

Illinois Route 66

Visitor Guide & Business Directory

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HUNDRED Miles

Visit
Springfield
Illinois

GREAT
RIVERS
& **ROUTES**
OF SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS



SmugMug

**Pictured Above: Route 66 Motorheads Bar,
Grill & Museum & Entertainment Complex
Springfield, Illinois**

Where Nostalgia Meets Newfound Adventure

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway



Pictured Above: Old Joliet Prison, Joliet, Illinois - Docs Just Off 66, Girard, Illinois
The Ariston Cafe, Litchfield, Illinois - Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Springfield, Illinois

Route 66 defined a remarkable era in our nation's history and it lives on today in Illinois Route 66's many roadside attractions, museums, and restaurants - it's the shining ribbon of blacktop we call **'The Mother Road'**.



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

**Spend Some Time on the
Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
and Discover Nostalgia &
Newfound Adventure!**

IllinoisRoute66.org | 217.414.9331

ILLINOIS
US
66

The First
HUNDRED
Miles



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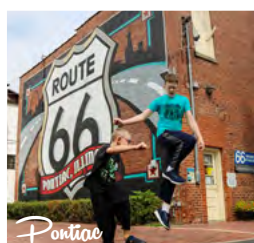
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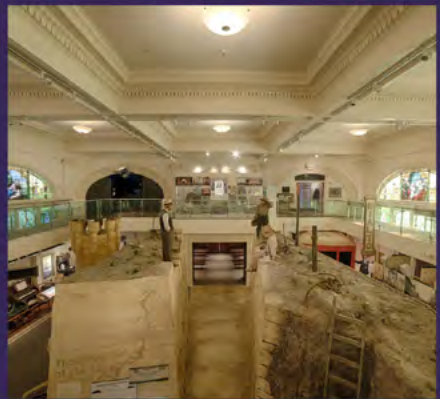


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www.TheFirstHundredMiles.com

JOLIET, ILLINOIS



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GUIDE TO ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 SCENIC BYWAY

The Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway winds from the bustling metropolis of Chicago, snaking its way for over 400 miles through verdant fields, charming all-American small towns and vibrant urban centers, each teeming with unique stops and locales. With all that there is to see and do, we have created this guide to help you discover a land rich in traditions, historic structures, and one-of-a-kind treasures. Within these pages you will find an easy summary on the different towns and iconic attractions, maps outlining the towns and communities along the Route and must-stops to help you make the most of your experience. For ease of use, this guide is divided into three sections: **Northern Section**, **Central Section** and **Southern Section**, each identified by a corresponding color and each with its own distinctive lures and attractions.

Before you bucketlist your way around this guide, here are some Travel Tips to keep in mind:

- ✓ **Check Ahead:** Confirm that your destination is open. Due to Covid 19, we highly recommend that prior to travel, you confirm that your desired destination is open and inquire into any capacity restrictions.
- ✓ **Come Prepared:** Expect safety measures to be in place at businesses and public spaces throughout the Route.
- ✓ **Make Reservations:** Many restaurants and accommodations may rely on visitors to book their spot in advance. So to avoid disappointment, make your booking well in advance.

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Project funded by Illinois DCEO's Route 66 Grant.

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MUSEUMS

Illinois Route 66
Hall Of Fame & Museum
110 West Howard Street
815.844.4566

Livingston County War Museum
321 North Main Street
815.842.0301

Museum of the Gilding Arts
217 North Mill Street
815.842.1848

Pontiac-Oakland Automobile
Museum & Resource Center
205 North Mill Street
815.842.2345



EXHIBITS

Pontiac Museum Complex
110 West Howard Street
815.844.5847

Life in the 1940's
The Bob Waldmire Experience
Music of the Civil War
Life on the Titanic
A Route 66 Photo Journey
Walldog Murals & Sign Art



ATTRACTIONS

Murals on Main Street
Looking For Lincoln Story boards
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Colorful Art Cars
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Humiston Woods Nature Center



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Our Story



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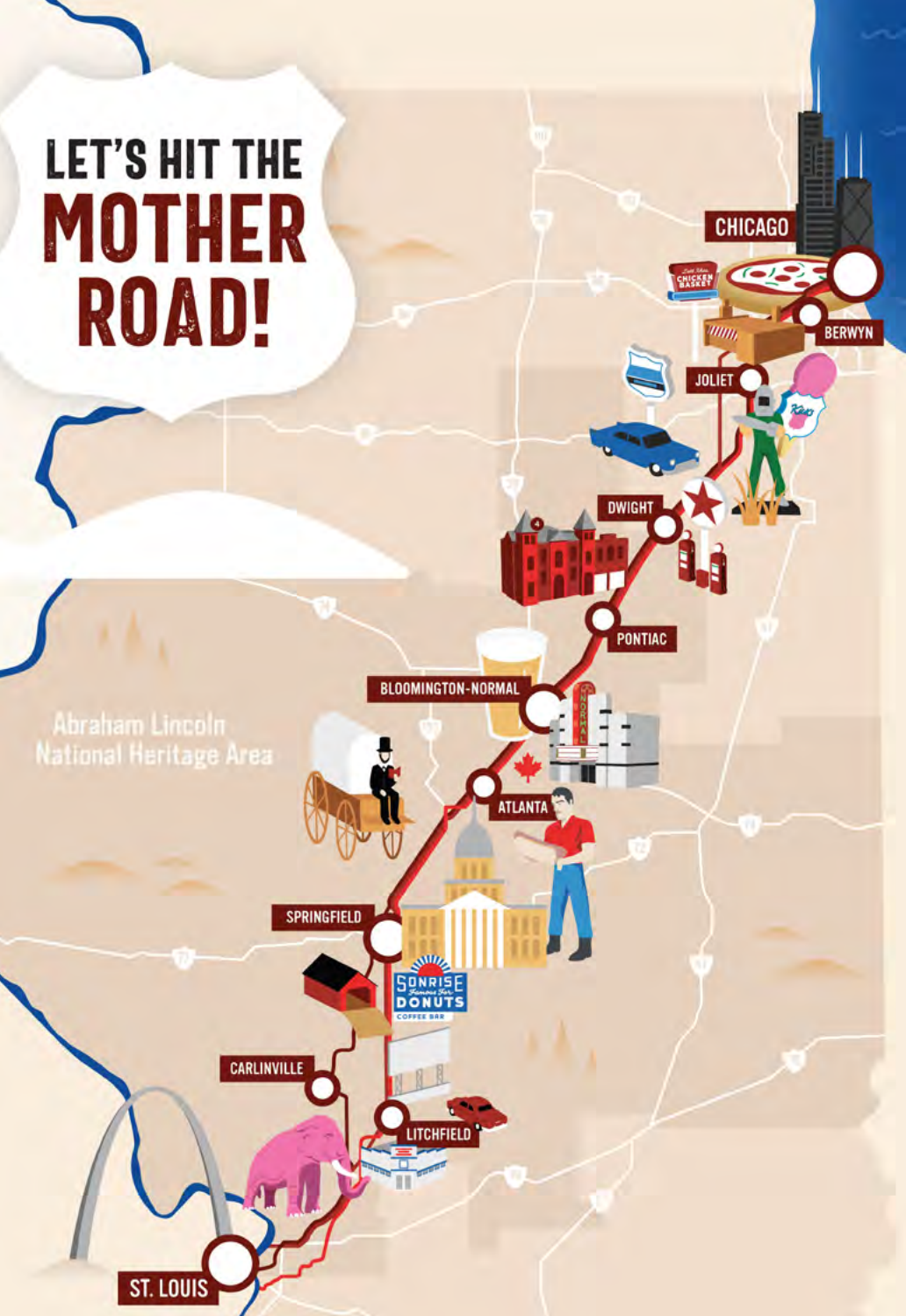
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LET'S HIT THE MOTHER ROAD!



WELCOME TO ROUTE 66 IN ILLINOIS!

Welcome to Route 66 in Illinois! Where the Mother Road Begins. Whether you are driving the Mother Road for the first time or returning for new discoveries, we are glad that you are here!

Route 66 has inspired writers, filmmakers, photographers and artists alike. It's a road that represents a simpler time of travel and exploration, of family road trips and adventures, vivid neon, classic cars, and mom and pop diners. And with more than 400 miles of drivable Route 66, Illinois' stretch of the ribbon road is packed with wonders that continue to inspire and evoke a sense of nostalgia.

Whether you are an outdoor enthusiast, a history buff, or merely looking for a relaxing drive, Illinois Route 66 has an abundance of quirky sites, family friendly attractions, and year round festivals, to meet the needs of every type of traveler. This guide is the perfect companion to assist you in unearthing Illinois' Route 66 treasures, highlighting unique experiences and in discovering unexpected gems. Drive it all at once or enjoy sections as your time allows, or just follow the Illinois Route 66 road signs and let the Mother Road speak for itself. Whatever you choose, our stretch of the Main Street of America is sure to surprise and delight with every curve of the road. Ready to Hit the Road?

Happy Travels!

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

Get social: We love our stretch of Route 66 and we love sharing it with you. Check us out on our social media channels where we share photos, latest news and travel information. If you are traveling through, feel free to ask questions or share your photos with us by using the hashtag #myIL66 or tagging us at @illinoisroute66.



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Share your photos or selfies with us at @MyIL66.

Publisher Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway 1045 S 5th St. Springfield, IL 62703
Tel: (217) 414-9331 | Website: illinoisroute66.org | **Editorial and Art Direction** Thin Tread Media
Website: routemagazine.us | **Editor** Brennen Matthews | **Deputy Editor** Kate Wambui
Editorial Assistants | Theresa Romano, Lillie Richards | **Graphic Design** Tom Heffron
Photo Credits Ace Sign Company, Adam Alexander, Anatoly Evdokimov, Antrianas, Astur,
BD Images, Catloverforever, David P. Smith, Dewcreations, Eddie J. Rodriquez, Eflen Lopez,
Enjoy Illinois, f11photo, Funks Grove, Gimas, Heritage Corridor CVB, Illinois Route 66
Scenic Byway, Joe Sonderman, John Smith, Kevin Eateringer, Launching Pad Facebook, LittleT889,
Logan Bush, Macoupin County Million Dollar Courthouse, Marekuliasz, Notmatisse,
Paul Brady Photography, Pink Elephant Antique Mall, Randy Von Liski, Rivers and
Routes, Sangamo Brewing, Sangamon County History, Simone Williams, Skyview Drive-In,
Stpublicradio.org, Teemu08, TLF Images, Tom Lohr, Visit Springfield CVB



ABOUT THE ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 SCENIC BYWAY

The United States Department of Transportation has designated certain US roads as National Scenic Byways because of their special significance to the American people. Route 66 in Illinois received that recognition in 2005. Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway is a non-profit organization that was established with a mission to enhance and promote economic opportunities for each Illinois Route 66 community by preserving Illinois Route 66 Heritage and by sustaining and increasing heritage and cultural tourism. We serve 90 communities in Illinois, from Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge near Madison, IL. Most have a population of only 2,500 or less.

We help attractions, small businesses, and communities take full advantage of their Route 66 resources to provide the best possible experience for visitors from around the world. We also provide information to travelers to help them plan their adventure down Route 66.

Whether it is helping a “mom & pop” restaurant get new tuckpointing for their restaurant, aiding a small business in setting up free Google Services or assisting a traveler on Route 66 to find the best milkshake in Illinois, we are there to help.

— **Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway**

For more information on Illinois Route 66:

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 SCENIC BYWAY

1045 S 5th St. Springfield, IL 62703 | Tel: (217) 414-9331

Website: illinoisroute66.org

For more road trip ideas, find upcoming events, sign up for our e-newsletter or search for additional travel tools, go to illinoisroute66.org

Did You Know? A scenic byway is a road that exhibits one of six intrinsic qualities: scenic, natural, historic, recreational, archaeological or cultural, contributing toward a unique travel experience. The National Scenic Byways Program was established by Congress in 1991 to recognize roads with special significance to the American people. Route 66 in Illinois achieved this national designation in 2005.

Home of the ROUTE 66

ENGAGE YOUR SENSES
IN SPRINGFIELD, IL

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A Step Back In Time

History of Route 66



Route 66 became historically and economically significant as the nation's first all-weather highway linking Chicago to Los Angeles.

If there's a road that is on most people's bucket list to drive, it's Route 66. As one of the most famous highways in the world, Route 66 is neither the fastest, oldest nor the longest road. However, more than any other road in the country, Route 66 became historically and economically significant as the nation's first all-weather highway linking Chicago to Los Angeles. As the gateway to the West, Route 66 symbolized a pathway to freedom and adventure, capturing America's imagination. John Steinbeck's classic 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, told of the hardship on what he called the Mother Road, bringing national attention to the road. In 1946, Nat King Cole released Bobby Troup's song encouraging America to "(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66" and the CBS television series *Route 66* brought the highway to life in many living rooms across America. These pop culture tributes would forever cement Route 66 in America's consciousness.





The beginnings of Route 66 stem back to the early 1900's, when car production and ownership in the US was rapidly increasing, and the country's mixture of dirt and paved roads were no longer meeting the demands of an America on the move. The federal government recognized this need and began to play a bigger role in road construction, culminating in the Federal Highway Act of 1921, which gave a multi-year plan of federal funding to form the National Highway System. Route 66 would emerge as one of these roads.

Route 66 was officially commissioned on November 11, 1926, and it would chart a diagonal course through the heart of America, uniting existing rural roads into one single numbered route, linking hundreds of rural communities in eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico and California. Illinois already had an existing road network at the time, a result of the railroad line linking Chicago to St. Louis. That rail corridor is linked to the early work of Abraham Lincoln, one of the attorneys for the railroad in Illinois. Lincoln went





*Illinois is the only
Route 66 state that also
intersects with Abraham
Lincoln's history.*

on to implement a national railway system as President of the United States (Illinois is the only Route 66 state that also intersects with Abraham Lincoln's history).

Illinois literally paved the way for Route 66, which took over the pre-existing State Bond Issue Route 4 (SBI 4), an already well-traveled and concrete-slab two-lane road from Chicago to St. Louis. Because of this, Illinois could boast, from the very start, that its stretch of the Mother Road was mud free and "slab all the way." Illinois was also the only state for which the road traveled north to south and the only state on Route 66 that was east of the Mississippi River.

Route 66 became especially important, bringing life to small towns as it weaved its way from the shores of Lake Michigan in Chicago to the Pacific Ocean in Santa Monica. Gas stations, truck stops, diners, tourist courts and then motels and other businesses sprang up to accommodate the traveling public. As America grew, so did demand for better, faster roads. As a result, new alignments of Route 66 were made. In Illinois, there were three major alignments: the original 1926-1930 alignment took the traveler through the heart of each of the communities along the road. The 1930-1940 alignment was re-routed in some cases to bypass larger, more congested communities. The 1940-1977 alignment was expanded into one of the earliest four-lane

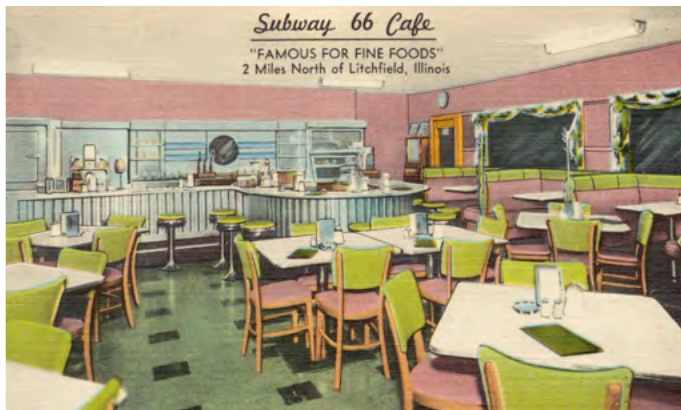
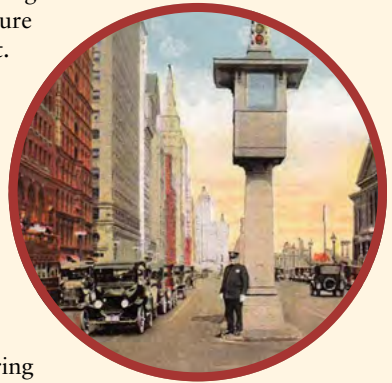




highways in order to accommodate the transportation needs of the military during World War II.

During the early years of Route 66, the road served a myriad of different peoples, most notably the migrants moving west in search of work during the Great Depression. When America became involved in WWII, Route 66 played a vital role in transporting supplies, troops, and job hunters looking to secure employment in defense plants on the west coast. After WWII, returning soldiers started taking family vacations, many of whom utilized Route 66 to travel west to sunny California, and the classic family road trip was born. These were the boom years of Route 66, where driving became an adventure. These were the days of motor courts, neon signs and roadside attractions that delivered the lure of the odd, fun, unexpected and exotic.

Then in 1956, inspired by Germany's Reichsautobahn network of superhighways during World War II, President Dwight Eisenhower enacted the Federal-Aid Highway Act, which set in motion the construction of five major highways that were expected to accommodate traffic demand and make travel more efficient. Unfortunately, these modern four lane interstates would also spell the decline





Today, more than 85% of the old road is still accessible to vehicles with more than 400 miles of drivable Route 66 in Illinois.

of Route 66 and other small highways as travelers opted for speed rather than meandering along. The small roadside tourist attractions that characterized Route 66 began to be overshadowed by the larger commercial strips that sprung up at every exit and interchange, sealing the fate of businesses and communities on the Mother Road.

In Illinois, Route 66 was replaced by the adjacent Interstate I-55, leading to the decommissioning of Illinois' stretch of the Mother Road altogether in 1977. On June 27, 1985, the entire stretch of Route 66, from Chicago to Los Angeles was officially decertified. Road signs were removed, along with its presence on maps.

While much of the original Route 66 has changed over time, with some sections having been usurped by the interstate system, nearly all of Illinois Route 66 is still traversable today. Illinois Route 66 was designated as a scenic byway by the United States Department of Transportation in 2005. The Byway is over 400 miles long and passes through 90 communities along the three alignments.

Communities along Illinois Route 66 have embraced the famous road and have worked to preserve their unique attractions. These cities and towns provide shopping, dining, lodging, amenities and other services





that make the trip a convenient one for the traveler. Though some iconic sites and personalities are no longer with us, the vibrancy of Route 66 continues to spawn new attractions, businesses, and entrepreneurs along the road.

Route 66 will turn 100 years old in 2026. That significant anniversary led Illinois to be the first state to introduce legislation to establish a State Route 66 Centennial Commission. This legislation was passed unanimously by the Illinois House and Senate and has been signed into law by the state Governor. In Congress, the Bill to establish the Federal Route 66 Centennial Commission was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives and Senate and signed into law by the President in December 2020.

Today, nostalgia for Route 66 is alive and well. In the following pages you will have the opportunity to retrace the steps of the Main Street of America in Illinois and prepare to discover America's Main Street for yourselves. Remember, the less rushed you are, the richer your experience will be. Illinois 66 has so much to offer.



Happy Travels!





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Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex



www.66motorheads.com



ABOUT MOTORHEADS

Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex is way more than a restaurant. It's an experience. It's a step back in time. It's a place to join family and friends to reminisce on old memories of Springfield and create new ones. Motorheads has made its home in the former Stuckeys Roadside Stop just off the original Route 66 Byway that ran thru Springfield. After many years of falling into despair, the property was transformed into a unique Illinois destination for locals and tourists alike. From the custom bar, complete with 18 taps mounted on rear ends of vintage cars, to the hundreds of unique signs and artifacts, top-notch service, and the delicious food & drink menu you're in for the coolest experience around! Motorheads is home to vintage car shows, bike events, live music in the huge four seasons event complex, and the largest Route 66 emblem/sign in the world. There is one thing for sure, nothing ever stays the same here!

600 Toronto Road | Springfield, Illinois 62711

(217) 679-7323 | Like Us on Facebook @66motorheads

Illinois Route 66 History Timeline

1921

The Federal Highway Act of 1921 is passed to create a national highway system through federal funding. In 1927, the National Highway System is formed.



1928

Dixie's Truckers Home is established in McLean, Illinois.



1932

The Standard Oil Station is built in Odell, Illinois.



1924

The route State Bond Issue 4 or SBI 4 is built from Chicago to St. Louis and becomes one of the best engineered links designated to create Route 66.

1926

On November 11, 1926, Route 66 is officially commissioned, beginning in Chicago, Illinois, and ending in Los Angeles, California. Since SBI 4 is replaced by Route 66, Illinois' section of the Mother Road is the first to be completely paved.

1927

Route 66 Highway Association is created, and the name "Main Street of America," is adopted.

1937

The Mar Theatre opens in Wilmington, Illinois.



1939

John Steinbeck gives Route 66 its charming nickname, “The Mother Road,” in his novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, where his fictional characters, the Joad family, head west along Route 66 in search of work.

1945

World War II ends and the age of the American road trip starts to take shape, leading countless vacationing families to flock to Route 66 as a means of travel.

1946

- American songwriter Bobby Troup, while on a road trip to California with his wife, pens the song (*Get Your Kicks On*) *Route 66*. The song was recorded by Nat King Cole in the same year.
- Jack D. Rittenhouse self publishes *A Guide Book to Highway 66*, the first guidebook of its kind.



1949

The Cozy Dog Drive-In is established on Route 66 in Springfield, Illinois.

1956

President Eisenhower, inspired by the German Autobahn, passes a law to



construct a new system of high-speed, limited-access, highways. Five new interstates (I-55, I-44, I-40, I-15, and I-10) replace Route 66.

1960

The TV show, *Route 66*, airs and runs for 116 episodes, starring Martin Milner and George Maharis.



1965

The Dari Delite restaurant in Wilmington, Illinois, is renamed the Launching Pad Drive-In and becomes home to the Gemini Giant.



1970

Nearly all segments of original Route 66 are bypassed by a modern four-lane highway.



1977

On January 17, 1977, the last Illinois Route 66 highway marker is taken down.

1985

On June 27, Route 66 is officially decommissioned.

1989

In October, the Route 66 Association of Illinois is formed in Dwight, Illinois.

1995

The Illinois Department of Transportation creates and places new Historic Route 66 signs on Illinois' section of Route 66, highlighting the different alignments in Illinois.

1999

Congress passes an act to create the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, which helps preserve the historic and iconic places along the Mother Road.

2005

Illinois' section of Route 66 is recognized as a National Scenic Byway by the United States Department of Transportation.

Experience and Explore



Joliet, Elwood, Wilmington,
Braidwood, Godley, Braceville,
Gardner, Dwight, Odell, Pontiac,
Chenoa, Lexington

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Signs on the Mother Road

Illinois Route 66 leads with some of the best mapped out Historic Route 66 Signage, to help you navigate the old road. So keep an eye out for them. Along with the road signage are strategically placed **Experience Hubs**, **Wayside Exhibits** and **Interpretive Statues** found in different communities along Illinois Route 66.

EXPERIENCE HUBS are nine-foot-tall Kiosks located in the communities of Berwyn, Romeoville, Joliet, Wilmington, Dwight, Pontiac, Bloomington, Normal, Lincoln, Springfield, Carlinville, Litchfield, Edwardsville and Chain of Rocks (Madison). Not only do they share the story of Route 66 in Illinois, but they guide you to the locations where those stories took place! At night these kiosks light up with the name of the host community.



Steppinstars

WAYSIDE EXHIBITS can be found in Berwyn, Countryside, Willowbrook, Romeoville, Dwight, Pontiac, Normal, Bloomington, Atlanta, Lincoln, Williamsville, Springfield, Virden, Carlinville, Litchfield, Staunton and Hamel. Each exhibit tells the unique story about that location and Route 66 and reflects the design elements of the 1940's and 50's automotive industry featuring streamlined shapes, angles and curves, chrome and neon of that era.



Steppinstars

INTERPRETIVE STATUES are two-dimensional iron statues depicting a famous scene from the history of Route 66 in Illinois in the communities of Pontiac, Elwood, Godley, McLean, Elkhart, Sherman, Benld, Gillespie and Staunton. Accompanying a corresponding wayside panel, these 'shadow statues' share the story of the Mother Road in a unique and fun way. They also serve as great photo opportunities.



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- Fall Festival and Trick-or-Treat
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Land of Giants

The idea that bigger is better is alive and well in Illinois Route 66. With each twist and turn, uncover roadside attractions that pack a big punch. From enormous 18-foot muffler men, to gigantic bottles, to gargantuan tricycles, you're sure to find something spectacularly big, culturally significant or downright oddball. So be ready for some pretty nifty Kodak moments and enjoy the ride!

Begin your giant adventure in **Wilmington** with the **Gemini Giant**, a 30-foot spaceman donning a green suit, silver helmet and holding a rocket with the words "Launching Pad" on it, an ode to the country's 1961 Gemini spaceflight program. Paying homage to this imposing titan, holding down the fort outside of the Launching Pad Drive In, has become a Route 66 road trip ritual. He is the most photographed of the muffler men, and the only surviving space version left. Over in the town of **Normal**, you'll find a 15-foot-tall "soda jerk" style muffler man named **Carl**. The smiling giant at Carl's Ice Cream Factory, the only ice cream store in Bloomington/Normal that makes its own premium hard ice cream, stands



illinoisroute66.org



Enjoy Illinois

proudly holding an ice cream cone in one hand and a hamburger in the other, clearly enticing travelers to give in to their hunger carvings.

Further south, the Mother Road takes you to another of these famous goliaths, the 19-foot **The Bunyon Giant** in super quaint **Atlanta**. This hotdog holding muffler man once peddled wares at Bunyon's Hot Dog Stand in Cicero (southwest of Chicago) before being relocated to Atlanta in 2003. Big Paul is on the ready to help nail that perfect photo op.

Give the kids a presidential history lesson at the **World's Largest Covered Wagon** in **Lincoln**. This 25-foot-tall and 40-foot-long Guinness Book of World Records qualifier, comes complete with a large statue of



Enjoy Illinois

Abraham Lincoln sitting on the front end, a law book in hand. Known as the Lincoln Railsplitter, the attraction was hand-built in 2001 and was moved from the town of Divernon to Lincoln in 2007. In **Springfield**, you'll want to track down the **Lauterbach Giant**, a 1962 muffler man who has advertised a variety of businesses in town, including a tire shop, a café and motel. Proudly holding an American flag (rather than the original tire), this bearded gent, who sits in front of Lauterbach Tire & Auto Service, has quite the storied past that includes surviving decapitation after a tornado blew through town in 2006.

Luckily, he was quickly restored to all his patriotic glory.

As you come to the end of Illinois Route 66, a stop at the whimsical **Pink Elephant Antique Mall** in Livingston is an absolute must. Get a 5-for-1 deal with the variety of huge statues all in one stop! Hang ten with the Giant Surfer, a Giant Tricycle, a **Giant Pink Elephant**, among others. You will also encounter a more recent addition: a massive former President Donald J. Trump statue realistically wearing a large red MAGA hat. And just because you are in the Land of Giants, you get the special treat of seeing one of the rare and unique **Uniroyal Girls**. With only a dozen or so left in the country, these first ladies of roadside attractions were allegedly modeled after Jackie Kennedy, and depending on the season, can be seen sporting a dress, bikini or in this case a waitress uniform. The last Illinois giant treasure stands tall in **Collinsville**, the **Giant Catsup Bottle** doubles as a 170-foot-tall water tower and is undeniably impressive. No matter which giant you spot, you're promised pure, nostalgic entertainment and rare photo opportunities for the whole family.



Rivers and Routes

Land of Classic Dining

Take your taste buds for a ride as you explore the Land of Classic Dining. From traditional diners and quirky cafes to amazing fine dining, Illinois' stretch of the Mother Road hosts some of the most treasured eateries on the highway.

Breakfast at **Lou Mitchell's** in **Chicago** has become a rite of passage before heading out west. The eatery's 1950's decor, zigzag shaped counter, and retro booths will time warp you back to a bygone era. For 98 years, Lou's has served up hearty meals, with a side of quirky tradition — milk duds for the ladies and donut holes for the gents.

Stop in at the **Berghoff Restaurant** for a look at the first ever Chicago Liquor License No. 1 which hangs proudly on one of the walls. With a legacy that goes back to the 1800s, this restaurant's historic ambiance with oak wood paneling, old fashioned light fixtures and indoor murals, reeks of old-world charm.

If you are looking for a taste of the “original Chicago hot dog,” otherwise known as the “depression dog” then step into **Henry's Drive-In** in **Cicero**. A former drive-through diner famous for its delicious french-fry topped

hotdog. However, if chicken is on your mind, then head over to **Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket** in **Willowbrook** for some of their world-famous slow-cooked chicken. Tracing its roots to a 1930s lunch counter, this current 1946 roadhouse offers sit down dining and a cocktail lounge.

The **Polk-A-Dot Drive** in **Braidwood** is a '50s-style diner right out of *American Graffiti*. Starting out as a food bus with polka dots in 1956, it has become a popular gem on Route 66 for its checkered floors and tabletop jukebox, root beer floats and chili cheese fries. For delicious country cooking in a family-oriented atmosphere and Route 66 flare, then the newly renovated **Old 66 Family Restaurant** in **Dwight** is the place to be. The front of a car is used as a hostess stand, supporting the road travel theme, while Mother Road memorabilia adorns their historic walls. You'll find an abundance of Route 66 history at the





Heritage Corridor

Old Log Cabin in **Pontiac**, from the almost 100-year-old building itself, to the regulars who frequent the cabin.

Slide yourself into one of the booths at the **Dixie Travel Plaza** in **McLean** and transport back to 1928. Originally called Dixie Truckers Home, the restaurant offers a long history of those who know the road and good food better than perhaps anyone: truckers.

The painted murals, low lighting, mismatched tables and chairs, and the exposed brick walls of the **Wild Hare Cafe**, in **Elkhart**, give

the perfect ambiance to enjoy the made from scratch, internationally inspired menu.

Experience an American fast-food treasure at the **Cozy Dog Drive-In** in **Springfield**, home of the “original” hot dog on a stick. The third generation Waldmire family-owned diner has been feeding hungry travelers since the 1940s. What began as a ‘crusty cur’ at 15 cents, has become a true Mother Road royalty. If you’re in the mood for a finer dining establishment in the state capital, check out **Maldaner’s**, opened over a hundred years ago in 1884. Here you can enjoy chef-prepared meals inspired by Mediterranean influences, in a historical setting.

The bright neon **Ariston Cafe** sign in **Litchfield** will beckon you to stop at this eatery that is considered one of the oldest restaurants in operation along the Mother Road. The booths, counter seating, and white linen cloth covered tables attest to the cafe’s rich history, tradition, and place in the town’s narrative.



John Smith

Land of Vintage Gas Stations

At a point in time, family-owned filling stations dotted the American landscape, and they weren't just for fuel. These drive-in gas stations helped usher in the golden age of American automobiles. Although generally not in service anymore, these historic roadside staples that dot Illinois Route 66 are a reflection of America's transportation revolution and offer an opportunity to soak in the allure of a bygone era.



Kevin Ealinger

Start your exploration at the **Ambler's Texaco Station in Dwight**, a spot that serves as both the literal and metaphorical welcome center to the nostalgia that you are looking for. Built in 1933 and consisting of an office with an arched roof and a sheltering canopy extending over three gas pumps, the restored gas station stands as one of the oldest continually operated service stations along Route 66. Browse through the displays of old cash registers, historic automotive memorabilia, and tools from the 66 years that it serviced motorists, including a fully restored Model-T, Dwight's first fire truck.

Just down the road in **Odell**, relish in the history and authenticity of the **Odell Standard Oil Station**. Built in 1932 and based on the 1916 Standard Oil of Ohio design, with a garage and service bay added in the late 1940s, the station sold gas until the 1960s, but ended up closing for good in the

1970s, eventually falling into disrepair. But the station was so beloved by the local community that the town (along with the help of several committees and associations), decided to restore it to its



Kevin Ealinger



original grandeur, allowing for the icon to remain today.

The cottage-like facade and bright yellow Shell pumps of the **Soulsby Service Station** in **Mount Olive** are a time capsule of an era of customer service that today seems quaint. Built in 1926 by Henry and Russell Soulsby, the Shell station stopped serving gas in 1991 and closed its doors for good in 1993. However, under new ownership, the station has been impeccably restored to look essentially the same as it did during its prime in post-World War II. It remains one of the most photographed stations on the entire highway.

At the 1931 **Sprague's Super Service Station** in **Normal**, you'll find an architectural rarity in the distinctive brick Tudor Revival structure that is now the area's visitor's center. Constructed by William W. Sprague, the beautiful manor-style building with its red-gabled roofline, once housed a cafe, garage and gas station selling Cities Service gas, while the upstairs served as living quarters for the owner and gas attendant. During the 1940s, the building and plot changed hands a couple of times and the gas pumps were eventually removed in 1979. The building was purchased in 2006 and painstakingly restored to its original

glory and stands as the only Tudor Revival canopy gas station in the State of Illinois.

In bustling **Springfield**, you will find the historic 14x14 foot **Mahan's Phillips 66 Filling Station** on display at Fulgenzi's Pizza & Pasta. Believed to date back to the 1920s, it was bought by Henry Mahan who moved it to Middletown before

World War II, where for six decades, he ran it as a Phillips 66 Station. Back then it was white in color, with a big canopy, and a pre-electric gas pump with a big glass globe at the top. Mahan eventually closed the station in the mid-1950s, and there it stayed as storage space until it was purchased by Bill Shea Sr. who brought it back to Springfield as the main attraction at his **Shea's Gas Station Museum** and restored it to its faded splendor, complete with original colors and artifacts from the days when it was operating. When Shea passed in 2013, his collection was auctioned off, including the station which was bought by local entrepreneur Jeff Fulgenzi. Today, this preserved handsome structure, rumored to be one of the earliest gas stations in Illinois, serves as a roadside novelty and a great photo opportunity or souvenir spot for any traveler.



EAT. DRINK. SHOP. STAY. EXPLORE.

LEXINGTON

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NORTHERN SECTION

Illinois Route 66 glides easily through the state with over 400 miles of Historic Route 66, and through charming communities, each with something unique and interesting to see. The Northern section meanders evenly from the hustle and bustle of downtown **Chicago** across **Joliet, Wilmington, Braidwood, Godley, Gardner, Dwight, Odell** and finally to the quaint town of **Pontiac**, melding a bustling urban scene with robust history, classic Americana, and outdoor adventure.

CHICAGO

Traditionally, the Route 66 starting point is here, on the shores of Lake Michigan. The Windy City has a rich and complex history that includes the devastating Great Chicago Fire and the rebuilding of the city, to its speakeasy past during the Prohibition years where Route 66 began to play a significant role. Start your epic trip at the **Historic Route 66 Begin Sign** on East Adams Street, then grab the 'world's finest coffee' at the iconic **Lou Mitchell's Restaurant**.

illinoisroute66



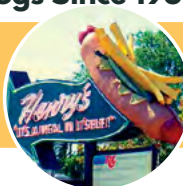
Henry's Drive-In

Henry's Drive-In is a Route 66 must-stop located on Ogden Avenue in Cicero. They are famous for their Chicago-style hot dogs, and the beautiful Giant Hot Dog Topped with Fries neon sign at the location. Henry's has been in business since the 1950s.

Famous for Hot Dogs Since 1950!

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 henrys66.com



NORTHERN SECTION

The Mother Road maneuvers through the Chicago suburbs of **Cicero**, home of **Henry's Drive-In**, through **Berwyn**, host of the annual **Berwyn Route 66 Show**, and the **Berwyn's Toys & Trains**, where you can operate a giant train set, then through **Countryside** and **Willowbrook**. Increased war time traffic resulted in various alignments including the original 1920s two-lane highway from **Joliet to Wilmington**, which was replaced with a 1930s four-lane divided highway through **Plainfield** and **Channahon**, that later became I-55.

PLAINFIELD & CHANNAHON

If taking the 1930s route, you will want to stroll through **Historic Downtown Plainfield** which is on the National Register of Historic Places and enjoy the beautiful historic architecture and **Waterfront Trails**.

Another site to see is **Warehouse:109**, an event venue whose gallery of antique motorcycles, vintage bar and a 1958 Airstream are an ode to classic Americana. And if you really want to get out in nature, check out the **Channahon State Park** in **Channahon**, an Indian name meaning “meeting of the waters” of the DuPage, Des Plaines and Kankakee rivers. Established in 1932, the 21-acre park which is the official trailhead for the **Illinois & Michigan Canal State Trail** checks all the outdoorsman boxes with camping, canoeing, fishing, picnicking and trail access.



Anatoly Evdokimov



Little1889



Did You Know?

Downtown Plainfield hosts a unique shared alignment of **Route 66 (Highway 59)** and the **Lincoln Highway (Highway 30)** that traverses three blocks in the downtown district (Division Street between Main Street & Joliet Road).



Illinoisroute66.org

JOLIET

Make your first stop the **Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center**, and take in their impressive (and free!) Route 66 Experience exhibit. History buffs will appreciate a tour of the **Old Joliet Prison**, once home to some noteworthy felons like Leopold and Speck, and film location for “The Blues Brothers” with fictional criminal, “Joliet Jake” Blues. Ooh and aah at the grandeur of the **Rialto Square Theatre** whose beauty is next to none and shares the same birth year as the Mother Road. Then linger with some musical history at the **Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66**. Through artifacts, jam sessions and vinyl listening stations, it honors and celebrates the musical contributions of Illinois to the world. Sweet tooth cravings? Head to the **Rich & Creamy** ice cream shop that has stood on this same spot for almost 50 years and where Jake and Elwood Blues replicas dance atop the roof. A refreshing walk through the **Kicks on 66 Park**, which overlooks the Joliet Prison, will leave you energized to keep motoring on.

❗ **Don't Miss:** The 6-foot tall **Route 66 Number & Shield Installment** outside the Welcome Center in Joliet that makes for the perfect selfie shot.

Heritage Corridor CVB



Heritage Corridor CVB



NORTHERN SECTION

WILMINGTON

The **Gemini Giant**, one of the highway's most iconic fiberglass Muffler Men is a right of Route 66 passage, before you journey on to the **Historic Water Street Shopping District**, where retail shops, including the **Route 66 Antiques** with its array of unique collectables will have you shopping to your heart's content. Wilmington's very own **Mar Theatre** lit up its dazzling marquee for the first time in 1937, and continues to this day to offer locals and travelers the chance to watch films in a lavish, comfortable theatre. Be sure to check out the iconic green **Sinclair Dinosaur** statue perched atop an old 1963 Sinclair service station on 205 E Baltimore Street.

✓ Don't Miss: The green **Sinclair Dinosaur** statue perched atop an old 1963 Sinclair service station on 205 E Baltimore Street.

Travel Tip: The **Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve**, has nearly 9,000 acres and 33 miles of trails for biking, hiking, dog walking and horseback riding.



Launching Pad Drive In Facebook



John Smith



John Smith



Antranias

BRAIDWOOD

If you are looking for quirky and kitschy, plan to pay a visit to the **Braidwood Zoo**, a collection of weird and wacky art sculptures by the late Jack Barkers and a fun photo op. The **Polk-A-Dot Drive-In**, which started out with original owner Chester “Chet” Fife serving fast food out of his school bus in 1956, is a classic throwback to the 1950s with its spinning neon sign, booth seating, diner fare and rock and roll nostalgia represented by playful statues of Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and the Blues Brothers.



Astur

GODLEY & GARDNER

Blink and you will miss them, these small communities have their share of treasures to uncover, including the **Illinois Route 66 Mining Museum**, in Godley that tells the stories of miners who worked along Illinois Route 66. In Gardner, the 1906 historic **Two Cell Jail** will give you a taste of a confined life behind bars while you listen to an audio narration of its history. The restored **Historic Streetcar Diner**, originally created in 1932, from an early 20th century Kankakee streetcar, was transformed into a playhouse and cottage in 1937. Today, guests can peer into its history, replete with diner themed furniture and a colorful mural of a kitchen and chef on the back wall.



John Smith

❗ **Don't Miss: The Coca Cola House.** Known as **The Shop on Route 66** this bright-red, one-story building takes the love of the soft drink to a whole new level. Operating as Perkins Wood and Glass shop, it is brimming with Coke memorabilia making it an Americana stop at its best.



John Smith

NORTHERN SECTION

DWIGHT

Home to many heritage attractions, Dwight's **Route 66 Visitor Center** is no exception, occupying the 1933 restored **Ambler's Texaco Gas Station**, which is considered the longest running gas station on the Mother Road. History enthusiasts should check out the town's **Historic Depot**, built in 1891, as well as the historic **John R. Oughton House**, now The Country Mansion & Garden Room, once home of a co-founder of the Keeley Institute. The tall, five-story **Oughton Estate Windmill**, built in 1896 to pump water for the estate, still stands impressively nearby. Enjoy tasty home cooked meals whose recipes have been passed down through three generations at the newly renovated **Old Route 66 Family Restaurant**.



Gimias



Heritage Corridor CVB

ODELL

Journey back in time at the restored 1932 **Standard Oil Station** whose blue roof, swinging Standard Oil sign and architectural design harken back to its glory days. Also of interest is the now-filled **Odell Subway Tunnel**, created in 1937 it provided pedestrians safe passage beneath the very busy Route 66 of the late '30s to early '40s.



Kevin Entinger



nps.gov



Don't Miss: The restored **Meramec Caverns Barn** or Cayuga Barn, about 600 feet from the Mother Road in **Cayuga**. A nostalgic remnant of 1930s Meramec Caverns advertising campaign.

PONTIAC

Pontiac exudes small-town charm at its best where the history of the community is preserved in the treasure trove of museums, murals, outdoor art, historic homes and a charming downtown that invites you to browse through the unique shops and restaurants. The **Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum**, housed in a historic firehouse, is a place you can spend a couple of hours soaking in the history of the Mother Road. It is also home to the iconic **Volkswagen Bus** belonging to the late Route 66 personality, Bob Waldmire, and the **Livingston County War Museum**. Follow the **Blue Directional Footprints** signs painted on the sidewalk to discover the **Museum of the Gilding Arts** and the **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum**. To uncover the town's life-like **24 Outdoor Wall Murals** including the popular **Route 66 Shield Mural** just follow the **Red Footprint Signs**.

! Don't Miss: The **Old Log Cabin**, a rustic shrine to American comfort food. It hasn't changed much since it first opened in 1926 as a roadside lunchroom and gas station.



Adam Alexander



Adam Alexander



Grimas



Grimas

NORTHERN SECTION

The pride of downtown Pontiac is the **Livingston County Courthouse** which dates back to 1841 when the first wooden one was constructed. The current and third courthouse, built in 1875, flaunts marvelous architecture and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. While here, take the challenge and unearth the **Pontiac Art Cars**, an outdoor seasonal art display of 15 uniquely decorated miniature '57 Chevs and pickup trucks that dot the downtown shopping area. Be sure to enjoy a relaxing stroll at the **Humiston-Riverside Park** which is the location of one of Pontiac's three pedestrian **Swinging Bridges**, each of which cross the Vermilion River and offer serene views.



Did You Know?

Pontiac is the only city in central Illinois with three swinging bridges.

Don't Miss:

● Participate in the **Pontiac Charm Trail** and collect one-of-a-kind momentos at participating retail stores. A unique way to commemorate your trip.



Efren Lopez



Efren Lopez



John Smith

✓ **Travel Tip:** Nature and outdoor aficionados looking to hit the trails, indulge in some fishing or explore on canoe will love the **Humiston Woods Nature Center**, a 335 acre hardwood forest and eight-acre restored prairie along the Vermilion River.

MUST STOPS



- Begin/End Route 66 Signs East, Chicago
- Lou Mitchell's Restaurant and Bakery, Chicago
- Henry's Drive-In, Cicero
- Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket, Willowbrook
- Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center, Joliet
- Rich & Creamy, Joliet
- Old Joliet Prison (Collins Street Prison), Joliet
- Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet
- Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66, Joliet
- The Launching Pad Drive-in Restaurant/Gemini Giant, Wilmington
- Historic Water Street Shopping District, Wilmington
- Mar Theatre, Wilmington
- Sinclair Dinosaur, Wilmington
- Polk-A-Dot Drive-In, Braidwood
- Braidwood Zoo, Braidwood
- The Two Cell Jail and Christiansen Memorial, Gardner
- Historic Streetcar Diner, Gardner
- Ambler's Texaco Gas Station, Dwight
- Standard Oil Gasoline Station, Odell
- Meramec Caverns Barn, Cayuga
- Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, Pontiac
- Murals on Main Street Tour, Pontiac
- Miniature Cars through Downtown, Pontiac

For a complete list of Attractions, see the Directory at the end of the guide or visit illinoisroute66.org

CENTRAL SECTION

Welcome to the Central Section of Illinois Route 66, famously known as the Land of Lincoln, offering the perfect balance of history, small town charm, and big town conveniences. Flanked by corn and soybean fields, the Mother Road follows through the tiny towns of **Chenoa**, **Lexington**, and **Towanda**, then zig zags through the bustling town of **Bloomington/Normal**. From here, it traces peacefully through **Shirley**, **McLean**, **Atlanta**, **Lincoln**, **Broadwell**, **Elkhart**, **Williamsville**, and **Sherman** before heading straight to the state capital, **Springfield**.

CHENOA

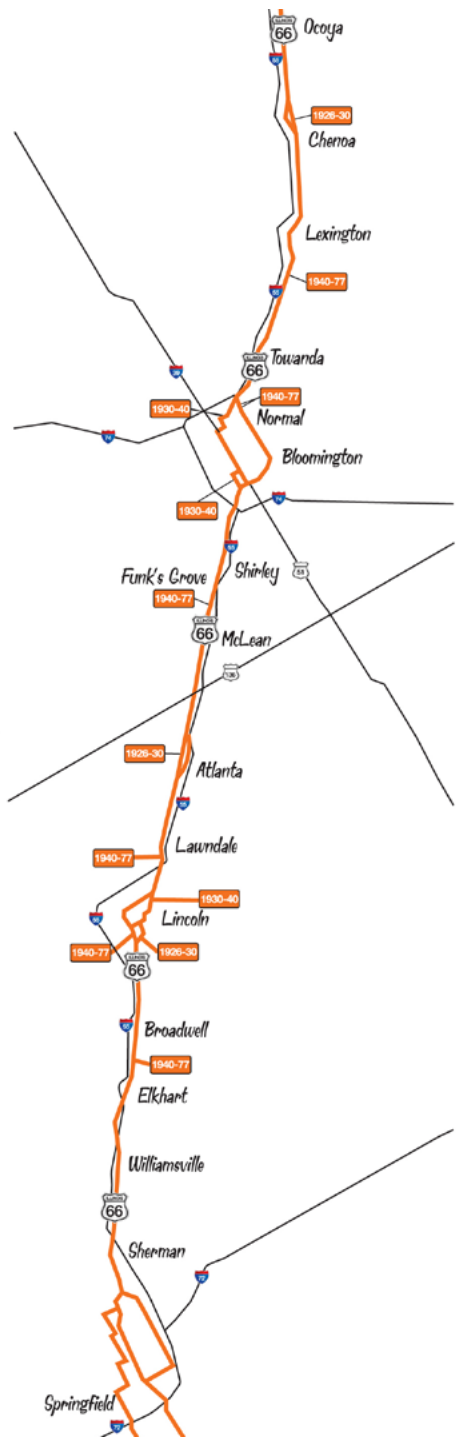
The sleepy village of **Chenoa** has made use of its retired, section of Route 66 by turning it into the **Chenoa Route 66 Prairie Trail**. This three-mile stretch features exhibits and information about Route 66. An abandoned 1926-30 segment off of Moorehead and Cemetery roads, is part of the pavement listed on the National Register of Historical Places and offers the perfect opportunity to see and experience an old alignment of the Mother Road. The **Quaint Downtown** showcases the **Chenoa Pharmacy**, one of the longest running businesses in the area, having first opened in 1889. Be sure to check out the historic **Matthew T. Scott House**, originally built in 1855 by the noted agriculturalist, son of a Kentucky banker and founder of the town.



Tom Lohr



Logan Bush



CENTRAL SECTION

LEXINGTON

Enjoy a serene stroll back in time on **Memory Lane**, the one-mile strip of original pavement, lined with Burma Shave Signs and vintage billboards, that served as Route 66 until the 1940s. Then, follow the 1940s **Neon Arrow Sign** to the **Picturesque Downtown**. Grab a bite at **Uncle Vait's**, a friendly eatery in a historic building and then find the 11-foot-tall scrap metal **Crazy Presidential Elephant** statue for an Instagram worthy photo op. Check out the restored 20 x 20 **John Patton's Cabin** located in the **Lexington Pool Park**. Patton who first settled here in 1829 is credited with the development of the town.

TOWANDA

Experience the infamous **Dead Man's Curve**, a sharp, treacherous curve that took speeding drivers by surprise and many to their fatal ends. Then walk the **Towanda Route 66 Parkway**. At 3.5 miles, it is the longest and most developed of the Route 66 trails in northeast McLean County. Adorned with murals, maps and Burma Shave signs,



Eddie J. Rodriguez



illinoisroute66.org


it takes you on a geographical journey through the eight Route 66 states.



John Smith

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

Route 66 snakes through the town of **Normal**, past **Ryburn Place**, formerly a **1931 Sprague's Super Service Station and Cafe**, now restored as an information center and gift shop. In downtown Bloomington, start off at the **McLean County Museum of History** and "**Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66**" **Visitors Center**. Housed in the **Historic Copper Domed Courthouse** that dates back to 1903, the museum features seven exhibit galleries that showcase the history of McLean County and surrounding areas. Even though it no longer exists, history buffs will appreciate a trip to the location of the **Original Steak N' Shake**, which was opened back in 1934, as well as a stop at the **David Davis Mansion State Historic Site**, a Victorian home that was built in 1872 for US Supreme Court Justice David Davis, friend and mentor to Abraham Lincoln. **Miller Park**, complete with a zoo, an artificial lake, two war memorials, and a preserved steam locomotive, or the **Grady's Family Fun Park**, a 5.5-acre entertainment complex, are definite hits with both adults and kids, as is the **Children's Discovery Museum**. The **Normal Theatre** first opened in 1937, and the **Castle Theatre** first established in 1916 in downtown Bloomington will captivate your imagination with their bright, flashing neon marquees. Still up for more adventure? Stop in at the **Prairie Aviation Museum** and check out their collection of preserved aircraft and revolving aviation exhibits and memorabilia.

 **Did You Know?** Bloomington is the hometown of actor McLean Stevenson who played Colonel Blake in the 1970s hit sitcom *M*A*S*H*. It is also here, in 1937 that Beer Nuts were first created and are still produced by the **Beer Nuts Factory and Company Store**.

Kevin Eathingier



Simone Williams



illinoisroute66.org



CENTRAL SECTION

SHIRLEY/FUNKS GROVE

Encompassing about a thousand acres of trees, **Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup Farm** is a beloved sweet stop that offers **Pure Maple Sirup**, historic buildings, and lush virgin forest. Watch as the maples are tapped and see the sap turned into sirup, a Funk family tradition that dates back to 1824. Indulge in some contemplative respite among the towering trees at the serene **Chapel of the Tampled Trees**. The nearby **Funks Grove Church and Cemetery** offers a glimpse into the area's history. Just down the road is the **Sugar Grove Nature Center**, which offers five miles of walking trails, interpretive exhibits, live animals, and a wildlife viewing room.



Funks Grove

McLEAN

This quiet community is home to the historic **Dixie Truck Stop**, possibly the very first truck stop on Route 66. First opened in 1928 by J.P. Walters and John Geske, in a mechanic's garage with a single counter cafe and barstools, the truck stop has grown over the decades, but continues its old-fashioned, all-American eatery vibe with true southern hospitality. Check out the model railroad displays at the **McLean Depot Train Shop/A Home on the Road Interpretive Statue**, located in the restored old **GM&O, Alton Route depot**. And don't miss the fun **Arcadia Museum**, which is chock-full of 70+ playable arcade machines to enjoy.



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Did You Know? **Funks Grove Nature Preserve** is an 18-acre tract of land within the larger Funks Grove and is one of the largest remnants of virgin forest in Illinois.

Travel Tip: There is a Route 66 Mural commemorating Wesley “Shorty” Ruble, a beloved McLean barber, and a Bench with cutouts of a man, child, and dog in downtown McLean that makes a fine photo op!

ATLANTA

A towering **Smiley Face Water Tower**, the concessional result of a squabble over which baseball team (Cubs or Cardinals) would be painted on the tower, beckons you to stop at this quaint town. **The Bunyon Giant**, a 19-foot tall Muffler Man statue holding a hot dog, stands guard over Atlanta's main drag, and the **Palms Grill Cafe** – once a greyhound bus stop that has been lovingly restored to its circa 1934 appearance. A hidden gem, the **Route 66 Memories Museum & Shop** exhibits antiques, signs, memorabilia, and a Rolls-Royce that will evoke a strong sense of nostalgia. For some gaming utopia, check out the **Route 66 Arcade Museum** which has an array of classic games from the 1930s-1970s, some of which you can still play! Don't miss the **Atlanta Public Library**, which has operated continuously as a library since its establishment in 1908. Its unique 40-foot stone tower houses a 1909 Seth Thomas clock that is still being wound by hand each week.



Did You Know?

The Atlanta Public Library, with its gilded rotunda and eight symmetrical sides, is Illinois' only octagonal-shaped public library.

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Kevin EATINGER





catloverforever

Famously, the first town in the country named after Abe Lincoln before he became president. A 2-foot-long **Watermelon Monument** commemorates when he christened the town with the fruit's juice in 1853. The 1865 **Lincoln College**, the only college named after the famous President while he was still alive is home to the **Lincoln Heritage Museum**, where you can trace the life and work of Lincoln as a traveling circuit riding lawyer. The entire **Historic Downtown** is on the National Register of Historic Places and its streets and buildings are steeped in history, including the **Logan County Courthouse**. The majestic dome structure, built in 1905, is still active today. Other sites to see are the **World's Largest Covered Wagon**. Published in the Guinness Book of World Records it has a giant statue of Abraham Lincoln in the driver's seat, law book in hand. Stop by the **Mill Museum on Route 66**, a red and white Dutch-themed building, complete with windmill, that originally opened in 1929 as the Blue Mill Restaurant



Henryk Sadura

and is now a museum, showcasing Route 66 artifacts and original memorabilia.

BROADWELL

The tiny village of Broadwell, home of the famous **Pig Hip Restaurant**. The restaurant served travelers on old Route 66 from 1937 to 1991. Today, all that remains is the original sign and a memorial plaque, a reminder of what once was, and a great photo op.

ELKHART

In addition to a classic, old-timey **Main Street**, Elkhart is also home to the **Wild Hare Cafe**, a delightful eatery housed in a former 1892 bank building. Enjoy made-from-scratch comfort food inspired by the owners' international past. Then, browse the eclectic **Horsefeathers Antiques & Gift Shop** onsite. You may just find that quirky souvenir that you've been looking for! Head up to scenic **Elkhart Hill**, the highest elevation in Central Illinois at 777 feet above sea level. This ancient hill covers almost 700 acres and is deeply rooted in the town's history. The **St. John the Baptist Chapel** – located inside the wooded and serene 1874 **Elkhart Cemetery** – was built in 1890 by Lemira Parke Gillett in memory of her husband John Dean Gillett and is one of the few remaining Culver buildings in the area. While here, take in the picturesque concrete **Gillett Memorial Arch Bridge** which was commissioned by former Illinois first lady Emma Gillett Oglesby in 1915, and served to connect the cemetery to the grounds of Oglesby estate.

Travel Tip: The **Elkhart Historic Route 66 Wall Mural**, located on the side of Horsefeathers Antique Shop building, is a 36-feet by 8-feet hand painted mural that represents the history of the village and the Mother Road.



John Smith



Randy Von Liski



CENTRAL SECTION

WILLIAMSVILLE AND SHERMAN

Stroll through the **Historic Downtown** and check out the **Interpretive Signs**, depicting the town's interesting past. The **Williamsville Historical Museum**, built from two railroad boxcars, showcases the town's railroad roots. The **Old Station**, a 1930's service station – still a work in progress – exudes plenty of old school flavor with its vintage signs, bright yellow gas pumps plus a resident guardian, a **Sinclair Dinosaur** statue. Be sure to stop at the **Route 66 Multi-Directional Sign**, a



John Smith

great photo op that pays homage to the international appeal of the Mother Road. Then, time warp back in time at the **Carpenter Park Route 66 Pavement in Sherman** which is host to an abandoned stretch of early Route 66 (1926–1936), along the eastern border of Carpenter Park.

SPRINGFIELD

As the capital of Illinois since 1837, Springfield holds a rich history with strong ties to Route 66, having more Mother Road attractions than anywhere else in Illinois. The old road meanders right through the heart of the city, which has throngs of things to see and do. No two days here are the same when you explore everything it has to offer. Kick off your adventure by picking up a **Living Legends Passport** at the



Paul Brady Photography

Springfield Visitors Center and get to meet Route 66 local business owners face-to-face.

For a step back in time, the iconic **Cozy Dog Drive-In** will push your nostalgia buttons in all the right ways. Owned and operated by third generation Waldmire family, this retro eatery has been serving the famous ‘Cozy Dog’ for over 70 years. You will also want to check out one of the coolest watering holes on the Mother Road, the **Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex**. More than just offering one of a kind dining and entertainment experience, this venue is also home to the **World’s Largest Outdoor Route 66 Sign**, and has an extensive display of memorabilia from bygone Route 66 landmarks, motor racing, and Springfield history. Be warned, you could spend a lot of time here.

 **Did You Know? Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex** sits on what was once a Stuckey’s and has the original 10 by 30-foot sign on exhibit.

Visit Springfield



Visit Springfield



Visit Springfield



CENTRAL SECTION

Fancy dining literally on the Mother Road? Then head to **Maldaner's Restaurant** whose outside patio seating is set out on actual old Route 66 pavement. For a true blast from the past, cruise to the 1920s **Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop**, an original old-school diner believed to be the oldest sandwich shop in continuous operation in Springfield, and the first drive-through restaurant in the country! Any self-respecting "sign geek" must check out the **Ace Sign Company Sign Museum**, a 75+-year-old, fourth generation business with a collection of over 85 historic signs from Springfield and Route 66 including the ethereal **Bel-Aire Sputnik Sign** that once graced the Belaire Motel. Don't miss the **Route 66 Drive In Theater**, an American classic that was first opened in 1974, and of course the towering giant of Springfield, the **Lauterbach Muffler Man** in front of Lauterbach Tire and Auto Service. Your Route 66 experience in



Visit Springfield



Ace Sign Company

Springfield isn't complete until you visit the **Route History** where you get to learn about the Black American experience along Historic Route 66 and in the city of Springfield.



illinoisroute66.org

LOOKING FOR LINCOLN

For Abraham Lincoln fans, it doesn't get any better than Springfield. The epitome of the Land of Lincoln, Springfield takes the love of America's most beloved president, who lived, worked and raised his family here for many years, to a whole new level. For starters, take in the experiential **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum**, where the life of Lincoln from boyhood to his presidency and assassination, truly comes alive with state-of-the-art special effects. **Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site**, the **Lincoln Home National Historic Site**, the only home that Lincoln ever owned, and the **Lincoln Tomb**, where he and his family rest, will give you insights into the man, husband, and father that he was. Still want more Lincoln? Then the picturesque **Old State Capitol** where he made his famous House Divided speech and the **Lincoln Depot**, where he gave his final address before heading to Washington, are a must-visit.

Travel Tip: The **Abe's Hat Hunt Explorer Passport** leads you on a scavenger hunt to locate Lincoln's hidden hats in 12 Lincoln historic sites and attractions throughout Springfield.




Visit Springfield



Visit Springfield

CENTRAL SECTION

For history buffs, Springfield is a treasure trove of cultural, historical and educational sites with a wealth of exhibits, archives and artifacts. Learn about the challenges and triumphs of the military history of Illinois at the **Illinois State Military Museum**. Housed in a historic stone building, the museum tells the story of the Illinois National Guard through military vehicles, weapons and artifacts of Illinois soldiers exhibits. Included is a display of the artificial leg of Mexico's General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the "Napoleon of the West," which was captured by soldiers of the 4th Illinois Infantry. Another destination-worthy museum is the **Illinois State Museum** which tells the story of the land, life, people, and art of Illinois through extensive permanent and temporary exhibits. If architectural history is of interest to you then check out the **Elijah Iles House**. Built in 1837, by one of the founders of the city, it houses the **Museum of Springfield History** on the lower level. **Edwards Place**, the oldest house in Springfield on its original foundation and the **Dana-Thomas House**, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1902 for Susan Lawrence Dana, a Springfield socialite are sure to also delight. Uncover the stories about African-American life in Central Illinois, at the **Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum**, another intriguing stop.

 **Did You Know?** Located in the old town square, the historic **Greek Revival Old State Capitol** building served as the seat of state government from 1839-1876. It was here that Lincoln delivered his famous "House Divided" speech in 1858.



Visit Springfield



Teemu08



Naimafisse

MUST STOPS



- Route 66 Memory Lane, Lexington
- Neon Arrow Sign, Lexington
- Illinois Route 66 Parkway, Towanda
- Dead Man's Curve, Towanda
- Ryburn Place at Sprague's Super Service, Normal
- Carl's Ice Cream, Normal
- McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington
- "Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66" Visitor Center, Bloomington
- Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup, Funks Grove
- Sugar Grove Nature Center, Funks Grove
- Dixie Family Restaurant, McLean
- Paul Bunyon Statue, Atlanta
- Smiley Face Water Tower, Atlanta
- Route 66 Arcade Museum, Atlanta
- Route 66 Memories Museum & Shop, Atlanta
- Public Library & Clock Tower, Atlanta
- The Tropics Restaurant Neon Sign, Lincoln
- Railsplitter Covered Wagon, Lincoln
- The Mill Museum on 66, Lincoln
- Pig Hip Marker & Sign, Broadwell,
- Elkhart Historic Route 66 Wall Mural, Elkhart
- The Wild Hare Cafe, Elkhart
- John P. Gillett Memorial Bridge, Elkhart
- The Old Station, Williamsville
- Williamsville Railroad Depot and Box Cars, Williamsville
- Cozy Dog Drive-In, Springfield
- Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill & Museum, Springfield
- Route 66 Drive In Theater, Springfield
- Lauterbach Giant, Springfield
- Mahan's Filling Station at Fulgenzi's, Springfield
- Route History, Springfield

For a complete list of Attractions, see the Directory at the end of the guide or visit illinoisroute66.org

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Journey along the famous Illinois Route 66 in Logan County! See the World's Largest Covered Wagon, museums and many more roadside attractions. Experience the Legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Ride on America's road. All of this and more in Logan County where our great history began and your adventure is waiting.

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museum.lincolncollege.edu

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ROUTE 66 MONARCH FLYWAY

bit.ly/Rt66MonarchFlyway



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway



The Route 66 Monarch Flyway

The Route 66 Monarch Flyway, which the Illinois Monarch Project debuted on November 18th, 2020, is a 66-mile-wide corridor that stretches from Chicago to St. Louis across the state of Illinois. The project is seeking to bring the unique aspect of Route 66 to Illinois' efforts to help the monarch butterfly by planting native wildflowers and restoring habitat projects within the corridor. One of the goals of this effort is to bring together all aspects of life in Illinois, which are represented in the four sectors of the Illinois Monarch Project (IMP) – Urban, Agriculture, Rights-of-Ways and Natural Lands. The IMP collaborates with public and private partners, in addition to individuals across the state, to protect and enhance existing habitat and establish new habitat that supports monarch butterflies and other pollinators.

Do You Want to Start an Initiative or Do You Have Questions?

Geoff Ladd

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
Assistant Director
gladd@illinoisroute66.org

Susan Helm

Master Gardener and
Master Naturalist
(217) 502-3992
susan.helm@comcast.net



bit.ly/Rt66MonarchFlyway

SOUTHERN SECTION

Welcome to the southern and final section of Illinois Route 66. Due to population growth and road development, sections of Route 66 underwent constant changes over the years, ranging from widening to rerouting, including in this stretch. From **Springfield**, the Mother Road traversed along Illinois Route 4 to **Stanton** from 1926-1930 while the official Route 66 was being built to the west. This alignment snakes through the hearts of **Chatham, Auburn, Thayer, Virden, Girard, Nilwood, Carlinville, Gillespie, Benld** and onto **Stanton**. These towns endure as cherished gems that evoke a sense of genuine small-town America and are more than worth a visit. The western alignment was in service from 1930-1940. The final alignment was built in 1940 as a four lane highway that morphed into Interstate 55 after Route 66 was decommissioned. Towns included along the later alignments and in the Metro East area include **Glenarm, Divernon, Farmersville, Litchfield, Mt. Olive, Livingston, Hamel, Edwardsville, Troy, Glenarm, Collinsville, Fairmount City, Mitchell, Granite City** and the original Mississippi River crossing at **Chain of Rocks Bridge** in **Madison**.

CHATHAM AND AUBURN

Take a glimpse into the golden age of train travel at the **Chatham Depot & Railroad Museum**. Built in 1902, this restored station preserves the area's railroad history. While here, stop in at the **Sangamo Brewing and Breweriana Museum**, a full bar and craft brewery that nods to the history of vintage breweriana from downstate Illinois. Hopheads will appreciate the extensive collection of vintage beer advertisements and paraphernalia on



Sangamo Brewing

display. Then, follow one of Illinois 66's most popular detours, the **Historic Brick Road** at Snell and Curran Roads in **Auburn**. Dating back to 1931, this original, hand-laid stretch (close to

a mile long), with gentle curves and surrounded by corn fields, is testimony that it's not just what's along the Mother Road that creates memories, but the road itself.



David P. Smith



SOUTHERN SECTION

GLENARM

This tiny village is home to the 60-foot **Sugar Creek Covered Bridge**. Not only picturesque, this 1880 Burr truss bridge is the only one of its kind remaining in Sangamon County and is open to foot traffic. If you are craving some outdoor time, then you are in the perfect spot. Grab a blanket and enjoy a picnic respite in the serene park adjacent to the bridge. While in town, why not check out the **Corvair Museum**? It pays tribute to the varieties of Chevrolet Corvair and has rotating exhibits that are sure to thrill motor enthusiasts and novices alike.



John Smith

DIVERNON

For a feel of this quiet community — a once roaring mining town that was the second largest town in Sangamon County, thanks to a thriving coal production (the Madison Coal Mine Number 6) — check out the **Rusty Star Marketplace & Route 66 Welcome Center**. It is home to 80 small business shops under one roof. The restored **Historic Divernon Train Depot & Museum** preserves the town's past as one of four depots on the Springfield to Litchfield line. Stop in at **Tammi's Treasures Antiques & More** which, with over 75 booths, offers a varied inventory of merchandise, all under one roof. From antiques to furniture and everything else in between, there is something for everyone.

! **Don't Miss The Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways** in **Waggoner/Raymond**. The statue of Mother Mary, imported from Italy and installed in 1959 “to honor (the Virgin) Mary and ask her assistance guiding travelers on their way.”



illinoisroute66.org




illinoisroute66.org

THAYER AND VIRDEN

It doesn't get any smaller town than **Thayer**, which elicits a 'middle of nowhere' aura. Get a taste of 'real' America at **Mick's & Mary's**, known to serve some of the best home cooking around. Another happening place in town is the **Pudock's Hideout - Bar & Grill**, whose period themed menu items such as 'Gangster Wings', 'Capone Burger' or 'Route 66 Shoes' are enough to pull you in.

A visit to **Virden** starts at the **Town Square and Central Park** where you will find the **1898 Battle of Virden Monument**, a detailed bronze mural that immortalizes brave coal miners who died fighting for workers' rights. **Sly Fox Bookstore**, which specializes in children's books, and **Showtime Lane Family Fun Center** guarantee hours of enjoyment for the whole family. The 19x50-foot **History of Virden Mural**, one of three very cool murals in town, highlights Virden's origins as a stagecoach stop, then a coal mine town, and its deep Route 66 roots.

 **Did You Know?** Portions of the Mother Road through this area travel on what was once the old Pontiac Trail, named after the Ottawa Chief



Pontiac, and was the main pathway between Chicago and St. Louis in the early 1900s. Today, Route 66 follows State Road 4, the first fully paved highway in Illinois.



SOUTHERN SECTION

THE LORE OF THE NILWOOD TURKEY TRACKS

Nilwood is home to less than 250 people. The only indication that the main drag that runs through town was once Historic 66 are a couple of roadside markers on IL-4, a peeling mural on the side of a red brick biker club called the Iron Sled, and, wait for it... a hand-painted wooden turkey! The story goes that before IL-4 was designated a part of Route 66 in 1926, an unknown number of birds ran across the wet pavement, leaving 34 turkey tracks to permanently cement themselves in the road. Today, those tracks, imprinted on the narrow street of Donaldson Road, are contained by a thick white border that is painted on the original 1926 pavement and sandwiched between two Route 66 highway markers. This more than 100-year-old road trip relic is marked by a hand-painted sign that reads “Turkey Tracks” in elegant script and a smiling wooden turkey on the side of the road. The peculiar attraction may be a roadside oddity for the occasional traveler, but for residents of small towns that boast similar minor attractions, the narrative of the place they call home is shaped by the story of Route 66.



John Smith



Route 66 from Girard to Nilwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a short lived section of the original 1926 pavement that was replaced in 1930 with a major realignment to the east.

GIRARD AND NILWOOD

Step into the 1920's themed **Docs Just Off 66**, (formerly Docs Soda Fountain & Pharmacy Museum and before that, Deck's Drug Store) one of Girard's oldest businesses dating back to 1884. Wet your whistle with a cherry or vanilla Coke, banana split, Route 66 beer float or enjoy breakfast, lunch or dinner in the Pharmacy-themed restaurant and bar. Or, have your pick from over 50 flavors of ice-cream at another local landmark, the **Whirl-a-Whip**. **Nilwood** is not only home to the famous imprints of Turkey Tracks, it is also home to the **13-Star Flag Barn**, a popular photo op of a rustic picturesque barn that has the Betsy Ross flag painted on its wall. The specific flag is unique as it has 13 stars in a circle representing the original 13 colonies.




illinoisroute66.org

✓ **Travel Tip:** To get the full ‘life at a slower pace’ experience, check out **Hidden Ridge at Otter Lake**, a private wooded hideaway just steps from Girard that offers authentic camping in canvas tents amidst a serene and beautiful setting.





BD Images

 **Did You Know?** Some of the road segments in this stretch consist of the original Route 66 concrete box culverts which although cracked in some places, have withstood the test of time.

CARLINVILLE

The impressive brick-paved **Historic Square** is the center of community life in Carlinville, the biggest town along this stretch of Route 66. Surrounded by colorful shops and cafes, like the **Historic Treasures** and the **Mother Road Antique Mall**, all housed in century old buildings, the square is a scene of summer picnics and market days. An appealing **Cedar Gazebo** adds to its charm. It's a short walk from here to the crown jewel of the town: the **Macoupin County "Million Dollar" Courthouse**. Completed in 1870 at a price tag that took 40 years to pay off, it is considered the most magnificent courthouse in Illinois. Peek into the town's past at the **Historical Society & Museum**, and the onsite authentic schoolhouse, blacksmith, and a print shop that tell of the area's fascinating history. Envision life behind bars at the 1869 medieval-inspired **Historic County Jail**, built in the 'cannon ball' method to impede jailbreaks. For some extra spooky fun, check out the **Loomis House** on the Square. The once grand hotel built in 1869 is rumored to be haunted. You tell us what you think!

 **Did You Know?** Carlinville has the largest community of **Sears & Roebuck Mail Order Homes** in the country (150 homes), all within a 9-block radius on the north end of town. These were purchased in 1917 by the Standard Oil Company for their mine workers.

 **Travel Tip:** The Carlinville Historic Square is the only town square in Illinois that Route 66 went completely around.

Rivers and Routes



Macoupin County Million Dollar Courthouse FB page



John Smith



SOUTHERN SECTION

GILLESPIE

Right in the heart of coal mining country, **Gillespie** honors its impressive black diamond history at the **Illinois Coal Museum**. The town's main street hints at a past with eclectic stops like **Miner's Restaurant**, the **Village Toy Chest**, and **Michelle's Pharmacy**. Other sites to see are the **Miner Silhouette Statue**, the **Interpretive Coal Mining Exhibit**, the **Downtown Mural**, and the **Historic Canna Theatre**, which opened in 1921 as the Pert Theatre. Its ancient marquee and entrance are glimpses into its glory days.

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BENLD

Bootlegging, gambling halls, and gangster hideaways are all said to be part of **Benld's** storied past. The unassuming town, whose name is a combination of its founder, Benjamin L. Dorsey's name, thrived as a mining town with a high immigrant population. Revel in the town's gangster past at **Capone's Saloon**, a tribute to the mobster rumored to have spent time here. And want a great pic opportunity? Check out the **Holy Dormition Orthodox Parish**, noted for its Italian and Russian roots. The current onion-domed church was built in 1915 to replace the original 1907 building. It is the only Russian Orthodox Parish under the Moscow Patriarchate in the state of Illinois.

illinoisroute66.org



 **Did You Know?** The **Coliseum Ballroom**, the town's main attraction that hosted the Who's Who in the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame, burned down in 2011. Built in 1924, it was considered the largest dance floor between Chicago and St. Louis.

silpublicradio.org







STAUNTON

Enjoy Illinois

Travel back to the days of yore in downtown Staunton where a new **Route 66 Mural** titled, “Where the Three Roads Come Together,” showcases all three alignments of Route 66: 1926-1930, 1930-1940 and 1940-1977, that went through town. A drive through the **Historic Downtown** is like stepping back to what small towns used to be. On the old alignment of Route 66, look out for the ‘Hare it Is’ sign which welcomes you to **Henry’s Ra66it Ranch**, a quirky roadside attraction and home to rabbits of the Volkswagen and furry kind. This spot is a Route 66 favorite and considered a must-visit for any Mother Road enthusiast. If the words Cabriolet, Dagmar and Fade-aways are in your vocabulary you must check out **Country Classic Cars** and enjoy the 600 antique cars exhibited all under one roof! The family owned and

run business also has a gift shop with collectables and Route 66 memorabilia. Then tank up at 1930s **DeCamp Station**, a historic roadhouse with a fascinating and somewhat colorful history that included a gambling and brothel past and a stick up by gangsters in a large black sedan. The former dance hall has been revived into a classic bar offering a unique dining experience.

 **Did You Know?** The town was named after a Mr. Stanton as a thank you to his donation of land for the village square. An error by the clerk processing the name application gave the town its Staunton spelling.

 **Travel Tip:** Staunton is located on the ITS-Route 66 Bike Trail with the Trailhead located at Duda Park.



LITCHFIELD

illinoisroute66.org

Embrace the Mother Road at the **Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center**. Located near the site of the 1957 Vic Suhling gas station, the museum's exhibits and displays include a must-see original Route 66 road-sign. The restored **Vic Suhling - Gas For Less Neon Sign** testifies to the former station's place in history. Soak in sentimental remembrances of days gone by at the **Ariston Cafe**, rumored to be the oldest continuously operated restaurant along all of Route 66. This Route 66 landmark, with origins going back to 1924, has been a Litchfield staple since 1935, offering friendly service, fabulous soul food, and standouts desserts. Another eatery that has stood the test of time is the three generational **Jubelt's Restaurant & Bakery**. Tracing its story back to 1922, the bakery has been serving the Litchfield community since 1952 and from its current location since 1982. History buffs will want to admire the **Historic Carnegie Library Building**, the centerpiece of the town that was originally funded by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1904. Make it a



SkyView Drive In

retro night at the **Sky View Drive-In**. First opened in 1950, it is the only original operating drive-in movie theater on the Illinois stretch of Route 66. It also happens to be the oldest continuously operated drive-in from Chicago to California!

Travel Tip: Explore Litchfield's outdoors culture at **Lake Lou Yaeger**, a 1,357- acre, 5.5-mile-long lake that offers boating, fishing, hiking and biking trails, campgrounds, a public swim beach, and a conservation area.

Did You Know? Litchfield is host to two separate alignments of Route 66: the 1930-1940 and 1940-1977 routes.

The **1930-1977** ‘newer’ alignment of the Mother Road, started off as a two-lane road and later became a four-lane highway with some sections swallowed up by I-55. It runs east of Springfield with much fewer turns but winds its way through the quaint towns of **Farmersville**, and **Litchfield**, before joining Old Route 66 through **Mt. Olive**, **Livingston**, **Hamel**, **Edwardsville**, and **Mitchell**.

MT. OLIVE

This small community is home to the oldest gas station still standing on Illinois’ stretch of Route 66, the **1926 Soulsby Service Station** which had been impeccably restored, maintaining its original house and canopy design. Just north of Route 66, paying homage to the town’s coal mining roots, is the **Union Miners Cemetery**, and **Mother Jones Monument** dedicated to the memory of Mary Harris Jones, a labor organizer and formidable voice in the fight for miners’ rights. Visit the **Mother Jones Museum** website for a virtual tour on her life and legacy.

Enjoy Illinois



LIVINGSTON

What this small town lacks in size, it makes up for in giants. Make your way to the **Pink Elephant Antique Mall**, home to an array of giant attractions: the Giant Surfer, a Harley-Davidson Muffler Man, a Giant Tricycle, a Giant flying Saucer House, a Giant Pink Elephant, and a rare Giant Uniroyal Girl believed to be crafted after Jacqueline Kennedy. Inside the former high school turned mall, you will find floor to ceiling shelves displaying wares of more than 50 antique dealers. Onsite is also a retro ice-cream shop, and the **Mother Road Fudge-n-Candy Shop**.

Pink Elephant Antique Mall Facebook



HAMEL

At the intersection of Route 66 and IL Route 140 is the sleepy town of Hamel, a place that proudly proclaims its Mother Road heritage. Step into the former 1938 Tourist Haven Restaurant — now **Weezy’s Route 66 Bar and Grill** — a local hotspot that keeps the old road’s spirit alive with themed decor, vintage signs, and hearty meals.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, established by German settlers in the mid-1800s is famously known as the **“Church of the Neon Cross”** and has a large blue neon cross donated during WWII by the Brunnworth family in memory of their son. Its soft glow is now a symbol of safety for Route 66 travelers. Head over to the Hamel Train Depot afterwards and get your ice-cream fix at the **Route 66 Creamery**.

SOUTHERN SECTION

EDWARDSVILLE

Prepare to be charmed by the storybook-like streets of the third oldest city in the State of Illinois. A walk through **Downtown Edwardsville's Historic District** will make you want to stay until the cows come home. The **St. Louis Street Historic District**, one of the most prestigious sections of Edwardsville in the late 1800s, features a collection of extravagant homes in various architectural designs. South of town is the **Leclaire Village Historic District**, a 23-block neighborhood with modest, but attractive homes displaying 19th Century architecture. Soak in nature's natural beauty at the **Leclaire Lake Park**, which features a picturesque two-acre fishing lake, picnic pavilion, and playground area. Enjoy hours of educational enjoyment at the **Edwardsville Children's Museum** which hosts exhibits and programs geared to inspire wonder. Peek into Illinois' cultural, political, social, and architectural past with a tour by costumed docents at the **1820 Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House**, a two-story Federal Style house considered the oldest brick building in Madison County, and an important landmark in the establishment of Edwardsville. Then, catch a classic movie or live performance at the former opera house now renovated historic **1909 Wildey Theatre**.

! Don't Miss The Watershed

● **Nature Center**, a protected forest, prairie, and wetland habitat, featuring paved hiking trails, a raised marsh walk, and a welcome center. It's a true gem for outdoor recreation.



illinoisroute66.org



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As you prepare to leave the Land of Lincoln, Route 66 once again splits into two alignments. The 1926-30 route, also known as City 66, travels through **Mitchell**, **Granite City**, **Madison**, and finally **Venice**, before crossing into East St. Louis. The second alignment, the 1940-1977 or by-pass route, maneuvers through **Troy**, **Collinsville**, and **Fairmont City** and into St. Louis.

MITCHELL

The first hint of urbanization hits you as you approach this old Route 66 town that still harbors relics of the past, such as the infamous **Luna Cafe**. Built in 1924, the cafe has quite the storied history that includes gambling in the basement, a ‘ladies of the night’ upstairs, and even Al Capone is rumored to have frequented here. The elaborate and colorful vintage **Neon Sign** has been fully restored, including a ruby colored glass for the cherry to magnify the red glow. The story goes that back in the day, if the cherry was lit, the working girls were in.

illinoisroute66.org



GRANITE CITY


Home to **O'Brien Tire & Auto Care**, an old school, fifth generation family run business that is considered to be the oldest auto repair shop on the route, serving travelers for over 90 years. Don't miss the opportunity for an Instagram worthy selfie with the 8,000 pound, 12-foot high **Giant Tire!**

illinoisroute66.org



MADISON

Explore the Illinois section of the **Old Chain of Rocks Bridge** that provided passage to the mighty Mississippi River for three decades. Built in 1929, the 5,353-foot-long toll bridge features a 30-degree turn midway across and today it serves as one of the world's longest bicycle and pedestrian bridges still in existence.

 **Did You Know?** The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge was used as a filming site in the 1981 John Carpenter movie, *Escape from New York*, starring Kurt Russell and Adrienne Barbeau.

marekulisz



SOUTHERN SECTION

COLLINSVILLE

Its proximity to downtown St. Louis makes Collinsville a charming small town with big city conveniences. You will find beautiful storefronts and architecture in **Historic Downtown Collinsville** where you can take the self-guided tour to acquaint yourself with the **1908 Bull Durham Tobacco sign**, the **150-year-old Blum House**, the **D.D. Collins House**, and the old **Miner's Theater**. Get connected even more with the town's history at the **Collinsville Historical Museum** which hosts unique exhibits on the town's mining past, the city's founding fathers, as well as veterans from the Civil War. The **Brooks Catsup Bottle Water Tower** — the world's largest catsup bottle — is a favorite roadside attraction and a great photo op. The 170-foot tower was built in 1949 to supply water to the catsup plant. Experience local farm heritage at the **Willoughby Heritage Farm & Conservation Reserve** which has a restored barn, historic farm house, chicken coop, gardens, and interpretive trails to enjoy. Also of interest is the **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site & Interpretive Center**, the largest historic Native American settlement north of Mexico and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Enjoy Illinois



Enjoy Illinois



TROY, PONTOON BEACH & FAIRMONT CITY

In **Troy**, admire two Walldog murals, **The Troy Transportation** mural, and the **"Bullet" Bob Turley** mural — in honor of Troy native and former major league baseball pitcher Robert Bob Turley, nicknamed "Bullet Bob" for his 98 mph fastball. Outdoor enthusiasts will want to check out the **Horseshoe**



sangamoncountyhistory

Lake State Park in Pontoon Beach, a 2,960-acre park ideal for bird watching, fishing, picnicking, and camping. Don't miss **Nite Spot Cafe** and its iconic mid-century, neon sign in **Fairmont City**.

MUST STOPS



- Sugar Creek Covered Bridge, Chatham
- Sangamo Brewing & Sangamo Breweriana Museum, Chatham
- Historic Brick Road, Auburn
- Rusty Star Marketplace & Route 66 Welcome Center, Divernon
- Virden Miner's Memorial/Central Park Virden History Mural, Virden
- Docs Just Off 66, Girard
- Whirl-a-Whip, Girard
- Turkey Tracks in Pavement, Nilwood
- 13 Star Flag Barn Painting, Nilwood
- Macoupin County "Million Dollar" Courthouse, Carlinville
- Macoupin County Jail of 1869, Carlinville
- Macoupin County Historical Museum, Carlinville
- Illinois Coal Museum, Gillespie
- Capone's Saloon, Benld
- Henry's Rabbit Ranch, Staunton
- DeCamp Station, Staunton
- Country Classic Cars, Staunton
- The Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways, Raymond
- Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center, Litchfield
- Ariston Café, Litchfield
- Jubelt's Bakery, Litchfield
- Soulsby's Service Station, Mt. Olive
- Pink Elephant Antique Mall, Livingston
- Weezy's Route 66 Bar & Grill, Hamel
- Wildey Theatre, Edwardsville
- Luna Cafe, Mitchell
- Brooks Catsup Bottle Tower, Collinsville
- Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, Madison

For a complete list of Attractions, see the Directory at the end of the guide or visit illinoisroute66.org

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Just Off



DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION & SERVICES

The following directory is presented from North to South. Listings include attractions, food & drink, and lodging stops. All locations can also be found on our mobile app, “Explore Illinois Route 66”, download our app from the App Store or Google Play. All Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway business and town members are highlighted in color for easy identification.

Happy Planning!



NORTHERN SECTION

CHICAGO

Begin/End Route 66 Signs

East Adams Street/Jackson

The Art Institute of Chicago

111 South Michigan Avenue

Pritzker Military Museum

104 South Michigan Avenue

Millennium Park/The Bean

201 East Randolph Street

Skydeck Chicago

233 South Wacker Drive

Douglass Park & Miniature Golf Course on Route 66

1401 South Sacramento Drive

Castle Car Wash Historic Landmark

3801 Ogden Avenue

Lou Mitchell's Restaurant and Bakery

565 West Jackson Boulevard

(312) 939-3111

loumitchellsrestaurant.com

The Berghoff Restaurant

17 West Adams Street

Palmer House a Hilton Hotel

17 East Monroe Street

Silversmith Hotel Chicago Downtown

10 South Wabash Avenue

Hampton Inn Majestic Chicago Theatre District

22 West Monroe Street

CICERO

Henry's Drive-In

6031 Ogden Avenue

(708) 305-5767

henrys66.com

BERWYN

WeatherTech's Berwyn Route 66 Car Show

Ogden Avenue between
Oak Park and Ridgeland

(708) 788-8100

berwynrt66.com

Berwyn's Toys & Trains

7025 Ogden Avenue

Ogden Top & Trim

6609 Ogden Avenue

Al Capone Gravesite

Mount Carmel Cemetery

1400 South Wolf Road

Hillside, IL (located 15 minutes
northwest of Berwyn)

First White Castle Site

7155 Ogden Avenue

Paisans Pizzeria & Bar

6226 Ogden Avenue

Cigars & Stripes BBQ Lounge

6715 Ogden Avenue

McCOOK

Steak N Egger

8408 Joliet Road

(708) 853-9240

steaknegger.com

NORTHERN SECTION

McCook Quarry

5500 Joliet Road

COUNTRYSIDE

Illinois Harley-Davidson

9950 Joliet Road

(708) 387-8750

illinoishd.com

Arie Crown Forest Preserve

6600 South LaGrange Road

Holiday Inn Chicago SW Conference Center

6201 Joliet Road

WILLOWBROOK

Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket

645 Joliet Road (I-55 and Route 83)

The Champagne Lodge & Luxury Suites

16W621 South Frontage Road

BOLINGBROOK

The Promenade Bolingbrook

631 East Boughton Road

(630) 296-8350

shoppingpromenade.com

CHANNAHON

Channahon State Park/I&M Canal National Heritage Area

25302 West Story Street

McKinley Woods/Four Rivers Environmental Education Center

25055 South Walnut Lane

Briscoe Mounds Historic Site

25000-25094 West Front Street

Manor Motel

23926 West Eames Street

ROMEOVILLE

White Fence Farm Restaurant

1376 Joliet Road

Isle a la Cache Museum

501 East Romeo Road

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Romeoville

722 North Center Blvd

PLAINFIELD

Plainfield's Downtown Historic District

24401 West Lockport Street

(815) 436-7093

plainfieldil.gov/community/downtown-plainfield

Plainfield Route 66/ Lincoln Highway Alignment

IL 59 & US 30 Downtown Plainfield

(815) 436-4431

plainfieldchamber.com

Historic Plainfield Texaco Oil Gas Station

24103 West Lockport Street (Route 66)

Warehouse:109 Event Venue

14903 South Center Street

The Plainfield Inn B&B

15106 South Fox River Street

NORTHERN SECTION

JOLIET

Red Carpet Corridor Festival

Joliet to Lexington

(815) 844-5847

ilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com

Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center/ Route 66 Selfie Station

204 North Ottawa Street

(815) 723-5201

jolietmuseum.org

Old Joliet Prison (Collins Street Prison)

1125 Collins Street

(815) 723-5201

jolietprison.org

Joliet Route 66/Lincoln Highway Intersection

IL 59 & US 30 Downtown Joliet

(815) 723-5201

jolietmuseum.org

Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66

9 West Cass Street

(815) 927-1540

roadtorock.org

Lambert 1957 Convenience Store

1529 N. Broadway Street

(815) 726-8867

Rialto Square Theatre

102 North Joliet Street

Joliet Iron Works Historic Site

31 Columbia Street

Joliet Union Station Event Venue

50 East Jefferson Street

Joliet Route 66 Stadium/Joliet Slammers Baseball Club

1 Mayor Art Schultz Drive

The Forge - Music Food Spirits

22 West Cass Street

Route 66 Food N Fuel/ Bluesmobile Photo Op

2401 South Chicago Street

Rich & Creamy/Blues Brothers Photo Op

920 North Broadway Street

MyGrain Brewing Company

50 East Jefferson Street, Suite 106

Hollywood Casino Joliet - Hotel/RV Park

777 Hollywood Boulevard

Harrah's Joliet Casino & Hotel

151 North Joliet Street

ELWOOD

Douglas Street Route 66 Pavement & Workers Roadside Exhibit

Southeast Corner, Mississippi Avenue
& Douglas Street

(815) 423-5011

villageofelwood.com

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

20953 West Hoff Road

WILMINGTON

Historic Water Street Shopping District

North & South Water Street

(815) 476-2175

wilmington-il.com/tourism

NORTHERN SECTION

Route 66 Antiques

603 West Baltimore Street
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 926-2230
facebook.com/rt66antiques

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve

30239 South State Route 53

Rt 66 Old School Brewing

110 Bridge Street

Mar Theater

121 South Main Street

Sinclair Dinosaur

200 East Baltimore Street

The Launching Pad Drive-in Restaurant/Gemini Giant

810 East Baltimore Street

Nelly's Restaurant

140 Bridge Street

BRAIDWOOD

Braidwood Zoo

140 North Front Street
(815) 458-2333
braidwood.us

Polk-A-Dot Drive-In

222 North Front Street

BRACEVILLE

Mazonia/Braidwood Fish & Wildlife Area

IL-53 & East Huston Road

GARDNER

The 2 Cell Jail and Christiansen Memorial

400 East Mazon Street

Historic Streetcar Diner

206 North Center Street

The Shop on Route 66

(Coca Cola House)
315 North Center Street

Curley's Tavern

114 Depot Street

DWIGHT

Ambler's Texaco Station

417 West Waupansie Street
(815) 584-3077
dwightillinois.org

Peoples National Bank of Kewanee - Dwight Banking Center

(Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright)
122 West Main Street

The Oughton House & Oughton Estate Windmill

101 West South Street

Chicago & Alton Railroad Depot/ Dwight Historical Society Museum

119 West Main Street

Pioneer Gothic Church

201 North Franklin Street

Old Route 66 Family Restaurant

105 South Old Route 66
(815) 584-2920
route66restaurant.com

NORTHERN SECTION

Station 343 Firehouse Restaurant

140 East Main Street

Classic Inn Motel

15 East Northbrook Drive

Super 8 by Wyndham Dwight

14 East Northbrook Drive

ODELL

Standard Oil Gasoline Station

400 South West Street

(815) 998-2133

odell-il.com

Odell Subway Tunnel

Corner of Hamilton & West Streets

(815) 998-2133

odell-il.com

CAYUGA

Meramec Caverns Barn

Old Route 66

PONTIAC

Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum

110 West Howard Street

(815) 844-4566

visitpontiac.org & il66assoc.org

Livingston County War Museum

321 North Main Street

Home Again on Route 66 Gifts

321 North Main Street

Murals on Main Street Tour

Downtown Pontiac

(815) 844-5847

visitpontiac.org

The International Walldog and Sign Art Exhibit Pontiac Museum Complex

110 West Howard

(815) 844-5847

visitpontiac.org

The Museum of the Gilding Arts

217 North Mill Street

(815) 842-1848

visitpontiac.org

Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum & Resource Center

205 North Mill Street

Dargan Park Sculptures

Madison and Fountain

(815) 844-5847

visitpontiac.org

Swinging Bridges of Pontiac

Throughout Pontiac over

the Vermilion River

(815) 844-5847

visitpontiac.org

Eagle Performing Arts and Conference Center

319 North Plum Street

(815) 844-1187

pontiaceagle.com

Historic Illinois State Police District 6 Headquarters

Route 66 South of Pontiac

Pops Pop Up Shop

517 W Howard Street

(815) 674-6144

popspopupshopllc.com

Livingston County Courthouse

112 West Madison Street

NORTHERN SECTION

Yost House Museum

298 West Water Street

Jones House

314 East Madison Street

Strevell House

401 West Livingston Street

Humiston Woods Nature Center

2100 North Road

DeLong's Casual Dining and Spirits

201 North Mill Street

Edinger's Filling Station Restaurant

423 West Madison Street

Bernardi's II Restaurant

123 North Mill Street

Old Log Cabin Restaurant

18700 Old Route 66

Wally's

1 Holiday Road

Hampton Inn Pontiac

2000 Grand Prix Drive

Best Western Pontiac Inn

1821 West Reynolds Street

Quality Inn

1823 West Reynolds Street

Super 8 by Wyndham Pontiac

601 South Deerfield Road



Curtis Harsh

CENTRAL SECTION

CHENOA

Chenoa Pharmacy

209 Green Street

Matthew T. Scott House

227 North First Street

Chenoa Family Restaurant

508 West Cemetery Avenue

LEXINGTON

Route 66 Memory Lane

Original Route 66 Alignment

(309) 365-3331

lexingtonillinois.org

Lexington Route 66 Park

West Main Street & Route 66

(309) 365-3331

lexingtonillinois.org

“American Standard”

Elephant Sculpture

West Main Street & Route 66

(309) 365-3331

lexingtonillinois.org

The Shake Shack

512 West Main Street

Uncle Vait’s Pizza

905 West Main Street

Kemp’s Upper Tap

305 West Main Street

The Lexington House on 66 B&B

1002 West Walnut Street

lexingtonhouseon66.com

TOWANDA

Towanda, Illinois

Route 66 Parkway

Historic Route 66 Trail

Towanda Dead Man’s Curve

Old Route 66

Old Rugged Barn

18808 North 2000 East Road

Duncan Manor

1002 North Towanda Barnes Road

Kick’s Bar & Grill

19578 North 1960 East Road

BLOOMINGTON/NORMAL

Miles of Possibility Conference

Oct. 19-22, 2023

route66milesofpossibility.com

Ryburn Place at Sprague’s Super Service

305 Pine Street, Normal

(309) 585-4103

ryburnplace.com

Uptown Normal

11 Uptown Circle, Normal

(309) 454-9777

uptownnormal.com

Children’s Discovery Museum

101 East Beaufort Street, Normal

(309) 433-3444

childrensdiscoverymuseum.net

Historic Normal Theater

209 North Street, Normal

(309) 454-9722

normaltheater.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Carl's Ice Cream/Carl The Giant

1700 West College Avenue, Normal
(309) 454-7732
carlsicecream.com

DESTIHL Brewery & Beer Hall

1200 Greenbriar Drive, Normal
(309) 420-0159
destihl.com

DESTIHL Restaurant & Brew Works

318 S. Towanda Ave, Normal
(309) 862-2337
destihl.com

First Steak 'n Shake Site

1219 South Main Street, Normal

Avanti's Italian Restaurant

407 South Main Street, Normal

McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington

200 North Main Street, Bloomington
(309) 827-0428
mchistory.org

"Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66" Visitors Center, Bloomington

200 North Main Street, Bloomington
(309) 827-0428
cruisinwithlincoln66.org

Bloomington Center for The Performing Arts

600 North East Street, Bloomington
(309) 434-2777
artsblooming.org

Miller Park and Zoo

1020 South Morris Avenue,
Bloomington
(309) 434-2250
millerparkzoo.org

David Davis Mansion State Historic Site

1000 Monroe Drive, Bloomington
(309) 828-1084
daviddavismansion.org

Evergreen Memorial Cemetery

302 East Miller Street, Bloomington
(309) 827-6950
evergreenmemorialcemetery.com

Hangar Art Company

105 W. Jefferson St.
(309) 319-8672
thehangarartco.com

Epiphany Farms Restaurant

220 East Front Street
(309) 828-2323
epiphanyfarms.com/epiphanyfarms-
restaurant

Anju Above

220 East Front Street
(309) 828-2323
epiphanyfarms.com/anjuabove

Harmony Korean Bar-B-Que

7 Currency Dr.
(309) 570-1590
epiphanyfarms.com/harmonykoreanbbq

Prairie Aviation Museum

2929 East Empire Street, Bloomington

Grossinger Motors Arena

101 South Madison Street, Bloomington

Grady's Family Fun Park

1501 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington
(309) 662-3332
gradysfunpark.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Slow Art Day on Route 66

(Annually in April)
c/o The Hangar Art Company
105 W. Jefferson St.
(309) 319-8672
<https://arcg.is/05vHGH>

Grady's Pizza

1501 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington
(309) 662-3333
gradyspizza.com

The Lucca Grill

116 E Market Street, Bloomington

Gene's Ice Cream

1019 South Main Street, Bloomington

Tobin's Pizza

1513 North Main Street, Bloomington

Holiday Inn Express

Bloomington West
1031 Wylie Drive, Bloomington
(309) 820-9990
hiexpress.com/bloomington-w

Hyatt Place Bloomington/Normal

200 Broadway Avenue, Normal

Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

201 Broadway Avenue, Normal

Hampton Inn & Suites Bloomington-Normal

320 South Towanda Avenue, Normal

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington

10 Brickyard Drive, Bloomington

Eastland Suites Hotel & Conference Center

1801 Eastland Drive, Bloomington

Vrooman Mansion B&B

701 East Taylor Street, Bloomington

Route 66 Art Trail

(Annually in July)
Downtown Bloomington Art Galleries
(309) 828-1575
<https://arcg.is/09amzH>

SHIRLEY/FUNK'S GROVE

Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup

5257 Historic U.S. 66
(309) 874-3360
funkspuremaplesirup.com

Funks Grove Heritage Fruits & Grains

5257 Historic U.S. 66
(508) 633-4323
facebook.com/funksgrovehfg

Funk Prairie Home/Funk Gem and Mineral Museum

10875 Prairie Home Lane

Sugar Grove Nature Center

4532 North 725 East Road

McLEAN

McLean Depot Train Shop/ A Home on the Road Interpretive Statue

266 East Dixie Road
(309) 244-5900
mclean-il.com

Historic Dixie Truck Stop

501 Main Street

Shorty's Barber Shop Route 66 Walldogs Mural

Downtown McLean
(309) 874-2102
mclean-il.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Arcadia: America's Playable Arcade Museum
107 South Hamilton Street
(309) 287-1725
vintagevideogames.com

Pinball Paradise: America's Playable Pinball Museum
102 East Morgan Street
(309) 287-1725
vintagevideogames.com

Hotel Arcadia B&B
107 South Hamilton Street
(309) 287-1725
airbnb.com/rooms/5308078

Super 8 by Wyndham McLean
503 East South Street

ATLANTA

The Bunyon Giant
103 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Logan County Visitors Welcome Center in Atlanta
114 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 871-7557
destinationlogancountyil.com

Historic U.S Route 66, Illinois Route 4 Driving Exhibit
Corner of Northeast Arch Street and Sycamore Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Atlanta's Smiley Face Water Tower
407 Southwest Second Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Atlanta Route 66 Park
105 Southeast Race Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Route 66 Murals & Outdoor Advertising
Downtown Atlanta
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

J.H. Hawes Grain Elevator & Museum
301 Southwest Second Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

J.P. Hieronymus Carriage House
301 Southwest Second Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Atlanta Coal Mining Company Historical Mine
(Opening in 2022)
301 Southwest Second Street
(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Atlanta Public Library & Clock Tower
100 Southeast Race Street
(217) 648-2112
apldinfo.org

Route 66 Arcade Museum
114 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 871-7557

American Giants Museum
100 NW Arch Street
americangiantsmuseum.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Arch Street Artisans Shop

101 Southwest Arch Street

Atlanta Museum

112 Southwest Arch Street
(217) 648-2112
atlantaillinois.org

Chubby's Bar & Grill

111 Southeast Vine Street

217 Roadhouse Bar-n-Grill

800 Southwest Arch Street

Country-Aire Restaurant

606 East South Street

Sip Shack on Route 66

204 Southwest Arch Street

The Colaw Rooming House B&B

204 Northwest Vine Street

Atlanta Inn

103 Empire Street

LINCOLN

Historic Downtown Lincoln

Kickapoo & Broadway Streets
(Old Route 66)
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Historic Lincoln Depot/ Logan County Tourism Bureau

101 North Chicago Street
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Lincoln Christening Scene

101 North Chicago Street
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Phone Booth on Lincoln City Hall

700 Broadway Street
(217) 735-2815
destinationlogancountyil.com

World's Largest Covered Wagon (The Railsplitter)

1750 Fifth Street
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

The Mill Museum on 66

738 South Washington Street
(217) 732-8687
mill66.com

The Tropics Restaurant Neon Sign

1109 Hickox Drive
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Walldogs Murals

Downtown Lincoln
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

The Cow in the Corn Sculpture

Sangamon & Pulaski Streets
(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Lincoln Heritage Museum

1115 Nicholson Road
(217) 735-7399
museum.lincolncollege.edu

Abe's Carmelcorn Shoppe

117 North Kickapoo Street
(Old Route 66)
(217) 732-4564
facebook.com/abescarmelcorn

CENTRAL SECTION

Route 66 Corner Garage Antiques and Collectables

1211 Fifth Street (Old Route 66)
(217) 737-3949
facebook.com/Route66CornerGarage

Postville Courthouse State Historic Site

914 Fifth Street

Historic Logan County Courthouse

601 Broadway Street

Sir Renna Tea - Bubble Tea & Gifts

113 North Kickapoo Street

Mary Todd's Hallmark Gifts and More

610 Broadway Street

Copper Penny Antiques

612 Broadway Street

Logan Lanes

1700 Fifth Street

Lincoln Speedway

Logan County Fairgrounds
(11th & Jefferson Streets)

Heritage In Flight Museum

1351 Airport Road

Kickapoo Creek Park

2000 North Jefferson Street

Spirited Republic/Limerick Brewing Company

509B Pulaski Street

Guzzardo's Italian Villa

509 Pulaski Street

Sorrento's Pizzeria

614 Broadway Street

Hampton Inn Lincoln

1019 Heitmann Drive
(217) 732-6729
lincoln.hamptoninn.com

Comfort Inn & Suites

130 Olson Drive
(217) 735-5800
choicehotels.com/IL538

Lincoln's Loft B&B

427 Pulaski Street

The Lodge Off 66

2265 900th Avenue, Hartsburg
(217) 737-0553

BROADWELL

Pig Hip Marker & Sign

101 West Oak Street

ELKHART

Historic Downtown Elkhart

Governor Oglesby Street
(217) 947-2287
elkhartillinois.com

Logan County Visitors

Welcome Center in Elkhart

103 Governor Oglesby Street
(217) 947-2200
destinationlogancountyyil.com

Elkhart's Heritage Corner

Governor Oglesby Street
(217) 947-2287
elkhartillinois.com

Veterans' Memorial Park/ WWI Doughboy Statue

Governor Oglesby Street
(217) 947-2287
elkhartillinois.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Elkhart Historic Route 66

Wall Mural

Corner of Latham Street & Governor
Oglesby Street

Elkhart Cemetery/St. John the Baptist Chapel

County Road 10

John P. Gillett Memorial Bridge (Arch Bridge)

County Road 10

Horsefeathers Antiques & Gift Shop

104 Governor Oglesby Street

Little Foxes

102 Governor Oglesby Street

Birdsong Books and Vintage

111 Governor Oglesby Street

Route 66 Model Raceway

109 Governor Oglesby Street

The Country Bumpkin

103 Governor Oglesby Street

Elkhart Station General Store

101 Governor Oglesby Street
(217) 947-2199
connshg.com/elkhart-station-general-store

Elkhart Grain Elevator & 1940s Gas Station

120 North Old Route 66

Elkhart Hill Farm & Vineyard (formerly Old Gillett Farm)

4-6 Drake Lane
(217) 947-2158
connshg.com/historic-gillett-farm

The Wild Hare Café

104 Governor Oglesby Street

Talk of the Town Bar and Grill

115 Governor Oglesby Street

WILLIAMSVILLE

Historic Downtown

Williamsville

West Main Street
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

Frank's Old Station

117 North Elm Street

Williamsville Celebrates Route 66 International Traveler Multi-Directional Sign

217 North Elm Street
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

Williamsville Public Library and Museum

217 North Elm Street
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

Williamsville Railroad Depot and Box Cars

102 South Elm Street
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

Williamsville Park-Trail-Lake

706 East Main Street
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

Williamsville Antique Mall

105 North Old Route 66

CENTRAL SECTION

Bella Trattoria Restaurant

100 West Main Street

SHERMAN

Route 66 Wayside Park

Corner of Old Route 66/Sherman Blvd
and Andrew Road/Route 124

(217) 496-2621

shermanil.org

Sherman Village Park & Village Park Amphitheater

1200 Rail Fence Road

(217) 496-2621

facebook.com/shermanvillagepark

Historic Route 66 Bike/ Hike Trail

Trailhead at Corner of Bahr Road &
East Andrew Road Sherman

(217) 496-2621

shermanil.org

Carpenter Park Route 66 Pavement

1 Carpenter Park Trail

The Rail Golf Course

1400 Clubhouse Drive

Tasty Café

110 Villa Parkway

Fairlane Diner

The Crossings Off Historic Route 66
Shopping Center

300 South Crossing Drive

Fire and Ale Restaurant

Route 66 Crossings Shopping Center
135 Illini Blvd

Double H Bar

121 North First Street

(217) 496-3811

facebook.com/tims.double



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CENTRAL SECTION

SPRINGFIELD

International Route 66 Mother Road Festival

Historic Downtown Springfield
September 22-24, 2023
route66fest.com

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum

112-212 North Sixth Street
(217) 782-5764 or (800) 610-2094
presidentlincoln.illinois.gov

Historic Downtown Springfield

Old State Capitol Plaza
(217) 544-1723
downtownspringfield.org

Lincoln-Herndon Law Office/Official Springfield Visitors Center

1 South Old State Capitol Plaza
(Corner of 6th & Adams)
(217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

Old State Capitol State Historic Site

1 South Old State Capitol Plaza

Illinois State Fairgrounds Route 66 Experience

Inside Gate Two – Open 365 days a year
illinoisroute66.org/isfroute66experience

Illinois State Capitol

401 South Second Street

Illinois Governor's Mansion

410 East Jackson Street

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

426 South 7th Street

Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site

1500 Monument Avenue

Illinois War Memorials

1500 Monument Avenue

Lincoln Memorial Garden

2301 East Lakeshore Drive
(217) 529-1111
lincolnmemorialgarden.org

The Lincoln Depot

930 East Monroe Street

Knight's Action Park & Splash Kingdom

1700 Recreation Drive
(217) 546-8881
knightsactionpark.com

Route 66 Drive-In

1700 Recreation Drive
(217) 698-0066
route66-drivein.com

Ace Sign Company Sign Museum

2540 South First Street
(217) 522-8417
acesignco.com/museum

Sonrise Donut Sign

Ace Sign Company Museum &
Route 66 Motorheads Museum
(217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

Springfield SCHEELS

3801 South MacArthur Boulevard
Springfield, IL 62711

Sangamon Watches

206 S. 6th Street
(217) 899-6385
sangamonwatches.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Lauterbach Giant

1569 Wabash Avenue

Mahan's Filling Station at Fulgenzi's

1168 Sangamon Avenue

Murphy's Loft

210 South Sixth Street

Springfield, IL 62701

(217) 679-0758

facebook.com/murphysloft

Springfield Lucky Horseshoes

1415 N Grand Ave East

(217) 679-3511

shoesbaseball.com

Dana-Thomas House

(Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright)

301 East Lawrence Avenue

Springfield Art Association of Edwards Place

700 North Fourth Street

Vachel Lindsay Home

603 South Fifth Street

Hoogland Center for the Arts

420 South Sixth Street

Illinois State Museum

502 South Spring Street

Springfield and Central Illinois African American Museum

1440 Monument Avenue

Elijah Iles House: Museum of Springfield History

628 South Seventh Street

Route History

737 East Cook Street

Illinois State Military Museum

1301 North MacArthur Boulevard

GAR Memorial Museum

629 South Seventh Street

Kidzeum of Health and Science

412 East Adams Street

Merchant House Urban Event Space

625 East Monroe Street

(217) 523-4466

connshg.com/merchant-house-event-space

Conn's Catering & Events

835 South Second Street

(217) 523-4466

connshg.com/conns-catering

Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex

600 Toronto Road

(217) 679-7323

66motorheads.com

Alive! on 66

600 Toronto Road

(217) 685-1055

aliveon66.com

Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery

500 South Sixth Street

(217) 670-0627

obedandisaacs.com

Cozy Dog Drive-In

2935 South Sixth Street

(217) 525-1992

cozydogdrivein.com

CENTRAL SECTION

Maldaner's Restaurant & Catering Since 1884

222 South Sixth Street
(217) 522-4313
maldaners.com

The Chili Parlor

820 South Ninth Street

Nancy's Pizza

2301 West Monroe Street
(217) 679-0456
nancypizza.com

7th Street Cidery

503 S. 7th Street
(217) 679-4726
connshg.com/7th-Street-Cidery

Buzz Bomb Brewing Company

406 East Adams Street

Fulgenzi's Pizza & Pasta

1168 Sangamon Avenue

Charlie Parker's Diner

700 North Street

D'Arcy's Pint Bar & Grill

661 West Stanford Avenue

Curve Inn Bar & Grill

3219 South Sixth Street Road

Mario's Italian Restaurant and Pizza

3073 East Clear Lake Avenue

Parkway Café

2715 North Dirksen Parkway

Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop

118 North Pasfield Street

Carpenter Street Hotel

525 North Sixth Street
(217) 789-9100
carpenterstreethotel.com

Inn at 835 Boutique Hotel B&B

835 South 2nd Street
(217) 523-4466
innat835.com

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield Hotel

701 East Adams Street

State House Inn

101 East Adams Street

Crowne Plaza Springfield - Convention Center

3000 South Dirksen Parkway

Drury Inn & Suites Springfield

3180 South Dirksen Parkway



SOUTHERN SECTION

CHATHAM

Sugar Creek Covered Bridge
1 Covered Bridge Road

Chatham Depot & Railroad Museum
100 North State Street

Again Antiques and Gifts
2776 Ostermeier Road

**Sangamo Brewing &
Sangamo Breweriana Museum**
109 East Mulberry Street
(217) 697-8026
sangamobrewing.com

Apple Barn
2290 East Walnut Street

Double J Campground
9683 Palm Road
(217) 483-9998
doublejcampground.com

GLENARM

Corvair Museum
10041 Palm Road
(217) 494-7105
corvair.org

AUBURN

Historic Brick Road
Snell and Curran Roads

DIVERNON

**Rusty Star Marketplace
& Route 66 Welcome Center**
14335 Frazee Road
(217) 628-1122
facebook.com/rustystarmarketplace

**Tammi's Treasures,
Antiques & More**
490 Illinois Highway 104
(217) 628-3333
tammistreasures.com

Hilda's Antique Mall
14266 Fraaze Road
(217) 628-9192
facebook.com/hildasantiquemall

Nickorbobs Home & Gifts
14260 Frazee Road
(217) 628-9191
nickorbobs.com

THAYER

Pudock's Hideout
207 East Main Street

Mick and Mary's Restaurant
310 East Ebony Street

VIRDEN

**Virден Miner's Memorial/
Central Park**
Virден Square
175 East Jackson
(217) 965-6139
virdenchamber.com

Virден History Mural
105 East Jackson Street
virdenmural.com

**Showtime Lanes &
Visitors Center**
1515 North Springfield Street
(217) 965-5521
showtimelanes.com

SOUTHERN SECTION

The Slyfox Bookstore

123 North Springfield Street
(217) 965-3641
slyfoxbookstore.com

FARMERSVILLE

The Rooted Home

516 Elevator Street
(217) 710-6262
shoptherootedhome.com

GIRARD

Docs Just Off 66

133 S. 2nd Street
(217) 627-3491
docsjustoff66.com

Whirl-A-Whip

309 South 3rd Street
(217) 627-9447
whirlawhip.net

Hidden Ridge Campground

Otter Lake

NILWOOD

Turkey Tracks in Pavement

South of Nilwood on Donaldson Road

13 Star Flag Barn Painting

South of Nilwood on Illinois Route 4



109 E. Mulberry
Chatham, Illinois 62629
(217) 697-8026
www.facebook.com/SangamoBrewing/

Micro-Brewery, Restaurant, and Museum highlighting the nostalgic history of Illinois Breweries and their advertising.

SOUTHERN SECTION

CARLINVILLE

Macoupin County “Million Dollar” Courthouse

200 East Main Street

Macoupin County Jail of 1869

205 East First South Street

Standard Addition/Sears and Roebuck Mail Order Houses

Charles and Rice Streets

Macoupin County Historical Museum

432 Breckenridge Street

Carlinville Historic Square

Downtown Carlinville

Mother Road Antique Mall

106 North Side Square

(217) 854-8029

facebook.com/motherroad2

Historic Treasures

518 N Side Square

(217) 716-2299

historic-treasures.business.site

GILLESPIE

Illinois Coal Museum at Gillespie

121 South Macoupin Street

(833) 228-8603

gillespiecoalmuseum.org

Downtown Gillespie

Gillespie City Hall & Civic Center

115 North Macoupin Street

(217) 839-2919

Gillespie Route 66 Mural at Michelle’s Pharmacy

120 South Macoupin Street

Miner’s Family Restaurant

304 South Macoupin Street

BENLD

Holy Dormition Orthodox Parish

304 North Fourth Street

Capone’s Saloon

410 East Central Avenue

STAUNTON

Henry’s Ra66it Ranch

1107 Historic Old Route 66

(618) 635-5655

henysroute66.com

Country Classic Cars

2149 East Frontage Road

(618) 635-7056

countryclassiccars.com

Staunton Route 66 Mural

Corner of Elm & West Main Streets

(618) 635-2233

cityofstauntonil.com

DeCamp Station

8767 State Route 4

(618) 637-2951

decampstationil.com

Vintage Station

225 Phillips

(618) 779-2956

facebook.com/vintagestationstaunton

Concordia Bar & Bowling Alley, Events & Activities

709 S. Union Street

(618) 635-2040

Super 8 by Wyndham Staunton

1527 Herman Road

SOUTHERN SECTION

RAYMOND

The Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways

22353 West Frontage Road

LITCHFIELD

Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center

334 North Historic Route 66
(217) 324-3510
litchfieldmuseum.org

Sky View Drive-In Theatre

1500 North Historic Route 66
(217) 324-4451
litchfieldskyview.com

Niehaus Cycle Sales

718 North Old Route 66

Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation Area

4313 Beach House Trail
(217) 324-5832
visitlitchfield.com/lake-lou-yaeger

Walton Park

(217) 324-9075
10207 Niemanville Trail
litchfieldparkdistrict.com/walton-
park.html

Historic Carnegie Library Building/ Litchfield Tourism Office

400 North State Street
(217) 324-8147
visitlitchfield.com

Ariston Café

413 North Historic Route 66
(217) 250-2031
ariston-cafe.com

Jubelt's Restaurant & Bakery

303 North Historic Route 66
(217) 324-5314
jubelts.com

Nancy's Pizza

13 Thunderbird Circle
(217) 324-0707
nancypizza.com

Hampton Inn Litchfield

11 Thunderbird Circle
(217) 324-4441
litchfield.hamptoninn.com

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Litchfield West

4 Thunderbird Circle
(217) 324-4556
hiexpress.com/litchfieldwest

Lake Lou Yaeger

Primitive Campgrounds

3 Primitive Lane
(217) 324-4771
visitlitchfield.com/lake-lou-yaeger/
camping

Country Bend Campground

3279 Honey Bend Avenue
(217) 324-2363
countrybendcampground.com

Kamper Kompanion Campground

18388 East Frontage Road

MT. OLIVE

Soulsby's Service Station

710 West First Street (Old Route 66)

Union Miners Cemetery and Mother Jones Monument

700 North Lake Street

SOUTHERN SECTION

Mother Jones Museum

215 East Main Street
(217) 999-4261
facebook.com/
therealmotherjonesmuseum

Tilley's Tavern Bar & Grill

303 East Main Street

WILLIAMSON

The Winery at Shale Lake

1499 Washington Avenue

The Cabins and Cottages at Shale Lake

1499 Washington Avenue

LIVINGSTON

Pink Elephant Antique Mall

908 Veterans Memorial Drive
(618) 637-2366
pinkelephantantiquemall.com

Mother Road Fudge-n-Candy

908 Veterans Memorial Drive
(618) 637-2803
facebook.com/pinkelephantantiquemall

HAMEL

Neon Cross at St. Paul Lutheran Church

6969 West Frontage Road

Weezy's Route 66 Bar & Grill

108 South Old Route 66

Route 66 Creamery

11 South Old Route 66
(618) 960-3540
facebook.com/rt66creamery

Innkeeper Motel

401 East State Street

EDWARDSVILLE

Downtown Edwardsville

Historic District

North Main Street

St. Louis Street & LeClaire

Village Historic Districts

St. Louis Street & Holyoake Road

Wildey Theatre

252 North Main Street

Edwardsville

Children's Museum

722 Holyoake Road

Stagger Inn...Again Bar & Grill

104 East Vandalia Street

Cleveland-Heath Restaurant

106 North Main Street

Recess Brewing

307 North Main Street

Comfort Inn Edwardsville

3080 South State Route 157

TownePlace Suites Edwardsville

6101 Center Grove Road

Country Hearth Inn & Suites

Edwardsville

1013 Plummer Drive

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Edwardsville

1000 Plummer Drive

SOUTHERN SECTION

GLEN CARBON

Glen Carbon Covered Bridge

South Main Street

Glen Carbon Heritage Museum

124 School Street

Yanda Log Cabin

148 South Main Street

TROY

Transportation Mural &

Bob Turley Mural

201 East Market Street

COLLINSVILLE

Brooks Catsup Bottle Water Tower

800 South Morrison Avenue

Historic Downtown Collinsville

125 South Center Street

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site & Interpretive Center

30 Ramey Street

Miner's Theatre

204 West Main Street

Collinsville Historical Museum

406 West Main Street

Old Herald Brewery & Distillery

115 East Clay Street

Ramon's El Dorado Restaurant

1711 Saint Louis Road

The Red Bar & Grill

416 Beltline Road

Mungo's Italian Eatery

100 East Main Street

PONTOON BEACH

Horseshoe Lake State Park

3321 Highway 111

FAIRMONT CITY

The Nite Spot Café Photo Op

4448 Collinsville Road

MITCHELL

Luna Café

201 East Chain of Rocks Road

Along the Way B&B

152 Central Avenue

GRANITE CITY

O'Brien Tire & Auto Care/ Giant Tire Photo Op

3924 Nameoki Road

(618) 876-7616

obrientire.com

MADISON

Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

Chain of Rocks Road

If you are a business member of the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, we thank you for your support. If you would like to join the Byway, or if your business is not listed in this guide, please email Casey Claypool at casey@illinoisroute66.org. Byway memberships begin at \$150 for the year!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Community, CVB, Chamber & Tourism Partners Directory

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

City of Countryside

(708) 354-7270
countryside-il.org

Village of Romeoville

(815) 886-7200
romeoville.org

Village of Bolingbrook

(630) 226-8400
bolingbrook.com

Village of Plainfield

(815) 436-7093
plainfieldil.gov

City of Lockport

(815) 838-0549
cityoflockport.net

Village of Channahon

(815) 467-6644
channahon.org

Village of Elwood

(815) 423-5011
villageofelwood.com

City of Wilmington

(815) 476-2175
wilmington-il.com

City of Braidwood

(815) 458-2333
braidwood.us

Village of Dwight

(815) 584-3077
dwrightillinois.org

Village of Odell

(815) 998-2133
odell-il.com

City of Pontiac

(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

City of Chenoa

(815) 945-7619
chenoail.org

City of Lexington

(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

Town of Normal

(309) 665-0033
visitbn.org

City of Bloomington

(309) 665-0033
visitbn.org

Village of McLean

(309) 874-2102
mclean-il.com

City of Atlanta

(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

City of Lincoln

(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Village of Elkhart

(217) 947-2287
elkhartillinois.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Village of Williamsville

(217) 566-3806
williamsville.illinois.gov

Village of Sherman

(217) 496-2621
shermanil.org

City of Springfield

(217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

City of Virden

(217) 965-5805
virden.municipalimpact.com

Village of Farmersville

facebook.com/
groups/867683750621639

City of Gillespie

(217) 839-2919

City of Staunton

(618) 635-2233
cityofstauntonil.com

City of Litchfield

(217) 324-8147
visitlitchfield.com

City of Mt. Olive

(217) 999-4261

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAUS AND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS

Heritage Corridor CVB (Route 66 - The First Hundred Miles)

(844) 94-HCCVB
heritagecorridorcvb.com
thefirsthundredmiles.com

Berwyn Development Corporation

(708) 788-8100
whyberwyn.com

Plainfield Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce

(815) 436-4431
plainfieldchamber.com

Discover Dwight (Dwight Tourism)

(815) 584-3077
dwightillinois.org

Visit Pontiac (Pontiac Tourism)

(815) 844-5847
visitspontiac.org

Visit BN (Bloomington-Normal Area CVB)

(800) 433-8226
visitbn.org

Visit Atlanta (Atlanta Tourism)

(217) 871-7557
atlantaillinois.org

Logan County Tourism Bureau

(217) 732-8687
destinationlogancountyil.com

Visit Springfield Illinois (Springfield CVB)

(800) 545-7300
visitspringfieldillinois.com

Virden Area Chamber of Commerce

(217) 965-6139
virdenchamber.com

Girard Chamber of Commerce

girardilchamber.org

Visit Litchfield (Litchfield Tourism)

(217) 324-8147
visitlitchfield.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau of Southwest Illinois

(800) 258-6645
RiversAndRoutes.com

BYWAY PARTNERS

Downtown Springfield Inc.

(217) 544-1723
downtownspringfield.org

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area (Looking for Lincoln)

(217) 492-8366
lookingforlincoln.org

Illinois Main Street

(312) 610-5619
ilmainstreet.org

Landmarks Illinois

(312) 922-1742
landmarks.org

Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership

route66roadahead.com

National Scenic Byway Foundation

(330) 231-3468
nsbfoundation.com

David Schwartz Photography

davidschwartzphoto.com

ROUTE Magazine

routemagazine.us

Illinois Wing'd Riders

wingrider.com

Two Lane America

2laneamerica.com

Elkhart Historical Society

elkharthistoricalsociety.org

GTO Association of America

gtoaa.org

AIRPORTS

O'Hare International Airport

(800) 832-6352

Chicago Midway Airport

(773) 838-0600

Central Illinois Regional Airport

Bloomington-Normal
(309) 663-7383

Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport

Springfield
(217) 788-1060

ILLINOIS INFORMATION

Illinois Office of Tourism

(800) 2CONNECT or
TTD (800) 406-6418
enjoyillinois.com

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

(217) 782-6302
dnr.illinois.gov

Illinois Department of Transportation

(217) 782-7820
idot.illinois.gov

Illinois Highway Driving Conditions

(800) 452-IDOT
gettingaroundillinois.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Ride Illinois (Route 66 Bike Trail)

(630) 216-9282
rideillinois.org

U.S. Customs Service

(877) 227-5511
cbp.gov/travel

LODGING AND DINING INFORMATION

Epiphany Farms Hospitality Group

23676 E. 800 North Road, Downs
epiphanyfarms.com

Illinois Grape Growers & Vintners Alliance

illinoiswine.com
(217) 726-8518

Will County Lodging Association/ Visit Will

visitwill.com

Illinois Campground Association

(866) 895-2267
illinoisgocamping.com

Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association

(312) 346-3135
illinois-hotels.org

Illinois Restaurant Association

(800) 572-1086
illinoisrestaurants.org

Best Western

(800) 528-1234
bestwesternillinois.com

Stuckey's

705 South Main Street
Wrens, Georgia 30833
(800) 423-6171
stuckeys.com

*Disclaimer: Please note that **Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway** members have a complete listing that includes Name, Address, Phone and Website. Non-members only are listed by Name and Address. The Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway and their contractors assume no liability for the accuracy of the information or representations contained herein. Please note that admission prices and/or rates in this guide are based on the 2023/2024 season. To ensure accuracy, please call ahead to verify all information.*



We've Got An App For That!

Planning the perfect road trip along the historic Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway just got easier! We're excited to share with you the Illinois Route 66 mobile app; an interactive way to map out everything you want to see. This tool provides a new way to explore what Illinois Route 66 has to offer, including hotels, popular restaurants, local events, historic roadside attractions and more.



Apple App Store

Google Play

Download our mobile app by searching 'Explore Illinois Route 66' in the App Store or on Google Play.

IllinoisRoute66.org



Opening Soon!

The American Giants Museum in Atlanta, Illinois is opening in mid-Summer, 2023. It will feature six "Muffler Men" giants, all in one location on Route 66!

The museum tells the story of these iconic, American roadside advertising pieces.



AmericanGiantsMuseum.com

Atlanta Illinois Tourism | AtlantainIllinoisTourism.com

Discover Dwight



**WINDMILLS, WADDLE & WRIGHT
DWIGHT, ILLINOIS - A ROUTE 66 COMMUNITY**



**VILLAGE OF DWIGHT
209 S. PRAIRIE AVE. | DWIGHT, ILLINOIS 60420
(815) 584-3077 | WWW.DWIGHTILLINOIS.ORG**



Abraham Lincoln
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

— and that
of the people, by the people,
people, shall not perish from the earth.



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PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov
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212 North 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701