

ROADHOUSE

RIDING ROUTE 66 GUIDED TOUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A Guided Auto/Motorcycle Tour certainly isn't something "off the shelf" or easily understood, and there might be many questions that you have that may need to be answered before you decide to "get on board" and pay your Registration Fee and fill out your Registration Application & Disclaimer Form. Please find the most Frequently Asked Questions below about the Driving/Riding Route 66 Chicago to LA Guided Tour.

Q: What exactly is a Guided Route 66 Tour?

For the most part, a Guided Route 66 Tour is a pre-planned & structured caravan of Route 66 Travelers, traveling as a group across 2,500 miles & 3 time zones, for 15 days straight, following along with a designated Tour Guide. The Driving Route 66 - Official Tour Book is our "bible" so to say & is the itinerary that we will follow on a daily basis to keep on schedule & not fall behind. Normally a Tour would include lodging, but due to the many booking websites it is almost impossible to pre-book 20 or so rooms at a time, as many rooms are set aside for those booking websites. This means the booking of your rooms is your responsibility. We will provide a complete list of all "Base Motels" & other recommended motels in close proximity to the "Base Motels" to make it easy for you to do. Everything is pre-planned including the motels, eateries, fuel stops, rest stops, museum stops, as well as stops at the attractions & icons along the way. This includes a full-time schedule in order for you to see, visit & experience the most old Route 66 for your money during your two-week period traveling along Route 66!

Q: How old must I be to participate in the Riding Route 66 Guided Tour?

You must be 21 years of age to participate in or to be a passenger in the Tour.

Q: Do I, or we, have to Register and pay a Registration Fee?

Yes, for the Driving/Riding Route 66 Guided Tour there is a Registration Application & Disclaimer Form that each participant must complete & sign & send in with your Registration Fee

Q: Is there a discount pricing for a Couple?

The Couple Price(s) have been discounted already, but both will still need to Register.

Q: What happens if I, we, need to cancel my/our Tour Registration:

In the event that you may need to cancel your Tour Registration, please remember that Registration Fees are Non-Refundable. However, they are Transferable. This means you must secure someone to take your place on the Tour Roster & collect the funds from them. No exceptions. We will try & assist you if we have a back log of participants who are on a waiting list, as the Tour Groups can only

have so many people. Please consider purchasing Trip Insurance if this is a concern of yours.

Q: I am making my Tour Registration by myself. May I be paired with another Participant to save the single occupancy add-on price?

We do not get involved in the pairing of participants from single occupancy rooms into double occupancy rooms with two beds to save on a single occupancy price. Personalities & conflicts being the main reasons. Please try & seek out another participant to pair a room with by locating your own traveling buddy/roommate for the tour, or pay the single occupancy price. When you locate a roommate, that person will still have to Register & pay the Registration Fee.

Q: There will be three (3) of us, can we get a room for 3 people?

No, this has been an issue in the past. If 3 guys are traveling together, that requires 3 beds. None of our selected Motels have rooms with 3 beds. Roll-a-ways are not allowed due to fire regulations.

Q: Specifically, are Airport and/or Hotel transfers included, including to/from Eagle Riders or Rental Cars?

Airport and/or Motel Transfers/Shuttles vary for each participant (if required), therefore it will be your individual responsibility to schedule & pay for any Transfers/Shuttles you may require. *Consider "buddying-up" with a Taxi if necessary between the Eagle Riders locations at the start & finish of your Tour. *Unfortunately, many airports restrict private transfers to taxicabs, motels, & rental car companies, so Eagle Riders are not able to provide any airport pickup or shuttle service if renting a Motorcycle. Rental Car lots are located close to the Airports..

Q: What are the Motels like that we stay in on the Tour?

Motel accommodations are a very important part of your tour experience, so we stay at varying properties that have come to meet our standards over the years for cleanliness & comfort, as well as their specific locations. We have chosen a nice mix of never center hall, period or historic & casual motels, selected for their amenities & their location to our varied activities.

Q: What will the weather/temperatures be like and how do I pack accordingly?

Obviously weather can be unpredictable but we expect mid 60's to high 80's. In general you can say that during May you have a 90% chance of staying dry & with warm weather. Needles, California will be the hottest & Chicago and LA will be the coolest. Best thing is to come prepared, bring your rain gear & a variety of layers of clothing to be armed for any & all weather conditions. There will be coin laundry facilities at many of the Motels & there is a Laundromat in Williams across from our Motel, so bring along two (2) rolls of quarters & some small laundry soaps. Long sleeve T-shirts are popular with motocyclists in the Summer due to multiple days in the sun even with sunscreen for those sensitive to the sun exposure.

Q: Motorcycle endorsements and are Helmets required if Riding a Motorcycle?

If you plan to rent a Harley, (or ride a Motorcycle) you will need a valid Motorcycle endorsement on your License (especially if you are from another country). We ask for a copy of your valid Drivers

License with Motorcycle Endorsement just for verification purposes & in case of an emergency. You must have a valid Drivers License with Motorcycle endorsement in order to participate in the tour for legal reasons. As for helmets, Illinois has no helmet requirement. Missouri requires a helmet if under 26 years old or if you are a passenger of a motorcycle of any age. Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona have no helmet requirement. California does require all riders to wear a helmet. Eye protection is required in every state and helmets with a face guard are almost always required when it is raining. *For your own safety, you should wear a motorcycle helmet at all times when you are riding a motorcycle, especially in cities and on the Interstates.

Q: What happens to the Motorcycle Riders when it starts raining?

Normally, we stop & “don” our rain gear & helmets/face shields & then keep on safely riding to the next stop. We don’t stop for rain as it will prevent us from arriving at the day’s stops & the Motel on time. If it pours down for an extended period of time with no relief in site, we will most likely locate shelter & decide if to wait it out or to head to the Interstate & then head to the Motel & call it a day, missing part of what you came to see & experience. Sadly, there is no time to retrace what you may miss on a rain day & still keep on our schedule.

Q: Will I receive some information about the Tour before I arrive in Chicago?

Yes, upon receipt of your Reservation Fee & Tour Application & Disclaimer, you will receive your initial confirmation email that outlines the actual arrival date, place & time / departure date, place & time so you can plan your flight & rentals & any other travel arrangements or your own. You will receive a Welcome Packet along with the 2022 Driving Route 66 - Official Tour Book with maps & other information soon after you pay your Registration Fee. It is best to familiarize yourself with the Tour Book & maps especially if you wish to make a side trip on your own. There will also be a complete list of Motels & all meal locations & also optional eateries..

Q: How many miles do we drive/ride each day?

Our daily miles will vary from 170 to 256 miles per day. The miles will be listed daily in the Tour Book. The group will stop often to enjoy the sights & attractions, take photos, as well as to ensure all participants of the group are physically alright. This is an educational tour, a vacation & not a marathon, but there will be grueling areas & areas of gravel to safely maneuver across & autos/ motorcycles will get dirty, dusty & bug ridden.

Q: What time do we leave the Motels in the mornings & stop for the day?

We leave at 8:15 a.m. every morning except the Saturday in Amarillo, when we leave at 9:15. We arrive at the Base Motels between 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 most days, except for our first night in Williams, when we eat Dinner first & then arrive about 7:15 p.m. at the Motel & on the last day when we arrive around 4:00 p.m. Leaving earlier means many attractions, museums, stops, etc ... may still be closed when we arrive. And on the last Friday, traffic in L.A. is paralyzing in the late afternoon.

Q: How much will fuel cost from Chicago to LA, one way?

We will travel about 2,600 miles total from Chicago to LA. Fuel in California & the desert will be higher. Figure \$300 to \$400 for a motorcycle one-way. Fuel for a auto would be about \$350 to \$475

one-way. You may do better. You are always free to purchase your fuel at a station of your choice, but that usually means more time away from the group & a chance of getting separated. The Tour Book will list all recommended Fuel Stops & fuel brands when available. Fuel stations & brands will vary. There are 2 Mobil stations in Willowbrook. We also stop at: FS-Fast Stop, FS-Fast Stop, Quik Trip, Kum & Go, Casey's, Quik Trip, Pop's (?), Phillips 66, Love's, Russell's (Chevron), Love's Albuquerque, Love's, Love's, Union 76, Union 76, Mobil, Chevron, Chevron & Chevron. As you can see, the brands vary by state but you are free to get your fuel at a station of your choice except for the Seligman to Kingman area & also the Needles to Barstow area.

Q: Do I have to eat Lunch or Dinner with the group or can I just stop for fast food?

While we have tried to select one-of-a-kind eateries for the locations, uniqueness of & the kitschiness of the old diners & cafes with specialty or home-cooked meals along Route 66 to provide everyone time for camaraderie & enjoying the true flavor of traveling old Route 66, with meals from across the heartland of America, yes, you are free to eat wherever you wish & whenever you wish.

Q: Should I bring cash for souvenirs & incidentals? What is a pre-authorization?

Yes, figure \$25 to \$35 a day if you like to shop for souvenirs & like snacks & sodas. I would also bring multiple credit cards in case one gets declined for overuse or pre authorizations. You may wish to notify your Credit Card Company of your intent of traveling across country & that your use will increase. Consider using one for fuel & meals & one for motel rooms. Some fuel stops may charge you card with a pre-authorization for more then you spend, then you CC Co calls and asks if you spent the higher amount. Say yes, as the pre authorizations will usually come off the next day. Pilot & Flying J are famous for this irritating action.

Q: Will I have a cell signal while on the Tour & WiFi at Motels to use my laptop?

Yes, you will have a cell signal especially with Verizon, however, while we are visiting some remote locations you may not have a good cell signal, according to your carrier. All Motels do have WiFi, if it is working, so yes at night you will have access to your laptop with your Motels pass phrase. As you may know, McDonalds, Taco Bell, Panera Bread, Starbucks, Whole Foods, Staples & Office Depot as well as all Walmart's provide free WiFi in a pinch!

Q: Do I have to drive/ride/stay with the group?

Absolutely not. We realize that each participants dream of a Route 66 trip is different, & we run a very relaxed group atmosphere. Any or all participants are encouraged to take some time on the trip to venture out on their own for a hour or two or even a full day. We will be sure to set a meeting place & ensure that you have a detailed map to the Base Motel for the night if you want to hit the road solo or in a small group for part of the day. Whatever makes you happy. It is recommended that the first two days the group stays pretty much together in a caravan because of the logistics in & around Chicago & St. Louis, but on the third day you are free to head off in small groups or on your own. Of course the core group will be following the itinerary & stops & keeping on a time schedule but if you don't enjoy a museum & would like to go ahead & take photos or make a stop different then the group has planned, that is certainly encouraged. Again, this is your vacation & whatever makes you happy.

Q: How many people are in the group?

For logistical concerns & dining arrangements, we would like to keep our tour group to around 20 autos and/or motorcycles. Our goal is to always keep the groups to between 25 to 30 participants and/or passengers so the group has a chance to really bond & learn to ride together & make stops as a cohesive unit. Group size affects prolonged refueling times & parking issues at the small stops with small parking lots, as well as wait time to be seated, to get our order taken, the time to wait for meal preparation, etc ... even if we can call ahead.

Q: How is Communication Handled?

There will be an Optional Two-Way VHF Radio available to those who have autos for an additional cost. This will allow the Tour Guide to alert the group of upcoming attractions, stops & drive bys, with ease & to guide in those who get separated. Unfortunately the Radios are not suitable for Motorcyclists.

Q: How much luggage may I bring?

It is important to us that each participant has enough gear & clothing to be comfortable for the entire length of the tour. Most autos have unlimited space. However, Motorcyclists must stow all gear & clothing on your Motorcycle.

Q: What if my flight is delayed & I can't make it on time?

Please do not allow a delayed flight to make you nervous about missing the group or missing the Tour. We will be in the Chicago area Friday & Saturday to allow those who wish to explore the city of Chicago, & the Route 66 attractions in that congested area. Your Tour Information Packet will include the phone numbers for your Tour Guide. In the event that you arrive late all you have to do is give us a call & we will make arrangements for you to meet up the group or in the Motel lobby in Willowbrook. *If you are renting a Harley from Eagle Riders, they close at 5:00 p.m. Chicago Time. You should arrive the day before or at least by noon in order to get your luggage, find transportation to them and then the time it takes to do paperwork & get your helmet & Motorcycle prior to 5:00 p.m. You can even catch up with the group if your flight is somehow delayed as the Tour Book is very detailed about where the group will be at a certain times & at the Base Motel & Dinner spot.

Q: What if I have to go to the bathroom when we are not at a stop on the Tour?

Even I have this issue, & many times I have to stop & go. If you need to stop, just call in if you can on the first two days & let us know you are leaving the group & head off to where you need to go. There will be plenty of time for you to catch up & you can locate the group with another phone call if necessary, or just follow your Tour Book & maps. Please understand that we cannot make special stops with the group every time nature calls for one of us.

Q: Will there be enough photo stops on the Driving/Riding Route 66 Tour?

Your Tour Guide is an expert at getting a feel for the needs & desires of the group, & will do his best to accommodate all requests for photo stops, but just cannot guarantee all requests. We will be

making plenty of stops at the best places to stop for photos, attractions, meals & everything else you have been dreaming of doing on the Driving/Riding Route 66 Guided Auto/Motorcycle Tour. If you have a special request be sure to let your Tour Guide know in the morning before the group hits the road for the day so he can attempt to fit it in the schedule. Alternately, you may stop on your own & snap some photos & then catch up with the group. You may also consider purchasing an *"IMAGES of 66"* Picture Book from David Wickline for \$30 USD. There is a sample book available for browsing along with the EZ 66 Guide Map Book which will be available for \$25 USD, & you may pay with cash or with a credit card.

Q: Should I bring Cash?

Yes, you should bring cash as some places do not accept credit cards. Bring change for laundry, snacks, small items or tips. The National Parks only accept credit cards. It is suggested to have \$20 or \$50 bills vs \$100 bills also.

Q: How secure are the Motel parking lots?

Anytime you park your auto or bike at an unfamiliar Motel it should be common sense to lock it up & place valuables out of site. While most are well lit & have been safe before on previous trips, it is always better to play it safe. Motorcyclists may run a cable with a husky lock through your rim(s) & around a metal post or through the rims of another bike, or multiple bikes, & also and put your steering locks on. Then two people should keep a key in case one gets lost.

Q: What if the motels do not provide a Continental Breakfast??

Not all motels will provide a Continental Breakfast (CB's) according to which Motel you select to reserve. Some CB's are very minimal due to Covid. Best to bring a pack of breakfast snacks just in case. We will either have a CB or we will be stopping for breakfast (or donuts) at several places along the tour route. Some stops will be for just the Route 66 or local experience & you don't have to eat if you already had a CB or a snack on your own. And there might be some mornings that we will not stop for breakfast, so you should pack some shelf-stable breakfast snacks for those days that do not require refrigeration. Another good suggestion is to pick up a pack of Folgers Coffee Singles and a Portable Electric Immersion Heater from Bed, Bath & Beyond for \$9.00 & bring along a coffee mug to make your own coffee when it is not included at the motel you have selected.

Q: Time Zone Changes:

Please be aware of the Time Zone Changes as you/we travel. The first will be at the Chicago area, where you will lose an hour when entering the Central Time Zone. The second will be when entering New Mexico, where you will lose another hour when entering the Mountain Time Zone. The third will be when entering California, where you will lose another hour when entering the Pacific Time Zone. On your way back east, those Time Zones will reverse.

Q: What if my Auto or Motorcycle breaks down?

Although it does not happen often, if your auto/motorcycle should break down & cannot be fixed or restarted within 10 minutes, then you are given towing and/or a local dealership where you can take your auto/motorcycle & get it repaired. We will have some basic tools & an air pump, but not a full set of tools. The group will move on after the 10 minutes & will keep in touch by cell phones & hopefully the necessary repair can be made quickly & you can catch up to the group by that evening & rejoin us!

Q: How clean are the Motel Rooms & Restrooms at stops along the way?

Please consider bringing along a pack or two of wipes & some Lysol spray for when things are not quite up-to-snuff or smell funny. Some towns like Williams has shrubs that smell like cat pee & some older rooms just plain smell even though they are now considered non-smoking. Remember, this is not a swanky vacaton spot but a Tour through the heartland of America in search of the vintage & of things from the days gone by ... including American Indian Reservatons & the desert. Thank goodness these folks have these cool places for us to stop at or the trip would be very boring!

Q: What if I have other Questions?

Please send any & all other questions by email to David Wickline at: excelltd@aol.com. Thank you!