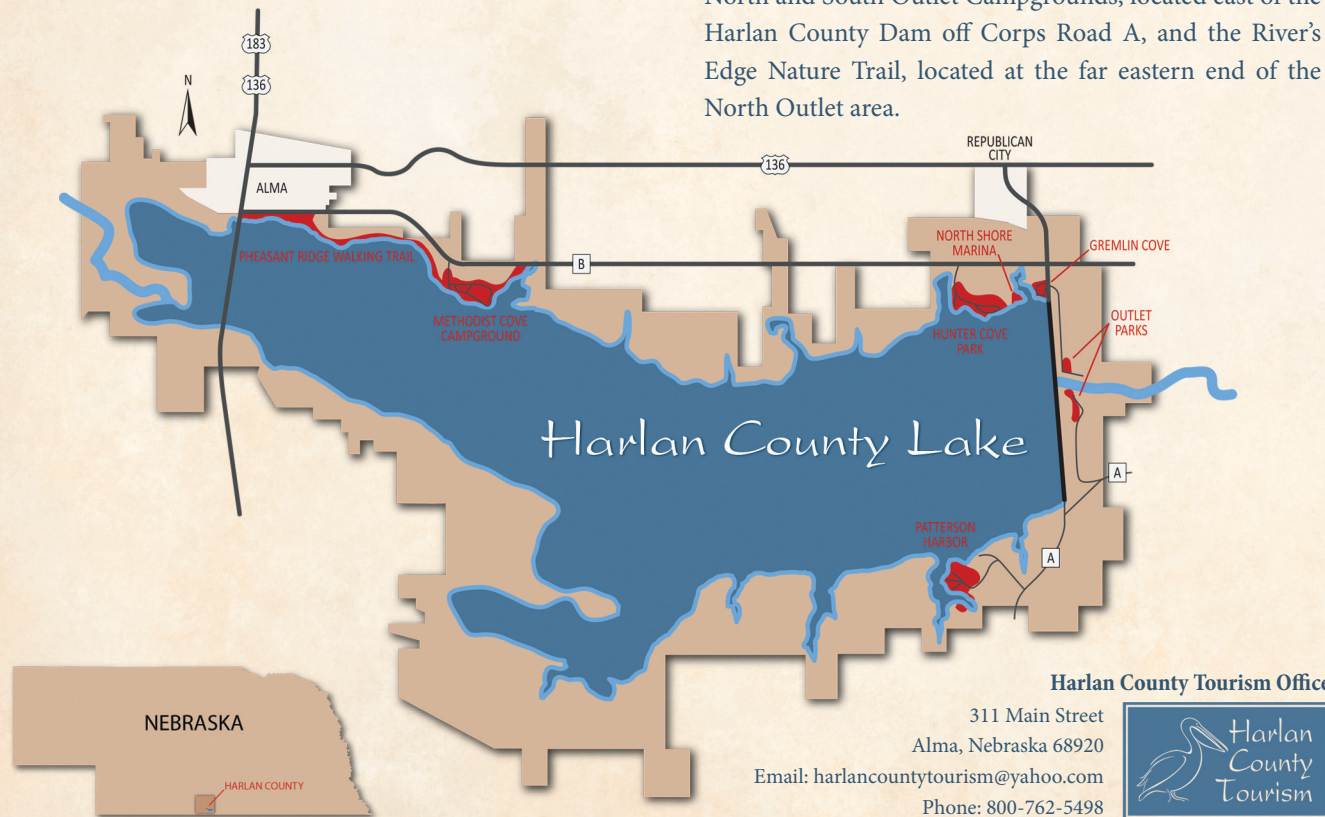


photo courtesy of Chris Mayne

March 1
thru
April 15

Harlan County Tourism Office

311 Main Street
Alma, Nebraska 68920

Email: harlancountytourism@yahoo.com

Phone: 800-762-5498



Visitor Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates a visitor center located immediately north of the Dam on Corps Road A, with information on birds and many other species of wildlife in the area. Operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Tours of the Dam are available on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day weekend; 308-799-2105.

Events

White Pelican Homecoming Celebration

During March, businesses from throughout the area join with residents and visiting wildlife-watchers to welcome the American White Pelicans back to the community. Contact Harlan County Tourism at 800-762-5498 for more information.

Spring Fling

The Alma Chamber of Commerce hosts their annual Spring Fling event on the fourth Friday evening in March. Stores stay open late and present their new lines of seasonal merchandise, and area non-profit organizations host special activities usually including wagon rides, music events, a community spaghetti feed, and more. Contact the Chamber at 308-928-2992.



photo courtesy of Chris Mayne



Every year,
White Pelicans
by the thousands visit
Harlan County, Nebraska.

A prairie paradise for birds and birdwatchers, including Bald Eagles

Pelicans are only one of many bird species that can be viewed at Harlan County Reservoir. From late December through mid-February, the shoreline and spillway offer some of Nebraska's best Bald Eagle viewing. At the height of their migration, hundreds of Bald Eagles have been counted in a single day.

The Harlan County Dam and Reservoir were originally built to control flooding and manage irrigation, but have since become one of the prime outdoor recreation and wildlife havens in Nebraska. The Reservoir is the second-largest body of water in the state and one of the largest bodies of water within the North American Central Flyway. In addition to attracting Pelicans and Bald Eagles, it is a primary stopover for millions of migrating ducks and geese, as well as many species of shorebirds and songbirds.



You should, too!

We know spring is just around the corner when the American White Pelicans return from their winter feeding grounds along the U.S. Gulf Coast to take up temporary residence at Harlan County Reservoir, from as early as late February through early April. The great birds return again on their way south from late August to early October.

The American White Pelican, currently protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, is one of North America's largest birds, weighing up to 20 pounds, with wingspans of up to nine feet, and a beak as much as 14 inches long. The plumage is almost entirely white except the black wingtips visible in flight.

The Pelicans arrive in photogenic, follow-the-leader flight-lines, landing on the surface of the lake where they gather in large groups to feed. White Pelicans catch fish in their giant orange beaks, often working together to herd fish into a circle and chase them to each other.

