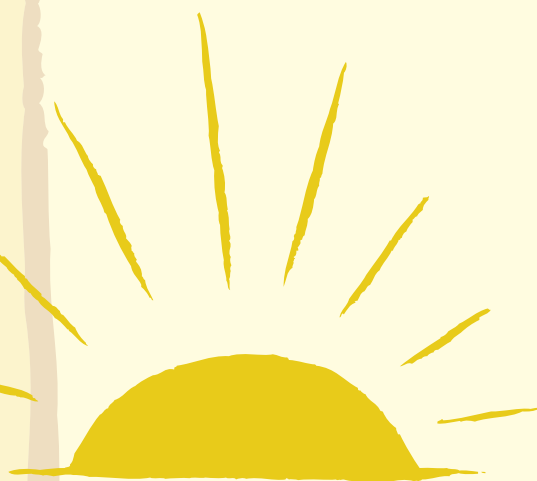


Get Your Kicks On

ROUTE

St. Louis Style

66



A Comprehensive Guide to Exploring All Things Route 66 in St. Louis

Get Your Kicks in **ST. LOUIS**

Since being designated a national highway in 1926, the “highway that’s the best” switched roads a few times going through St. Louis, adjusting to the city’s growth. That’s why there’s more than one “Route 66” in the city. The purist will want to travel them all.

IT WINDS FROM CHICAGO TO L.A. . . .

... but St. Louis is the largest city you’ll travel through, and there is a lot to experience here. Once you cross over from Illinois, the streets have new names, but they retain the “Mother Road” historic significance that travelers love. As you’ll discover with great delight, many towns and cities along the route have preserved their Route 66 heritage. Motels, gas stations, and restaurants have maintained their neon signs and character.

That’s certainly true of St. Louis. There are three Route 66’s to know about: City 66; Original City 66; and Bypass 66 (www.historic66.com). You’ll start your 2,448-mile trip in Chicago, and end it on the Santa Monica Pier at the Pacific Ocean. The entire life-changing trip will have you traveling as did the many dreamers from the 1930s to today – but some of your best memories will be made here in the shadow of the Arch, your Gateway to the West.



ITINERARY

Day 1-3: Chicago, Illinois

Spend a day or two discovering the Windy City, enjoying its architecture, museums, and shopping. Maybe even rent a classic car for your trip. Then, when you've had that last bite of deep dish pizza, get to what is now Adams Street, where your "plan to motor west" begins.

Day 4: Chicago to St. Louis, Missouri

Approx. 300 miles

Traveling on your first leg of the Main Street of America, you'll enjoy a picturesque drive through bountiful farmland. One stop you'll want to make is in Mount Olive, south of Springfield, where you can gawk at the fully restored historic Soulsby Service Station. Then it's on to "St. Louie"...

OLD CHAIN of ROCKS BRIDGE

Plan to stay: 30 minutes - 1 hour

As you cross this treasured bridge, imagine the 1930s roadsters that used it to cross the Mississippi River when it became Route 66 in 1936. The unusual 22-degree bend must have given those drivers pause, though today it's open only to pedestrians. If you're here in late winter/early spring, it's a great spot for eagle watching. And there's always an impressive view of the mighty Mississippi and the Arch.

greatrivergreenways.org

CROWN CANDY KITCHEN

Plan to stay: 30 minutes

During the 1920s and 1930s, this delectable landmark was a must for travelers craving world-renowned handmade malts. Now in its 104th year of continuous family-owned operation, the thick-stacked sandwiches assure no one goes away hungry. The BLT is the stuff of legend. crowncandykitchen.net

The GATEWAY ARCH

Plan to stay: 1-2 hours

Since 1965, Route 66 travelers have taken in this inspiring symbol of the Gateway to the West as they begin the Missouri part of their journey. First, enjoy the Arch ground's \$380 million makeover. This inspired transformation connects the city to the riverfront with lush greenspaces (including the new park over the highway), cultural centers, and restaurants. There are new pedestrian and biking pathways, so get out of the car and stretch your legs! Then ride to the top of the tallest man-made monument in the U.S. Once at the top, scope out your next stop on your personal Route 66 tour. gatewayarch.com

EAT-RITE Diner

Plan to stay: 30 minutes

This historic diner fed many motorists, especially during the early days when the Mother Road went straight through downtown. You have to try the slinger – a mouth-watering egg, hash brown, cheese, and meat combo. Best when enjoyed somewhere between that nightcap and when the hangover starts.

The CHASE

Plan to stay: 30 minutes

Route 66 was packed with down-on-their-luck dreamers traveling to a new life and desperados on the run. But there were plenty of the well-heeled who traveled the motorway, too, and they stayed at The Chase Hotel. Be quartered in style, or at least get that perfect martini in the classy bar. chaseparkplaza.com

Missouri HISTORY MUSEUM

Plan to stay: 1-2 hours

Voted 2016's Best Museum in St. Louis, this is a jewel among Forest Park's many institutions. From 1764 to the present, the museum has deftly portrayed Missouri's history and is currently housed in a building that is the first national monument to Thomas Jefferson. Its emphasis is on St. Louis history, and a permanent exhibit tells our city's rich and fascinating story. Always free. mohistory.org



MAPLEWOOD Memories

Plan to stay: 30 minutes-2 hours

This neighborhood boasts Route 66's past and its future. A diner, upscale restaurants, a 100-year-old bowling alley, a dueling piano bar, a brew pub, a hardware store that dates back to 1905, quirky shops – it's all here. The history is celebrated with memorial plaques along the 7200 and 7300 blocks of Manchester, including shops that were active during the Route's heyday. Spend the afternoon and get lost in its history – or maybe buy a new instrument at Eddie's Guitars.

cityofmaplewood.com

DONUT DRIVE-IN

Plan to stay: 15 minutes

The Donut Drive-In is a shrine to neon road signs and fried dough deliciousness. You don't think you need that chocolate glazed or that custard filled, but trust us: You need both. Voted best donuts on Route 66.

TED DREWES Frozen Custard

Plan to stay: 15-30 minutes

Yup – pull in, get a “concrete,” and turn it upside down. This thick milkshake made from vanilla frozen custard and blended with traditional and inventive treats will not fall out. Since 1929 travelers have been delighted by this popular custard-stand shake handmade so thick that it earned that nickname. Oh, and pick us up the Cardinal Sin – hot fudge and tart cherries – would you?

teddrewes.com



MOTEL ROW/WAYSIDE MOTEL

Plan to stay: 10-15 minutes

Built in the 1940's across from where the infamous Coral Court Motel once stood, the Wayside Motel is especially cherished by classic car enthusiasts who can park that '57 Bel Air in the original carports. A well-preserved masterpiece of Americana that at one time rented rooms by the hour...

CRESTWOOD BOWL

Plan to stay: 15 minutes-2 hours

Take a break from the road, knock out a few frames, and make some new friends at this old-school bowling alley. In 2012 the original neon sign was restored through a grant from the National Park Service – that alone is worth a stop. May all your frames be strikes!

crestwoodbowl.com



The MUSEUM of TRANSPORTATION

Plan to stay: 1-2 hours

This museum has it all in terms of transportation history as it's filled with trains and planes – but let's get real, you're here to see the car collection, particularly Bobby Darin's “Dream Machine.” Also featured is the Coral Court room façade, making this a must stop for any Route 66 fan.

transportmuseumassociation.org



ROUTE 66 STATE PARK

Plan to stay: 30 minutes-2 hours

The park's visitors' center is a treasure trove of Route 66 memorabilia, and it's housed in a 1935 roadhouse formerly known as Steiny's Inn. Here the story of “Main Street, America” is told. Also get your outdoor kicks on the seven miles of hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding trails.

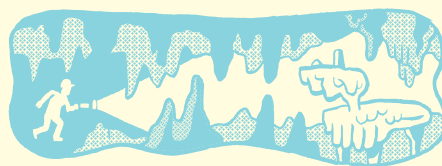
mostateparks.com/park/route-66-state-park

JESSE JAMES WAX MUSEUM and MERAMEC CAVERNS

Plan to stay: 1-2 hours

As you head out west with St. Louis in the rearview mirror, stop by Stanton, Missouri, and two great tourist destinations. The museum is intriguing and eye-opening, and the cave lives up to the hype. At five stories high, it is the largest commercial cave in Missouri and offers guided tours. Bring a sweater as it is pleasantly cool in this magnificent cavern that has been wowing roadsters since 1935. Oh, and yes, Jesse James was here.

jessejameswaxmuseum.com; americascave.com



Day 6: Well it goes from St. Louie, Joplin, Missouri...

Oklahoma City looking mighty pretty...continue your adventure through Joplin, all the way to the ocean on your hip and timely trip. Safe travels, and savor your memories of St. Louis.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

explore **st.louis**

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