

READY TO GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66?

9 REGIONAL GEMS ON ILLINOIS 66



Lou Mitchell's | Chicago

A Chicago landmark since 1923, the friendly crew at Lou Mitchell's serves up great food including a free homemade donut hole as you wait.



Muffler Man with Chicken Wing | Berwyn

Resting atop the Cigars and Stripes BBQ Lounge, in Berwyn, Illinois Muffler Man includes a smoking cigar and he holds a fried chicken wing and a bottle of hot sauce.



Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket | Willowbrook

The Rhea family has welcomed travelers since the 1940's when it was a Blue Bird bus stop. Today, they serve some of the Route's best fried chicken!



Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve | Wilmington

Get up close and personal with buffalo, 275 native Illinois prairie plants and more than 100 bird species in the largest island in the archipelago of protected areas, just south of Joliet.



Funks Grove | Shirley

Since 1824, the Funk Family has been producing its special brand of pure maple sirup (spelled that way on purpose) from more than 6,000 taps.



The Mill | Lincoln

Originally opened as The Blue Mill in 1929, and known for being the "Home of the Schnitzel", The Mill is now a museum, featuring businesses that have served travelers along the Logan County stretch of Route 66.



Dana-Thomas House | Springfield

Experience one of the unique and lavish structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in this early 20th century home, featuring over 100 pieces of original furniture, art glass fixtures and lamps.



West End Service Station | Edwardsville

Once a bustling service station on Route 66, the West End Service Station is now a Mother Road welcome center and museum.



Worldwide Technology Raceway | Madison

From 1940 to 1977, part of Route 66 ran past World Wide Technology Raceway's back gate. World Wide Technology Raceway facilities include a 1/4-mile drag strip, 1.25 mile speedway, 2.0 mile road course, the Gateway Kartplex, and the Gateway National Golf Links.

Scan the QR code to download photos and additional information



Start planning your Illinois trip today!
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ILLINOIS: THE START OF THE MOTHER ROAD



Experience the iconic stops and photo ops that make Route 66 America's unforgettable road trip

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WHAT'S NEW ON ROUTE 66 ILLINOIS

New additions, updates, and useful information from the communities that call Route 66 home.

Chicago Route 66 Mural | Chicago

Chicago is unveiling a new Route 66 mural this summer at Lu-Lu's Hot Dogs, located at the corner of W Taylor St and W Ogden Ave. Stop by to grab a classic Chicago-style hot dog and snap a photo with the mural!

Wonderverse | Oak Brook

Guests enter imaginative worlds from popular films, television series, and video games.

Illinois Rock & Roll Museum Gift Shop | Joliet

A one-of-a-kind gift shop filled with music-themed merchandise, apparel and souvenirs that honor the legendary musicians.

The First Hundred Miles Welcome Center, An Illinois Made Gift Shoppe | Joliet

A brand-new welcome center and gift shoppe featuring Route 66 merch and unique gifts made in Illinois.

Gemini Giant and The Landing Pad Souvenir Shop | Wilmington

This picture-worthy landmark stands at the entrance to the South Park in Wilmington, Illinois. Inside the Landing Pad Souvenir Shop, buy official Gemini Giant and The Landing Pad souvenirs.

Legends Neon Park Sign

The Illinois Route 66 Experience | Springfield

Re-creations of neon signs cast their glow over this Route 66 exhibit, which highlights all 92 communities on Illinois' Route 66.

American Giants Museum | Atlanta

Learn about the largest on-display collection of roadside giants in the world!



HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Plan your trip around these exciting events taking place along Route 66.

Red Carpet Corridor Festival

May | Fourteen Communities from Joliet to Bloomington

An annual festival that's all about family fun on the most famous road in America.

Swinging Bridges Art Festival

May | Pontiac

Two days of live music, fine art vendors, food trucks, interactive activities, and more. This family-friendly event is fun for all ages.

Saturdays on the Square

May & June | Bloomington

A popular free outdoor music festival held in the heart of Downtown Bloomington Square, with food trucks and live music.

Route 66 Festival

June | Edwardsville

Experience nostalgic family fun including a car show, live music, food.

International Horseradish Festival

June | Collinsville

At the horseradish capital of the world in Collinsville comes a family-friendly celebration, live music and food.

NTT INDYCAR Series Bommarito Automotive Group 500

June | Madison

Watch as drivers navigate the track in open-wheel cars just inches away from their competitors, reaching speeds of more than 200 mph.

Get Your 6.6 on Route 66

August | Shirley to McLean

Annual 11th annual 6.6k (4.1-mile) run/walk on Route 66 from Funks Grove to McLean.



The Annual Balloons Over 66

August | Lincoln

Over 25 beautiful hot air balloons will grace the skies, and stick around to enjoy the BBQ competition, dock dogs, art fair, vendor show, live music, and more!

Illinois State Fair

August | Springfield

Enjoy 10 days of thrills and excitement at this family-friendly fair featuring world-renowned entertainment, food and activities.

The Metaverse at Route History | Springfield

A virtual reality experience depicting the roles of Black businesses, the Negro Motorist Green Book, the Great Migration, and sundown towns along the Illinois leg of Route 66 during the Civil Rights and Jim Crow eras.

Historic Macoupin County Cannonball Jail | Carlinville

Tour this Gothic Revival stone jail where Civil War cannonballs were embedded into the stones and walls, making an escape nearly impossible.

Urban Collective Boutique Hotel | Edwardsville

This boutique hotel features eight distinct suites, each with its own unique ambiance, colors, themes, styles, and décor.

It's Electric Neon Sign Park | Granite City

Ghost neon signs come back to life in this interactive blast from the past park. Murals and a replica Chain of Rocks Bridge add to the experience.



World Wide Technology Raceway

The Celebration of Route 66 Festival | Madison

A jam-packed weekend with world class drag racing, jet car demonstrations, a car show, music/entertainment and a fireworks display not to be missed.

Murals & Monuments

Throughout Illinois Route 66 stunning murals and monuments have been installed for visitors to enjoy any time of day.

Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR Cup Series

September | Madison

A full weekend of fun for race fans, delivering the biggest and best racing action of the season. This year's race will be held September 6th and 7th and again features the Confluence Music Festival, bringing a mix of genres to the stage.

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival

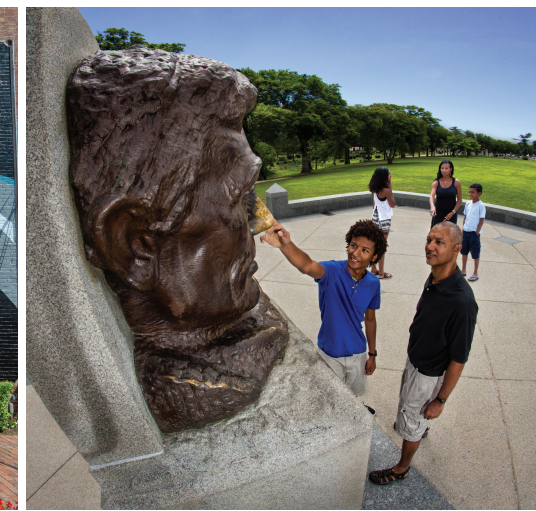
September | Springfield

Celebrate the Golden Age of Route 66. From classic cars to live music & food, this festival features over 1,100 cars and over 80,000 spectators.

16th Presidents Cup at the Medinah Country Club

September 2026 | Medinah

Witness 25+ years of PGA Tour excitement as the world's best golfers from USA battle the International Team.



THE ULTIMATE ROUTE 66 ITINERARY

It's the things you see along the way that make a trip truly unforgettable — like a giant Paul Bunyon holding a hot dog, or a nostalgic drive-in that brings you back to 1955. Legendary Route 66 begins in Illinois and offers road trippers 301 miles of vintage, quirky, and larger-than-life roadside attractions. Let's kick off America's most Instagram-worthy road trip!



Day 1: Chicago

Book an **architecture boat tour** and enjoy the city from a new perspective, then refuel at **Billy Goat Tavern**. Spend a relaxing afternoon visiting world-class attractions like the **Chicago History Museum** or the **Museum of Science and Industry**.

Next, take in the city sights, like **Cloud Gate in Millennium Park** (aka "The Bean") or ride the **Centennial Wheel at Navy Pier**.

To take things up a level, visit **Skydeck Chicago** or **360 Chicago** for incredible views of the skyline.

When you're ready to hit the road, don't forget to snap a photo at the iconic **Route 66 sign** at the road's launching point, Adams Street and Michigan Avenue.

Day 2: The First Hundred Miles

As you continue you on your Route 66 journey, drive by the location of the famous comedy troupe, **The Marx Brothers, family farm**. Then enjoy some playtime at the **Harvester Park** in Burr Ridge; a Route 66-themed playground where kids can "travel" from Chicago to Santa Monica while playing with replicas of famous sites along the Mother Road.



Tour the **Old Joliet Prison**, where history meets Hollywood. Just a little further down the road is Wilmington, pull over for a pic with the **Gemini Giant**, a 30-foot tall statue that's one of the most iconic photo stops along Route 66. Continuing to Pontiac, pull up in front of the famed **Route 66 Shield Mural** for a group picture or explore the Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum or the **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum**.



Cruise to Lexington's **Memory Lane**, a one-mile stretch of original Route 66 with vintage billboard and Burma Shave signs. Stop at **Sprague's Super Service Station**, an information center and gift shop that originally opened in 1931 to serve travelers of Route 66 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. **The Cruisin' with Lincoln**

on 66 Visitor Center in Bloomington combines the region's two most popular historical attractions, Route 66 and Abraham Lincoln, and features unique exhibits and local information.

Day 3: The Heart of Route 66 in Illinois

Downtown Atlanta is filled with wonderful Route 66 sites and attractions, including the Route 66 Park and Atlanta's **Bunyon Giant**. That's not all for big things in this area, add a stop at the **World's Largest Covered Wagon** in Lincoln.



An Illinois road trip wouldn't be complete without a dose of Illinois' most famous resident — Abraham Lincoln. Get ready to step into the past and the life of the 16th President's family. Visit **Lincoln's Home**, his **Presidential Museum**, the **Old State Capitol**, and the **Lincoln Tomb**.

This stretch of the Mother Road includes a variety of unique stops, including **Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum**, the **Cozy Dog Drive In**, and the **Route 66 Experience at the Illinois State Fairgrounds**.

Day 4: The Last 100

Stand next to a giant pink elephant for a great selfie at the **Pink Elephant Antique Mall**. Visit the historic and recently revived **West End Service Station** for a look at Route 66 history. Don't miss the sight of the **World's Largest Catsup Bottle Water Tower** — a classic and quirky icon of Route 66 Americana. Top off your epic Route 66 road trip by visiting and walking across the historic **Chain of Rocks Bridge** before continuing onward.

