

INTRO ROUTE66

Follow us on the off ramp into a bygone era. Discover the 2,400 miles of Route 66 and see how America traveled in the 1920's-60.

Visit the wonderful old trading posts, filling stations, motels, diners and villages along the scenic "Mother Road". Slow down and enjoy the scents of new mown hay and hickory smoke drifting from the pit barbeque chimneys. Stop and stroll through villages which haven't changed since they were bypassed by the interstate highway decades ago. Pull over along a deserted stretch in the Mojave and listen to the hum of millions of wheels that have passed this way, each one on a quest to unknown fate. Stop at a Route 66 museum and get lost in their wonderful presentations about this truly amazing piece of road. Even lay down on a deserted stretch of 66 in the middle of nowhere, feel the road and put your ear on the asphalt to listen to its story of adventure and hope.

We are presenting you a time travel through nostalgic America, crossing the states of Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. You will stick to the original Route 66 for as much as possible and original means true to the route. Thus Las Vegas or Laughlin are not to be found on this tour as they are not Route66 cities. You will meet remarkable people and characters who we will introduce to you along the way, people who make the true spirit of this journey. As you arrive at the pier in Santa Monica you too will be one of those who got their kicks on Route 66.

DAY 1 - Arrival Day

Welcome to Chicago!

After making your way to the hotel you will meet your tour guide at the welcome desk in the lobby; he will give you information about the upcoming tour. Afterwards you're free to go out and explore the "Windy City" of Chicago with all it has to offer. Our downtown hotel is close to Chicago's famous blues clubs, Navy Pier, Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), fine dining restaurants and a vibrant nightlife. Perhaps go see the starting point of Historic Route 66 at East Adams St. and South Michigan Ave. Or if you prefer just relax and get a good evening's rest.

DAY 2: Chicago to Springfield**215 miles / 344 km**

After breakfast you'll have a chance to go back to your room, pack your bags and then you're off to go get your motorcycle. Say goodbye to Chicago and right away you find yourself riding down Historic Route 66. Today you'll go approximately 215 miles (345 km) from Chicago to the state capitol of Springfield.

DAY 3: Springfield, Ill. to Rolla, Mo.**220 miles / 352 km**

Today you ride through the picturesque scenery of small town mid-America to the beautiful rolling hills of the Ozarks. The first half of the day meanders through small farming towns and countryside until you reach the border between Illinois and Missouri. The border is the famous Mississippi river where you stop to see the Chain of Rocks Bridge which became a part of original Route66 in 1936. After lunch you stop to see the Missouri Route 66 State Park, and then off to visit the outlaw Jesse James' hideout at Meramec Caverns. Finally you arrive in Rolla for a nice dinner and a good night's rest.

DAY 4 – Rolla, MO to Tulsa, OK**306 miles / 490 km**

After breakfast you start out on the longest day of our journey, 320 miles (515 km) to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Today you will weave your way from the rolling hills of the Ozarks through (another) Springfield, Joplin and Carthage until you reach Kansas. You stop for lunch in Kansas at the Little Brick Inn, formerly one of the banks robbed by Jesse James' gang. After less than 20 miles of Kansas you move into the beautiful scenery of eastern Oklahoma to our hotel in Tulsa.

DAY 5: Tulsa, OK to Weatherford, OK**187 miles / 300 km**

As you're leaving Tulsa you head toward western Oklahoma and its wide open spaces. Oklahoma is fortunate to have the most remaining miles of original Route 66 that are still good to ride. The majority of the day is spent riding the "Old 66" through pasture and prairie.

You will be stopping at the Route 66 Interpretive Center in Chandler, the Round Barn in Arcadia and riding the longest remaining stretch of the 1926-1935 alignment of the route. Finally you're ending up at our hotel in the ranching and college town of Weatherford.

DAY 6: Weatherford, OK to Amarillo, TX**200 miles / 320 km**

You start today with a brief 15 mile ride to the Route 66 museum in Clinton, where you will spend time learning more about the route and its importance in American history, and do some souvenir shopping.

Then it's back on the road, passing through great plains, vast cattle ranches and small farming towns. Today you leave Oklahoma and move into the second largest state, Texas.

You will stop and see the beautiful U-Drop Inn in Shamrock, featured in the film "Cars" as Ramone's Body shop. Now you're off across the plains for a well deserved steak at the Big Texas Steak Ranch in Amarillo. Are you brave enough to attempt the 72-Ounce (2.02 Kilo) steak dinner challenge?

DAY 7: Amarillo, TX to Santa Fe, NM**286 miles / 458 km**

After breakfast you ride across town to see Cadillac Ranch; a crazy farmer who planted Cadillacs in his field, hoping to grow new ones. Then it's off to Adrian, Texas, home of the Midpoint Café and the halfway point of Historic 66.

After stopping for a coffee you head off from the Great Plains into the natural splendor of the southwest. Riding through the wide open spaces and into the Rocky Mountains, you arrive in the beautiful city of Santa Fe where you will spend the next two days.

DAY 8: Rest day in Santa Fe

Today you stay in Santa Fe for a day of rest and relaxation in one of the oldest Capitol cities in the United States, also the highest state capitol, at an altitude of about 7,500 feet (2,285m) above sea level.

Take the day to relax and enjoy Santa Fe's numerous art galleries, specialty shops and museums, all within easy walking distance from our centrally located hotel. Or just roam around the beautiful downtown plaza taking in its unique combination of Native American and Spanish colonial architecture. Have a restful day; tomorrow you get back on the bike.

DAY 9: Santa Fe, NM to Gallup, NM**210 miles / 336 km**

After a well-deserved rest day, it's time to get back on the road. This morning you head out into the deserts of the southwest, to our first stop for lunch in Old Town Albuquerque. After lunch you head back out on the Route through the splendor of New Mexico's natural beauty. You end the day in Gallup at the historic Route 66 El Rancho Hotel.

DAY 10: Gallup, NM to Williams, AZ**240 miles / 385 km**

Today you say goodbye to New Mexico and head into Arizona's spectacular deserts. Our first stop is a visit through the Painted Desert & Petrified Forest National Park, where you take our time riding through the park stopping to take in its natural beauty. Afterward you stop in Holbrook to see the Wigwam Motel's teepee shaped rooms on our way to lunch. After lunch you stop to "Take it Easy" with the musical group the Eagles by "Standing on the corner in Winslow Arizona". Then it's off to your hotel in the quaint town of Williams, gateway to one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Grand Canyon.

DAY 11: Grand Canyon Excursion**196 miles / 315 km**

Today you go visit one of the most amazing natural wonders of the southwest, the Grand Canyon. You ride the 60 miles from Williams to the canyon's south rim. If you don't want to ride today you can take the train up the South Rim. Here you have some time to explore on your own and see the canyon in your own time. You can also take an optional helicopter ride and see the vastness of the canyon from a bird's eye perspective.

DAY 12: Williams AZ to Needles, CA**160 miles / 256 km**

You start the day by riding to the small town of Seligman for breakfast, and give yourself some time for shopping at its many Route 66 shops. Afterward you make our way to Hackberry and then Kingman for lunch. Then you head out on a loop and go to the curviest part of the Route, the Oatman Highway to its namesake Oatman, AZ. Here you stop to see one of the few remaining old west's gold mining towns and its curious four legged inhabitants, left behind when the miners abandoned the mines. After this little detour you are reaching the state of California and Needles, your next historic Route66 town for the night.

DAY 13: Needles, CA. to Victorville, CA**218 miles / 350 km**

Today you ride through the last state of the route, California. You start the day by riding over the Spirit Mountains into desolate and hot Mojave Desert. You stop in the old Route 66 town Amboy, located in the middle of nowhere and check out famous Roy's Motel and Café. After a brief stop you continue on to your lunch stop in Barstow and then on to see Elmer's Bottle Tree ranch. After a hot day riding through the desert your hotel's refreshing pool beckons you to take a cool dip and relax before your last day of riding tomorrow.

DAY 14: Victorville, CA to Los Angeles, CA**115 miles / 185 km**

Today is your last day of riding, after breakfast you head down from Victorville to the Pacific Ocean at Santa Monica Pier. You ride through almost a hundred miles of the metropolis of the greater Los Angeles area to the end of Historic Route 66 at Santa Monica's world-famous pier. Here you take your time going to the end marker plaque, and then have a nice lunch on the pier. Afterwards you'll have some time to look around the pier or dip your toes in the ocean before you have to say goodbye to your bike.

DAY 15: Departure Day

Today is the day to pack your bags and head home, filled with the experiences and memories of the "Mother Road", Historic Route 66, the "Main Street of America". Have a safe journey home and we hope to see you back for another motorcycling sunride through the United States. Bon Voyage, Auf Wiedersehen, Adios, Arrivederci and See Ya!