

ROADHOUSE

RIDING ROUTE 66 GUIDED TOUR TOUR ITINERARY

2023 Dates: May 20th through June 2nd (May 19/20 is Optional)

Day O: Friday: (Optional) Arrive in Chicago, Illinois, One Day Early

Today is an Optional Day for you to arrive early for your 2022 Route 66 Guided Tour, by traveling to the Chicago area today & then being able to spend tomorrow, Saturday traveling into downtown Chicago to see the sights & attractions Chicago has to offer the Route 66 Traveler. Your Tour Guide will be arriving & be present at the “Base Motel” on Friday Evening to meet with those who are interested & present. A Turn-by-Turn Itinerary with map will be handed out & explained, showing all of the attractions & icons for you to see & experience along your way into, & back out of, downtown Chicago. This means you will need to either book your Chicago Base Motel room for two (2) nights, or book a room at another motel for this night.

Day 1: Saturday: (Optional) Willowbrook, Illinois to Chicago, Illinois & Back Approximately 85 miles

Today is an Optional travel day to allow those who are able to arrive on Friday & are interested in visiting downtown Chicago to do so. Eat Breakfast at Lou Mitchell’s, travel the Route 66 Loop, visit the End of Route 66 Signpost & the Begin Route 66 Signpost, the Grant Park Attractions & return along Ogden Ave/Route 66, seeing Henry’s Hot Dogs, the Castle Car Wash, the Cindy Lyn Motel & enjoy a little Route 66 experience “Chicago-style”. Dinner tonight will be at Dell Rhea’s Chicken Basket at 6:30, with our Tour Meet & Greet after Dinner.

Day 1: Saturday: Arrive in Chicago, Illinois (Main Tour Group)

The Driving/Riding Route 66 - Chicago to LA Tour officially kicks off today! Participants will spend the day traveling to Chicago & arriving at Willowbrook. Those who will be flying & need to rent a car or a Harley will need to do so in the afternoon. Ground transportation is your responsibility. All participants & vehicles (with fuel) will need to be checked in at the “Base Motel” prior to 5:30 p.m.. After Check-In participants will be free until we meet for Dinner at Dell Rhea’s Chicken Basket at 6:30 p.m. After Dinner we will have a Meet & Greet to get better acquainted, enjoy a couple of refreshments & have an introductory presentation about the Tour, along with a question & answer period for all participants.

Day 2: Sunday: Willowbrook, Illinois to Springfield, Illinois Approximately 200 miles

After a safety briefing & receiving information of the highlights of today’s travels, it’s finally time to get on the old road & head southwest along old Route 66! Our first stop will be at the Joliet Area Historical Museum. Then the group will begin our long awaited trek southwest across the Land of Lincoln. We

will be following the path of the Historic Route & be experiencing many Route 66 icons along the way. Soon we will pay tribute to the Gemini Giant Muffler Man in Wilmington & the Polk-A-Dot Diner in Braidwood. Later, we will enjoy Lunch at a Route 66 eatery in Dwight, then it's off through Odell & on into Pontiac, where lots & lots of Route 66 abounds! Next we join the super-slab on the way to Funks Grove before entering Atlanta & the home of Tall Paul! The group rejoins the super-slab for the last leg of today's journey which will end in Springfield at the Motel, followed by Dinner at Motorheads Bar & Grill & Museum!

Day 3: Monday: Springfield, Illinois to St. Louis, Missouri **Approximately 175 miles**

An early visit to the Cozy Drive-In prepares us for another great day along this famous old highway! Our travels will take us along the original Portland cement path of the 1918 Illinois State Route 4 (later the 1926 -1930 alignment of Route 66) to Pawnee Junction, then we turn west to cross over to a 1.4 mile section of early 1932 brick paving. Then on through Auburn, Virden & Nilwood before arriving at the quaint, brick paved square of Carlinville. After traveling the Deerfield Loop, the group changes over to the 1930 -1940 alignment of 66 in Litchfield just in time for Lunch. After Lunch, we travel through Mt. Olive on the way to visit Rich at his Ra66it Ranch in Staunton. Leaving Staunton, the group follows the old road through Hamel, Edwardsville & Mitchell to a scenic view & photo op of the majestic Chain of Rocks Bridge. We then cross over the mighty Mississippi & into Missouri, ending our travels for today on "The Hill", a St. Louis area famous for its Italian Restaurants, on the way to our Motel for the night. After Dinner, we visit a "cool" icon of old Route 66 located on Chippewa Street!

Day 4: Tuesday: St. Louis, Missouri to Lebanon, Missouri **Approximately 175 miles**

After a quick stop for Donuts, we cover some two-lane 66 with old motels & neon signs through Webster Groves & Crestwood, before we join the super-slab as we head westward & enter the beautiful Missouri Ozarks. Next up is a stop at the Route 66 State Park & Museum near the Historic Times Beach. Today's tour features a superb ride along two-lane 66 through several small towns from Pacific to Cuba before joining the super-slab into Rolla where the group will enjoy a unique culinary treat for Lunch that is made-just-rite!. As we head further west on 66, the group encounters some early four-lane 66, the famous Hooker Cut & Devil's Elbow area. Are you ready for some more two-lane 66 across the Missouri Ozarks? No problem. The group then follows the old road through Waynesville, Buckhorn, Gascozark, Hazelgreen with a stop at an endangered historic Route 66 bridge Then we head toward Lebanon where we will stop for the night at an authentic 1945 Route 66 period Motel & enjoy our Dinner at a classic Route 66 eatery!

Day 5: Wednesday: Lebanon, Missouri to Miami, Oklahoma **Approximately 185 miles**

Today, after Breakfast at Andy's, we make a stop at a Route 66 Museum, then a combination of I-44 & the old two-lane roadbed is placed behind us on the way to Springfield, Missouri. Beyond Springfield, the old highway heads west on a relaxing roller coaster ride toward the famous Gary Turner's Sinclair Station. Just like a very pleasant step back in time, old 66 continues through the scenic Ozark countryside along an old roadbed that has dependably served our country for over 90+ years. Our Lunch is in Carthage today before we push west & up & over the "Whee Bridge" & past the 66 Drive-In Theatre, continuing west toward Joplin & the Sunflower State of Kansas. The path of old 66 entering Kansas winds through the Hell's Half Acre area & then into the sleepy little coal mining hamlet of Galena. After a pit stop at Cars on the Route, the hunt is on for the only remaining Marsh

Arch Bridge located on Route 66, located over Brush Creek. Baxter Springs is the final town along the mere 13.2 miles of old 66 through Kansas before we cross into Oklahoma & get our first glimpse of Native American country. On through Quapaw (pronounced O-Gah-Pah), Commerce & Miami (pronounced Mi-am-ah), where we will stop for the night. Tonight's Dinner will be Bison Burgers at a darling little 1965 survivor of our old Route 66! Ku Ku!

Day 6: Thursday: Miami, Oklahoma to Bethany, Oklahoma **Approximately 200 miles**

In 1926, Route 66 from Miami to Afton, consisted of a paved road which measured only 9' wide. Today, a rare & surviving section of that original roadbed may still be carefully traversed & experienced. Next up, Buffalo's anyone? Then on through Vinita, Chelsea, Foyil, Claremore & on into Catoosa where the world famous Blue Whale welcomes us to his pond! Once on the road again, we travel along Tulsa's Route 66 on the way to "Tally" up our Lunch. Buck Atom's & the historic Meadow Gold neon sign is our next stop before passing by the Cyrus Avery Centennial Park & Cyrus Avery 11th Street Bridge. On west we head through Sapulpa & along a surviving remnant of the original Ozark Trail. Then its off through Bristow & on into Stroud. After Stroud it will be Optional to travel a gravel road to stop at the only remaining Ozark Trail Obelisk on Route 66. Next we visit Chandler & on into Arcadia, passing a red Round Barn before stopping at Pops! As we enter "*Oklahoma City - is mighty pretty*", we join some super-slab again, then once on NW 39th Expressway, a couple old neon signs may be seen before we reach tonight's Motel & a well deserved rest. Your Dinner is your choice in Oklahoma City this evening, either by yourself or as small groups!

Day 7: Friday: Bethany, Oklahoma to Amarillo, Texas **Approximately 256 miles**

Leaving Bethany, we travel through Yukon & El Reno where we will experience a scenic ride along a pristine 1931 Portland cement roadbed on our way west to Weatherford. Next up is Clinton where we will make a stop at the Oklahoma Route 66 Museum & Gift Shop. We then enjoy some more 1931 Portland cement roadbed on the way to today's Lunch at the one-of-a-kind Route 66 survivor, Jigg's Smokehouse! Love their Beef Jerky too! Between Clinton & Sayre, the historic alignment has been severed many times by the construction of I-40, so we will travel as much as we can before heading for a surprise visit to the Redneck Capital of the World where we will enjoy some Live Route 66 style Entertainment guaranteed to make you smile! Next we pass through the tiny hamlet of Texola before we cross over into the very flat panhandle of The Lone Star State. The roadbed is long & straight as we travel through Shamrock & on through McLean. A pit-stop at Alanreed, prepares us for the long super-slab ride into Amarillo & the end of another perfect day along the old & historic Route 66! You will have a choice of which Motel & which Texas-Style Steak Dinner you will enjoy tonight!

Day 8: Saturday: Amarillo, Texas to Santa Rosa, New Mexico **Approximately 175 miles**

Amarillo has many hidden jewels that sadly, most Route 66 Travelers completely miss experiencing. However, since you are in good hands my friends as we will travel along Amarillo Blvd & see the old motels, stations, cafes & businesses & their vintage neon signs! We will then stop & do some walking to visit Art Galleries, Antique Shops, Coffee Shops & Cafes along Historic SW 6th Street, the original alignment of Route 66 through Amarillo. Now it's time to head on west & out to the World Famous Cadillac Ranch. Spray cans ready? Yes, we will spray & "brand" the #2 Cadillac! (if the ground is not

wet) Group Photo! Now we head west along side of I-40, as Route 66 allures us into a world of our own as we forget about the mindless rush of the cars & semi trucks on the super-slab. The famous Midpoint Café is our Lunch stop today where we celebrate the midpoint of our Driving/Riding Route 66 Tour & enjoy a slice of the best pie along old 66!. Time for more super-slab on our way to the ghost town of Glenrio with its deserted four-lane divided roadway & abandoned buildings. Entering New Mexico's Big Sky Country under the new Welcome Archway, prompts us to get ready for a stop at Russell's & walk through their elaborate Auto Museum! Next, we travel along more of the old Route 66 alignment as we head further west the same way millions of folks have migrated/traveled west over the decades. It is truly humbling. Tucumcari Mountain welcomes us to "Tucumcari Tonight", the city of 1,000 Motel rooms, along with period Restaurants & Curios Shops, all sporting vintage neon signs! We have time today to visit & explore Tucumcari & meet some of it's friendly folks. Then it is on west & through a tunnel as we follow old 66 through the ruins of Montoya, Newkirk & into the unique little deserted village of Cuervo. In Santa Rosa we will visit the Route 66 Auto Museum & Santa Rosa will then be our home for the night as we enjoy some of Elena's great Mexican specialties under the Silver Moon!

Day 9: Sunday: Santa Rosa, New Mexico to Gallup, NM

Approximately 253 miles

Unfortunately, the super-slab takes us west this morning on our way to Moriarty where the last remaining Whiting Brothers Service Station & a rare Rotosphere are located on old Route 66. Back on the Interstate & through the beautiful Tijeras Canyon (hold the wheel tight) & into Albuquerque where we exit onto Central Ave/Route 66. Lunch today will be at Mr. Powdrell's BBQ, before we head down Albuquerque's Route 66 neon pathway, where there is so much unique Architecture & neon signs to see! We travel through Historic Nob Hill & into downtown Albuquerque. We will pass Historic Old Town on your right & just ahead on your left is the Monterey Motel & also the Historic El Vado Motel, with its shops & eateries (parking is difficult). It is now time to tackle Nine Mile Hill & enjoy more old motel & cafe neon signs as we leave Albuquerque. At the top of the hill, we visit a cool RV Park, before a long downhill to cross the vast Rio Puerco Valley on our way west. From here to the Arizona border exists some of the most fabulous scenery New Mexico has to offer. Following old 66 through big sky country, traveling the same path that millions of those before us have traveled, is a truly humbling experience & one the group will certainly savor. Old 66 passes through the Laguna & Acoma Pueblos just as Route 66 did in the late 1920s. At Grants, we exit the super-slab for more two-lane 66 through Milan, Bluewater, Prewitt & Thoreau on our way westward, rising in elevation up to the Continental Divide. From here it's "all downhill" as our afternoon journey to the Native American town of Gallup begins. Entering Gallup, we seek out a place many movie stars once stayed, to rest our road weary bodies for the night. The Hotel thankfully has an on-site Restaurant & after Dinner, those of us who are interested will meet in the '49er Lounge for a night cap!

Day 10: Monday: Gallup, New Mexico to Williams, AZ

Approximately 218 miles

After some tasty Huevos Rancheros at Earl's for Breakfast, today is another rather busy day along old 66. New Mexico gives way to the Copper State of Arizona with its spectacular scenery as we follow the super-slab to Exit 320 at Pinta Rd & embark on an Optional excursion that no other tour includes. The Painted Desert Trading Post is about 3/4 mile of sand road (wet if it is raining & we will cancel) & then once through the gate, about 2 1/2 miles of deteriorated 1931 original Route 66 roadbed (with some washboard - traveling at 30+ mph is best) to visit this "Holy Grail" of Route 66 out in the middle of the Arizona desert. Once back on the road, our next stop is the Petrified Forest & Painted Desert

National Park. The gorgeous views from the vista points of the badlands of the Painted Desert quickly give way to the vivid colored permineralized Conifer Logs remnants, buried by sand & volcanic ash since the Late Triassic Period of the Petrified Forest. Leaving the Park, Highway 180 directs us west toward another Native American town of Holbrook, where the historic Wigwam Motel is located. Lunch today is in Joseph City at a quaint little diner on 66 where you may treat yourself to some soft serve ice cream!. “*Here It Is*” beckons us to make a stop at the Historic Jack Rabbit Trading Post where Cindy & Tony may have a treat for us & you must get a T-Shirt & other cool souvenirs! Great selection & super nice folks! Winslow gives way to The Eagles, Standin’ on a Corner Park. As we head further west on the super-slab, the majestic, snow capped San Francisco Peaks appear, along with some ruins on our left from the heyday of old 66 named Two Guns & Twin Arrows (from Forrest Gump). Flagstaff provides a well-deserved break at the famous Museum Club, referred to as “The Zoo”. Be sure to check out the vintage Guilded Bar on the back wall. We will stop at Bellemont to pay our respects to the film *Easy Rider* at the Pine Breeze Inn, before an Optional stop at Grand Canyon Harley Davidson, the only one located on an actual Route 66 alignment. Time for Dinner? I though so. Next door is the Route 66 Roadhouse where Dinner is certainly welcomed. After Dinner, we enjoy a 23 mile evening drive/ride down through the lush Ponderosa Pine forests & beautiful scenery on the way west into Williams & to our Motel. We will be at this Motel for two nights so get out & enjoy the beautiful Route 66 town of Williams with all their shops & fun places to visit. Williams has survived because of Route 66 & also its location close to the Grand Canyon National Park.

Day 11: Tuesday: Williams, Arizona to Grand Canyon NP (Optional) **Approximately 169 miles**

Williams, known as the Gateway to the Grand Canyon, also has a great Route 66 atmosphere, with several old motels, gift shops, eateries & neon signs along the Route 66 Loop through town. Williams was the last town bypassed by I-40 in 1984. Today you are free to rest & take the day off, or to go visit the Grand Canyon National Park with some of the group or on your own! The park is north on Highway 64 North. Once in the park it is recommended to follow the Grand Canyon Driving Route 66 Handout so you do not miss anything of interest, including the extremities of the Desert View Watchtower or Hermit’s Rest. Lunch is on your own & reasonably priced locations are listed in the Handout (with very long lines). Once you are ready to head back to Williams, take Highway 64 South & we will plan to meet as a group at the World Famous Sultana Bar at 5:30 p.m. for a refreshment before Dinner. Dinner tonight will be your own choice as there are several different options listed in the Tour Book & we certainly do not wish to limit you to one cuisine! Williams also has so many Curio & Gift Shops & an old Gas Station Museum for you to visit this evening!

Day 12: Wednesday: Williams, Arizona to Needles, California **Approximately 205 miles**

Heading into the lower elevation of western Arizona, we pass through Ash Fork, before eagerly keeping an eye out for the Crookton Rd Exit where old two-lane 66 is once again rejoined for an expedition along the longest surviving uninterrupted alignment of old 66 through Seligman, Peach Springs, Hackberry & into Kingman. After a souvenir & photo stop in Seligman, the group of now Route 66 Road Warriors head west toward the Hualapai Indian Reservation & Peach Springs. After Truxton & Valentine, a pit stop at the Hackberry General Store is certainly a must stop for this group of Route 66 Travelers before they begin the journey around Seven-Mile Curve & the long straight road into Kingman. In Kingman, we enjoy Lunch in a former gas station famous for their home-made root beer! The Oatman Highway takes us through the vast San Francisco Wash & on to a stop at Cool Springs. Then we curve up into the Black Mountains, where the road warriors now begin earning their

wings on the way to & through Sitgreaves Pass & onward along the S-curves & switchbacks toward the old gold mining town of Oatman. Feral Burros roam the street looking for special feed cubes you can buy to feed them (please do not feed the babies). After Oatman, there is a long, but not so curvy journey to Topock before crossing the Colorado River & entering California (the CA Inspection Station is looking for any plants or fruit you may be bringing into CA). The now weary Route 66 Travelers look forward to their stop in Needles & for a cool dip in the pool, good food & a full nights sleep. Dinner will be at a classic Route 66 eatery with a menu full of home-cooked specialties! Tomorrow we tackle the most grueling portion of our Tour ... following the path old 66 across the vast desert landscape of the arid Mojave Desert & dealing with the detours along the way from several washed out bridges.

Day 13: Thursday: Needles, California to Barstow, California **Approximately 230 miles**

Fuel & water are required today in order to traverse the Mojave Desert before heading west & the afternoon heat sets in. After leaving the super-slab in favor of old two-lane 66, a couple of real ghost towns, Goffs & Essex (water break) are passed through before a detour directs us back to the super-slab to Kelbarker Rd. We then go back south to Route 66 & to a side-trip to the Roadrunners Retreat & to Cadiz Summit. Then we will finally arrive at the famous Roy's Motel & Café in Amboy, for another well deserved water break. Please hydrate today as we don't need any body passing out! Rolling on across the National Old Trails Road (NOTR) which pre-dates Historic Route 66, the surface becomes slightly rough for those on two wheels. Ludlow is like a mirage in the desert where we fuel up & grab a burger or BLT for Lunch out here in the middle of nowhere! Next up is an old Whiting Brothers Station, the famous Bagdad Café & another water break. Then on west & past Minneola & through Daggett, before we enter the Railroad town of Barstow. Hopefully, we can visit a cool Route 66 Museum & visit a wonderfully ornate Harvey House Santa Fe Depot before we go to see an old sign collection! It is early, but hot & now time to take off our boots & possibly take a dip in the pool at tonight's Motel along Route 66 which has a tasty on-site Mexican Restaurant for Dinner!

Day 14: Friday: Barstow, California to Los Angeles - Pasadena, California **Approximately 200 miles**

After breakfast we bid farewell to Barstow & get on the old two-lane NOTR/Route 66, seeing more interesting sites & placing more miles behind us before stopping for a water break at Elmer's Bottle Tree Ranch. We will wave to Emma Jean's Holland Burger Diner (*Kill Bill*) as we pass by before making a stop at the California Route 66 Museum in Victorville. Back on the super-slab, we make our way to Cajon Summit & begin our descent down through the Cajon Pass & into the LA Basin & San Bernardino. After a stop at the famous Wigwam Motel, we join the super-slab toward Pasadena & cross over the majestic Colorado Street "Curvilinear" Bridge (Suicide Bridge). We then join the Historic Arroyo Seco Parkway - CA 110, (Pasadena Freeway - the first freeway built in the US), which will connect the group to Los Angeles by joining I-10 West & visit the Official Western Terminus of Route 66, where Mel's Drive-In is now located at Lincoln & Olympic Blvds, before arriving at the Santa Monica Pier at the Pacific Ocean. After a late Lunch & a walk to peruse the sites & shops & curiosities at the Pier, we will leave before the Friday afternoon traffic becomes paralyzing & will follow CA 1 - The Pacific Coast Highway which merges with I-10 East, & we will follow it to CA 110 North & follow it to Colorado Blvd & turn right (east). Then we will get ready for our final stay of the Tour at the Historic Saga Motor Hotel & the end of this spectacular two-lane journey across the

heartland of America! This evening we will join together on the patio, at the pool for one last time for the group to enjoy a Farewell Party & Refreshments, award the Poker Run Prize to the winner, hand out Certificates of Completion & to recall the highlights of our once in a lifetime, two-lane adventure along the fabled Mother Road ... the famous Historic Route 66!

Remember ... "Life Begins at the Off Ramp!" & "It's not the destination, but the Journey!"

Day 15: Saturday: Depart from Pasadena, California

For our final Continental Breakfast (available in the Office upon Request), we will meet on the Patio at the pool for coffee & conversation this morning, as the group packs up & the now well-seasoned Route 66 Road Warriors will begin their individual treks toward their home or to points further!

Safe travels to all! Thank you for allowing me to Guide you along our favorite old Historic Highway!

"This magical journey, with its "one-of-a-kind" driving/riding experience, down the most famous two-lane highway in America, its close camaraderie with many newly made friends, the countless unique & 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 person with conjured up thoughts & vivid memories of a simpler time, of a pre-franchised era, & of a time before America became generic ... Memories enough to last each now well-seasoned Route 66 Road Warrior for a lifetime ... Memories of an experience they will not easily forget" ...

So what are YOU waiting for? Sign up for this "once-in-a-lifetime Route 66 Tour today! Space is Limited!