

# ROUTE 66

SEPT 22-OCT 8 (CHICAGO TO LA) 2026

Cruising across eight states, Route 66 is an iconic symbol of American freedom and adventure that shaped the nation's history and culture. Known as "The Mother Road," it was one of the first continuous paved highways in the U.S., stretching 2,448 miles from Chicago to Los Angeles and serving as a major route for westward migration. Commissioned on November 11, 1926, Route 66 remains a treasured national landmark, with states dedicated to preserving its legacy. In 2026, Route 66 will celebrate its **100-year anniversary**, making it an epic, **bucket-list road trip** for travelers seeking a historic American adventure.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Chicago
- Springfield
- St Louis
- Tulsa
- Oklahoma City
- Amarillo
- Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
- Winslow
- San Bernardino
- Los Angeles



## MAP AT A GLANCE



**Monday, Sep. 22** - Arrive in the Windy City and transfer to your hotel in the heart of Chicago. After some time to relax and freshen up, begin your Route 66 experience with a wonderful **Chicago City Tour**. Serene and bathed in a softer light with the shadows of the late afternoon sun, the cities architecture takes on a whole new life as it begins its transition from day to night. Finish your day with a delightful dinner at Giordano's for an authentic Chicago style meal. (D)

**Tuesday, Sep. 23** - After a drive by the Willis Tower and just a few blocks from the start of Route 66, **Lou Mitchell's** has been dubbed the "first stop on the Mother Road." Enjoy a classic American diner experience, complete with fluffy pancakes, Belgian waffles, and shakes—not to mention what the neon sign proclaims as "the world's finest coffee." After breakfast, there is no better place to start your Route 66 experience than at the **Historic Route 66 Begin Sign** where you are sure to want a few pictures. Start your journey down the old road driving on Old Route 66 wherever possible. Stops will include the **Litchfield Museum and Welcome Center**, photo opportunity and snack stop at **Rich & Creamy, Old Route 66 Restaurant**, and **Hall of Fame Museum** in Pontiac, IL before checking into your hotel in Springfield. (B, LS)

**Wednesday, Sep. 24** - This morning, after breakfast, you will begin your day with a **city tour of Springfield**, Illinois, exploring the rich history and cultural landmarks of the state capital. From historic neighborhoods to iconic Route 66 sites, this guided experience offers insight into Springfield's unique place in American history. Following the tour, enjoy lunch at the vibrant and nostalgia-filled **Motorheads Bar & Grill**, a Route 66-themed restaurant and museum that celebrates classic cars, racing culture, and the open road. In the afternoon, visit the **Ace Sign Museum**, where vintage neon and painted signs tell the story of American advertising through the decades. Then continue on to the **Illinois Route 66 Experience**, an immersive exhibit that celebrates the history and impact of the Mother Road through engaging displays and artifacts. Before leaving town, make a final stop at the legendary **Cozy Dog Drive-In**, home of the original corn dog on a stick and a true Route 66 institution. Enjoy this classic roadside treat and take in the memorabilia that has drawn travelers here for generations. (B, L, LS)

**Thursday, Sep. 25** - We will start with a stop at **Our Lady of the Highways** in Raymond, IL, a peaceful roadside shrine that has been offering blessings to Route 66 travelers for generations. From there, continue to Carlinville, where you'll visit the historic **Old Courthouse and Jail**, rich with stories from the region's past and showcasing beautiful 19th-century architecture. Enjoy a classic American lunch at the charming, nostalgia-filled **Ariston Cafe**. After lunch, head to **Soulsby's Service Station** in Mt. Olive, an original 1920s gas station that offers a glimpse into the heyday of the American road trip. Then travel on to Collinsville to see the world-famous **Catsup Bottle**, the largest of its kind and a true roadside oddity. Your journey continues to the **Chain of Rocks Bridge**, a historic crossing over the Mississippi River that once carried Route 66 traffic into Missouri. From here, enter St. Louis and treat yourself to a sweet stop at **Crown Candy Kitchen**, a beloved old-fashioned soda fountain and candy shop. Late this afternoon, enjoy a tour of the **Gateway Arch**, including a tram ride to the top for sweeping views of the city and riverfront and a free evening to explore downtown St. Louis, where you can visit the beautifully restored Union Station, experience the energy of the Ballpark Village, or stroll along the scenic Mississippi River waterfront. (B, L, LS)

**Friday, Sep. 26** - A great way to start today is with a donut from the **Donut Drive-In** in St. Louis, a classic roadside stop that's been serving up fresh, hand-cut donuts since the 1950s. It's a nostalgic treat for any Route 66 traveler, with flavors as timeless as the neon sign out front. Leaving the city behind, journey southwest to one of Missouri's most legendary attractions—**Meramec Caverns**. These spectacular limestone caves were once rumored to be a hideout for Jesse James and offer an underground adventure filled with dramatic formations and colorful history. Next, head into the Ozarks and stop in Cuba, MO, for a mouthwatering lunch at Missouri Hick BBQ. Just down the road, make a quick stop at the **Wagon Wheel Motel**, one of the oldest continually operating motels on Route 66. With its iconic stone cottages and vintage neon, it's a must-see piece of Mother Road history. In the afternoon, get ready for a mix of kitsch and candy at **Uranus Fudge Factory** in St. Robert. This offbeat roadside attraction offers handcrafted fudge, quirky souvenirs, and a healthy dose of Route 66 humor—making it a memorable stop along your journey through the heart of Missouri. Our last stop is to our hotel in Springfield. (B, L, LS)

**Saturday, Sep. 27** - Begin your day with breakfast and a visit to the **Beginning of Route 66 Park** in northeast Springfield, marking your official launch onto the Mother Road. From there, explore the impressive collection of vintage automobiles at the **Route 66 Car Museum**, showcasing classic models that have graced America's highways for generations. Continue westward to **Spencer Station**, where restored Phillips 66 gas pumps evoke the charm of early Route 66 travel. Then journey to **Red Oak II**, a fascinating artist-built town near Carthage, Missouri, where recreated historic buildings offer a nostalgic glimpse into rural life along the route. Stop in downtown Carthage for a casual lunch at the Carthage Deli and enjoy a peaceful and whimsical visit to the **Precious Moments Chapel**, where art and inspiration come together in a serene setting. Cross into Kansas for a stop at **Cars on the Route** in Galena, home to the original tow truck that inspired the character "Tow Mater" from the movie Cars. Then, head just down the road to **Nelson's Old Riverton Store**. Arrive in Miami, Oklahoma, where you'll check into the hotel before rounding out your day with a tour of the historic **Coleman Theatre**. This beautifully restored 1929 vaudeville theater is a cultural jewel of Route 66, offering an unforgettable glimpse into the entertainment of a bygone era. (B, L, D)



**Sunday, Sep. 28** - We depart after breakfast and prepare for another exciting leg of your Route 66 adventure. Your first stop is in Commerce, Oklahoma, for a visit to **Mickey Mantle's** childhood home. This humble residence pays tribute to the legendary baseball player and offers a glimpse into his early years before fame. Continue your journey to **Totem Pole Park** near Chelsea for a photo op with one of Route 66's most whimsical roadside attractions—the world's largest concrete totem pole. It's a colorful and curious spot that's been charming travelers for decades. Next, head into Claremore for a delicious lunch at the beloved Hammett House, famous for its homestyle comfort food and towering pies. Afterward, enjoy a visit to the **Will Rogers Memorial Museum**, a tribute to the famed humorist, actor, and American icon who called Oklahoma home. The museum features extensive exhibits celebrating his life and legacy. Before leaving Claremore, stop at The Nut House, a quirky roadside market filled with local treats, Route 66 memorabilia, and a bit of small-town charm. Travel on to Catoosa for a photo opportunity at the **Blue Whale**, one of Route 66's most iconic and beloved roadside attractions. This cheerful, smiling structure is a must-see and a perfect backdrop for a classic road trip photo. Arrive in Tulsa later this afternoon and check in at the historic Mayo Hotel, a beautifully restored 1920s landmark in the heart of downtown. Dinner tonight will be on your own—you may choose to dine at the hotel or head to Tally's Café, a Route 66 institution famous for its retro vibe and comfort food classics. **(B, L)**

**Monday, Sep. 29** - Start your day with a hearty breakfast before a guided tour of **Black Wall Street**, one of the most historically significant areas along the route, where you'll uncover stories of resilience, culture, and heritage. After a lunch stop at the Rock Cafe, immerse yourself in the rich history of the mother road at the **Route 66 Interpretive Center** dedicated to telling the stories of this iconic highway. It's the perfect place to learn about the people and places that made this route legendary. A short drive takes you to a famous **round barn**, a quirky and photogenic structure that's been a symbol of Route 66 for years—ideal for snapping a few fun photos to remember the trip. As you continue along, you'll stop at the classic **Pops 66 soda ranch** that's become a roadside landmark, known for its giant soda bottle sculpture and a massive selection of unique soft drinks. The day ends with a relaxing stay at the hotel, followed by dinner at a local favorite, where you'll enjoy a welcoming atmosphere and great food. **(B, L, D)**

**Tuesday, Sep. 30** - After breakfast, get ready to embark on a **city tour** of Oklahoma City, taking in the sights and history of a vibrant city that's rich in culture and charm. After a lunch stop, enjoy a visit to a fascinating local attraction where you'll step back in time to explore the history of the American cowboy. This **Cowboy Heritage Tour** provides a unique look at the heritage and traditions that helped shape the American West, offering an immersive experience that's both educational and entertaining. In the evening, you'll return to the hotel, where the remainder of the night is yours to enjoy at your own pace. With plenty of options for dinner nearby, you can unwind after a day of exploration or simply relax and recharge for the adventures ahead. This day blends history, culture, and the allure of Route 66, leaving you with plenty of memories to take home. **(B, L)**

**Wednesday, Oct. 1** - A short drive east of Oklahoma City brings you to Clinton, Oklahoma, home of the **Route 66 Museum**. This hidden gem is dedicated to preserving the history of the iconic highway, showcasing the evolution of Route 66 and the role it played in shaping America's road culture. After soaking in the history, continue your journey to Elk City, where you'll find Chuck's Place, a classic diner that's been serving up hearty meals to travelers for decades. Just a stone's throw away, the **National Route 66 Museum** is another must-see, offering an extensive collection of artifacts, exhibits, and nostalgic reminders of the road that captured the hearts of so many. As we make our way west, make a stop at the **Sandhill Curiosity Shop** in Erick, Oklahoma. Known for its eclectic mix of Route 66 memorabilia and quirky finds, it's the perfect place to stretch your legs and pick up a unique souvenir. Continuing on, you'll head into Texas, where the **Shamrock U Drop Inn** welcomes travelers with its vintage Art Deco style and its place in Route 66 history as a famous service station and café. From Shamrock, take the scenic drive towards Amarillo, where you'll check into your hotel for a well-deserved break. As evening approaches, head to the legendary Big Texan Steak Ranch and enjoy a delicious meal in the heart of Texas. **(B, D)**

**Thursday, Oct. 2** - Start your day with a satisfying breakfast before hitting the road for an exciting stretch of Route 66. As you head west from Amarillo, make a quick stop at **Cadillac Ranch**, where you'll find a collection of colorful, half-buried Cadillacs—an iconic piece of Route 66 art and a must-see for road trip enthusiasts. From there, continue on to Adrian, Texas, where you can visit the **Midpoint Café**. Known as the "Midpoint of Route 66," this charming stop is the perfect photo opportunity and reflect on your journey across the country. After lunch, take a leisurely driving tour through Tucumcari to admire the vibrant murals that decorate the town—each one tells a story and adds to the town's rich history. A short drive brings you to the **Santa Rosa Auto Museum**, which offers a fascinating collection of vintage cars. After soaking in the history, head toward Albuquerque, where you'll check into your hotel for the night. In the evening, head out to 66 Diner, a classic Route 66 establishment known for its retro vibe and delicious comfort food. **(B, L, LS)**

**Friday, Oct. 3** - After a delicious breakfast, embark on a **guided tour** through the heart of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Known for its rich history, stunning architecture, and vibrant arts scene, Albuquerque is a true gem. As you explore, you'll discover why this city has inspired generations of artists and travelers alike. This afternoon we will enjoy the **Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta**. Next, head to Albuquerque for a scenic ride up the **Sandia Peak Aerial Tram**, one of the longest tramways in the world. From the top, you'll be treated to breathtaking views of the city below and the surrounding desert landscape, a perfect way to experience the natural beauty of New Mexico. After descending, we will return to the hotel, where you can relax and unwind. Later, enjoy the Manager's Reception at your hotel, where you can mingle with fellow travelers and toast to a day filled with stunning views, cultural exploration, and memories made along the historic Route 66. **(B, LS)**

**Saturday, Oct. 4** - You'll depart the hotel after breakfast and head toward the **Continental Divide**, a natural landmark that marks the boundary between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This is a great spot to stretch your legs and take in the vast landscape of the American Southwest. Continuing west, make your way to Gallup, New Mexico, where you can stop at the **Gallup Cultural Center**. This cultural hub offers fascinating exhibits and a deep dive into the area's Native American history and traditions. Afterward, enjoy a meal at **El Rancho Restaurant**, a historic spot famous for serving Hollywood stars during the golden age of western films. Drive through the iconic **Petrified Forest National Park** in Arizona, starting at the Petrified Forest Visitor Center before taking in the stunning Painted Desert, where you can watch a film at the Painted Desert Visitor Center to learn about the region's fascinating history. From there, explore several scenic overlooks to fully appreciate the beauty of the desert landscape. As you continue your journey, make a stop at the **Wigwam Motel** in Holbrook, an iconic Route 66 landmark. Later, check into the historic La Posada Hotel in Winslow, Arizona, and enjoy dinner at the Turquoise Room, located within the hotel. This renowned restaurant offers a delightful blend of local flavors in an intimate setting, providing the perfect end to a day of exploration along the Mother Road. **(B, D)**

**Sunday, Oct. 5** - We start our day after breakfast at the **La Posada Hotel** in Winslow, Arizona for a tour. This beautifully restored railroad hotel is an architectural masterpiece that offers a glimpse into the golden age of travel. As part of your visit, be sure to capture the iconic "corner photo" at the famous **Winslow Corner**, a beloved Route 66 landmark immortalized in the Eagles' song "Take It Easy." After lunch, you'll have a free afternoon to explore at your leisure. For those interested in natural wonders, a visit to the **Meteor Crater Visitor Center** is a must-see. Just a short drive from Winslow, this awe-inspiring site is one of the best-preserved meteorite impact craters in the world. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the crater's history and the science behind its formation. After your visit, return to the hotel to relax and unwind. The evening is yours to enjoy, whether you opt for a quiet evening at the hotel or explore Winslow's local flavors for dinner, it's the perfect way to end the day. **(B, L)**

**Monday, Oct. 6** - After breakfast, depart the hotel and head to **Delgadillo's Snow Cap** in Seligman, Arizona, a quirky diner famous for its fun atmosphere and Route 66 history. Next, stop at **Hackberry General Store**, a nostalgic spot filled with memorabilia. In Kingman, enjoy lunch at Rutherford's 66 Diner, a retro restaurant serving comfort food with a vintage vibe. We continue on to Oatman, Arizona, where you'll encounter friendly wild burros and witness a **Wild West gunfight reenactment at the historic Oatman Hotel**. Afterward, visit the **Goff Schoolhouse Museum** in Essex, a small museum showcasing the history of Route 66. Finish the day at **Roy's Motel & Café** in Amboy, known for its iconic neon sign and retro charm then check-in at Hotel Bartow. **(B, L)**

**Tuesday, Oct. 7** - After breakfast, we depart for your first stop at **Elmer's Bottle Tree Ranch** in Oro Grande, California. This whimsical outdoor art installation features hundreds of colorful glass bottles arranged in creative and quirky formations—perfect for a photo op. Next, head to the **McDonald's Museum**, where you'll learn about the origins of the iconic fast food chain. Not far from there, stop for a fun photo opportunity at the **Wigwam Motel**, another classic Route 66 landmark with its teepee-shaped rooms. Afterward, continue to Los Angeles for a memorable meal at Philippe the Original, home of the famous French dip sandwich. End your Route 66 adventure at the **Santa Monica Pier**, the official western terminus of Route 66. Take in the sights, enjoy the atmosphere, and celebrate the completion of your iconic journey at this historic and vibrant pier. **(B, L)**

**Wednesday, Oct. 8** - Along the road, we shared laughs, explored hidden gems, and created memories that will last a lifetime. It's time to say goodbye to the Mother Road and fly home, carrying with us the spirit of Route 66 and the stories of our amazing trip. Safe travels, and until next time! **(B)**

## TOUR PRICE:

\$6339 Per Person Double  
 \$5689 Per Person Triple  
 \$7999 Per Person Single  
 \$1000 Per Person Deposit

Balance due July 1, 2026

**OPTION TO GO BOTH WAYS!**



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