

# Route 66 Family Stops: Tulsa to OKC + Elk City Add-On

By Lisa Lee Martin

Printable color itinerary | Researched April 30, 2026

## How to use this itinerary

The main route runs from the Tulsa/Catoosa side of Route 66 toward Oklahoma City, then treats Elk City as a westbound add-on because it sits well beyond OKC. For the easiest family pacing, make Tulsa-to-OKC one long day or two relaxed half-days, then do the Elk City museum as a second-day extension.

Leg	Drive plan	Family pacing
Start east of Tulsa	Blue Whale of Catoosa, then Tulsa Route 66 on 11th Street.	Begin with photos and a playground-heavy stop before museum fatigue starts.
Tulsa to Sapulpa	Cyrus Avery, Route 66 Historical Village, Rock Creek Bridge, Heart of Route 66.	Keep bridge stops short. Save the museum for car-loving kids or hot weather.
Sapulpa to Arcadia	Bristow, Stroud, Seaba Station, Chandler, then Arcadia Round Barn and POPS.	Use Rock Cafe or POPS as the meal/bathroom anchor.
Arcadia to OKC	Lake Overholser, Route 66 Park, Milk Bottle Grocery, and Scissortail Park.	End with a large playground and downtown restrooms.
OKC to Elk City add-on	Westbound I-40/old Route 66 detour to Lucille's and Elk City's National Route 66 Museum.	Best as a second day unless the family is comfortable with a long drive.

## Printable route links

Main route: [Open Tulsa-to-OKC route in Google Maps](#)  
 West add-on: [Open OKC-to-Elk City add-on in Google Maps](#)

Stop type	Included stops	Cost note
Free parks/photo stops	Blue Whale, Meadow Gold, Buck Atom exterior, Gathering Place, Cyrus Avery, Historical Village, bridges, Route 66 Park, Milk Bottle, Scissortail, Lucille's	Good backbone for a nearly free trip.
Free/donation museums	Arcadia Round Barn, Seaba Station, Bristow Depot	Bring small cash for donations.
Low-cost paid museums	Heart of Route 66, Chandler Interpretive Center, National Route 66 Museum	Pick 1-2 paid museums for younger kids.
Food/fuel anchors	Rock Cafe, POPS 66	Costs depend on meals, snacks, and souvenirs.

# Catoosa and Tulsa: start with color, water, and big roadside shapes

## 1. Blue Whale of Catoosa<sup>1</sup>

Where: 2600 US Route 66, Catoosa  
Hours: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM daily  
Cost: Free  
Parking: Bus/motorcoach parking noted; use the attraction lot.  
Kid-friendly: Walk into the whale for photos, watch the pond, picnic, fish or feed turtles.

## 2. Meadow Gold Sign<sup>19</sup>

Where: 11th St. and Quaker Ave., Tulsa  
Hours: Exterior public photo stop; best daylight or lit-up evening.  
Cost: Free exterior stop  
Parking: Street or nearby district parking where posted.  
Kid-friendly: Big neon, Route 66 color, and an easy 5-10 minute photo break.

## 3. Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios<sup>20</sup>

Where: 1347 E. 11th St., Tulsa  
Hours: Shop hours vary; exterior giant is a quick public photo stop.  
Cost: Free to photograph; shopping optional  
Parking: Street or small district parking where posted.  
Kid-friendly: 21-foot Muffler Man, robots, Route 66 souvenirs, and bright roadside art.

## 4. Gathering Place<sup>2</sup>

Where: 2650 S. John Williams Way E., Tulsa  
Hours: 7:00 AM-9:00 PM starting March 8; playground daylight hours  
Cost: Free admission  
Parking: Free parking in main and Riverside-area lots.  
Kid-friendly: Adventure playground, lodge, trails, safety wristbands, and seasonal water features.

## 5. Cyrus Avery Centennial Plaza<sup>3</sup>

Where: Southwest Blvd. and Riverside Dr., Tulsa  
Hours: Outdoor plaza; daylight recommended  
Cost: Free  
Parking: Nearby public/visitor parking; use marked crossings and sidewalks.  
Kid-friendly: Bronze Route 66 family scene, bridge views, flags, and Tulsa photo backdrop.

## 6. Route 66 Historical Village<sup>4</sup>

Where: 3770 Southwest Blvd., Tulsa  
Hours: Outdoor exhibits are promoted as free and open 24/7  
Cost: Free; donations support preservation  
Parking: Small on-site/nearby parking; respect event closures.  
Kid-friendly: Steam engine, rail cars, oil derrick, pump jacks, and big machinery.

### Sources on this page

1. City of Catoosa - Blue Whale of Catoosa: <https://www.cityofcatoosa.org/page/blue-whale-of-catoosa/>

19. Vision 2025 - Meadow Gold Sign: <https://vision2025.info/meadow-gold-sign/>

20. Route 66 Road Trip - Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios: <https://www.route66roadtrip.com/buck-atoms-cosmic-curios-route66-tulsa-oklahoma.htm>

2. Gathering Place - Plan Your Visit: <https://www.gatheringplace.org/visit>

3. Visit Tulsa - Cyrus Avery Centennial Plaza: <https://www.visittulsa.com/listing/cyrus-avery-centennial-plaza/1701/>

4. Route 66 Historical Village: <https://route66village.com/>

# Sapulpa to Chandler: bridges, depots, diners, and small museums

## 7. Rock Creek Bridge<sup>5</sup>

Where: W. Ozark Trail near Sapulpa  
Hours: Exterior historic stop; daylight recommended  
Cost: Free  
Parking: Bridge is closed to vehicles; park only where legal and safe.  
Kid-friendly: Short history stop with a 1920s steel-truss Route 66 bridge.

## 8. Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum<sup>6</sup>

Where: 13 Sahoma Lake Rd., Sapulpa  
Hours: Tue-Sat 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; Sun noon-4:00 PM  
Cost: \$9.50 adults; children under 12 free  
Parking: Accessible parking, entries, exits, and bathrooms noted.  
Kid-friendly: Classic cars, Route 66 memorabilia, and family-friendly free admission for younger kids.

## 9. Bristow Historical Depot and Town Square<sup>7</sup>

Where: 1 Railroad Place, Bristow  
Hours: Common posted hours: Fri, Sat, Mon 10:00 AM-4:00 PM; Sun 1:00-3:00 PM  
Cost: No fee; donations appreciated  
Parking: Downtown/town square parking; verify posted signs.  
Kid-friendly: Small depot museum, railroad artifacts, and a quick town-square stretch.

## 10. Rock Cafe<sup>8</sup>

Where: 114 W. Main St., Stroud  
Hours: Tue-Sat 7:00 AM-8:00 PM; Sun/Mon can vary  
Cost: Meal or snack stop; no admission  
Parking: Small restaurant/downtown parking area.  
Kid-friendly: A classic Route 66 diner with Pixar Cars connections and easy comfort food.

## 11. Seaba Station Motorcycle Museum<sup>9</sup>

Where: 336992 E. OK-66, Warwick/Chandler  
Hours: Thu-Tue 10:00 AM-5:00 PM; closed Wed  
Cost: Free; donations accepted  
Parking: Use on-site parking where posted.  
Kid-friendly: Motorcycles, vintage station setting, and a manageable one-hour stop.

## 12. Route 66 Interpretive Center<sup>10</sup>

Where: 400 E. 1st St., Chandler  
Hours: Seasonal hours vary; call ahead  
Cost: \$7.50 adults; \$6 seniors and students  
Parking: Downtown parking; verify posted signs.  
Kid-friendly: Audio/video museum experience in a historic armory setting.

Sources on this page

5. National Park Service - Bridge #18 at Rock Creek: <https://www.nps.gov/places/bridge-18-rock-creek.htm>

6. Heart of Route 66 Auto Museum: <https://www.heartofroute66.org>

7. Oklahoma Wonders - Bristow Historical Museum and Depot: <https://oklahomawonders.com/visit-the-bristow-historical-museum-and-depot/>

8. Rock Cafe on Route 66: <https://www.rockcafert66.com>

9. Automotive Museum Guide - Seaba Station Motorcycle Museum: <https://automotivemuseumguide.com/seaba-station-motorcycle-museum/>

10. Route 66 Interpretive Center: <http://www.route66interpretivecenter.org/contact-us>

# Arcadia to OKC: classic icons, lake stops, and city parks

## 13. Arcadia Round Barn<sup>11</sup>

Where: 107 E. Highway 66, Arcadia  
Hours: Daily 10:00 AM-5:00 PM, subject to volunteers/weather  
Cost: Free; donations accepted  
Parking: Use designated parking behind the barn when available.  
Kid-friendly: Climb inside a famous round barn, browse small exhibits, and use clean restrooms.

## 14. POPS 66 Soda Ranch<sup>12</sup>

Where: 660 W. Highway 66, Arcadia  
Hours: Store/restaurant hours vary; exterior bottle always visible  
Cost: Free photo stop; soda/meal optional  
Parking: Large roadside lot around store and fuel area.  
Kid-friendly: 66-foot soda bottle, hundreds of colorful soda labels, fuel, food, and restrooms.

## 15. Lake Overholser Bridge<sup>13</sup>

Where: N. Overholser Dr. near Council Rd., OKC  
Hours: Outdoor bridge/roadway; daylight recommended  
Cost: Free  
Parking: Use nearby Route 66 Park or legal lakeside parking.  
Kid-friendly: Historic bridge, lake views, and a gentle transition into OKC.

## 16. Route 66 Park at Lake Overholser<sup>14</sup>

Where: 9901 NW 23rd St., Oklahoma City/Yukon area  
Hours: Park hours may vary; daylight recommended  
Cost: Free park stop  
Parking: Park lot access; follow city park signs.  
Kid-friendly: Playground, pond loop, bridges, fishing access, and a low-cost picnic break.

## 17. Milk Bottle Grocery<sup>15</sup>

Where: 2426 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City  
Hours: Exterior historic building; daylight recommended  
Cost: Free exterior photo stop  
Parking: Short urban stop; use legal street/nearby parking only.  
Kid-friendly: A giant milk bottle on a tiny Route 66-era building.

## 18. Scissortail Park<sup>16</sup>

Where: 300 SW 7th St., Oklahoma City  
Hours: Daily 6:00 AM-11:00 PM; children's play area dawn to dusk  
Cost: Free and open to the public  
Parking: Accessible parking around the perimeter; metered/nearby parking may apply.  
Kid-friendly: Large playground, climbing walls, dome climbers, gardens, slides, fountains, shade, and restrooms.

Sources on this page

11. Arcadia Round Barn - Plan Your Visit: <https://arcadiaroundbarn.com/plan-your-visit/>

12. Road Trip USA - Arcadia Route 66: <https://www.roadtripusa.com/route-66/oklahoma/arcadia/>

13. National Park Service - Lake Overholser Bridge: <https://www.nps.gov/places/lake-overholser-bridge.htm>

14. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation - Route 66 Park: <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/wheretofish/central/route-66-park>

15. National Park Service - Milk Bottle Grocery: <https://www.nps.gov/places/milk-bottle-grocery.htm>

16. Scissortail Park - FAQs: <https://www.scissortailpark.org/faqs/>

# OKC to Elk City add-on: make the museum the destination

## Best use

This add-on is the stretch to include the National Route 66 Museum in Elk City without forcing the Tulsa-to-OKC day to become too long. Leave OKC early, stop briefly at Lucille's, and give Elk City the museum time.

### 19. Lucille's Historic Highway Gas Station<sup>17</sup>

Where: Near Hydro on old Route 66  
Hours: Exterior-only historic stop; daylight recommended  
Cost: Free photo stop  
Parking: Brief pull-off only where safe and legal; no services.  
Kid-friendly: Tiny upstairs-living gas station, vintage pumps, and a Mother Road history marker.

### 20. National Route 66 Museum<sup>18</sup>

Where: 2717 W. 3rd St., Elk City  
Hours: Mon-Sat 9:00 AM-5:00 PM; Sun 1:00-5:00 PM Memorial Day-Labor Day only  
Cost: \$5 adults; \$4 ages 6-16 and seniors; under 5 free  
Parking: Use the museum complex lot; call ahead for groups.  
Kid-friendly: Drive a 1955 pink Cadillac display, sit at a mock drive-in, tour Old Town, farm, ranch, and blacksmith displays.

#### Sources on this page

17. National Park Service - Provine Service Station: <https://www.nps.gov/places/provine-service-station.htm>

18. Visit Elk City - Museums: <https://visitelkcity.com/attractions/museums/>

# Family road-trip checklist

## Before you go

Call or check websites the morning of departure for volunteer-run museums, seasonal Sunday hours, water features, private events, weather closures, and holiday schedules. Several stops are exterior photo stops, so daylight, weather, traffic, and safe legal parking matter more than formal opening hours.

Topic	Notes
Pack	Water bottles, sunscreen, hats, wipes, snacks, small cash for donations, phone charger, and a paper backup list.
Kid pacing	Put parks before long museum stops when possible. Let kids pick one paid museum and one souvenir/snack stop.
Parking safety	Use official lots first. For bridges, signs, and historic buildings, park only in marked, legal areas and keep children away from traffic.
Bathrooms	Reliable restroom anchors include Gathering Place, Arcadia Round Barn, POPS, Scissortail Park, and museum stops during open hours.
Weather	Oklahoma spring and summer weather can change quickly. Keep a radar app handy and treat outdoor stops as flexible.
Souvenirs	Budget-friendly ideas: Route 66 passport stamps, postcards, pressed pennies where available, one soda from POPS, and photo scavenger challenges.

## Simple scavenger hunt

Find: one whale, one neon sign, one giant person, one bridge, one train, one round building, one giant bottle, one milk bottle, one pink Cadillac, and one playground your family wants to revisit.

Prepared in color for printing by Lisa Lee Martin.