Illinois Route 66
Visitor Guide & Business Directory
www.IllinoisRoute66.org
Where Nostalgia Meets Newfound Adventure

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

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'.
A Guide to Illinois Route 66

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JOLIET, ILLINOIS

Your Great American Journey Begins In A Great American City

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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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#PLAYINPONTIAC

**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
- Route 66 Wayside Exhibits
- Colorful Art Cars
- 3 Swinging Walking Bridges
- Humiston Woods Nature Center

visitpontiac.org | 815.844.5847
LET’S HIT THE MOTHER ROAD!

Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area
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.

@illinoisroute66 @ILRoute66 @ILRoute66 @GoIL66

Share your photos or selfies with us at @MyIL66.
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.
Engage your senses

IN SPRINGFIELD, IL

See and shake hands with living legends along the route; Hear the roar of engines; Taste and Smell the local culinary favorites.

THE ROAD...
IS ALIVE!

September 22 - 24, 2023
Downtown Springfield, Illinois

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A Step Back In Time

History of Route 66

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.

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
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!
MAKE A CONNECTION

Discover the countless places Lincoln lived and worked for almost 30 years. Meet the people, hear the stories, and find out who & what helped to shape the man who would lead America through some of its most trying times.
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 Stuckey’s 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.
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.
THE RED CARPET CORRIDOR FESTIVAL IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY THE FIRST WEEKEND IN MAY!

ILROUTE66REDCARPETCORRIDOR.COM

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE!
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-feet-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.

**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.

**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.
Come Visit Us for a Tour, These Special Events...and More!

- Lincoln’s Birthday
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- Champagne British Car Festival
- Glorious Garden Festival
- Antique Auto Show
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Please visit daviddavismansion.org for more information.

1000 Monroe Drive Bloomington, IL 309-828-1084
Tours: Wednesday-Saturday 9am to 3:30pm
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 proudly holding an ice cream cone in one hand and a hamburger in the other, clearly enticing travelers to give in to their hunger cravings.

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-feet-tall and 40-feet-long Guinness Book of World Records qualifier, comes complete with a large statue of
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.
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
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.
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.

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
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.
GREAT RIVERS, GREAT ROUTES, GREAT MOMENTS

LITCHFIELD MUSEUM & ROUTE 66 WELCOME CENTER

RIVERSANDROUTES.COM
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](#).

**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!**

- **(708) 656 - 9344**
- **henrys66.com**
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 Car 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.

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**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).
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.
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 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, has nearly 9,000 acres and 33 miles of trails for biking, hiking, dog walking and horseback riding.
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.

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.

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.
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.

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.

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 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.
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 Chevys 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.

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

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.

💡 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.
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 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.
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.
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 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
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.
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 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.
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.
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.
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<td>□ The Mill Museum on 66, Lincoln</td>
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<td>□ Pig Hip Marker &amp; Sign, Broadwell,</td>
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<td>□ Elkhart Historic Route 66 Wall Mural, Elkhart</td>
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<td>□ The Wild Hare Cafe, Elkhart</td>
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<td>□ John P. Gillett Memorial Bridge, Elkhart</td>
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<td>□ The Old Station, Williamsville</td>
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<td>□ Williamsville Railroad Depot and Box Cars, Williamsville</td>
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<td>□ Cozy Dog Drive-In, Springfield</td>
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<td>□ Route 66 Motorheads Bar, Grill &amp; Museum, Springfield</td>
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<td>□ Route 66 Drive In Theater, Springfield</td>
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<td>□ Lauterbach Giant, Springfield</td>
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<td>□ Mahan’s Filling Station at Fulgenzi’s, Springfield</td>
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For a complete list of Attractions, see the Directory at the end of the guide or visit illinoisroute66.org
Enjoy Route 66 in Logan County!

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.

destinationlogancountyil.com

Immerse yourself in history

Lincoln Heritage Museum

Open Tuesday-Friday 9AM - 4PM
Saturday 1PM - 4PM
1.217.735.7399
1115 Nicholson Rd. | Lincoln, IL 62656
museum.lincolncollege.edu
CENTRAL ILLINOIS’ LARGEST WATER & AMUSEMENT PARK

WATER SLIDES

SPRAYGROUND

FAMILY FUN

DRIVING RANGE

GO KARTS

BIRTHDAYS

LAZY RIVER

GAME ROOM

AMUSEMENTS

Exit 96 off I-72
Next to the Route 66 Drive In

1700 Recreation Drive
Springfield, Illinois, 62711
(217) 546-8881 knightsactionpark.com
ROUTE 66
MONARCH FLYWAY

bit.ly/Rt66MonarchFlyway
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
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Susan Helm
Master Gardener and
Master Naturalist
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susan.helm@comcast.net

bit.ly/Rt66MonarchFlyway
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 Staunton 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 Staunton. 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.

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 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.
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.

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.”
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 Paddock’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.
**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.

**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.

**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.
**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 weathered 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.
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.

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.

💡 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.
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 Raa6it 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 Fadeaways 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.

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

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.

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.
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.
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.

**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!

**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.
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.

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 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 Ra66it 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
Country Bend Campground is located just minutes from Exit 60 on I-55 near Litchfield, IL, right off Route 66! This family-oriented campground offers a pool, four fishing ponds, pedal boating, putt-putt, a game room, lots of open space, and a variety of activities to keep the kids and kids at heart busy! We offer RV, Tent, and Luxury Cabin rental.

Open from April 1 - November 1

3279 Honey Bend Avenue
Litchfield, IL 62056 | 217-324-2363
countrybendcampground.com

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@BlossomWeddingCountryBend
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Girard, Illinois

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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!
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
### COUNTRYSIDE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manor Motel</td>
<td>23926 West Eames Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Harley-Davidson</td>
<td>9950 Joliet Road (708) 387-8750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arie Crown Forest Preserve</td>
<td>6600 South LaGrange Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Fence Farm Restaurant</td>
<td>1376 Joliet Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isle a la Cache Museum</td>
<td>501 East Romeo Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites Romeoville</td>
<td>722 North Center Blvd</td>
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### PLAINFIELD

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plainfield’s Downtown Historic District</td>
<td>24401 West Lockport Street (815) 436-7093 plainfieldil.gov/community/downtown-plainfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plainfield Route 66/ Lincoln Highway Alignment</td>
<td>IL 59 &amp; US 30 Downtown Plainfield (815) 436-4431 plainfieldchamber.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Plainfield Texaco Oil Gas Station</td>
<td>24103 West Lockport Street (Route 66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warehouse:109 Event Venue</td>
<td>14903 South Center Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Plainfield Inn B&amp;B</td>
<td>15106 South Fox River Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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
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

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

People’s 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

BRACEVILLE

Mazonia/Braidwood Fish & Wildlife Area
IL-53 & East Huston Road
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
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

DeLongs’ 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
**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carl’s Ice Cream/Carl The Giant</td>
<td>1700 West College Avenue, Normal</td>
<td>(309) 454-7732</td>
<td>carlsicecream.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESTIHL Brewery &amp; Beer Hall</td>
<td>1200 Greenbriar Drive, Normal</td>
<td>(309) 420-0159</td>
<td>destihl.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESTIHL Restaurant &amp; Brew Works</td>
<td>318 S. Towanda Ave, Normal</td>
<td>(309) 862-2337</td>
<td>destihl.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Steak ‘n Shake Site</td>
<td>1219 South Main Street, Normal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avanti’s Italian Restaurant</td>
<td>407 South Main Street, Normal</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>McLean County Museum of History, Bloomington</td>
<td>200 North Main Street, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 827-0428</td>
<td>mchistory.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Cruisin’ with Lincoln on 66” Visitors Center, Bloomington</td>
<td>200 North Main Street, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 827-0428</td>
<td>cruisinwithlincolnon66.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington Center for The Performing Arts</td>
<td>600 North East Street, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 434-2777</td>
<td>artsblooming.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller Park and Zoo</td>
<td>1020 South Morris Avenue, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 434-2250</td>
<td>millerparkzoo.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Davis Mansion State Historic Site</td>
<td>1000 Monroe Drive, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 828-1084</td>
<td>daviddavismansion.org</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evergreen Memorial Cemetery</td>
<td>302 East Miller Street, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 827-6950</td>
<td>evergreenmemorialcemetery.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hangar Art Company</td>
<td>105 W. Jefferson St.</td>
<td>(309) 319-8672</td>
<td>thehangarartco.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiphany Farms Restaurant</td>
<td>220 East Front Street</td>
<td>(309) 828-2323</td>
<td>epiphanyfarms.com/epiphanyfarms-restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anju Above</td>
<td>220 East Front Street</td>
<td>(309) 828-2323</td>
<td>epiphanyfarms.com/anjuabove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmony Korean Bar-B-Que</td>
<td>7 Currency Dr.</td>
<td>(309) 570-1590</td>
<td>epiphanyfarms.com/harmonykoreanbbq</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Aviation Museum</td>
<td>2929 East Empire Street, Bloomington</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grossinger Motors Arena</td>
<td>101 South Madison Street, Bloomington</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grady’s Family Fun Park</td>
<td>1501 Morrissey Drive, Bloomington</td>
<td>(309) 662-3332</td>
<td>gradysfunpark.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arch Street Artisans Shop</th>
<th>101 Southwest Arch Street</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atlanta Museum</strong></td>
<td>112 Southwest Arch Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(217) 648-2112</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>atlantaillinois.org</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chubby’s Bar &amp; Grill</strong></td>
<td>111 Southeast Vine Street</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>217 Roadhouse Bar-n-Grill</strong></td>
<td>800 Southwest Arch Street</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Country-Aire Restaurant</strong></td>
<td>606 East South Street</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sip Shack on Route 66</strong></td>
<td>204 Southwest Arch Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Colaw Rooming House B&amp;B</strong></td>
<td>204 Northwest Vine Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atlanta Inn</strong></td>
<td>103 Empire Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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
destinationlogancountyil.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
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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**Scheels**

It’s more than shopping, it’s an experience

Connect with us

@SpringfieldScheels

3801 South MacArthur Boulevard  |  Springfield, IL
**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

**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
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/connscatering

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
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  
nancyspizza.com

7th Street Cidery  
503 S. 7th Street  
(217) 679-4726  
conshg.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
### 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

**Nickorbohs Home & Gifts**
14260 Frazee Road
(217) 628-9191
nickorbohs.com

### THAYER

**Pudock’s Hideout**
207 East Main Street

**Mick and Mary’s Restaurant**
310 East Ebony Street

### VIRDEN

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

**Virden History Mural**
105 East Jackson Street
virdenmural.com

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

#### FARMERSVILLE

**The Rooted Home**  
516 Elevator Street  
(217) 710-6262  
shoptherootedhome.com

#### NILWOOD

**Turkey Tracks in Pavement**  
South of Nilwood on Donaldson Road

**13 Star Flag Barn Painting**  
South of Nilwood on Illinois Route 4

#### GIRARD

**Docs Just Off 66**  
133 S. 2nd Street  
(217) 627-3491  
docsjustoff66.com

#### The Slyfox Bookstore

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

#### Whirl-A-Whip

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

#### Hidden Ridge Campground

Otter Lake

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Sangamo Brewing Co.

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.
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
henrysroute66.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
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
nancyspizza.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 & Holyoke Road

Wildey Theatre
252 North Main Street

Edwardsville
Children’s Museum
722 Holyoke 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
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!
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
dwightillinois.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
visitpontiac.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
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

Elkhart Historical Society
elkharthistoricalociety.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

David Schwartz Photography
davidschwartzphoto.com

ROUTE Magazine
routemagazine.us

Illinois Wing’d Riders
wingdrider.com

Two Lane America
2laneamerica.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
illinoishotels.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.

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
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.dwightilinois.org
A Guide to Illinois Route 66

Experience Abe Emazing

PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov
217-558-8844
212 North 6th Street, Springfield, IL 62701