

ROADHOUSE 66

RIDING ROUTE 66 :: DAILY ITINERARY

Saturday, June 13, to Saturday, June 27, 2009 :: Historic Routing

Day 1 :: Saturday, June 13, 2009 :: Arrive in Chicago, Illinois

The 2009 Tour officially kicks off today !! Participants will spend the early part of the day traveling to Chicago and arriving at the hotel. Those who need to rent a motorcycle will need to do so in the afternoon. All riders, passengers and bikes will need to be checked-in at the hotel prior to 6:00 PM. After Check-In, riders will be free until the Welcome Dinner Reception at 7:30 PM when the group will meet to get acquainted and enjoy dinner and drinks along with a presentation about the long awaited beginning of this once in a lifetime motorcycle tour along the path of the famous Route 66 !!

Day 2 :: Sunday, June 14, 2009 :: Chicago, Illinois to Springfield, Illinois Approximate Mileage :: 225 miles

After a short safety briefing and explanation of the days travels, it's time to climb into the saddle, open up the throttle, and begin our Route 66 experience !! Starting out in Chicago, the City of Big Shoulders, at the beginning point of The Mother Road, we will then head proudly southwest across the Land of Lincoln, following the path of Historic Route 66 through Cicero, Berwyn and on into Joliet. We will experience many Route 66 icons along the way, including a stop to pay tribute to the Gemini Giant, before enjoying lunch at an authentic Route 66 eatery. Then it's off through Gardner, Dwight and Odell before joining the super slab on the way to Funks Grove. Then were off to see Tall Paul, before the group rejoins the super slab for the last leg of the day's journey which will end in Springfield, Illinois.

Day 3 :: Monday, June 15, 2009 :: Springfield, Illinois to St. Louis, Missouri Approximate Mileage :: 165 miles

An early visit to the Cozy Dog Drive-In prepares us for another day along this great old two-lane highway. Our travels today takes us along the path of the 1918 Illinois State Route 4 (original 66) through Auburn, Virden and Nilwood before riding our chromed steeds around the quaint, brick paved square in Carlinville, where we will stop for a break. The group returns to newer 66 in Litchfield just in time for lunch, before traveling through Mt. Olive on the way to the days most enjoyable visit with Rich and his bunnies at Henry's Rabbit Ranch in Staunton. Leaving Staunton, the group follows the old road through Hamel, Edwardsville and Mitchell before crossing the mighty Mississippi and roaring into Missouri where the stately Chain of Rocks Bridge is located. After skirting around St. Louis on the way to our hotel for the night, we visit a cool icon of old Route 66 located on Chippewa Street.

Day 4 :: Tuesday, June 16, 2009 :: St. Louis, Missouri to Springfield, Missouri Approximate Mileage :: 215 miles

Heading westward down old 66 on two wheels from St. Louis through the beautiful Ozark State of Missouri ... is nothing less then spectacular. Today's tour features a superb ride along two-lane 66 through several small towns from Pacific to Cuba, including an outpost, before joining the super slab into Rolla where the group will stop to enjoy a unique culinary treat that is Maid-just-Rite. After lunch and a stop at the Totem Pole Trading Post, the group heads further west on old 66 before encountering the famous Devil's Elbow along with some early four-lane 66 and the Hooker Cut.

After a refreshing stop at Devil's Elbow we're ready for some more two-lane 66 through the beautiful Missouri Ozarks. The tour follows old 66 through Waynesville, Buckhorn, Gascozark, and Lebanon on the way to Springfield where we will hold-up for the night at an authentic motel from the heyday of old Route 66 and enjoy pizza and beer by their swimming pool.

Day 5 :: Wednesday, June 17, 2009 :: Springfield, Missouri to Tulsa, Oklahoma
Approximate Mileage :: 220 miles

Today a combination of super slab and the old two-lane roadbed is placed behind us on the way to Springfield, Missouri. Beyond Springfield, the old highway heads west where we stop at Gary Turner's Sinclair Station. Gary's is like a pleasant step back in time, before heading on further west toward Carthage through the scenic countryside along an old road which has very dependably served our country for over 80 years. Carthage is home to the Boots Motel and the 66 Drive-In Theatre. Then it's onward toward Joplin and the State of Kansas. The path of old 66 entering Kansas is truly one-of-a-kind as it winds through Hell's Half Acre and into the old coal mining town of Galena and the home of the 4 Women on the Route and Tow Tater. After passing the Eisler Brothers Store in Riverton, the hunt is on for the only remaining Marsh Arch Bridge located on Route 66 where we make one of our 20 pin stops and learn of the history of the very rare and unique bridge. Baxter Springs, known as the first Cow-Town in Kansas, is the final town along the mere 13.2 miles of old 66 which passes through the southeast tip of the Sunshine State of Kansas and then it's across the Oklahoma State line and into our first glimpse of Native American country. We follow old 66 through Quapaw, Commerce, Miami (pronounced Mi am ah), Afton, Catoosa and on into Tulsey Town where we stop for the night and a much needed rest.

Day 6 :: Thursday, June 18, 2009 :: Tulsa, Oklahoma to Clinton, Oklahoma
Approximate Mileage :: 200 miles

Once in the saddle again we head toward Sapulpa and cross the original brick deck of the 1921 Rock Creek Bridge before traveling along a tree canopied and pristine section of the old historic Ozark Trail. This section of Route 66 is our morning treat. Continuing on through Stroud, Chandler and Wellston, the group puts more vintage two-lane in their back pockets as they approach Arcadia, where a well deserved stop is made for some home cookin' and a visit with Butch at the Round Barn. Refueled and refreshed, the group skirts around Oklahoma City, and heads for Bethany and more two-lane 66. Yukon and El Reno are up next before riding across the 3/4 mile long Pony Bridge on the way to Hydro and both the old and new Lucille's. Weatherford marks the last town along 66 before we arrive in Clinton, Oklahoma before ending another perfect summer day of riding along old Historic Route 66.

Day 7 :: Friday, June 19, 2009 :: Clinton, Oklahoma to Amarillo, Texas
Approximate Mileage :: 185 miles

The first order of business is to check out the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum. Then we pass the Besie Wye, where old 66 begins providing the group with more miles of original Portland concrete pavement which closely follows the lay of the land just like it has always been there. In Elk City we visit the new National Route 66 Transportation Museum, before heading west through Sayre, Foss and Hext and to a well deserved lunch break and show at the City Meat Market in Erick. As we bid Oklahoma goodbye, and leave Texola behind, the Lone Star State welcomes the riders with open roads fit for a road king all the way to McLean where some Devil's Rope is encountered. Leaving McLean on the super slab, it is time to kick back and settle into the saddle, and get some use out of the highway bars, for our final ride of the day under very sunny Texas skies, all the way to the Big Texan Steak Ranch in Amarillo, Texas before hanging our hats for the night at the Big Texan Hotel.

****This is the ending point of the 7 Night Eastern Route 66 Tour**

****This is the starting point of the 8 Night Western Route 66 Tour**

**Day 8 :: Saturday, June 20, 2009 :: Amarillo, Texas to Albuquerque, New Mexico
Approximate Mileage :: 300 miles**

An early morning ride through Amarillo peaks the groups interest for what comes next. But what could be so interesting as to lure this group of novice road warriors off their bikes and out into the middle of a wheat field in the Texas panhandle to have a closer look? It's the world famous Cadillac Ranch. Then it's time to enjoy a long ride straight through Bushland, Wildorado, Vega and Adrian on the way to Tucumcari for a hearty lunch break and a peek inside a vintage Curio Shop. Then were off through Montoya, Newkirk, Cuervo and Santa Rosa before joining the super slab for the afternoon trek into Albuquerque where we take our Texas "six-shooters" off for the night, under the beautiful star-lit skies of New Mexico's "Big Sky Country". This huge array of stars are not usually visable anywhere else in the United States because of the dense ground light elsewhere.

**Day 9 :: Sunday, June 21, 2009 :: Albuquerque, New Mexico to Williams, Arizona
Approximate Mileage :: 370 miles**

Buckle your seatbelts today as we travel 370 miles, the most miles of any day of the tour. Rising up Nine Mile Hill, we then cross the vast Rio Puerco Valley on the way to Mesita and the Laguna Pueblo. From here, and all the way to the Arizona border, exists some of the most fabulous scenery the state of New Mexico has to offer. Following old 66 through Big Sky Country, funneling in and traveling the same narrow path that millions and millions of those before us have traveled, is a humbling experience ... and one the group will savor after we pass through Grants, Bluewater and Prewitt on our way westward, rising in elevation up to the Continental Divide and down through the mountain pass at the Arizona state line. In Arizona, we travel through the Petrified Forest National Park and the Painted Desert. The gorgeous views from the vista points of the colorful badlands of the Painted Desert quickly give way to the vivid multi-colored permineralized Conifer logs and remnants, buried here by sand and volcanic ash since the Late Triassic Period, of the Petrified Forest. Leaving the Park, Highway 180 directs the group toward Holbrook where a stop for lunch with Joe & Aggie is long, long overdue. Then, "It's a girl my Lord, in a flatbed Ford, slowin' down to take a look at me" as we arrive at The Eagles, Standin' on a Corner Park, in Winslow, Arizona. West of Winslow the majestic, snow-capped San Francisco Peaks appear, along with some ruins from the heyday of old 66 named Two Guns and Twin Arrows. Then it's on into Flagstaff for a well merited break at "The Zoo" before "easy riding" it to Bellemont to pay our respects to Peter and Billy at a Biker's Roadhouse for a late dinner which is certainly unique and welcomed by each, now somewhat experienced, road warrior, before enjoying a refreshing evening ride down through the lush and fragrant Ponderosa Pine forests and beautiful scenery on our way on further west to Williams where the weary group will hit the hay for the night.

**Day 10 :: Monday, June 22, 2009 :: Williams, Arizona to the Grand Canyon
Approximate Mileage :: 165 miles or 210 miles (optional)**

Williams, known as the Gateway to the Grand Canyon, also has a very pleasureable Route 66 atmosphere, with several old motels, eateries and neon signs along the two-way loop through town. Williams was also the last town bypassed by the interstate in 1984. Today is your first day with a choice. You are on your own today You can sleep in, and take the day off and enjoy the cozy little mountain town of Williams, Arizona or get up early and travel to the Grand Canyon National Park and Desert View for some simply spectacular scenery !! Two optional routes will be provided. Don't forget the cameras and plenty of film or cards for your digital cameras !!

The group will be staying at the same Motel in Williams tonight and enjoying the charm of this quaint mountain town. There is a laundromat in town if you need to catch up on doing some laundry.

Day 11 :: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 :: Williams, Arizona to Las Vegas, Nevada
Approximate Mileage :: 235 miles

Heading into the lower elevation of western Arizona, the riders eagerly keep an eye out for the Crookton Road Exit where old 66 is once again rejoined for a two-wheeled, two-lane expedition along the longest surviving uninterrupted alignment of old 66 that stretches through Seligman, Peach Springs, Hackberry and on into Kingman. After a stop at Angel's Barbershop and the Rusty Bolt, the riders descend on the Snow Cap for a snack before aiming the handlebars toward the Hualapai Indian Reservation and Peach Springs. After Truxton and Valentine, a pit stop at the Hackberry General Store is certainly a must for this group of riders before they begin the journey into Kingman where we veer off of Route 66 and head north toward Hoover Dam (where we cross the dam if we still can) and Lake Meade and then on into the gambling and entertainment mecca of Las Vegas, Nevada.

Day 12 :: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 :: Las Vegas, Nevada
Approximate Mileage :: Varies

Today is a free day for everyone to explore and have fun in "Sin City" - Las Vegas and just remember "What happens in Vegas, Stays in Vegas" !! So get out there and have some fun

Tomorrow we must tackle the most grueling portion of the 2,700 mile tour ... traveling into California and across the vast desert landscape of the arid and desolate Mojave Desert. The group will be staying in the same Hotel in Las Vegas tonight and will enjoy more of the the fizz, pop, bang, boom and glamour that Las Vegas has to offer before returning back south and rejoining Historic Route 66 tomorrow. **Please be sure to drink enough liquid in the form of water or Gatorade today to ward off the possibility of dehydration.

Day 13 :: Thursday, June 25, 2009 :: Las Vegas, Nevada to Barstow, California
Approximate Mileage :: 260 miles

Leaving Las Vegas, (hey, that would be a good name for a movie), the crowded four-lane finally gives way to a peaceful and mostly deserted two-lane highway that the group follows south through Searchlight on the way back south to rejoin Route 66 at Arrowhead Junction. After a stop at Fenner, several ghost towns are passed through before arriving at Roy's in Amboy for a well deserved break. Rolling on across the National Old Trails Highway, the surface becomes slightly rough for those traveling on two-wheels, and in response, we re-join the super-slab on the way to the world famous Bagdad Cafe to enjoy today's lunch. After lunch we stop for a visit at The Mother Road Museum, in Bartsow before ending the day a little early due to the intense desert heat, where we will take off our boots and shake off the desert dust for the night at a cool Motel.

**Please be sure to drink enough liquid in the form of water or Gatorade today to ward off the possibility of dehydration.

Day 14 :: Friday, June 26, 2009 :: Barstow, California to Los Angeles, California
Approximate Mileage :: 160 miles

On this our last and final day of the 2009 Riding Route 66 Motorcycle Tour, more miles of the National Old Trails Highway are put behind us before stopping at the California Route 66 Museum in Victorville. This afternoon we descend down a crowded and curvy six-lane highway through the Cajon Pass, between and through the San Bernardino Mountains, and enter the Los Angeles Basin.

Suddenly, we exit the interstate to savor one last rural expanse of old four-lane 66 which is devolving back into a two-lane alignment of old 66. This will be the final path of deserted 66 we will experience before heading south toward San Bernardino and then west toward Santa Monica on the busy super-slabs of Los Angeles. The group will aim their dusty iron horses westward toward the Pacific Ocean one last time to follow Santa Monica Boulevard to Ocean Avenue and the Santa Monica Pier, marking the end of this spectacular journey across the heartland of America.

This evening the group will join together for one final time to enjoy a Farewell Dinner Reception and to celebrate and to individually recall the highlights of our once in a lifetime, two-lane adventure along The Mother Road ... along Historic Route 66.

Day 15 :: Saturday, June 27, 2009 :: Depart from Los Angeles, California

Today the tour participants will begin their individual treks toward home.

This magical journey, with its "one-of-a-kind" riding experience, down the most famous two-lane highway in America, its close camaraderie with many newly made friends, the countless unique and dusty icons of the old road, the remaining ruins of prosperous days gone by, along with the ever changing scenery across this spectacular country, have filled each rider with conjured up thoughts and vivid memories of a simpler time, of a pre-franchised era, and of a time before America became generic ...

Memories enough to last each of the now,
well-seasoned Road Warriors, for a lifetime ...

Memories of an experience...
they will not easily forget ...

Find out why they say ...

Life begins at the off ramp ...

So what are *you* waiting for?

Register now for this once in a
lifetime tour.

Tour registration deadline is:
March 15, 2009

Be Advised ... Space is limited.
Don't wait to send in your deposit.

