

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

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GUIDE

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Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway



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Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

CENTENNIAL

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 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'll find an easy summary of 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.



Bucket List Travel Tips

**AS YOU MAKE YOUR WAY AROUND THIS GUIDE,
KEEP THESE TIPS IN MIND:**

x *Check Ahead*

Confirm your destination is open.

x *Come Prepared*

Expect safety measures to be in place at businesses and public spaces along the Route.

x *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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ABOUT THE ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 SCENIC BYWAY

BE SURE TO
LOOK
FOR
CENTENNIAL
PASSPORT STOPS
THROUGHOUT
THE GUIDE!
FOR MORE INFO SEE PAGE 4



GEMINI GIANT
Wilmington, IL

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WELCOME TO ILLINOIS ROUTE 66!

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're 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 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



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@GoIL66

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, news, and travel information. If you're traveling through, feel free to ask questions or share your photos with us by using the hashtag #myIL66 or tagging us at @illinoisroute66 on Instagram.

Centennial PASSPORT STOPS

GET YOUR GUIDE STAMPED AT THESE BYWAY LOCATIONS

As a special Centennial bonus, this Visitor Guide also serves as your Illinois Route 66 Centennial Passport! Inside, you'll find 17 designated Centennial Passport Stops strategically located from north to south along the Mother Road, making it easy to collect stamps as you travel the route. Each stop offers a unique experience and an opportunity to mark your journey, but because hours and availability can vary, we recommend calling ahead to ensure the business is open before you arrive. Whether you collect a few stamps or complete the entire route, this passport transforms your trip into an interactive adventure, one that celebrates the history, culture, and small businesses along Illinois Route 66. We hope you enjoy the journey, the stories, and the memories you'll create along the way.



Look for this icon throughout the guide to identify Centennial Passport Stops!

We've Got An App For That!

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



Apple App Store

Google Play

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

IllinoisRoute66.org



A STEP BACK IN TIME

THE 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 date back to the early 1900s when car production and ownership in the U.S. was rapidly increasing, and the country's mixture of dirt and paved roads were no longer meeting the demands of an American 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 on to implement a national railway system as President of the United States.

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

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



Living History

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. FERN'S CAFE
Towanda, IL | 5. ARISTON CAFE
Litchfield, IL |
| 2. LAMBERT'S MOBIL STATION
Joliet, IL | 6. DELL RHEA'S CHICKEN BASKET
Willowbrook, IL |
| 3. MACOUPIN COUNTY COURTHOUSE
Carlinville, IL | 7. COZY DOG
Springfield, IL |
| 4. EVERETT CARY GARAGE
Chatham, IL | 8. HENRY'S DRIVE-IN
Cicero, IL |



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.

Today, over 90% of the old road is still accessible to vehicles with more than 400 miles of drivable Route 66 in Illinois.

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 is now 100 years old, and 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 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 yourself. Remember, the less rushed you are, the richer your experience will be. Illinois 66 has so much to offer.





11.

A Trip to Yesteryear

9. **WEST END STATION**
Edwardsville, IL

10. **O'BRIEN'S TIRE & AUTO CARE**
Granite City, IL

11. **CLAYPOOL'S GARAGE**
Williamsville, IL

12. **DAVID DAVIS MANSION**
Bloomington, IL

13. **MANOR HOTEL**
Channahon, IL

14. **ROUTE 66 DRIVE-IN THEATRE**
Springfield, IL



12.



13.



14.

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.

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, IL, and ending in Los Angeles, CA. Since SBI 4 is replaced by Route 66, Illinois' section of the Mother Road is the first to be completely paved.

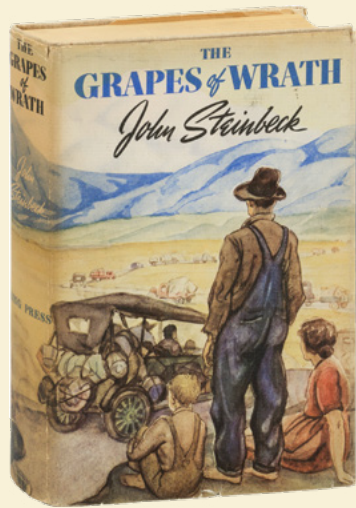
1927: Route 66 Highway Association is created and the name "Main Street of America" is adopted.

1928: Dixie Truckers Home is established in McLean, IL.



1932: The Standard Oil Station is built in Odell, IL and O'Brien Tire & Auto opens in Granite City, IL.

1937: The Mar Theatre opens in Wilmington, IL.



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, IL.



SUGAR CREEK COVERED BRIDGE
Glenarm, IL



DOWNTOWN
Springfield, IL



TEXACO STATION
Plainfield, IL

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.

1957: Lambert's Mobil Station opens in Joliet, IL.

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, IL, 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, IL.

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.

2026: Route 66 will celebrate 100 years on November 11, 2026.



ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL COINS



Commemorate the legacy of America's most iconic highway with the Illinois Route 66

Scenic Byway 13-Coin Centennial Set. Each beautifully crafted coin represents a unique stop along Illinois' stretch of the Mother Road, honoring the people, places, and stories that shaped a century of travel. Only 300 sets were produced, making this a truly limited-edition collectible, with each set individually numbered. Designed for collectors, history lovers, and Route 66 enthusiasts alike, this exclusive collection captures the spirit of adventure and nostalgia that defines Route 66. From small-town landmarks to timeless roadside Americana, every coin tells part of the journey. Custom display stands are also available, offering a striking way to showcase this one-of-a-kind piece of Route 66 history.



COLLECT ALL 13!

Visit illinoisroute66.org or scan the QR code to order yours today for just \$300!

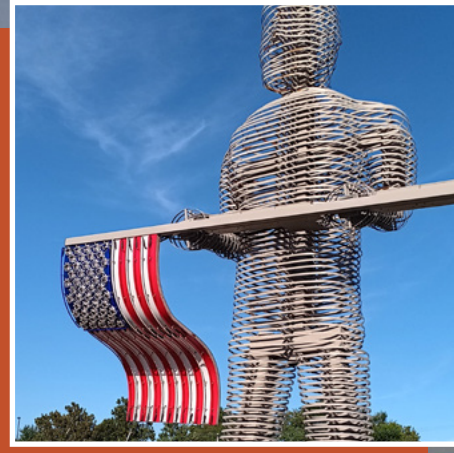


The Illinois Route 66 Experience

The Illinois Route 66 Experience in Springfield, IL is an educational exhibit open 365 days a year on the corner of Route 66 and Sangamon Avenue, located on the State Fairgrounds inside Gate 2. Enter through the Main Gate and start your self-guided tour, highlighting businesses in over 90 communities along Route 66 in Illinois beginning in Chicago and ending at the Chain of Rocks Bridge in Madison, IL. Vintage billboards, a drive-in movie theatre, Legends Neon Sign Park, and a tribute to muffler men along Illinois Route 66 make up a large part of the Experience. The desire to educate youth, bring back the American road trip, and promote Illinois Route 66 communities was the driving force behind this project. The Illinois Route 66 Experience was led by the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway in coordination with Visit Springfield, Ace Sign Company, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and Enjoy Illinois.

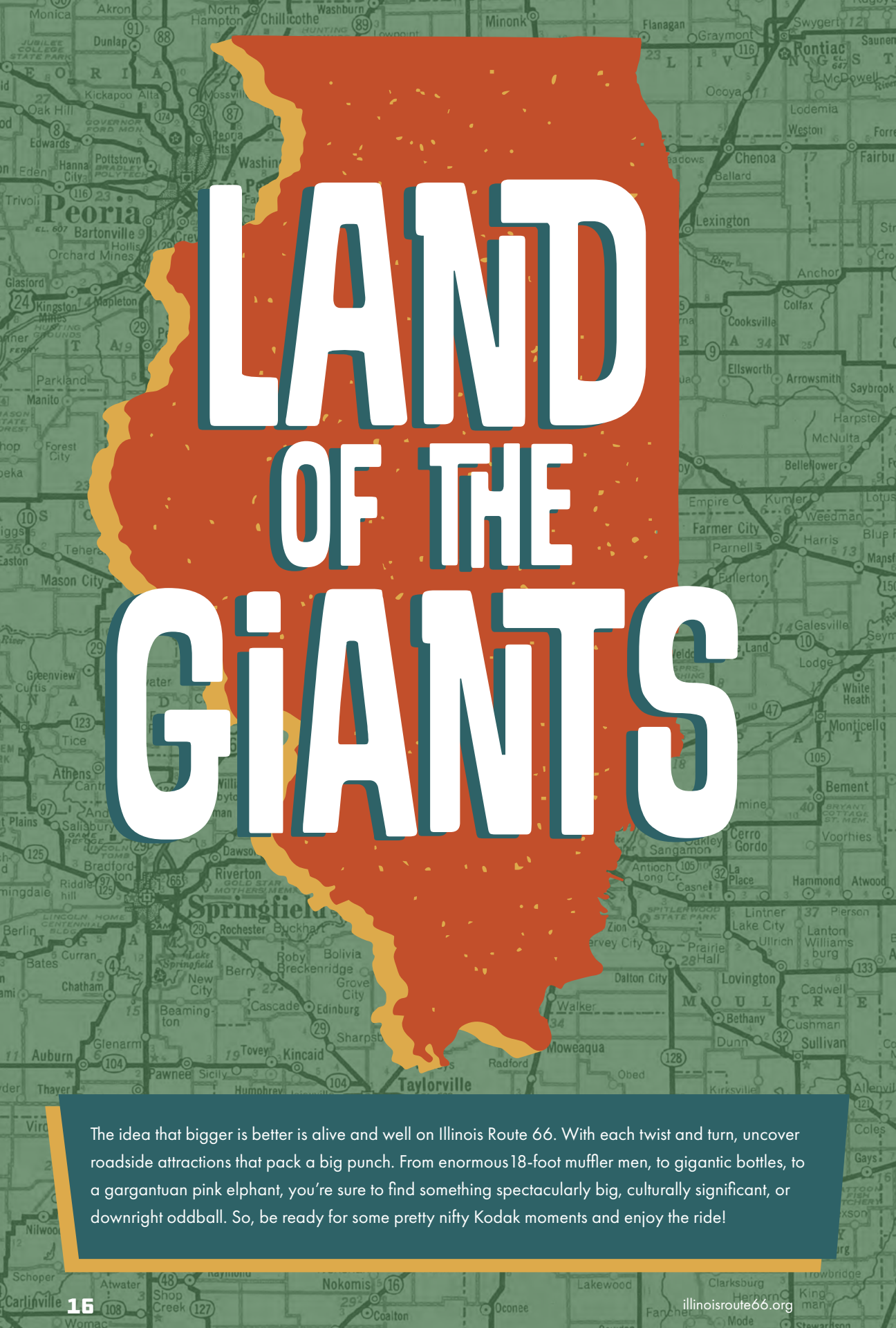
Be sure to make your way over to Main Street and SLIDE DOWN 66! Soar down the 40-foot, iconic Giant Slide on the historic IL State Fairgrounds. Open May – August on Saturdays only and August 13–23 during regular Illinois State Fair hours (operation of the slide is weather permitting).





Scan the QR code TO DONATE TO THE EXPERIENCE!





LAND OF THE GIANTS

The idea that bigger is better is alive and well on 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 a gargantuan pink elephant, 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!



EARL THE MECHANIC

Granite City, IL



BEGIN YOUR BIG ADVENTURE!

Start off in Wilmington where the iconic **Gemini Giant** once stood proudly outside the **Launching Pad Drive-In**. This towering figure, standing at 30 feet tall, portrays a spaceman adorned in a striking green suit, a silver helmet and clutching a rocket. The Gemini Giant pays homage to the nation's 1961 Gemini Space Flight program. The Gemini Giant captured the imagination of many, becoming a beloved landmark outside the Launching Pad. However, today, the Gemini Giant no longer graces the vicinity of the Launching Pad. Despite this, he remains the most photographed of the muffler men and the sole surviving space-themed variant. In November 2024, the Gemini Giant was installed at **South Island Park**. After some repairs and new paint, the iconic giant has now found a permanent home in Wilmington.

Over in the town of Normal, you'll find a 15-foot "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. **Marge**, the towering fiberglass giant, in honor of a longtime employee who helped shaped the business, has recently been added at Carl's and has quickly become a beloved Route 66 roadside icon.

Further south, the Mother Road takes you to another of these famous goliaths, the 19-foot **Bunyon Giant** and his other giant friends at the **American Giants Museum** in super quaint Atlanta. This hot dog-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 and company are always ready to help nail that perfect photo op. New to Atlanta is **Lumi**, the bright and cheerful giant added at the **Country Aire Restaurant**, bringing a welcoming, modern twist to classic Route 66 roadside charm while honoring the community's long-standing hospitality tradition.

Give the kids a presidential history lesson at the **Railsplitter Covered Wagon** in Lincoln. This 25-foot-tall and 40-foot-long Guinness Book of World Records qualifier comes complete with a large statue of **Abraham Lincoln** sitting on the front end, a law book in hand. Known as the Lincoln Railsplitter, the attraction was handbuilt 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 **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** here, too. 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 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.



PINK ELEPHANT ANTIQUE MALL
Livingston, IL



GEMINI GIANT
Wilmington, IL



RUSTY
Granite City, IL



RAILSPLITTER COVERED WAGON
Lincoln, IL



BROOKS GIANT KETCHUP BOTTLE
Collinsville, IL



BUNYON GIANT
Atlanta, IL



LUMI THE PIE LADY
Atlanta, IL



THE SNERD, VIKING & PHILLIPS 66 COWBOY
Atlanta, IL

ALL TIME CLASSIC

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Take Your Taste Buds for a Ride

as you explore the Land of Classic

Dining. From traditional diners and quirky cafes to amazing fine dining, Illinois' stretch of the Mother Road hosts some of the most treasured eateries on the highway.

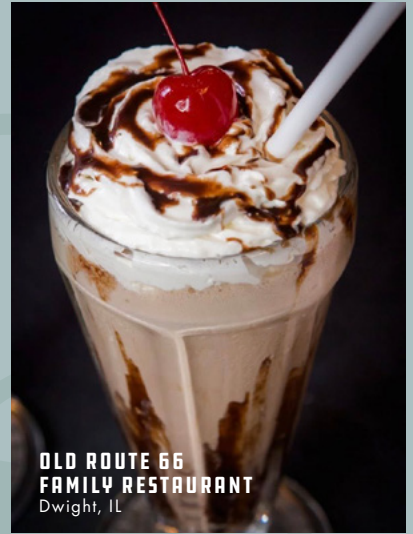
Breakfast at **Lou Mitchell's** in Chicago has become a rite of passage before heading out west. The eatery's 1950s decor, zigzag-shaped counter, and retro booths will time warp you back to a bygone era. For 98 years, Lou's has served up hearty meals with a side of quirky tradition — milk duds for the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



LOU MITCHELL'S
Chicago, IL



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** 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.



ARISTON CAFE
Litchfield, IL



MAID-RITE
Springfield, IL



LOU MITCHELL'S
Chicago, IL



DELL RHEA'S CHICKEN BASKET
Willowbrook, IL



COZY DOG DRIVE-IN
Springfield, IL

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.





MALDANER'S RESTAURANT
Springfield, IL



BOB & RINGO'S SMOKEHOUSE
Pontiac, IL



**ROUTE 66 MOTORHEADS BAR & GRILL,
MUSEUM & ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX**
Springfield, IL



**VITALE'S HIDEAWAY PROHIBITION
GAMING BAR & GRILL**
Worden, IL



POLKA-DOT-DRIVE IN
Braidwood, IL



TWISTEE TREAT DINER @ PINK ELEPHANT ANTIQUE MALL
Livingston, IL



It's a
**GAS GAS
GAS!!!**



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 **Lambert's 1957 Mobil** in Joliet. It is a lovingly preserved mid-century gas station that stands as a classic Route 66 landmark, capturing the look and spirit of America's golden age of road travel. Further down the road is **Ambler's Texaco Gas 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 Mt. 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. Today, Mahan's, 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.

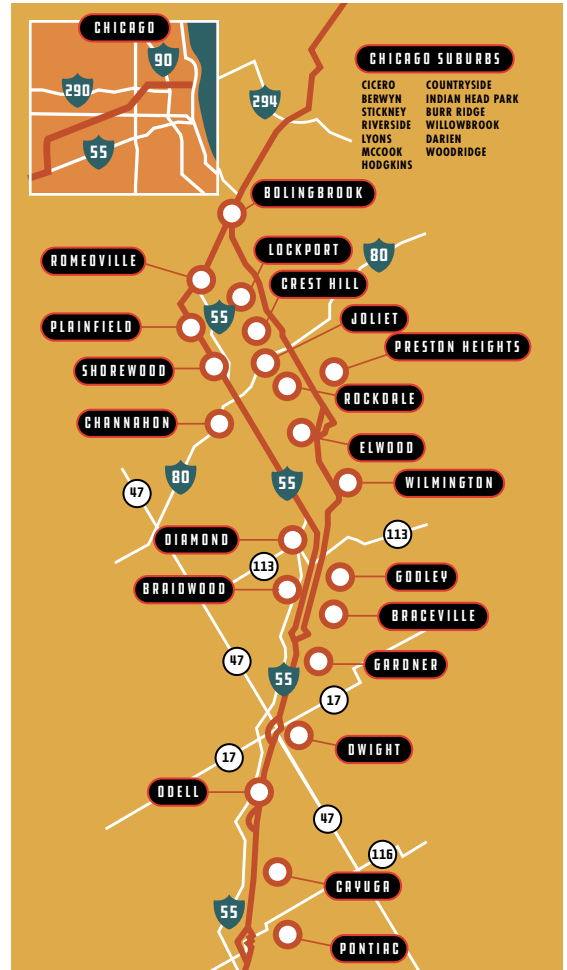
Just south of Mahan's is **Shea's Gas Station Museum**. Shea's was a Texaco, and later Marathon, gas station from 1946-1982. Owners Bill and Helen Shea transformed the property into a world-renowned museum in 1995 until Bill's passing in 2013. The building contents were auctioned off and property sold in 2016. In early 2024, the City of Springfield made improvements to the property, including reproducing the original signage on the exterior and interior of the station. While the interior of Shea's is not yet open to the public, Shea's is now a photo opportunity not to be missed!



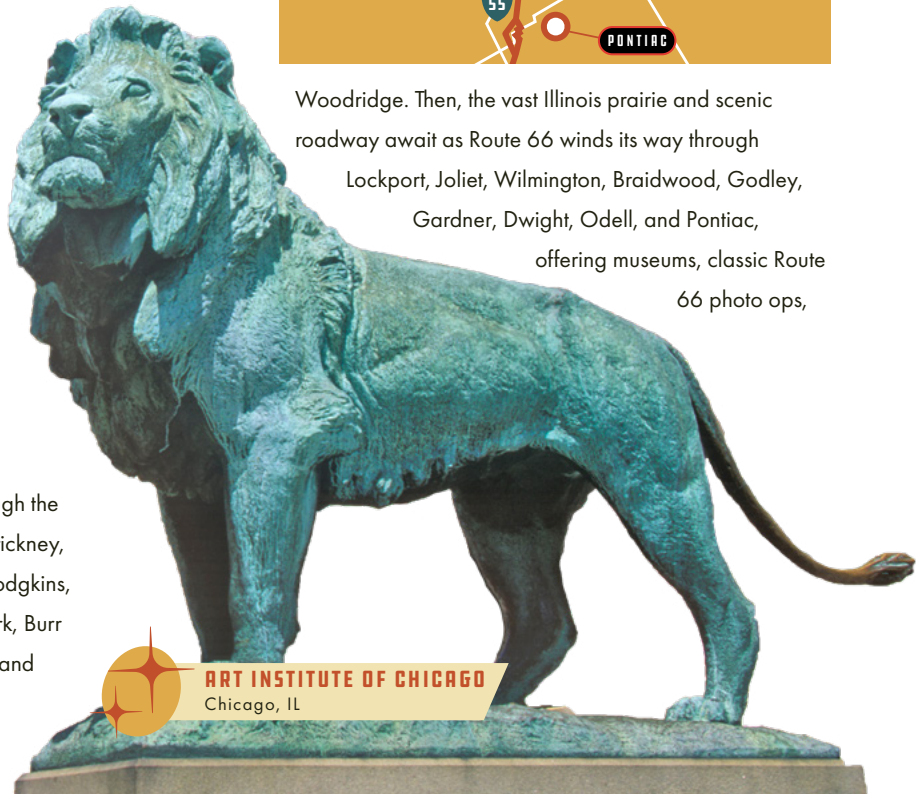
NORTHERN SECTION

Route 66 was generally recognized to have begun at the intersection of Jackson Boulevard (later Adams Street since Jackson became eastbound only in the 1950s) and Michigan Avenue in busy Chicago, although Jackson was extended in 1937 to Lake Shore Drive. The crossing of Michigan Avenue and Jackson Boulevard not only marked the original eastern terminus of U.S. Highway 66, but this intersection also handily carried U.S. Highways 41 and 32, all part of the numbered federal highway system that was established Nov. 11, 1926. Beginning in 2026, **Navy Pier** — one of Chicago’s most iconic and beloved landmarks, known for its music, food, amusement rides, fireworks, public art, and stunning views of Lake Michigan — will be recognized as the ceremonial starting point, pairing it with the Santa Monica Pier, which has served as the western terminus since 2009. This pier-to-pier connection honors the legacy of Route 66 while inspiring future generations of travelers, historians, and dreamers to embrace the spirit of discovery that has defined the road since 1926. The dedication aligns with the 28th Annual Worldwide Toast to Harry Caray at **Harry Caray’s Tavern** at Navy Pier. One of America’s most iconic sportscasters, Caray’s story is intertwined with the history and culture of Route 66.

When leaving Downtown Chicago, select the original route south through Joliet (or take the 1930s alignment to see Plainfield and Channahon). The original route from Downtown Chicago uses Ogden Avenue and Joliet Road to coast through the suburbs of Cicero, Berwyn, Stickney, Riverside, Lyons, McCook, Hodgkins, Countryside, Indian Head Park, Burr Ridge, Willowbrook, Darien, and



Woodridge. Then, the vast Illinois prairie and scenic roadway await as Route 66 winds its way through Lockport, Joliet, Wilmington, Braidwood, Godley, Gardner, Dwight, Odell, and Pontiac, offering museums, classic Route 66 photo ops,



and quaint Midwestern charm. But first, there's much more to see in the Windy City and its environs.

Chicago

Chicago, the second-largest city in the United States from roughly 1890-1982, is known for its tragic Great Fire of 1871, the architectural planning and rebuilding of the city, its World's Fairs in 1893 and 1933-34, and the notoriety of the Prohibition Era.

Surrounding the legendary crossing of Jackson and Michigan are several historic landmarks. The magnificent **Art Institute of Chicago** was built as part of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (Chicago World's Fair) and is now the second-largest art museum in the United States. Beautiful **Grant Park** dates to the city's founding and was known as Lake Park until it was renamed for U.S. President Ulysses S. Grant in 1901. Buckingham Fountain was dedicated in 1927 — just a year after Route 66 was designated — and is one of the largest fountains in the world. Also, don't miss the amazing **Cloud Gate**, popularly known as **The Bean**.

Don't miss the iconic photo op at the original **Route 66 "Begin" Sign** on East Adams Street. Before or after sightseeing (or both!) is a great time to have a meal and coffee at The Berghoff, Chicago's oldest restaurant, or **Lou Mitchell's Restaurant**. From Adams Street, turn left onto Ogden Avenue to leave Downtown Chicago and cruise your way through interesting suburbs with historic landmarks.

Just before you get to Cicero, spot the **Castle Car Wash** for a photo op, then stop for a Chicago Dog at the always-busy **Henry's Drive-In** or at **Steak & Egger** in McCook for that old-time diner feel. In Berwyn, Route 66 becomes "Automobile Row" on Ogden Avenue, where once-busy auto dealerships left behind their ornate brick facades and showroom windows. More-than-a-hundred-year-old Top and Trim, opened as a carriage service, is still open and busy upholstering car interiors. At **Berwyn's Toys & Trains**, you can operate a giant train set. Don't miss the "giant" with a bottle of hot sauce staring down off the roof of **Cigars & Stripes**

BBQ Lounge. The huge **Berwyn Car Show** returns to this strip in 2026. A Route 66 detour of interest is **Al Capone's Gravesite** in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, off Route 66 on Wolf Road in Hillside. **Countryside** was mostly just, well, countryside until the late 1940s. But earlier, the famous Marx Brothers owned a chicken farm there, which was never successful due to, according to Groucho Marx, all the time the brothers spent watching the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field. Willowbrook has been known for **Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket** since the 1940s, when it was also a Blue Bird bus stop. Bring your appetite for delicious fried chicken and your camera for the newly restored Chicken Basket neon sign. Bolingbrook was developed as a housing suburb in the 1960s with three home tracts — Westbury, Colonial Village, and King's Park — that together incorporated in 1965 as the Village of Bolingbrook. In Romeoville, **White Fence Farm** looks like a giant farmhouse and is known for its fried chicken. To enjoy the historic and scenic outdoors, plan a visit to **Isle a la Cache Museum**, part of the Des Plaines River preservation system in Bolingbrook.

Plainfield & Channahon

If exiting the original 1920s route (Joliet Road) to take the 1930s route, enjoy Plainfield's charming **Historic Downtown** (on the National Register of Historic Places) and its **Waterfront Trails**. The **Lincoln Highway (U.S. 30)** and **Route 66 (U.S. 59)** share an alignment for three blocks (Division Street between Main Street and Joliet Road). Enjoy the Great Outdoors at **Channahon State Park**; the 21-acre park serves as the trailhead for the **Illinois & Michigan Canal State Trail**.

Lockport

A historic and important feature of Lockport is the **Illinois and Michigan Canal**, a direct waterway link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River that aided Chicago's rise as the center of Midwestern trade. The Canal Commission's headquarters, a National Historic Landmark, serves as the home of the **Illinois and Michigan Canal Museum**. The still-standing stone warehouses and first waterway lock contribute to this

growing city's charm, as does the row of historic buildings housing breweries and shops. The 1838 **Gaylord Building** played a key role in the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and is on the National Register of Historic Places, plus one of 29 Historic Sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The **Will County Historical Museum and Research Center** is an intriguing stop, and the restored **Roxy Theatre** offers a great lineup of musical entertainment.

Joliet

If you have stayed on the original 1920s route, stop on the north side of Joliet at **Lambert 1957 Mobil & Convenience Store**. Thought to be the oldest continuously operating gas station on Route 66 by a single family, Don Lambert opened here in 1957. Another vintage business is celebrated at the **Martin & Emma Planinsek Grocery and Meat Market Museum**.

This unique structure, recognized by its green-and-white-striped awnings, preserves and interprets the Slovenian immigrant experience in Joliet. Then make another stop to stroll the lovely **Kicks on 66 Park** for some fresh air and a glimpse of the Old Joliet Prison across the river. Before leaving the park, stop at the 50-year-old **Rich & Creamy** ice cream shop for a sweet treat and a look at Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues statues as they dance atop the roof.

Then, begin your downtown exploration at the **Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center** with the Route 66 Experience exhibit inside and the six-foot-tall **Route 66 Number & Shield Installment** outside. Inside, visit the award-winning, two-story permanent exhibit and browse the gift shop. Just around the corner is the **Illinois Rock & Roll Museum**

on Route 66, with a gift shop, studios, and exhibits with classic artifacts that honor the amazing accomplishments of Illinois musicians. Two blocks

south stands the magnificent **Rialto Square Theatre**, celebrating its shared 100th birthday with Route 66. At the Gateway Center Train Station, immerse in the railroad history of Joliet at the **Joliet Railroad Museum**.

Repurposing the former 1913 interlocking signal tower, known locally as Union Depot Tower, the museum tells the story of the 1910-1912 elevation project and the construction of Joliet Union Station and Union Depot Tower. Across the river from **Harrah's Joliet Casino** is **Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park**, with a great view of the Des Plaines River from a peaceful green space with a paved walking trail and a bandshell.

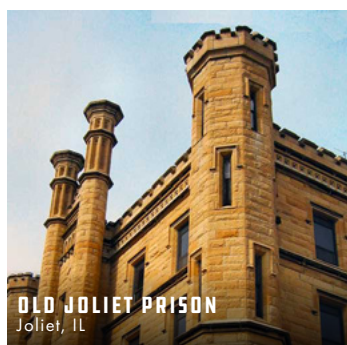
About four miles north of downtown Joliet, take a tour of the **Old Joliet Prison**, where the classic movie *The Blues Brothers* was filmed, starring John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd as Joliet Jake and Elwood Blues.

Elwood

The tiny village of Elwood grew by several hundred residents in the 1940s when the Elwood Ordnance plant became one of the largest munitions factories in the U.S. A massive explosion in 1942 destroyed part of the facility and killed around 50 workers. Now, much of the former military complex land is occupied by the **Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**. In Elwood, jog onto Douglas Street to experience original Route 66 pavement and a stop at the **Workers Roadside Exhibit**.

Wilmington

Watch for the iconic green **Sinclair Dinosaur** on your right atop **BTI Tire & Alignment**, formerly a Sinclair gas station. A block away is Wilmington's **Mar Theatre**, an Art Deco gem with a dazzling marquee. Since 1937, this elegant yet cozy theater has welcomed locals and travelers alike. **Stop at Route 66 Antiques** with an array of unique collectibles to satisfy your browsing and shopping urge. Venture into the **Historic Water Street Shopping District** just off Route 66 for more unique shopping experiences. On the west side of Wilmington, the recently restored **Gemini Giant** has been shined up and awaits visitors at **South Island Park**. The new **Landing Pad** gift shop is a must-stop for collectibles.



Braidwood

You'll know you're in Braidwood when you spot Elvis Presley, Marilyn Monroe, James Dean, and Betty Boop posed in a perpetual dance just outside the **Polk-a-Dot Drive-In**. Chester "Chet" Fife began serving food here out of his school bus in 1956, but now you can get comfortable in booth seating while you enjoy the diner-style menu and the '50s décor. Across the street, don't miss the kitschy **Braidwood Zoo**, a collection of quirky animals created by the late Jack Barkers.



Godley & Gardner

These two tiny communities offer unique attractions that can't be missed.

In Godley, the **Illinois Route 66 Mining Museum** tells the stories of mining and miners along the Illinois Route 66 coal streak. In Gardner, visit the historic **Two-Cell Jail** with an audio narration for an "arresting" photo op and check out the historic **Streetcar Diner**. Dating to 1932, this Kankakee streetcar was rescued from use and transformed into a playhouse and cottage. **The Shop on Route 66** is filled to the ceiling with Coca-Cola memorabilia for another "wow" moment as you enter the bright, jam-packed store.

Dwight

Dwight's **Route 66 Visitor Center** is in the restored 1933 **Ambler's Texaco Gas Station**. Inside, enjoy a photo op on the firetruck. The **Old Route 66 Family Restaurant** is aptly named with tasty recipes passed down through three generations to create their home-cooked meals. Check out their new murals on the exterior. The **Crazy 80's Car Museum** opened in 2024 in a former furniture store to showcase the "underperforming" and "unwanted" cars of the 1980s. A few blocks away in the quaint business section, admire the Richardson-Romanesque architecture of the train depot. Across the

street stands the 1905 former **Frank L. Smith Bank** (now the Dwight Banking Center of Peoples National Bank of Kewanee). It's a small but glorious Frank Lloyd Wright-designed building, only one of three banks he designed that is still standing.

Odell

The impeccably restored 1932 **Standard Oil Station** in Odell is a time-traveling experience, with no detail of its bygone days missed. Check out the now-filled **Odell Subway Tunnel**, an under-the-highway passage from one side of the highway to the other during the Glory Days of Route 66, when constant traffic flowed through small communities like Odell.

Cayuga

The **Meramec Caverns Barn**, one of the few remaining from the Missouri attraction's aggressive advertising campaign, can be viewed from the roadside. It's a 600-foot hike off the road for a closer look. In 2025, the Illinois Route 66 Association's Preservation Committee organized a repainting and restoration effort for the historic Meramec Caverns barn, helping preserve this rare original Route 66 advertising landmark for future travelers and enthusiasts.

Pontiac

The Pontiac Museum Complex and gift shop, which is headquartered in the city's former City Hall and firehouse, includes the **Hall of Fame and Museum** as well as the **Livingston County War Museum**. This is also home to two vehicles owned by the late Route 66 artist and free



spirit Bob Waldmire — his **Volkswagen Bus** is housed inside, and his school bus home, known as **the “Road Yacht,”** is parked just outside.

The **Murals on Main Street Tour** is a unique collection of more than 20 outdoor murals created during the **Walldogs** Summer Bash in 2009. In a charming town setting reminiscent of Norman Rockwell's paintings, the murals honor the commercial, social, and political history of the city. To make sure that you don't miss any of the amazing murals, including the giant **Route 66 Shield Mural**, follow the red footprints painted on the sidewalks for a self-guided tour. Follow the blue footprints to find your way to the **Museum of the Gilding Arts** and the **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum & Resource Center**, which displays one of the world's greatest collections of this automobile brand and shares its history. Don't miss **Jurassic Gemstones**, a unique store built on a collection of gemstones, plus fossils and everything science. The 1875 **Livingston County**

Courthouse anchors downtown, and the surrounding courthouse square is home to many interesting shops and cafes. On the corners, check out Pontiac's collection of painted **Art Cars**, uniquely painted small versions of pickup trucks and '57 Chevys. Catch a show or a concert at the **Eagle Performing Arts and Conference Center**, which was built in the 1930s as the city's second movie theater. For a couple of fun and relaxing hours, head for **Bob and Ringo's Tavern** and adjacent **Grill & Smokehouse**.

Don't miss strolling across the three pedestrian **Swinging Bridges** crossing the Vermilion River, offering scenic, pastoral views of three of Pontiac's municipal parks — **Humiston Riverside Park**, **Play Park**, and **Chautauqua Park**. Nature lovers will enjoy the **Humiston Woods Nature Center**, an eight-acre restored prairie and 355-acre hardwood forest along the Vermilion River.

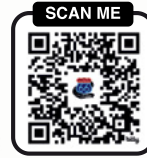
SHOP ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 — TWO STORES, ONE LEGENDARY ROAD

Celebrate the past, present, and future of the Mother Road with official merchandise from the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway and the Illinois Route 66 Centennial.



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

Show your support for the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway year-round with branded apparel, gifts, and merchandise that help promote and preserve Illinois Route 66. Every purchase supports ongoing preservation, education, and promotion efforts along the route.



Mark this once-in-a-lifetime milestone with exclusive Illinois Centennial merchandise created specifically for the 100th anniversary of Route 66. From limited-edition collectibles to commemorative keepsakes, these items are available for a limited time only.

Two stores. Two experiences. One historic celebration.

IllinoisRoute66.org



Romeoville, IL
whitefencefarm-il.com

For travelers navigating the Illinois stretch of Route 66, White Fence Farm in Romeoville is more than just a restaurant; it is a destination, a landmark, and a tradition for generations. Still located on the original "Mother Road" and thriving for over 72 years, the farm is known for serving "The World's Greatest Chicken" and a whole lot more. The menu also features aged ribeye and T-bone steaks, fish, shrimp, roasted chicken, and the best hand-dipped chicken strips in Illinois.

All meals come with signature homemade relishes: kidney bean salad, coleslaw, pickled beets, cottage cheese, and corn fritters dusted with powdered sugar—yummy! To finish the experience, don't forget the famous Brandy Ice for dessert.

The property was purchased in 1954 by Robert and Doris Hastert from Stuyvesant Peabody, a 1920s coal baron. It was initially managed with their son, Bob Jr., and is now led by the third generation, Laura Hastert, alongside a dedicated team of longtime managers and their families.

The interior features 11 dining rooms that can seat up to 1,000 guests, decorated with antiques, an antique car museum, an extensive Department 56 village display, and vintage games and rides for kids. Situated on 12 beautiful acres, the farm also invites guests to visit the farm animals, including adorable alpacas and mini goats. Visitors can snap a selfie with the Route 66 shield, the large cows, or the giant chicken at the front door.

As Route 66 approaches its 2026 Centennial, White Fence Farm remains a proud and thriving symbol of Illinois heritage, welcoming the best folks ever, their customers.

1376 Joliet Rd. | Romeoville
(630) 739-1720
whitefencefarm-il.com

JOLIET AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM



A BLESSED HISTORY

The Joliet Area Historical Museum (JAHM) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that celebrates the diverse industrial heritage and culture of the Joliet region. It is funded primarily through the support of earned revenue, membership, sponsored programs, and grants. JAHM operates a contemporary museum facility in Joliet's City Center in the historic 1909 Ottawa Street Methodist Church along Old Route 66, including one of the State of Illinois' first dedicated Route 66 Welcome Centers. The museum opened in 2002, designed as a "big city" museum with modern displays and technology, highlighting the important role of transportation and industry to the region. Since 2018, JAHM has operated the Old Joliet Prison Historic Site. The prison was operational from 1858-2002 and made famous by film and television productions

such as *The Blues Brothers* and *Prison Break*. The 1926 Planinsek Market, opened in 2023, is a former neighborhood corner store located within sight of Old Route 66 that highlights the experiences of Joliet's Slovenian immigrants. JAHM also established the Joliet Railroad Museum in the former Union Depot switching tower as part of the modern Gateway Transportation Center. The same year, JAHM purchased the iconic "Gemini Giant" muffler man statue for display in its home community of Wilmington, IL at South Island Park. It cooperates The Landing Pad Souvenir Shop. JAHM is currently working with the Joliet Arsenal Development Authority to restore and program the circa 1940 Guard House and promote the region's role in supporting the World War II effort.

204 N. Ottawa St. • Joliet, IL

GEMINI GIANT

CENTENNIAL STOP



OUT OF THIS

WORLD

Welcome to Wilmington, IL — home to the iconic **Gemini Giant**. Standing 30 feet tall, the Gemini Giant is one of the last remaining Muffler Men on the historic Mother Road. The Giant has been a symbol of community pride for both Wilmington residents and Route 66 enthusiasts since it was erected in the mid-1960s. Originally located outside The Launching Pad diner, the Giant found its new home next to **The Landing Pad Souvenir Shop** in November 2024. The Giant proudly stands on the corner of Baltimore and Park streets with a coat of fresh paint and lights that illuminate his face.

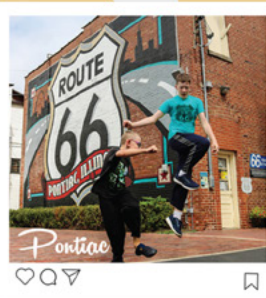
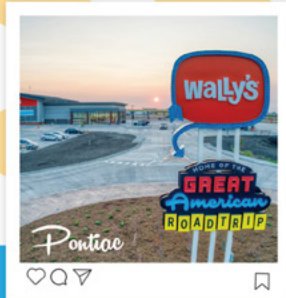
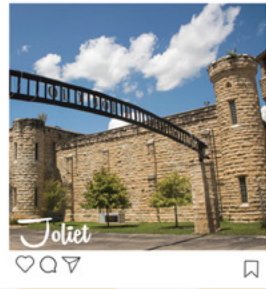
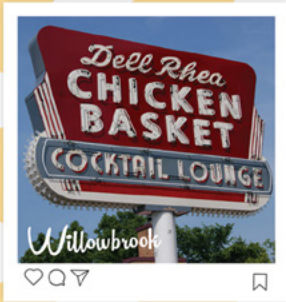
Snap a photo with the Gemini Giant, then head to The Landing Pad Souvenir Shop to receive your passport

stamp. The Landing Pad is home to a variety of nostalgic Route 66 souvenirs you can't find anywhere else on the route. Enjoy fun photo ops, browse Illinois-made gifts, sign a digital guest book, and be sure to put a few coins in the retro coin stamping machine for an affordable keepsake.

Before you leave, stop by the **Route 66 Community Shield Monument** and vibrant **Wilmington mural** located across from the Giant. These bold photo ops are the perfect backdrops for road trip selfies, and nearby picnic tables allow travelers to rest and soak in the vintage Americana atmosphere before they head back out on the Mother Road.

201 Bridge St. (South Island Park) • Wilmington, IL

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is committed to preserving the rich history and contributions of musicians, performers and industry leaders who have impacted the music world and embodied the creative spirit of Illinois. We strive to inform, engage, and inspire our visitors through exhibits and programs that draw upon a diversity of cultures, history, and musical influence.

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- Quarterly Newsletter
- Members Only Events - (some exceptions)
- Pre-sale notices for special events



EXHIBITS



HALL OF FAME



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



GIFT SHOP

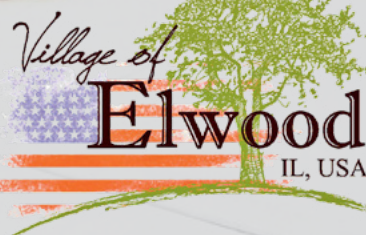
The Illinois Rock & Roll Museum on Route 66 is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. EIN 82-2293229. Contributions are tax-deductible for income, gift, and estate taxes.

Discover Elwood Along Historic Illinois Route 66

Elwood, Illinois, offers a glimpse into the small-town charm that helped define the Route 66 experience. Once a stop along the historic Mother Road, Elwood welcomed travelers with local hospitality and roadside services during Route 66's heyday. Today, visitors can still feel that connection to America's Main Street, while also finding a place of reflection at nearby Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery—a powerful national landmark that honors the service and sacrifice of America's veterans. Together, these elements make Elwood a meaningful stop for those exploring the history, communities, and enduring stories of Route 66.

401 East Mississippi Avenue | Elwood

villageofelwood.com





RED CARPET CORRIDOR FESTIVAL

First Full Weekend Every May



Enjoy a Big Welcome to a Legendary Road!

The Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival is a two-day celebration, held every May, hosted by communities making up the 100-mile linear museum spanning from the Chicago suburbs to Central Illinois. Member communities roll out the red carpet to Mother Road travelers, including antique, art, and craft shows, yard sales, cruise-ins, and live entertainment. The Illinois Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival offers a unique, fun way to explore the first stretch of the Mother Road and experience the sights and sounds of the highway just like the cross-country travelers of yesteryear.

- JOLIET**
- BRACEVILLE**
- CHENOA**
- ELWOOD**
- GARDNER**
- LEXINGTON**
- WILMINGTON**
- DWIGHT**
- TOWANDA**
- BRAIDWOOD**
- ODELL**
- NORMAL**
- GODLEY**
- PONTIAC**
- BLOOMINGTON**

For a full list of events and attractions in each community, visit ilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com.



LAMBERT'S 1957 MOBIL STATION



At the intersection of Broadway and Theodore

in Joliet, brothers Terry and Jim Lambert have transformed their family's gas station into a living tribute. Lambert 1957 Mobil & Convenience Store is no ordinary fuel stop; it is a meticulously curated destination that honors the legacy of founders Dan and Helen Lambert, who opened their first Standard Oil service station on this very corner in February 1957.

For travelers on a Route 66 pilgrimage, the experience begins outside with a massive mural on the north wall, recreating the station's 1950s appearance. Inside, the store serves as a museum of family and community

history. A sprawling photo collage documents the site's evolution, from the original 1957 building to the 1982 Amoco "pumper" kiosk, and finally to the expansive 2021 renovation directed by Terry and Jim.

The dedication to family even extends to the coffee. The shop grinds its own signature "Lambert 1957" premium blend, featuring Helen Lambert as the face of the brand to honor her love for a great cup of coffee. Beyond the nostalgia, the station maintains an "old school" commitment to service rarely seen today. While most stations charge for air, Lambert 1957 provides a free inflatable air pump as a courtesy to all motorists; no purchase required.

CENTENNIAL STOP

1529 N. Broadway St. • Joliet, IL

OLD ROUTE 66 FAMILY RESTAURANT

MODERN ATMOSPHERE NOSTALGIC SOUL



Since 2001, the Old Route 66 Family Restaurant has been a premier destination for classic American cuisine in Dwight, IL. Situated directly on the historic Mother Road, this family-owned landmark

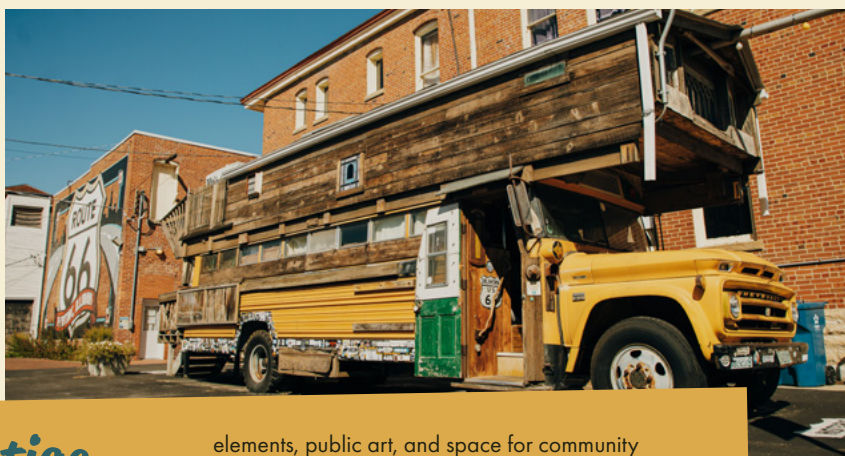
blends nearly a century of tradition with the spirited hospitality of the open road.

The restaurant's story is rooted in the journey of co-owner Maria Ahmedi. A true "jack of all trades," Maria grew up in the industry following her father, who opened his first Illinois restaurant in 1977. After a decade running the Wishing Well Café in Odell, Maria and her husband saw untapped potential in a Dwight location. They seized the opportunity to take over an existing business, transitioning seamlessly without ever closing the doors. Maria named it "Old Route 66 Family Restaurant" to honor the highway that brings global adventurers to her doorstep.

As a minority woman entrepreneur raising three children while running a high-traffic business, Maria views her success as part of a larger narrative. "I feel like a powerhouse," she says, proud to carry the legacy of women who shaped the road's history. This resilience was tested during COVID-19. Maria closed for seven months to prioritize safety, using the time to renovate with help from the Dwight Economic Alliance. Reopening on October 12, 2020, the "dream restaurant" now offers a fresh, modern atmosphere while maintaining its nostalgic soul.

Today, the menu features home-cooked recipes passed down through three generations, including famous broasted chicken, meatloaf, and hand-cut ribeye. At Old Route 66, guests come as strangers and leave as friends.

VISIT PONTIAC



Welcome to Pontiac —

a small town with a big presence on historic Route 66. Located along I-55 just 100 miles southwest of Chicago, Pontiac is a must-stop destination welcoming travelers from around the world. Whether you're here for a quick visit or a long weekend, you'll find history, art, and classic Americana at every turn.

Pontiac is best known for its museums and murals. Visitors can explore four standout museums, including the popular **Route 66 Hall of Fame & Museum**, the **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum**, and the **Museum of the Gilding Arts**, all located within the **Historic Museum Complex**. **Downtown**, more than 25 outdoor murals create a walkable art experience that's perfect for exploring and photographing.

A new highlight in town is **Pontiac's Centennial Plaza**, a vibrant gathering place honoring the 100-year legacy of Route 66 with interpretive

elements, public art, and space for community events, celebrations, and memorable photos. Pontiac is also home to the legacy of Route 66 artist Bob Waldmire. At the museum complex, visitors can view his vibrant artwork, famous Volkswagen van, and "Road Yacht," celebrating one of the Mother Road's most beloved storytellers.

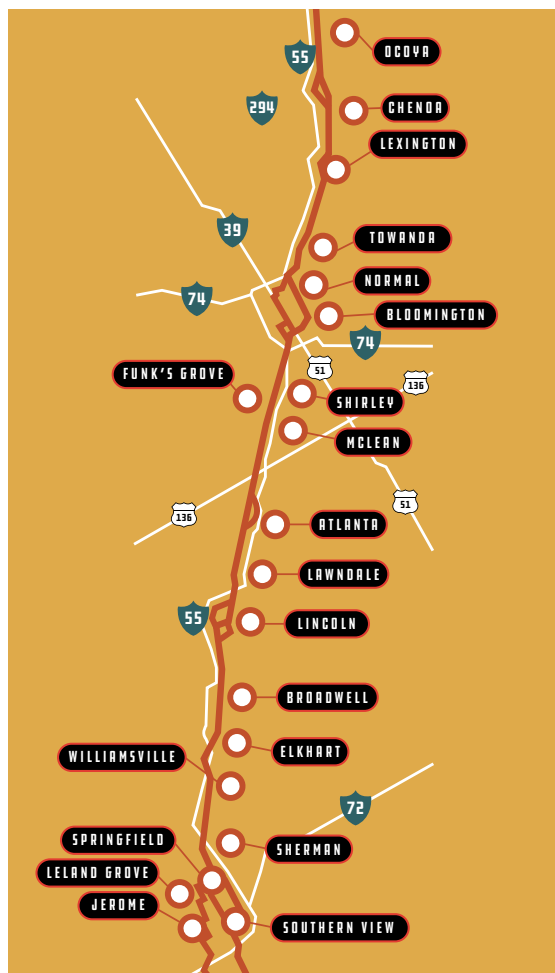
Photo opportunities abound — from miniature Art Cars and the iconic Route 66 mural to Abraham Lincoln statues and historic architecture. History lovers can explore the **Livingston County Courthouse** and preserved historic homes or follow the Looking for Lincoln Trail.

With four hotels, seasonal camping options, and a full calendar of events — including Red-Carpet Corridor Weekend and Route 66 Centennial celebrations in 2026 — Pontiac is an unforgettable stop on America's Main Street.

CENTRAL SECTION

Welcome to the Land of Lincoln! Abraham Lincoln lived and worked in the capital city of Springfield but as an Illinois legislator and an attorney, he also traveled by horse to Bloomington and to Lincoln, within what is now the Central Section of Illinois Route 66. Although there was no paved highway between those cities at the time, Lincoln would have taken approximately the same route as Route 66 in 1926. In Bloomington, Lincoln, and Springfield, there are multiple Route 66 alignments to follow — two or three times the fun!

The intriguing Lincoln attractions will be waiting for you in Springfield, but you have plenty of time to enjoy the ride with numerous enjoyable stops before you get there. Most of the Central Section is tall-grass prairie, but at Funks Grove, a special geographical treat awaits. Route 66 allows you to drive through the largest remaining old-growth prairie forest in the Midwest, where you can feel the drop in temperature from the surrounding prairie and marvel at this forested gem in the middle of it all. In the Central Section, Route 66 carries you smoothly in a southeasterly direction all the way into Springfield. You'll begin with the charming village of Chenoa, followed by Lexington, Towanda, Normal, Bloomington, Shirley, Funks Grove, McLean, Atlanta, Lawndale, Lincoln, Broadwell, Elkhart, Williamsville, Sherman, and then Springfield.



Chenoa

Chenoa is an intriguing mix of old and new you won't want to miss. Located right on the Mother Road is the new **Route 66 Fetch & Stretch Dog Park**, featuring an off-leash area to allow both dogs and humans to stretch their legs. A half-mile south, take note of the intersection of **two of the original U.S. numbered highways of 1926 — U.S. 66 and U.S. 24**. Just two blocks off Route 66, there is a **Route 66 Mural** for photo ops, the restored **J. W. Lenney Shoe & Drug Store Mural**. While downtown, which is undergoing revitalization, see the new



MEMORY LANE
Lexington, IL



library and the unique **Historical Society building**. Check out the 1855 **Matthew T. Scott House**. Scott founded Chenoa and was also a noted agriculturist. On Morehead Street, a block off U.S. 24, stands a historic **Texaco station and cafe**, recognizable by the buildings' hip roofs. A vintage highlight is the three-mile stretch of the abandoned **1926-30 Highway Segment** off Morehead St. and W. Cemetery Ave., named to the National Register of Historic Places and waiting for you to stroll along this piece of history.

Lexington

Just north of Lexington, **Memory Lane**, a one-mile stretch of original pavement, is lined with vintage billboards and Burma Shave signs inviting you to read and stroll along this historic pavement, which was part of the Mother Road until the 1940s. At the main intersection, the 1940s **Neon Arrow Sign** will direct you left to **Picturesque Downtown Lexington**, where you can marvel at the Midwestern artisan shopping. Enjoy a charming shopping experience with its array of boutiques and enjoy a visit here on the first weekend of each May, when Lexington is a special stop on the **Red Carpet Corridor**. For an unusual photo op, check out the 11-foot **American Standard Elephant** made from scrap metal. Route 66 will take you back to the swinging '60s at the groovy **Lexington House**, a "far-out" overnight stay that can sleep eight people in flower power style. In **Lexington Pool Park**, visit the restored **John Patton's Cabin**. Patton settled here in 1829 and is credited with developing the town.

Towanda

Drive — at a modest speed, of course — the infamous **Dead Man's Curve**, a treacherous and deceptively sharp curve that surprised drivers and caused many serious, some fatal, accidents. Then, walk a 3.5-mile version of the entire eight-state Mother Road on the **Towanda Route 66 Parkway**. The longest and most developed of McLean County's Route 66 trails, it features maps, murals, and Burma Shave signs.

Normal

It's a step back in time at the restored 1931 **Sprague's Super Service**, now featuring a gift shop and information center. The unusually large, two-story station is honored in the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame. In **Uptown Normal**, children can explore, imagine, create, and play at the **Children's Discovery Museum**. For eye-popping neon plus a contemporary movie or a vintage film, check out the restored 1937 Art Moderne **Normal Theater**. The **Illinois Art Station** provides young artists and families from diverse backgrounds with hands-on experiences in the visual arts. Treat yourself to a cone or a sundae at **Carl's Ice Cream**, then take your picture with the "Big Man" himself — 14-foot Carl. For a pleasant evening, try **DESTIHL Restaurant and Brew Works**, a large complex with a busy event list and a "boycott bland" philosophy.

Bloomington

Bloomington is a must-stop for the **McLean County Museum of History**, housed in the magnificent historic courthouse. There, don't miss the **Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitors Center & Gift Shop**. Beautiful **Miller Park and Zoo** offers a small but fun zoo experience and plenty of walking and picnicking opportunities that still leave you with time for other adventures. The only amusement park in Bloomington-Normal, **Grady's Family Fun Park** features an 18-hole mini-golf course, go-karts, bumper boats, batting cages, and kiddie rides, plus **Grady's Pizza**. The **David Davis Mansion State Historic Site** was built in 1872 as a home for U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Davis, a friend and



mentor to Abraham Lincoln. Another historic site is the **Evergreen Memorial Cemetery**, which lists notable monuments and attractions on its website, including the popular **Wizard of Oz Dorothy Gage Monument** commemorating the namesake of the story's main character. **Red Raccoon Games**, one of Illinois' largest game stores, features non-electronic board, dice, card, children's, miniatures, and role-playing games. Bloomington offers many opportunities for artists and art aficionados alike. Events such as the Route 66 Art Trail and First Fridays are organized by the **BN Artists**, a coalition of individual artists and galleries. The annual



city-wide **Slow Art Day** event encourages visitors and residents alike to slow down and appreciate the art they'll find at galleries, studios, and sculpture parks. The annual **Route 66 Art Trail** encourages visitors and travelers to stop at 18 brick-and-mortar stops throughout Bloomington-Normal that altogether feature the work of over 100 local artists.



Funks Grove/Shirley

Nestled within virgin forest is **Funks Grove Pure Maple Sirup Farm**, a family tradition dating back to their early pioneer days in the area 200 years ago. This family-owned sweet stop offers maple sirup

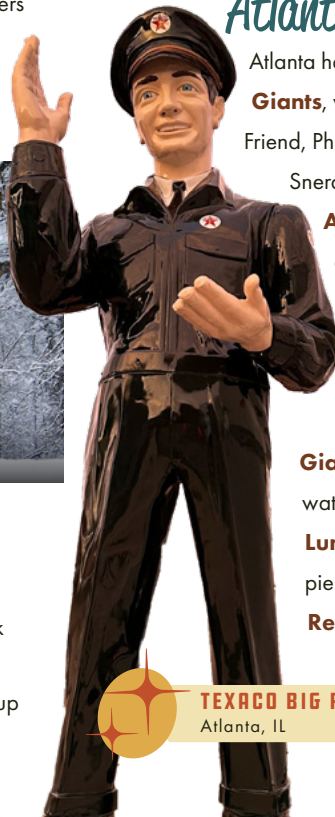
and other maple treats, plus the opportunity to see the maple trees tapped and the rest of the sirup process. A complementary business, also operated by members of the Funk Family, is **Funks Grove Heritage Fruits & Grains**, a specialty farm business offering fruits and grains grown without herbicides, pesticides, or synthetic fertilizers

McLean

The historic **Dixie Family Restaurant** truck stop has stood on this spot in one iteration or another for just under 100 years. J. P. Walters and John Geske opened in 1928 in a mechanic's garage, with a small counter, a couple barstools, and gas pumps. Today, it's a modern travel stop, but it still reflects its American hospitality roots. Don't miss the model railroad displays at the **McLean Depot Train Shop** and **A Home on the Road Interpretive Statue**, located in the restored **GM&O, Alton Route Depot**. For great photo ops, view the **Route 66 Walldogs Mural** honoring **Shorty's Barber Shop**, plus the new **Route 66 Mural** by **FreeSky Studios** on a local grain elevator. **CORE of McLean** is a community nonprofit group beautifying the village and its historic water tower.

Atlanta

Atlanta has become the **Land of Giants**, with the 24-foot Texaco Friend, Phillips 66 Cowboy, Viking, and Snerd now standing tall at the new **American Giants Museum**, a Texaco Filling Station-styled center for everything "Giant." Other Giants (or Muffler Men, as they're also known) in town are the **Bunyon Giant** with a hot dog standing watch over the main street and **Lumi the Pie Lady** holding a pie aloft at the **Country-Aire Restaurant**. After you've soaked



up Giant lore and managed to feel a little shorter in comparison, don't miss the other intriguing attractions in this charming village. The **Arch Street Artisans**, located in a historic red-brick building, offer a wide selection of Route 66 memorabilia, as well as handmade and vintage items from local artists and collectors. Feel like you've stepped back in time inside the restored 1908 **Atlanta Public Library** — the only public eight-sided library on the 1926 Alignment. Listen for the chime of the 1907 hand-wound **Seth Thomas Clock**, a treasure saved from the Atlanta High School. For a sweet treat, stop at **Missy's Sweet Shoppe** located in the historic **Palms Grill Cafe**. Next door, the **Atlanta Museum** holds amazingly large collections documenting local history.

Lincoln

Historic Downtown Lincoln is centered by its impressive domed courthouse; the **Courthouse Square Historic District** was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The handsome rows of 100-year-old red brick buildings hold a variety of businesses, shops, and eateries. You may notice a **Phone Booth atop the 1895 Lincoln City Hall** — at the time it was added, it was used as a weather spotting station. Located in historic Downtown Lincoln on Route 66, **Abe's Carmelcorn Shoppe** has been a place where sweet memories are made for locals and travelers alike. From freshly popped caramel corn to nostalgic treats and unique gifts, every visit feels like stepping into a warm, familiar tradition. Whether you're a longtime customer or discovering Abe's for the first time, the new owners are honored to share a piece of Lincoln's history one delicious bite at a time. Outside the depot, don't miss the **Lincoln Christening Scene**, where a watermelon statue and a plaque commemorate Abraham Lincoln's christening of the City of Lincoln with watermelon juice when no champagne was available. There are several **Walldogs Murals** in downtown Lincoln waiting for you to find and admire. Built as a sandwich stand in 1929, **The Mill Museum on 66**, after a decade of renovation, is open as a museum displaying exhibits and artifacts from The Mill's restaurant history, plus other Logan County Route 66 eateries, The Pig Hip and The Tropics. The Mill Museum is also the new



home of the **Logan County Tourism Bureau**. Anyone who told you Abraham Lincoln was “big” in Illinois wasn't wrong — check out the giant **The Railsplitter Covered Wagon**, known as the World's Largest Covered Wagon with its large driver, Abe Lincoln, reading a book. The longtime popular restaurant **The Tropics** is gone, but its gorgeous neon sign, after a couple of detours, was beautifully restored by Ace Sign Co. and is back at the site of The Tropics, where a McDonald's now stands.

The Lincoln Heritage Museum displays rare artifacts and engages visitors through an interactive, immersive environment. Postville was named as the Logan County seat in 1839, and a courthouse was built in 1840 for the Eighth Judicial Circuit. Lincoln was a familiar face here, and in this authentic reproduction courthouse at the **Postville Courthouse State Historic Site**, it looks like Abraham Lincoln could walk through the door at any moment. Just six miles off Historic Route 66 in Lincoln stands **The Lodge Off 66** in Hartsburg. Built in 1929, this rustic log roadhouse served the likes of bootleggers like Coonhound Johnny and Al Capone. Stop for a drink, stay for a story.

Broadwell

This tiny village was well known along Route 66 for the **Pig Hip Restaurant**, which was open from 1937-1991 and then served as a museum from 1991-2007. In 2007, a fire destroyed the building, although some artifacts were saved and are now displayed at The Mill Museum in Lincoln. The red Pig Marker & Sign once brought customers in but now tells the story of this classic roadside eatery.

Elkhart

Historic Downtown Elkhart is a slice of Americana, a charming stop with facing blocks of classic Midwestern store buildings. Stop at the **Route 66 Model Raceway** hobby shop to check out the 1/8-mile scale drag track. Lunch choices include delicious pies and lighter fare at the **Wild Hare Cafe** or classic American fare at **Talk of the Town** across the street. **The Elkhart Historic Route 66 Wall Mural** depicts the history of the picturesque village in the shadow of Elkhart Hill and the town's long relationship with Route 66. The colorful 36-by-8-foot mural is located on the side wall of **Horsefeathers. The Country Bumpkin Antiques/Visitor Center/Historical Society** in Elkhart is styled like a boutique, but it is chock full of antiques, collectibles, and handcrafted works, plus treasured pieces from the **Old Gillett Farm** estate to own a piece of local history. Speaking of the Old Gillett Farm, be sure to wind your way up **Elkhart Hill** to visit the **Elkhart Hill Farm & Vineyard**, previously Old Gillett Farm, which was established in 1868. Up here, visitors can enjoy the view from the highest vantage point in Central Illinois at 777 feet above sea level. The charming caretaker's cottage is available for rental stays, and the fruits of the new vineyard planted in 2020 will eventually become a new Illinois wine. **The Gillett Memorial Arch Bridge** was commissioned by former Illinois first lady Emma Gillett Oglesby in 1915 to connect the **Elkhart Cemetery** with the grounds of the Oglesby estate.

Williamsville & Sherman

Take a stroll around **Historic Downtown Williamsville** and read about the town's history on the



interpretive signs at the corners of Main and Pine streets. Check in with friends and relatives around the world via the streaming webcam at Williamsville's **Route 66 International Traveler Multi-Directional Sign**. The sign was designed and produced by individual members of the Sangamon Valley Woodcarvers and includes Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada, China, Australia, Czech Republic, Japan, France, Italy, and the Netherlands, as well as the U.S. cities New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. **The Old Station** in Williamsville is a 1930s service station work-in-progress. Future plans include restoring its classic facade and adding vintage gas pumps and signage.

The **Village Park & Amphitheater** in Sherman is a state-of-the-art outdoor venue where residents and travelers can enjoy movies, ice cream socials, and concert events. The surrounding park, with a pond, gazebo, and lighted walking trail, is a pleasant place to stretch your legs after a long drive or have a picnic. An exciting stop in Sherman on the 1926-30 Route 66 alignment is the restored **Carpenter Park Route 66 Pavement**. You can walk the length of this section all the way down to the Sangamon River, enjoying the waysides and the interpretive signs. This quarter-mile segment was only used for about a decade before the alignment changed. For a cold drink, stop at the **Double H Bar** in Sherman, which has been open continuously, serving Route 66 travelers since 1946. The interesting structure was built from handmade concrete blocks.

Springfield

The International Route 66 Mother Road Festival in Springfield brings thousands of people from around the world on the last full weekend of September. Within a 20-block area of the historic downtown, the huge crowd enjoys hundreds of classic and vintage vehicles, live entertainment, celebrities, dozens of food booths, and one-of-a-kind exhibits. Dedicated to the life and legacy of our 16th president, the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum** holds the world's largest collection of documentary material related to Lincoln. It merges scholarship with showmanship, offering

high-tech exhibits, interactive displays, and multimedia programs, as well as a reproduction of the White House as it looked in 1861. **Historic Downtown Springfield** covers roughly 56 blocks, which include the landmarks where our 16th president walked, worked, and lived. Visitors will also find a variety of shops, restaurants, and other establishments. Make your first stop at the **Springfield Visitors Center** inside the historic **Lincoln-Herndon Law Office**. Find all the information you need to create your own legendary experience in Springfield. Pick up your Explorer Passport and engage in Abe's Hat Hunt and the Living Legends of Route 66 adventure throughout Springfield. Across from the Visitors Center stands the elegantly restored **Old State Capitol State Historic Site**, often thought of as Lincoln's Capitol. Here, Lincoln argued cases before the Illinois Supreme Court, served in the state legislature, confronted his opponent Stephen A. Douglas for the first time, and delivered his famous "House Divided" speech. Tour the **Lincoln Home National Historic Site** with National Park Service Rangers and learn more about Lincoln as a husband, father, and politician. The Lincoln Home has been restored to its 1860 appearance. Free tickets are available at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center. The **Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site** is the final resting place for Lincoln, his wife Mary Todd, and three of their four sons. Springfield citizens began raising funds for a memorial on the day he died, April 15, 1865. Lincoln was temporarily laid to rest in a receiving vault at **Oak Ridge Cemetery** while the granite tomb with a 117-foot obelisk was constructed. Tradition says it's good luck to rub Abe's nose on the

statue in front of the tomb. Not to be missed is the **Dana-Thomas House**, a famous Frank Lloyd Wright-designed prairie-style home built for socialite and women's rights activist Susan Lawrence Dana in 1902. Inside the house is the largest site-specific collection of Wright furniture and art glass, making the immaculate home look as if its owner had only stepped out for a few minutes.

The **Illinois Governor's Mansion and State Capitol** are not to be missed. The official residence of Illinois governors since 1855, the mansion reopened in 2018 after an extensive renovation funded by private donors. The revitalization of the mansion and grounds will include a visitor center. The **Illinois State Capitol** has served as the seat of government since 1877. Topped with a 405-foot dome, it is taller than the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Guided tours are available year-round. The Illinois State Museum has been a favorite of families and school groups for many years. Dedicated to the collection, preservation, and interpretation of the natural history, anthropology, and art of Illinois, three floors of exhibits drawn from the museum's collections await your visit. **Kidzeum** is Springfield's children's museum located in the downtown Route 66 district. The brings fun and education together in unique learning experiences, including Active Alex, a three-story structure which offers kids climbing space and larger-than-life displays about



ABE @ THE OLD STATE CAPITOL
Springfield, IL

the human body. New to the museum is the stunning outdoor migrating mural, which helps to showcase the importance of pollinator plants and monarch butterflies along the Route 66 Monarch Flyway. For the Centennial, be sure to check out Kidzeum's new exhibit, The Road to Adventure: Exploring Route 66! Families can fix a flat in the repair shop, flip flapjacks in a retro diner, catch a flick at the drive-in, and race cars down the Route 66 speedway, all while exploring the rich history of America's most iconic highway.

A popular spot for both locals and tourists is **Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery & Eatery**, located in a historic mansion and carriage house just steps away from the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. Also nearby, you'll find **Obed & Isaac's The Cidery**, Springfield's first cidery. Located in a historic home, The Cidery offers 20 taps of craft ciders, meads, and perry, plus wine, spirits, and cocktails. On the oldest alignment of Route 66 through Springfield stands the elegant Inn at **835 Boutique Hotel**, offering 13 guest suites. Built in the early 1900s by Springfield florist Bell Miller as apartments available to single women, it is the only lodging in Springfield listed on the National Register of Historic Places. **The Chili Parlor** was opened in 1945 by Joe Rogers. Formerly known as "The Den" and "Joe Rogers' Chili Parlor," Rogers' first operation only had 11 lunch counter stools. Customers may order their chili "your way," from mild to Firebrand, meat or no meat, beans or no beans. **Mahan's Filling Station at Fulgenzi's** is a typical example of an early gas station, now on display at Fulgenzi's Pizza & Pasta across from the Illinois State Fairgrounds. Moved to this location and restored, it's a welcoming photo op for Route 66 travelers. Fulgenzi's restaurant property was once the site of two Route 66 motels before

becoming the home of the Fulgenzi's family's "Custard Castle," followed by their popular pizza restaurant. Sonrise Donuts founder Byron Figuera opened on Ninth Street, Springfield's second alignment of Route 66, in 1947. Two years later, the 6-by-8-foot neon **Sonrise Donuts Sign** went up. The donut shop is long gone, but the sign was purchased by the City of Springfield and restored. The two sections of the sign have working neon and can be seen at the Ace Sign Co. Sign Museum and at Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex. A longtime favorite in downtown Springfield, **Saputo's Restaurant** opened in 1948 and its founding family has been serving family recipes from Southern Italy for four generations. Another authentic Italian restaurant is **Papa Frank's Restaurant**, also owned by the Saputo family. Ace Sign Company has parlayed its 75-year, four-generation business expertise into the restoration of iconic neon signs from Springfield area businesses. Their **Ace Sign Company Museum** features a large collection, including half the Sonrise Donut sign and artifacts from the Bel-Aire Motel, including the fully restored Sputnik. **Grab-A-Java Drive Thru**

Gourmet Coffee began over 20 years ago by a couple who fell in love with the idea of exceptional coffee, served by outstanding people in a simple coffee shop. Meg and Pete Lazara are still at it, and Pete designed the colorful, catch-your-eye signage. **Vinegar Hill Mall**, named for the Vinegar Hill neighborhood close to the Illinois State Capitol, was purchased and renovated in 2021 by Conn's Hospitality Group, Inc., resulting in the opening in 2023 of **Trish & Mary's Public House**, an English-style pub featuring live international and European



ACE SIGN CO. MUSEUM
Springfield, IL

football, World Cup, and American soccer. Wm. Van's Coffee, formerly located on Seventh Street, has relocated and expanded to **Wm. Van's Cafe** in the Vinegar Hill Mall. The **Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop**, just west of downtown Springfield, predates Route 66 by two years and is likely the first drive-through restaurant in the U.S. Their celebrated "loose meat sandwich" is legendary in Springfield, particularly among state employees who can walk to lunch here. Springfieldians are happy to share one of their favorite eateries with Route 66 travelers. **The Stadium Smokehouse Bar and Grill** is a family-friendly bar and grill with live music located just across Peoria Road/Route 66 from the Illinois Route 66 Experience. Owner Tom Hart has also opened **The Fountain on 66**, a retro diner serving classic American favorites, in the former Sonrise Donuts location on South Ninth Street. From 1946-1982, Shea's Gas Station, first a Texaco, then a Marathon, was open for business on Route 66. After it closed as an operating gas station, owners Bill and Helen Shea transformed the property into a world-famous museum. After the owners passed away, the building contents were auctioned in 2016. Thanks to a DCEO Route 66 grant, the City of Springfield improved the property, including the original signage. **Shea's Gas Station and Museum** has now reopened, giving visitors a second chance. A community of local independent business owners and entrepreneurs has come together to support, champion, and celebrate one another as **Illinois Local**. They produce an annual business conference in September and an Illinois Local Small Business Saturday Holiday Market in November. **The Illinois Route 66 Experience on the State Fairgrounds** in Springfield is a highly visible, hands-on, walkable microform version of all of Illinois Route 66. A multi-year project, it enables Route 66 fans, particularly those whose interest is about to be sparked, to learn about all the communities and stops along the Illinois stretch of the Mother Road. Enter through the Main Gate off Sangamon Avenue.

The **Cozy Dog Drive-In** is a can't-miss stop on the south side of Springfield. Part restaurant, part shrine to its past, and all fun, the Cozy Dog is packed with mementos, souvenirs, and ample dining space. The "corn dog on a stick" was invented during World War II by Ed Waldmire



while he was stationed in Texas, but happily, he brought the idea home to Springfield. **Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex** was inspired by a collection of Springfield auto-racing memorabilia, including a race car suspended over the bar. Whether you're looking for a cool drink, live music, traditional pub food, or a walk through Springfield Route 66 and racing history, it can be found here.

Alive! On 66 was born out of love for all things plants and Route 66. Located in a cool garage in the parking lot of Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, Alive! On 66 embraces a nature theme and offers small-batch, handcrafted items from around the world. What is now The Curve Inn was once one of six commercial buildings in a complex known as Copp's Corner, constructed in the 1920-30s by Melio Copp. In 1945, Guido Mancini bought the building known as the Comerford Inn and reopened it as **The Curve Inn**. In 2002, Ray and Ami Merchant purchased The Curve Inn, and under their management, it has been nominated for best overall bar multiple years in a row. It has kept its tradition as a popular bar for its lunch, happy hours, darts, karaoke, and live music on the state-of-the-art Beer Garden Stage, now featuring many local, regional, and national acts. In the Village of Southern View on the south side of Springfield, **Jamie's Route 66** offers a diverse range of drinks and cocktails, pizza, and a laid-back atmosphere. It's a good jumping-off place for those heading southwest on Route 66 out of Springfield. **Brezie's Roasted Beans** offers a warm, quaint atmosphere on the south side of Springfield.

The lovely **Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center** represents the landscape Abraham Lincoln would have known. Designed by internationally renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen, the 100-acre site features six miles of trails, including a serene walk along the shore of Lake Springfield, plus benches and footbridges.

Knight's Action Park & Splash Kingdom opened in 1930 as a golf driving range by George Knight Sr. In the close to a century since its opening, it has evolved into a diverse family fun park with water slides, a wave pool, go-karts, pedal boats, a miniature golf course, batting cages, and rides. Located next to Knight's Action Park is

Route 66 Drive-In, restored in 2002 from the Green Meadows Drive-In, which opened there in 1978. **The Lauterbach Giant** muffler man at Lauterbach Tire and Auto Service was known far and wide for holding a tire but has recently traded the tire for a U.S. flag. In 2006, this muffler man lost his head — literally, in a tornado — but was skillfully repaired.

The Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area spans 42 counties in Central Illinois, offering visitors a front-row seat at historic attractions and living-history special events. Come hear the stories of the people and places that would shape a man who would become our nation's 16th president.



*Route 66 Sites
Historical Sites
Unique Shopping
New Dog Park
Family Events
Food & Drink*



Visit Historic Downtown

← LEXINGTON →

ILLINOIS U.S. ROUTE 66

The Magic is on Main Street

- SHOP**
- DINE**
- EXPLORE**
- STAY**

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DIXIE FAMILY RESTAURANT

AN AMERICAN FAMILY TRADITION



Since 1928, Dixie Family Restaurant has been a beloved landmark for travelers, truckers, and adventurers cruising the legendary Route 66. Famous for our homemade comfort food, welcoming buffet, and deep-rooted history, Dixie is more than a place to grab a meal; it's a living chapter of American road culture.

As one of the oldest truck stops in the nation and the last of its kind in Illinois, Dixie stands as a proud symbol of endurance, community, and the open road. For nearly a century, we've been a place where stories are shared, friendships are formed, and traditions are passed down from one generation of travelers to the next. Whether you stop in for a hearty meal, a step back in time, or the unmistakable nostalgia of Route 66, you'll find the same warmth, hospitality, and authenticity that have defined Dixie from the very beginning.

***At Dixie Family Restaurant, every visit is a journey,
and every meal becomes a memory worth keeping.***

315 Dixie Road C • McLean, IL

VISIT BN

**RYBURN PLACE
AT SPRAGUE'S**

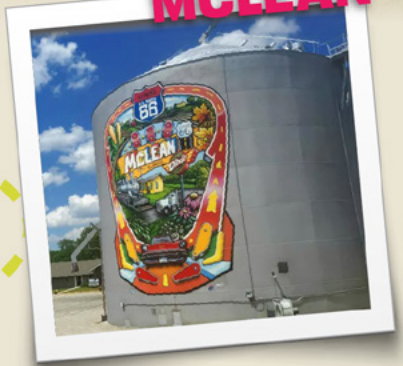


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CARL'S ICE CREAM

CENTENNIAL STOP

Since 1954, Carl's Ice Cream has stood as a beloved landmark in Normal capturing the quintessential spirit of the American roadside. Originally founded by Carl and June Sneed, this iconic walk-up stand has served as a sweet sanctuary for generations of locals and Route 66 travelers alike.

For over seven decades, it has remained famous for its traditional soft serve, thick malts, and a nostalgic atmosphere that transports every visitor back to the golden age of the Mother Road.

The history of Carl's is built on family and community. The Snees established a reputation for quality and friendly service that made the shop a "must-stop" destination. Even as the world around it modernized, Carl's maintained its vintage charm, serving as a living link to the mid-century era of cruising and roadside treats.

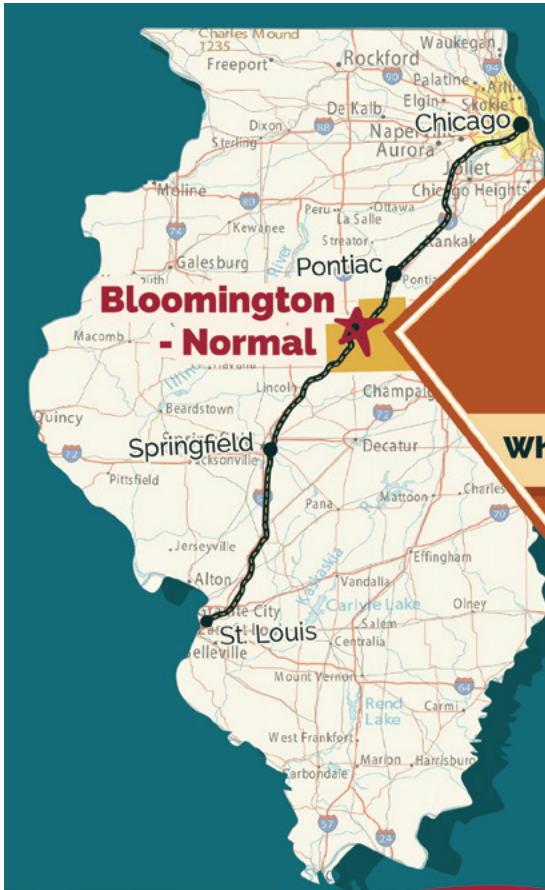
In 2024, the shop added a vibrant new chapter to its legacy with the introduction of Marge. A towering, colorful fiberglass statue of a woman joyfully holding a massive milkshake, Marge was installed next to Carl to greet passersby. She was named in honor of the owner's mother, who came every week to help with cleaning. Her dedication was remarkable; she continued working until the age of 93. Marge has quickly become a premier photo op on the Illinois stretch of Route 66, joining the ranks of the highway's legendary "Muffler Men" and roadside giants.

Today, Carl's Ice Cream remains a family-owned treasure where the past is celebrated with every scoop. Whether you're stopping for a classic dipped cone or a selfie with Marge, a visit to Carl's is a reminder that some traditions only get sweeter with time.



SERVING UP GOOD TIMES

1700 W. College Ave. • Normal, IL | 601 W. Locust St. • Bloomington, IL



Where Route 66 Meets Lincoln's Legacy

Stop by our Visitors Center & Gift Shop for local art, information, snacks, clean restrooms, and much more. All located in a historic 1903 courthouse turned nationally-accredited, award-winning museum!



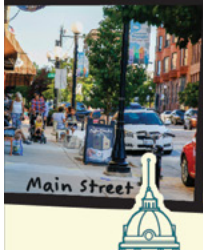
Visitor Center & Gift shop



McLean County Museum of History



Lincoln Bench



Main Street



Ryburn Place



Mural on Jefferson street



Miller Park Zoo



McLean County MUSEUM of HISTORY

309-827-0428 • 200 N Main St. Bloomington, IL 61701 • mchistory.org



The Route 66 Monarch Flyway is an initiative of the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway. Many volunteers contribute to the cause, which is to assist in facilitating the planting of pollinator gardens along Illinois Route 66 to help save and grow the dwindling population of monarch butterflies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

ILLINOISROUTE66.ORG/ROUTE-66-MONARCH-FLYWAY

The David Davis Mansion

Over 150 Years of History



1000 Monroe Drive Bloomington, IL
309-828-1084

Tours: Wednesday-Saturday
9am to 3:30pm

Tours

Take a guided tour of the mansion and grounds, including Sarah Davis' beautiful heirloom garden, and two special exhibits.

Events

Enjoy one of our 20+ yearly public events, including a celebration for Lincoln's Birthday, a Spring Festival and Easter Egg Hunt, seasonal car shows, the Glorious Garden Festival, Christmas at Clover Lawn, and more!

Shopping

Explore our collection of books, souvenirs, gifts, and more in the Clover Lawn Museum Shop, located inside the mansion.

Visit daviddavismansion.org to learn more and view our event calendar!



Sherman Village Amphitheater



Check out
www.shermanvillagepark.com
for details on our
Route 66 100th Birthday Celebration

*Where good times
and great music
come together*



Get your kicks on route 66

www.shermanvillagepark.com

A GIANT STOP ON YOUR ROUTE 66 JOURNEY

Step into the larger-than-life world of classic roadside Americana at the American Giants Museum, located along historic Route 66 in Atlanta, Illinois. Home to several iconic Muffler Men, the museum celebrates the towering fiberglass figures that once defined America's highways and captured the imagination of generations of travelers. Explore the history, artistry, and preservation of these beloved giants while standing in the shadow of Route 66 nostalgia. It's a must-stop for roadies, families, and anyone who loves the quirky charm of the Mother Road.



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It's a rare, behind-the-scenes collision of past and present. For an authentic taste of Route 66 heritage and Capital City industry, the **Ace Sign Co.** tour is an essential, luminous experience.



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CENTENNIAL STOP



Route 66 is etched into the heart of American folklore,

and nowhere is that magic more alive than in Springfield.

As the Mother Road winds through the capital, it reveals a collection of landmarks that serve as living tributes to the spirit of the open road.

Begin your journey at the **Route 66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex**.

This full-throttle immersion into car culture allows you to marvel at vintage iron and snap a photo with the **World's Largest Outdoor Route 66 Shield and Big Ron**. For a deeper look at the highway's soul, visit the exclusive **Bob Waldmire Art Exhibition**. A Springfield native and "nomadic hippie," Waldmire became a global icon for his intricate illustrations that capture the whimsical culture of the road. While there, immerse yourself in the limited time **David Schwartz Photography Exhibit**.

To feel history beneath your feet, head to **Carpenter Park**. Here, you can walk a quarter-mile stretch of original Route 66 pavement that has remained untouched for nearly 90 years. Beside the scenic Sangamon River, this quiet path allows you to walk in the footsteps of 1920s travelers.

No pilgrimage is complete without a taste of the golden age. Reminisce at the restored **Shea's Gas Station** before visiting Springfield's culinary icons. Try the **Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop** — the nation's first drive-thru, established in 1924 — or the world-famous **Cozy Dog Drive In**. As you explore, follow the **Mural & Wayside Exhibit Trail**, featuring 20 installations that turn the city into an open-air gallery.

The ultimate experience arrives September 25–27, 2026, for the 25th Annual International Route 66 Mother Road Festival. This milestone event transforms downtown into a chrome-filled paradise of cruises, burn-out contests, and live music. Come see why Springfield is the overnight heart of Route 66 in Illinois — it's always legendary.



OUR KINGDOM IS YOUR PLAYGROUND



*With the thrill of
the open road* and

countless roadside stops to
explore, one word has come to

signify the Route 66 experience: adventure. For nearly as long as the Mother Road has carried travelers from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast, **Knight's Action Park** in Springfield has existed by the same ethos, offering exhilarating amusement for all ages. Start with the park's signature attraction. Open from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, **Splash Kingdom** features a variety of fun ways to beat the summer heat, ranging from the gentle currents of the **Caribbean Wild River** to the high-speed excitement of the **Devil Ray** and the **Royal Flush**. Bump and bob around the Wave Pool and let the littles run wild at **Buccaneer's Cove**,

Camille's Reef, and **Seal Bay**, each featuring age-appropriate ways for kids to splash and slide. But the good times aren't just limited to the water park. Rev up your engines for full-throttle action on the go-kart track. Play a few rounds and win family bragging rights on the mini golf course. Perfect your swing for baseball or softball season in the batting cages. Set some new high scores in the park's year-round video game room, full of classic arcade games, driving sims, and claw machines. Or bring your clubs along and tee off on the driving range, featuring 50 tees (10 covered and heated for all-seasons practice) on a 250-yard fairway. Feast on hearty, delicious burgers and sandwiches from **Trade Winds Pub & Eatery**, and for a nightcap, enjoy a vintage drive-in experience at **Route 66 Drive-in**, playing the latest blockbusters on twin screens all summer long!

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ALIVE ON 66



BRAKE FOR BLOOMS

Alive on 66

is more than a plant and gift shop; it's a colorful expression of creativity and the enduring spirit of Route 66. Located in a repurposed garage in the parking lot of the iconic Motorheads Bar & Grill in Springfield, this unique stop offers travelers a vibrant blend of nature, design, and nostalgia.

Owned by partners Becky and Steve, the shop opened in 2023 as an extension of deep Route 66 roots. Becky, a professional landscape designer, grew up at Motorheads, which is owned by her parents. Inspired to pursue her own creative path, she and Steve envisioned a modern space that honored the highway's legacy while bringing a fresh, green energy to the roadside experience.

The shop invites visitors to slow down and experience the uplifting power of nature. Inside, guests discover a curated selection of houseplants, statement planters, jewelry, home décor, and souvenirs. By sourcing from local makers and global artisans, Alive on 66 offers a collection that feels creative and one-of-a-kind; perfect for finding a living reminder of a cross-country journey.

A visit is the perfect complement to a day at the surrounding complex. After exploring historic memorabilia and snapping a photo with the giant "Big Ron," visitors can stroll to this hidden gem, where they are almost always greeted by Birkin, the shop's friendly Mini Bernedoodle mascot. Alive on 66 serves to remind travelers that the Mother Road is a living, evolving experience. It is a place to pause, explore, and take a little piece of joy with you as your journey continues.

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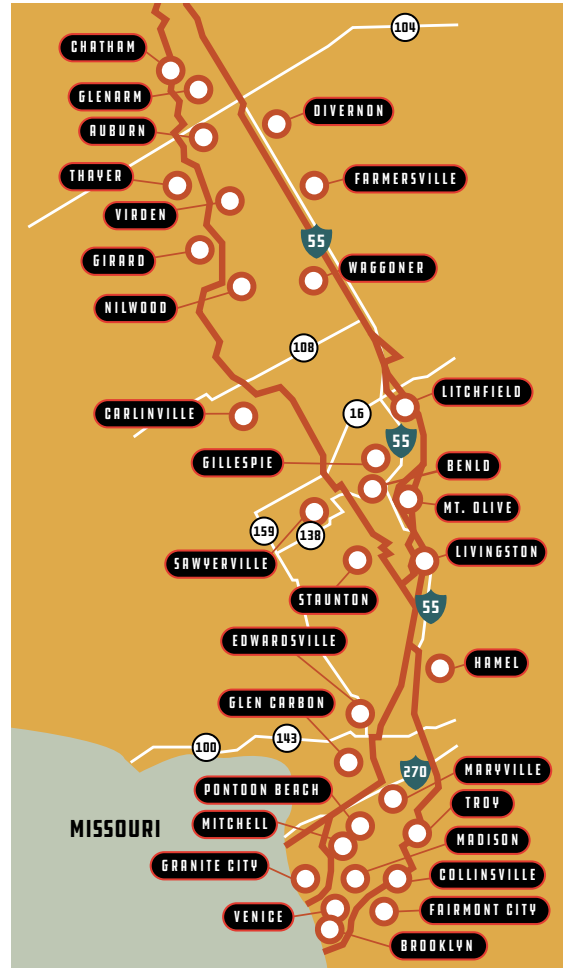
SOUTHERN SECTION

From Springfield south to the Mississippi River crossings, this section saw numerous changes, even in its early years, due to alignment changes, rerouting, and widening. From Springfield, the Mother Road traversed Illinois Route 4 — the temporary route — to Staunton from 1926-1930 while the more direct official route was constructed to the west. The early route wound its way through Chatham, Auburn, Thayer, Virden, Girard, Nilwood, Carlinville, Gillespie, and Benld to Staunton. That string of communities still evokes Americana charm, ready to welcome travelers and showcase their Route 66 attractions.

From 1930-1940, the newer western alignment was in service until the third and final alignment turned it into a four-lane highway that eventually became Interstate 55 when Route 66 was decommissioned. The communities along these later alignments stretching from south of Springfield down into the Metro East include: Glenarm, Divernon, Farmersville, Litchfield, Mt. Olive, Livingston, Hamel, Edwardsville, Troy, Glen Carbon, Collinsville, Fairmount City, Mitchell, Granite City, Brooklyn, Venice, and Madison, with the Chain of Rocks Bridge, an important Mississippi River crossing, not to be missed.

Chatham & Glenarm

Stop at the bright red **Apple Barn** in Chatham to shop for seasonal flowers and perennials, garden supplies, produce, and holiday decorations plus local honey, jams, and baked goods. Look back at the era of train travel with a visit to the **Chatham Depot & Railroad Museum**. Built in 1902, the station has been restored and is owned by the Village of Chatham. Before leaving Chatham, stop at **Sangamo Brewing & Sangamo Breweriana Museum** for a selection of craft beers and comfort food. Sit outside in the beer garden or inside to peruse the sizable collection of breweriana from central and downstate Illinois. Enjoy the fresh air and the joys of camping at the **Double J Campground**. A list of amenities and roomy sites make this an enjoyable



stay. For a look back at rural life in an older era and the perfect spot for an old-fashioned picnic, visit the **Sugar Creek Covered Bridge**, built in 1880 by Thomas Black. Restored in 1965 and open to foot traffic, the bridge is adjacent to quaint Pioneer Park in Glenarm.

Auburn & Divernon

Visitors come from around the world to drive the **Historic Brick Road**, a 1.4-mile section of Route 66 near Auburn. The brick was hand laid over the original Portland cement in 1931-1932 and features gentle, sweeping curves through Illinois farmland. **Tammi's Treasures Antiques & More** features over 75 booths throughout two stories, all chock-full of artfully arranged antiques, vintage and retro goods, primitives, collectibles, and crafts to satisfy

the shopping urge. Featuring more than 85 booths across 14,000 square feet, **Sweet Pea's Antiques & More** carries a vast selection of antiques, vintage goods, and crafts — the perfect spot for collectors to discover a rare find. For the shop-a-holics, this is your lucky day, because **Nickorbobs Home Gifts Antiques & Boutiques** offers over 40 artist and business professionals' spaces, featuring artistic crafts and merchandise. Brothers Nick and Bobby Britz opened this 16,000-square-foot mall in 1994. One more opportunity presents itself to shop for antiques and gifts: **Hilda's Antique Mall** offers 20,000 square feet of independent dealer space with an assortment of antiques, vintage and retro goods, primitives, and collectibles.

Thayer

With a population of about 675, Thayer is one of the smallest communities along Illinois Route 66. In contrast to the major metropolitan areas, it's an opportunity to observe a slower pace in a semi-rural area and stop for some great bar food at **Pudock's Hideout**.

Virden

The **Virden Area Chamber of Commerce**, located inside the member business Showtime Lanes at the north end of town, promotes member businesses and the City of Virden. **Virden's Central Park** is a well-used community space, with a historic bandstand that conjures thoughts of Saturday night band concerts and ice cream socials. The large granite and bronze three-dimensional **Virden Miner's Memorial** depicts the Virden Mine



Battle of 1893. The **Sly Fox Bookstore** features a welcoming environment and an emphasis on children's books and books about Illinois and Route 66. The historic

building housed a millinery and women's clothing store for 70 years. New to Virden is **Sips Coffee Co.**, offering a variety of drinks, including drip coffee, espresso, hot chocolate, and teas, with fresh-baked goods to go with. Their cozy dining room and drive-through are both good options to try. **Showtime Lanes Family Fun Center & Kaylee's Cafe** has been a family fun destination for over 20 years with bowling, laser tag, arcade games, pool table, jukebox, and a pro shop. A full-service restaurant serves breakfast all day. Get your vehicle shined up and ready for a parade, car show, or just daily use at A Marc Above, offering detailing, paint correction, and ceramic coating. Opened in 1999, **DnR Custom Apparel** offers lettering, graphics printing, direct-to-garment printing, and full-service embroidery for teams, clubs, family reunions, or corporate apparel. For food specials and a variety of items from crab legs to cheesecake, stop at **Jo's Place** in Virden for a bar and grill experience. **Neato's Elements**, founded in 2016 — where wellness meets mind, body, and soul — offers everyday products made with natural ingredients, free of harsh chemicals.

Girard

The **Girard Chamber of Commerce** is an association of businesses and individuals organized to promote an economic environment where Girard businesses, nonprofit institutions, government, and citizens can actively work together to promote orderly growth and prosperity. Preserving the history of a place and its people is a regular feature of Route 66, and a prime example of that mindset is at **Docs Just Off 66**. The history of Decks Drugstore began in 1884 with Lewis C. Deck and B.F. Clark and continued with brothers Bob and Bill Deck from 1960-2001 — 117 years of Deck family ownership. After their retirement and some ownership changes, Bob and Renee Ernst began Doc's Soda Fountain and featured the Deck brothers' pharmacy museum display. In 2021, Steve and Casey Claypool purchased the business, renaming it Docs Just Off 66, retaining the nostalgia of the soda fountain and pharmacy museum while expanding the restaurant and adding a lounge. In the tradition of neighborhood ice cream shops, **Whirl-A-Whip** is a small-town restaurant that fills the bill, with 50 flavors

of ice cream and a menu of food as well. It's a popular and handy stop along Route 66. **Hidden Ridge at Otter Lake** is a private, wooded hideaway offering the opportunity to enjoy an authentic camping experience in a large furnished tent with beautiful lake views.

Nilwood

The story varies, whether wild turkeys or a local farmer's escaped turkeys, but the evidence remains! Back in the 1920s, when the original Route 4 (soon to be Route 66) concrete was poured, turkeys left their tracks imprinted. Nearby is the **13-star "Betsy Ross" flag faded barn painting**, a favorite photo op.



Carlinville

The charming **Carlinville Historic Square**, with its bandstand and brick paving all around, is the perfect setting for the colorful shops and cafes that surround it. It's the only "roundabout square" anywhere on Route 66. You can't miss the **Macoupin County "Million Dollar" Courthouse** with its huge domed presence in Carlinville. Known for the scandal over the costs of building it, tours are available to view its interior. Across the street is the **Macoupin County Jail of 1869**, known as the Cannonball Jail due to the Civil War cannonballs embedded within its walls. Recently restored, it's open for tours. **Mother Road Antique Mall** is a popular stop on the **Carlinville Square**, with numerous vendors and a variety of antiques and collectibles. Since 1913, **Blackburn College** has literally been built and managed by its students. Unique among colleges and universities in the U.S., its nationally acclaimed student-managed work program and rigorous liberal arts academic curriculum make the dream of a college

education affordable. **The Carlinville Motel** looks right at home along Route 66, with its retro styling, and is known for its friendly hospitality and modern upgrades.

Collected Boutique is known for its mix of vintage and antique home décor, but as a nod to its apothecary history, you can find an assortment of interesting products, including coffee, snacks, games, toys, and eco-friendly cleaning supplies. **Crowe Boot & Shoe Co.** is a hometown shoe store with a range of brands for sport and everyday use you'd expect in a bigger city store but with a small-town, welcoming atmosphere and helpful service.

Farmersville

The Village of Farmersville is bordered on the east by the 1940-1977 alignment of Route 66. Art's Motel & Restaurant was a popular stop at the edge of the highway for many years. Now, the two sections of the restored **Art's Motel & Restaurant sign** can be seen at the Ace Sign Co. Museum and Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum & Entertainment Complex, both in Springfield. **The Rooted Home** is a creative business offering home décor and styling, plus apparel, located in the village's historic opera house. Eight miles south of Farmersville, watch for **The Shrine of Our Lady of the Highways**, a Carrara marble statue of Mary that has watched over travelers along Route 66 and Interstate 55 since the late 1950s. An area Catholic youth group came up with the idea, and the Marten farm family provided the space and has carefully tended the site since.

Litchfield

The **Litchfield Pickers Market** draws a big crowd every second Sunday from May through October in downtown Litchfield. All items, including antiques, collectibles, upcycled and refurbished items, and vintage goods, are pre-1980. Established a decade ago, the **Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center** was built at the former location of a local gas station, commemorated by the **"Vic" Suhling Gas for Less restored neon sign**. Exhibits and displays of local history inspired by longtime newspaper editor Dave Jackson's collections, plus an original Route 66 road sign and a fire truck, are truly worth the stop. Across the street, don't miss your



chance to have a meal at the historic **Ariston Cafe**, begun in Carlinville in 1924 and moved to Litchfield when Route 66 was rerouted. After three generations, the cafe is under new ownership but continues to uphold its traditions of great food and service. **Jubelt's Bakery** is another third-generation family business in Litchfield. Originally established in Mt. Olive in 1922, Jubelt's opened its Litchfield location in 1952 and has been on Route 66 since 1982. Like the Mother Road herself, this business has evolved with the times. **Lake Lou Yaeger Recreation Area & Campgrounds** is a well-known recreational area with a 1,400-acre manmade lake, a 300-acre park along its shores, and a public swimming beach. Named for a Litchfield mayor, the lake area is popular with boaters, fishermen, hikers, bikers, and local horseback riders. Located north of Litchfield, **Country Bend Campground** offers 150 campsites, full hookups, cabins, fishing ponds, mini golf, and shade trees on its 70-acre property. There's plenty of quiet and privacy with shopping and eateries not far away in Litchfield. Litchfield's newest hotel is the four-story **Holiday Inn Express & Suites**, with a long list of amenities and a 1,000-square-foot meeting room. If you're a bit drowsy from a long drive, the visual of the lobby will pleasantly wake you — a stunning Route 66 art display sets the theme for this comfortable hotel. Nearby is **Nancy's Pizza**, known for its Chicago-style stuffed pizza but also offering thin-crust pies, pastas, salads, wings, and a full bar. Catch a game, relax on the patio, or eat in the dining room. The **Skyview Drive-In** opened in 1951

and was operated by the same family that operated the Marvel Theatre in Carlinville; however, it has changed hands several times since. Inducted into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame in 1998, it is the last original drive-in theater on Illinois Route 66. **Team Victory Lane** and **Victory Lane Outdoors**, recently celebrating 25 years in business, has convenient locations in both Litchfield and Carlinville with sales of vehicles featuring Ford, Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep-Ram, boats, trailers, and RVs.

Gillespie

Gillespie was one of the mining towns along the long vein of coal that ran parallel to the Mother Road south of Springfield. In **Downtown Gillespie**, you may be surprised to find an unbelievable wealth of comprehensive exhibits, displays, photographs, artifacts, and mining equipment in the **Illinois Coal Museum** at Gillespie — a remarkable accomplishment for a small town. Check out the once-beautiful but still-standing historic **Canna Theatre** and have a meal at **Miners Restaurant** or **Rocco's Italian Pizzeria**. There are unique items at **The Village Toy Chest** and Route 66 souvenirs at **Michelle's Pharmacy**. Don't miss the downtown murals painted by **Walldogs** artists and the **Miner Silhouette Statue**.

Benld

Benld (named after an early citizen, Ben L. Dorsey) is a tiny town rich in both coal mining and gangster history. Benld is best known for its **Coliseum Ballroom**, built in the 1920s by the Tarro brothers as the largest ballroom between Chicago and St. Louis. There, the big bands of the 1940s played, followed by rock legends in the '50s and '60s. Later turned into an antique mall, the final blow occurred in 2011 when an accidental fire destroyed the building. Don't miss looking at the **Dancing Couple Statue** and the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway Kiosk commemorating the Coliseum Ballroom.

Mt. Olive

Although it was never her home, Mt. Olive honors union organizer and activist “Mother” **Mary Harris Jones** in a big way. After the Virden Mine Riot, the dead were buried in the Mt. Olive Miners Cemetery, and Mother Jones declared that was where she should be buried, too, alongside “her boys.” Pay your respects there at the large **Mother Jones Monument** with two miner statues on either side. Visit the **Mother Jones Museum** inside City Hall to learn more about the person who was called “the most dangerous woman in America” by anti-union advocates. Don't miss visiting the oldest, most original filling station on Illinois Route 66, **Soulsby's Service Station**, built by Henry Soulsby in 1926 to capitalize on Route 66 going by its door. Soulsby's son and daughter, Russell and Ola Soulsby, operated the station until the gas pumps were taken out in 1991.

New Douglas & Livingston

Fun for the whole family awaits at **Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park at Rustic Acres** in New Douglas. There are a variety of campsites, cabins, and day-use options. Keep the kids busy with the Jumping Pillow, gem mining, swimming pool, laser tag, hayrides, firetruck rides, and playgrounds, to start. Right next to Route 66 and impossible to miss, the **Pink Elephant Antique Mall** in Livingston features a variety of larger-than-life sculptures. For a sweet treat or a snack, visit **Mother Road Fudge-n-Candy**, the retro-style ice cream shop, or the diner. Inside what once was the Livingston High School, there are two full floors of antiques and collectibles.

Staunton

The **Staunton Chamber of Commerce** is a membership of dynamic, innovative business leaders and concerned citizens advancing the commercial, industrial, and civic interests of Staunton. Staunton's **Vintage Station** is a boutique-inspired vintage shop that also carries gourmet gift items, coffee, tea, dips, olive oil, and balsamics. The **Staunton Route 66 Mural** is in the downtown shopping district. Titled “Where the Three Roads Come Together,” the mural highlights all

three alignments of Route 66 that went through town.

Max B. Mullins & Mayfields Landscaping is a fourth-generation, family-run landscaping business with a complete line of fountains, yard ornaments, wind chimes, silk flower arrangements, and fruit and vegetable buffets.

DeCamp Station offers a unique dining experience with fresh food and classic recipes in the rich setting of a historic roadhouse. Enjoy great meals and stories, plus volleyball courts and a baseball and softball field.



In Memory of Rich Henry

Rich (Richard) Henry was the beloved owner and creator of Henry's Rabbit Ranch (also styled Henry's Ra66it Ranch), a quirky and cherished

Route 66 roadside attraction he opened in the mid-1990s that featured live rabbits, Volkswagen Rabbits, and vintage memorabilia. He became known for his warm hospitality, passion for rabbits, and dedication to the Route 66 community, leaving a lasting legacy before his passing in August 2024.

Worden

Go glamping at **Boonie's Farm** located southwest of Staunton on Renken Road. Enjoy dome tent guest suites, rest and relax, sit by a fire, and enjoy a walk in nature.

Vitale's Hideaway Prohibition Bar & Grill & Gaming, located at the Worden Wye, is a newly named and renovated bar with a speakeasy atmosphere, slot machines, pool tables, shuffleboard, dart boards, pinball machines, and multiple TV screens, plus signature food and drinks.

Hamel

North of Hamel is the large, blue **Neon Cross at St. Paul Lutheran Church**. Placed there during World War II by the Brunsworth family in memory of their son, the large cross has signified safe travels for those driving Route 66. **Weezy's Route 66 Bar & Grill** is a classic roadhouse that has served travelers since the

late 1930s. Its former names — Tourist Haven, Village Inn, Earnie's Roadhouse, and Scotty's Bar & Grill — are remembered with the old signs along with historic photographs decorating the interior walls. The **Route 66 Creamery** may be new, but it has an air of nostalgia as it serves classic American favorites like chili cheese dogs, hamburgers and fries. Old-fashioned ice cream is dished up as cones, malts, shakes, and floats.

Edwardsville

On Edwardsville's bustling Main Street, just off Route 66, catch a concert or a classic movie at the beautifully restored **Willey Theatre**, making sure to get some famous Willey popcorn at the concessions booth. Built in 1909 and named after the founder of the International Order of Odd Fellows, the Willey offers a wide range of events conveniently located in the diverse downtown historic district. For close to four decades, the **West End Service Station** served travelers and locals as Route 66 ran through the heart of Edwardsville. In 2022, the City of Edwardsville purchased the station to preserve this historic corner and to create a visitor site in conjunction with the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau. Edwardsville has two historic districts on the National Register, St. Louis Street, recognized for exceptional and varied architecture dating to the 1890s and LeClaire, a former cooperative village just south of downtown. LeClaire Park with its beautiful lake, the **Children's Museum at Edwardsville** in the former LeClaire School House, and the conversion of LeClaire's factories to a community college all contribute to a vibrant district. Walking tour guides of St. Louis Street and LeClaire are available at museums and at City Hall. On the northern border of

LeClaire is the **Col. Benjamin Stephenson House**, a national register property that has been beautifully restored. The Stephenson House docents in dress appropriate to 1820 guide visitors through the house.

Glen Carbon

In the historic mining village of Glen Carbon, the community's stately 1914 red brick school is a landmark that houses the **Glen Carbon Heritage Museum**. A well-preserved building on the National Register of Historic Places, highlights include a recreated classroom, military uniforms, and a display of arrowheads and Native American artifacts found locally. Discovered within the walls of a modern home purchased by the Village of Glen Carbon, this pioneer cabin is believed to have been built in 1853 by William Yanda, an Austrian-born blacksmith who, with his wife Anna, raised 10 children in the small home.

Troy

The City of Troy boasts two colorful murals painted by the **Walldogs**. Troy's **Transportation Mural** is on the side of the former Times-Tribune building, and a mural celebrating Major League Baseball pitcher "**Bullet Bob**" Turley, who was born in Troy and grew up in East St. Louis, is located on the side of the old Adams Store building.

Collinsville

The **Brooks Catsup Bottle Water Tower**, at 170 feet, is the world's largest catsup bottle. It was built in 1949 for the bottlers of Brooks Catsup. In 1995, due to the efforts of the Catsup Bottle Preservation Group, this landmark roadside attraction was saved from demolition and restored to its original appearance. It was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. Discover the largest historic Native American settlement north of Mexico at **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site & Interpretive Center**. It is a prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Site and preserves **Monk's Mound**, the largest prehistoric earthwork in the Americas. Visit the world-class Interpretive Center, which features a gift shop, and



plan to attend some of the special events throughout the year. **Fairmount Park Casino & Racing** offers live thoroughbred racing, sports wagering, horse racing, and simulcast wagering, now with the addition of a casino, becoming the first “racino” in the State of Illinois. Located on a brief alignment of Route 66 through Collinsville until the new four-lane highway opened, the **Red Bar & Grill** opened in 2009 on the site where the Pines Lounge and Motel operated in the 1940s and '50s. The grill features diner food and occasional live music.

Fairmont City

Located south of Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site in Fairmont City, the **Nite Spot Cafe** closed in 1984 and remains vacant, but plans are underway to bring it back to life. In 1947, Adam and Anne Galas turned a one-room building in a junkyard into a 24/7 restaurant for Route 66 travelers, adding the iconic mid-century neon sign in 1953.

Mitchell

The **Luna Cafe** was built in 1924, two years before Route 66 was established, and is rumored to have been frequented by gangsters like Al Capone. A cafe on the main floor, a gambling operation in the basement, and a “house of ill repute” upstairs was how the operation once worked. The neon sign out front has been restored to its former glory, but the often-repeated story about the meaning of the cherry in the glass was debunked during the sign restoration — the cherry in the glass did not light up separately from the rest of the sign.

Granite City

For over 90 years, **O'Brien Tire & Auto Care** has served as the go-to auto shop on this stretch of Route 66. Don't miss a photo op with the 8,000-pound, 12-foot **Giant Tire**. Now, a Giant (also known as a Muffler Man) has joined the Giant Tire to celebrate the Centennial of Route 66. **Earl the Mechanic** is a nod to Earl Buenger, the first generation of the Buenger family as owners of O'Brien Tire & Auto Care. The past comes to life at **It's Electric Neon Sign Park**, home to three restored neon signs from the city's past as well as murals, a **Chain**

of Rocks Bridge model, a large **Graniteware Kettle**, and a large **Make It Toy** model. Just a few blocks away stands another Giant, **Rusty the Steelworker**. Step back in time for lunch at the **Kickstand Historic Route 66 Diner** for a selection of sandwiches, burgers, and salads, all crafted with a nod to American diner tradition. The **Historic Route 66 Flea Market** offers an array of vendors displaying everything from vintage furniture and quirky collectibles to handcrafted jewelry and rare antiques. At the **Route 66 Kickstand Roadhouse Bar**, you'll find gaming, cold drinks, hot pizza, and wings, all adjacent to the Historic Route 66 Flea Market.

Madison

The **Old Chain of Rocks Bridge**, at 5,353 feet long, is one of the world's longest bicycle and pedestrian bridges. The bridge spans the Mississippi River and provides a vital link in the Bi-State trail system, connecting to the **MCT Confluence Trail** in Illinois and the **St. Louis Riverfront Trail** in Missouri. It's also a link to the rich history of Route 66 as it crossed from Illinois into Missouri and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Brooklyn & Venice

Brooklyn played a real — but nearly forgotten — role in Route 66 history, serving as part of the 1929–1936 alignment that has since vanished from maps. Thanks to new preservation efforts and Route 66 signage, Brooklyn is re-emerging as a historically rich point of interest along the Mother Road. While it does not yet feature large-scale Route 66 tourist attractions, its cultural significance, plus nearby landmark sites, make it a compelling stop for travelers exploring the deeper history of Route 66.

Venice was a gateway town, transitioning travelers from Illinois into Missouri and ultimately toward St. Louis, sitting directly on the 1926-1936 early alignment. Route 66 originally crossed the Mississippi River at the **McKinley Bridge**, the first bridge to carry Route 66 across the Mississippi. A historical marker confirms this.

PLAN THE ULTIMATE ILLINOIS RT. 66 ADVENTURE

WITH BEST WESTERN HOTELS & RESORTS



For road-trippers, Illinois is where the Route 66 story begins. From the Chicago skyline to the Mississippi River, "America's Main Street" is packed with classic diners, neon signs, and small-town charm.

Start in Chicago at the official starting point on Adams Street. Stay at the Best Western River North or Grant Park Hotel for downtown landmarks, or the Best Western Plus Hawthorne Terrace for a boutique Lakeview vibe.

Heading southwest, Joliet is a must-stop to see the Old Joliet Prison and Route 66 Welcome Center. Rest at the Best Western Joliet Inn & Suites or Best Western Plus North Joliet. In Bolingbrook, the Best Western provides easy access to the iconic Greater Chicago I-55 Truck Stop.

Further south, Pontiac features the Route 66 Hall of Fame and vibrant murals; stay nearby at the Best Western Pontiac Inn. In Springfield, explore the Lincoln Home and the world-famous Cozy Dog Drive In before relaxing at the Best Western Clearlake Plaza. Cap off the Illinois leg in Alton or Pontoon Beach at the Best Western Plus, perfectly positioned for the Great River Road or the trek into St. Louis.

Beyond the Mother Road, Illinois offers Galena's vineyards, Bloomington-Normal's arts, and outdoor escapes in Rockford and Peoria. With over 50 Best Western Hotels & Resorts statewide, a comfortable bed and local hospitality are never far away. Whether chasing history or hidden detours, we make every mile count.

START PLANNING YOUR ILLINOIS ADVENTURE AT BESTWESTERNROUTE66.COM.

Chicago • Joliet • Pontiac • Springfield • Alton • Pontoon Beach

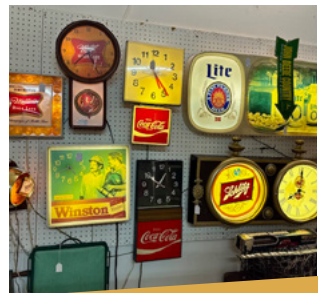
SWEET DEALS

on Treasures, Antiques & More

Tammi and Eric Little of Springfield have always shared a passion for adventure. As dirt car racing enthusiasts, they own a race team that competes across the Midwest — a drive for new experiences that also fueled their distinguished military careers. Tammi retired from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer 4 in 2010, and Eric retired as a Major General in 2024.

Following Tammi's retirement, the couple's love for auctions and furniture restoration evolved into a full-scale business. In 2020, they acquired Lisa's Antiques, rebranding it as Tammi's Treasures Antiques & More. Located off Exit 82 on I-55, the two-story, 25,000-square-foot mall features over 85 booths and 70 vendors. Visitors can explore an expansive collection of antiques, vintage items, collectibles, jewelry, and coins.

In 2025, the business expanded with a sister location: Sweet Pea's Antiques & More. Situated behind the truck stop on Old Route 66, the mall was named after Tammi's nickname for Eric. Sweet Pea's encompasses 14,000 square feet with over 85 booths and 65 vendors. Along with antiques, vintage items, home goods, crafts, and boutiques, the mall carries specialty brands like Country Place Soaps, Milkhouse Candles, and The Naked Bee. Both locations are dog-friendly for leashed pets and pride themselves on friendly, knowledgeable vendors.



LOCATIONS

TAMMI'S TREASURES ANTIQUES & MORE:

490 W. STATE RT. 104 • DIVERNON, IL

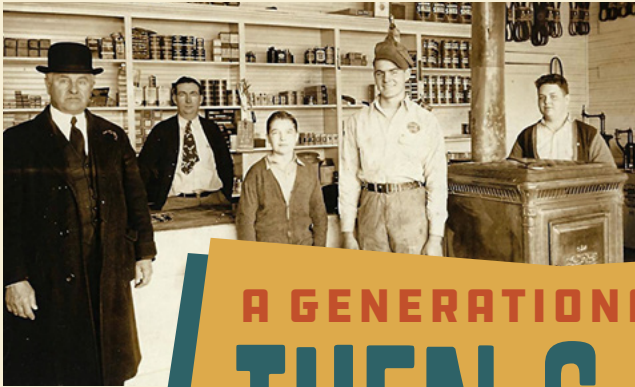
SWEET PEA'S ANTIQUES & MORE:

14335 FRAZEE RD. • DIVERNON, IL

HOURS

DAILY, 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM

TAKE I-55, EXIT 82



A GENERATIONAL DREAM THEN & NOW

CENTENNIAL STOP

O'Brien Tire and Auto Care

began as the dream of William Kirchner, who recognized the potential of the burgeoning automotive industry. He established his service "garage" in 1906, two years before the mass production of the Model T. The paving of Route 66 in 1926 ushered in the possibility of cross-country travel by automobile — and the love of exploring America by car that still endures.

On St. Patrick's Day in 1932, James O'Brien purchased the business from Mr. Kirchner. Today, through six generations of family heritage, the O'Brien name remains a pillar of trust in Granite City, IL. Now in the third generation of ownership by the Buenger family, the shop has survived and thrived for 120 years without ever

closing its doors. We are extremely proud to be the oldest auto repair shop in America, located directly on the original alignment of Route 66.

Our philosophy remains rooted in an old-fashioned service approach: providing exceptional care at a fair price with a guarantee that we stand behind our work. Just 10 minutes from St. Louis, we invite you to experience an authentic "mom and pop" shop. While you're here, meet "Earl the Mechanic," our very own fiberglass American Giant, and don't forget to snap a selfie with the largest tire on Route 66. Whether you need a quick repair or want to pick up some Route 66 memorabilia, O'Brien Tire and Auto Care is a legendary stop where history is still in motion.

3924 Nameoki Road • Granite City, IL

VITALE'S HIDEAWAY PROHIBITION GAMING BAR & GRILL



In the heart of the Illinois prairie

lies the Worden Wye, a historic treasure where three Route 66 alignments (1926, 1930, and 1940) converge. This junction, documented in Jack Rittenhouse's 1946 guide, has served as a vital pulse point for the Mother Road for nearly a century. At its legacy's center is a 1937 gas station and a neighboring roadhouse, which were inducted into the Route 66 Association of Illinois Hall of Fame in 2002.

Today, the spirit of this landmark lives on as Vitale's Hideaway Prohibition Gaming Bar & Grill. Renamed by Jon Taffer on the Season 9 finale of *Bar Rescue* (aired June 2025), the venue honors its roots with a speakeasy atmosphere. It is named after mobster John Vitale, who

famously ran whiskey between Chicago and St. Louis during Prohibition.

Vitale's Features: Full Kitchen: Serving signature food items until 2 a.m.; Entertainment: U-shaped bar, three pool tables, professional shuffleboard, seven TVs, pinball (*Jaws/ Godzilla*); Gaming: A dedicated casino slot machine room; Events: A large stage for live bands and comedians; Recurring Nights: Comedy Night (Third Saturday at 7 p.m.) and Free Texas Hold'em Poker (Thursdays at 7 p.m.) with cash prizes.



Visit Vitale's at the junction of State Highway 4 and the West Frontage Road (I-55, Exit 33) to experience a piece of highway history.

(618) 633-2575 • 7708 State Route 4 • Worden, IL

PINK ELEPHANT ANTIQUE MALL

DELIGHTFULLY
WEIRD

If you've heard the stories about a place on Route 66 where a giant pink elephant shares the yard with a UFO, towering fiberglass giants, and a diner shaped like an ice cream cone, every rumor is true. The Pink Elephant Antique Mall in Livingston, is one of the Mother Road's most joyfully unexpected destinations, a perfect blend of nostalgia and pure roadside fun.

Housed in a historic 1927 school building, the mall offers an eclectic shopping experience across former classrooms and a gymnasium. More than 100 booths, curated by over 50 dealers, are packed with antiques, vintage collectibles, and Route 66 memorabilia. Every corner of this nearly century-old campus reveals a new treasure.

The exterior is a photographer's dream. Visitors can pose with the famous Pink Elephant, the Harley Man, and the iconic Futuro House, a rare 1960s UFO-style home. For a snack, the Twistee Treat Diner serves classics from inside a massive ice cream cone-shaped building, while the Mother Road Fudge & Candy Shop offers handmade treats. The campus even embraces the supernatural with the Area 66 Haunted School each October and December.

As the Route 66 Centennial approaches in 2026, the mall is gearing up for a June 20th celebration. It also hosts the annual Bigfoot Festival in May and the UFO Festival in August.

A CENTURY OF HISTORY

- ▶ **1926–1927:** The Livingston school opens, serving the community for 77 years.
- ▶ **2004–2005:** The school closes and is reborn as the Pink Elephant Antique Mall.
- ▶ **Today:** A global destination featuring antiques, a diner, fudge shop, and quirky attractions.

908 Veterans Memorial Dr. • Livingston, IL

SCAN HERE FOR
MORE ABOUT
ROUTE 66



MILES
DAVIS
BIRTH
PLACE
OF
COOL
ALTON

WHERE THE MOTHER ROAD *Meets the River Road*

Celebrate 100 years of road tripping in the only place in America where the Mother Road of Route 66 meets the scenic beauty of the Great River Road. Follow the neon signs to the It's Electric Neon Sign Park, dine at historic Route 66 roadside cafes, take a walk through the river bluffs and prairies and relax with a glass of locally crafted wine beside the Mighty Mississippi River.

Your one-of-a-kind adventure begins at www.RiversandRoutes.com.



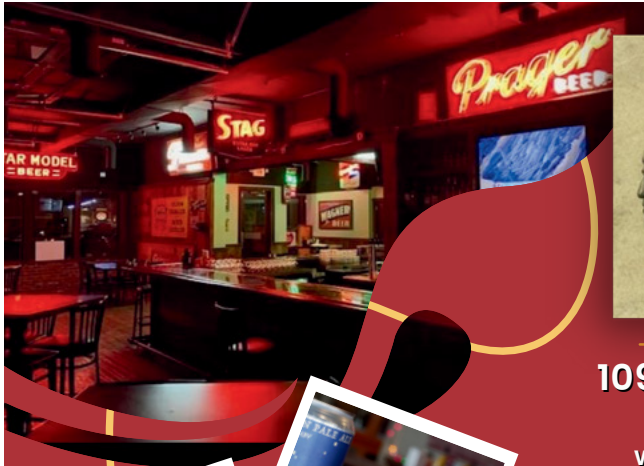


JOIN US!

Commemorate a century of the Mother Road at the Illinois Route 66 Centennial Celebration this November 10-11. The festivities kick off with an awards gala amidst the vintage neon of the Ace Sign Co. Museum, followed by a high-energy statewide conference and celebration at Motorheads Bar and Grill, the next day. These exclusive, ticketed events serve as the ultimate finale to an unforgettable year of cultural heritage and nostalgia. Secure your place in history and join us for this once-in-a-lifetime grand finale to the Centennial season.



FOR MORE INFO VISIT
ILLINOISROUTE66.ORG



109 E. Mulberry | Chatham
 (217) 697-8026
www.sangamobrewing.com



A micro-brewery, restaurant, and museum dedicated to preserving the nostalgic legacy of Illinois breweries and their vintage advertising.



DOUBLE J ON ROUTE 66

CAMPGROUND

We're your homebase to explore Springfield!

Come celebrate the Route 66 Centennial in 2026! Our road was part of Route 66 from 1935-1977!

Big Rig Friendly

Full hookup sites with cable TV.

Extra-long sites available. Free Wi-Fi.

Pool, mini golf, pedal kart track, dog run & many other amenities for all campers.



Easy Access off I-55

9683 Palm Road | Chatham | 217-483-9998

www.doublejcampground.com

90+ Herbs & Spices
From kitchen essentials to remedies

TRI-COUNTY



MACOUPIN, MONTGOMERY AND SOUTHERN SANGAMON COUNTIES



NeatosElements.com
Text/Call: 217-370-3596
admin@neatoselements.com

- Reiki
- Crafts
- Singing Bowls
- \$10 Readings
- Crystal Chips
- Online Classes
- Memberships
- Game Nights

Home of Nature's Asprin



Neato's Elements
Were wellness meets the Mind, Body, Soul and Spirit
Est. 2016
216 East Jackson st, Virden, IL, 62690

Family Owned & Operated

40+ Teas
Tasty & Beneficial!



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STORE HOURS:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	10-6
Wednesday	12-8
Thursday	10-6
Friday	10-6
Saturday	10-6
Sunday	Closed
Wellness Wednesdays 4-8pm	



Where the community and creativity come alive.

EXPLORE A CURATED COLLECTION OF POP-UP VENDORS. DISCOVER LOCAL TREASURES, AND ENJOY A DAY FILLED WITH CREATIVITY, CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT-ALL UNDER ONE ROOF!
2026 DATES: JAN 24, FEB 28, JUN 27, NOV 28, DEC 5



MORE THAN JUST A MARKET. IT'S A MOVEMENT

SATURDAY - 9 AM - 3 PM

APRIL 25TH - MAY 16TH - AUGUST 22ND

SEPTEMBER 19TH - RENAISSANCE

OCTOBER 10TH & 11TH: CENTENNIAL BASH

Where the Past Meets the Present, and the Community Comes Alive.
See you on the streets of Virden!



TREEHOUSE STAYS NEW IN 2026

Sleep among the treetops in a secluded retreat overlooking Otter Lake – just 10 minutes off historic Route 66.

Surrounded by nature. Perfect for cozy, romantic getaways or memorable family escapes.

Girard, Illinois
hiddenridge-atotterlake.com

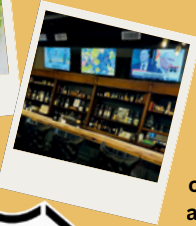
Follow us on Facebook

EXPLORE
OUR RETREAT



Docs Just Off 66

Old-Fashioned Soda Fountain ~ Restaurant ~ Bar



Step back in time and savor a true roadside treasure at Docs Just Off 66, where history, nostalgia and flavor come together just off historic Route 66 in Girard, Illinois. Originally opened as Deck's Drug Store in 1884, this iconic landmark has evolved from a classic pharmacy and soda fountain into a vibrant restaurant, full-service bar, and nostalgic destination; all while preserving its legendary past.

Inside, you'll find the original marble-top soda fountain and vintage pharmacy relics on display, a living tribute to more than a century of small-town character. Enjoy handcrafted meals, classic diner favorites, and old-fashioned sodas or decadent ice cream treats that delight both locals and Route 66 travelers alike.

Docs has been beautifully restored and expanded, blending cherished memories with the modern comforts of a restaurant and bar that welcomes friends and families for lunch, dinner, or a sweet treat. Whether you're on a Mother Road adventure or looking for a warm, neighborly place to gather, Docs Just Off 66 invites you to make new memories in a timeless setting.



docsjustoff66.com

217.627.3491 | 133 S. 2nd Street | Girard

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 66

No trip along Historic Route 66 in Illinois is complete without a stop at the Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center. Learn the fascinating history of Litchfield and Route 66 in Illinois. Plus, admission is **FREE!**

For a small town, Litchfield packs a big 'kick' on 66!

Litchfield
ILLINOIS
visitlitchfield.com

Find us directly on Route 66!
334 North Historic Route 66
Litchfield, Illinois USA
LITCHFIELDMUSEUM.ORG

LITCHFIELD MUSEUM
& ROUTE 66 WELCOME CENTER

S&W greenstamps
Supporting communities since 1896

Join Us!
mygreenstamps.com

The iconic rewards program is back! Shop - Earn - Redeem on Route 66

Visit the Historic

VILLAGE OF HAMEL

From Chicago to LA - Hamel is on the way!



VILLAGE OF
HAMEL
ILLINOIS

villageofhamel.com

Photo Credit: Madison County Historical Society

PLAN
YOUR

Getaway

ROUTE 66 LIVES ON IN LITCHFIELD!

ORIGINAL RESTAURANTS & DRIVE-IN | MUSEUM | PHOTO OPS



Litchfield
ILLINOIS 

217.324.8147
VisitLitchfield.com

MEMBER BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Northern Section

CHICAGO

ORIGINAL BEGIN/END ROUTE 66 SIGNS

E. Adams St./Jackson Blvd.
(across from The Art Institute)
choosechicago.com

HARRY CARAY'S TAVERN

700 E. Grand Ave.
(312) 527-9700
harrycarays.com/harry-carays-tavern-
navy-pier.html

LOU MITCHELL'S RESTAURANT AND BAKERY

565 W. Jackson Blvd.
(312) 939-3111
loumitchellsrestaurant.com

NAVY PIER (NEW BEGIN/END OF ROUTE 66)

600 E. Grand Ave.
(312) 595-7437
navypier.org

TWO LANE AMERICA

(Route 66 Tours)
1050 N. Damen Ave.
(513) 827-8273
2laneamerica.com

Lodging

BEST WESTERN GRANT PARK

1100 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 922-2900
bestwesternillinois.com

BEST WESTERN PLUS HAWTHORNE TERRACE

3434 N. Broadway
(773) 244-3434
bestwesternillinois.com

BEST WESTERN RIVER NORTH

125 W. Ohio St.
(312) 467-0800
bestwesternillinois.com

LAWNDALE

CASTLE CAR WASH HISTORIC LANDMARK

3801 Ogden Ave.

LAWNDALE POP-UP SPOT

3601 W. Douglas Blvd.
(312) 420-2558
lawndalepopupspot.org

Events

LAWNDALE ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL/CHICAGO'S HISTORIC ROUTE 66 CLASSIC CAR SHOW

(August 23, 2026) 3800 W. Ogden Ave.
(773) 592-4718
carsonroute66.com

CICERO

HENRY'S DRIVE-IN

6031 W. Ogden Ave.
(708) 656-9344
henrys66.com

BERWYN

CIGARS & STRIPES BBQ LOUNGE

6715 Ogden Ave.
(708) 484-1043
facebook.com/CigarsAndStripesBBQ

Events

BERWYN ROUTE 66 CAR SHOW

(August 29, 2026)
Ogden Ave. between
Oak Park and Ridgeland
(708) 788-8100
berwynrt66.com

Also Nearby to Berwyn:

AL CAPONE GRAVESITE

(located 15 minutes northwest of Berwyn)
Mount Carmel Cemetery
1400 S. Wolf Rd., Hillside, IL

McCOOK

STEAK N EGGER

8408 Joliet Rd.
(708) 853-9240
steaknegger.com

COUNTRYSIDE

COUNTRYSIDE ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL MONUMENT

Ogden Ave.
countryside-il.org

ILLINOIS HARLEY-DAVIDSON

9950 Joliet Rd.
(708) 387-8750
illinoishd.com

Lodging

BEST WESTERN PLUS CHICAGOLAND

6251 Joliet Rd.
(708) 354-5200
bestwesternillinois.com

BOLINGBROOK

THE PROMENADE BOLINGBROOK

631 E. Boughton Rd.
(630) 296-8350
shoppingpromenade.com

Lodging

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON

BOLINGBROOK I-55

225 W. South Frontage Rd.
(630) 226-1669
visitwill.com

BEST WESTERN BOLINGBROOK

520 N. Bolingbrook Rd.
(630) 972-9797
bestwesternillinois.com
bit.ly/BWBolingbrook

RESIDENCE INN BOLINGBROOK

180 Remington Blvd.
(630) 332-5200
visitwill.com

SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT

125 Remington Blvd.
(630) 759-0529
visitwill.com

CHANNAHON

BRISCOE MOUNDS HISTORIC SITE

25000-25094 W. Front St.
(815) 727-8700
reconnectwithnature.org

CHANNAHON STATE PARK/I&M CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

25302 W. Story St.
channahon.org

MCKINLEY WOODS/FOUR RIVERS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

25055 S. Walnut Ln.
(815) 727-8700
reconnectwithnature.org

ROMEOVILLE

ISLE A LA CACHE MUSEUM

501 E. Romeo Rd.
(815) 727-8700
reconnectwithnature.org

WHITE FENCE FARM RESTAURANT & CARRYOUT

1376 Joliet Rd.
(630) 739-1720
whitefencefarm-il.com

Lodging

COMFORT INN ROMEOVILLE

1235 Lakeview Dr.
(630) 226-1900
visitwill.org

COUNTRY INN & SUITES ROMEOVILLE

1265 Lakeview Dr.
(630) 378-1052
visitwill.org

DAYS INN & SUITES ROMEOVILLE

1280 Normantown Rd.
(630) 372-1000
visitwill.org

EXTENDED STAY AMERICA ROMEOVILLE

1225 Lakeview Dr.
(630) 226-8966
visitwill.org

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS ROMEOVILLE

722 N. Center Blvd.
(630) 229-6445
visitwill.org

SUPER 8 ROMEOVILLE

1301 Marquette Dr.
(630) 410-1576
visitwill.org

WOOD SPRING SUITES ROMEOVILLE

1093 Wyndham Prkwy.
(331) 803-4040
visitwill.org

PLAINFIELD

PLAINFIELD'S DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

24401 W. Lockport St.
(815) 436-7093
plainfieldil.gov/community/downtown-plainfield

PLAINFIELD ROUTE 66/ LINCOLN HIGHWAY ALIGNMENT

IL 59 & US 30 Downtown Plainfield
(815) 436-4431
plainfieldchamber.com

WAREHOUSE 109

14903 S.Center St. #109
(815) 556-9553
warehouse109.com

LOCKPORT

GAYLORD BUILDING HISTORIC SITE/ GALLERY SEVEN

200 W. 8th St.
(815) 838-9400
gaylordbuilding.org

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM LOCKPORT GALLERY

201 W. 10th St.
(815) 838-7400
illinoisstatemuseum.org/welcome-ism-lockport-gallery.html

LINCOLN LANDING OPEN AIR PARK & MUSEUM

9th St. and Canal St.
(815) 838-0549
cityoflockport.net/Facilities/Facility/Details/Lincoln-Landing-5

LOCKPORT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Downtown Lockport
(815) 838-0549
cityoflockport.net

WILL COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM/ I&M CANAL NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

803 S. State St.
(815) 838-5080
willhistory.org

Lodging

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES

16223 W. 159th St.
(815) 306-1200
visitwill.com

JOLIET

BILLIE LIMACHER BICENTENNIAL PARK & STATUES

30 N. Bluff St.
(815) 724-3761
bicentennialpark.org

ILLINOIS ROCK & ROLL MUSEUM ON ROUTE 66

9 W. Cass St.
(815) 927-1540
roadtorock.org

JEFFERSON STREET LIFT BRIDGE

198 W. Jefferson St.
joliet.gov

JOLIET AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND ROUTE 66 WELCOME CENTER/ ROUTE 66 SELFIE STATION

204 N.Ottawa St.
(815) 723-5201
jolietmuseum.org

JOLIET IRON WORKS HISTORIC SITE

31 Columbia St.
(815) 727-8700
reconnectwithnature.org

JOLIET RAILROAD MUSEUM GATEWAY CENTER TRAIN STATION

90 E. Jefferson St.
(815) 723-5201
bit.ly/JolietRailroadMuseum

JOLIET ROUTE 66/ LINCOLN HIGHWAY INTERSECTION

IL 59 & US 30
Downtown Joliet
(815) 723-5201
jolietmuseum.org

LAMBERT 1957 CONVENIENCE STORE

1529 N. Broadway St.
(815) 726-8867
bit.ly/Lambert1957Mobil

PLANINSEK GROCERY AND MEAT MARKET MUSEUM

1314 Elizabeth St.
(815) 723-5201
bit.ly/PlaninsekGrocery

OLD JOLIET PRISON

(Collins Street Prison)

1125 Collins St.
(815) 723-5201
jolietprison.org

Events**THE BIG HOUSE BALLGAME
JOLIET SLAMMERS BASEBALL TEAM
HISTORIC EXHIBITION**

(April 30, 2026)
1125 Collins St.
jolietlammers.com/bhbg

RED CARPET CORRIDOR FESTIVAL

(May 2 & 3, 2026)
Joliet to Bloomington-Normal
(815) 844-5847
ilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com

Lodging**BEST WESTERN JOLIET INN & SUITES**

4380 Enterprise Dr.
(815) 730-7500
bestwesternillinois.com

BEST WESTERN PLUS NORTH JOLIET

3231 Norman Ave.
(815) 439-4200
visitwill.com

COMFORT INN JOLIET WEST I-80

1520 Commerce Ln.
(815) 730-1111
visitwill.com

**FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
BY MARRIOTT JOLIET NORTH/PLAINFIELD**

3239 Norman Ave.
(815) 436-6577
visitwill.com

HAMPTON INN JOLIET I-80

1521 Riverboat Center Dr.
(815) 725-2424
visitwill.com

HARRAH'S CASINO & HOTEL JOLIET

151 N. Joliet St.
(815) 740-7800
visitwill.org

HOLIDAY INN & SUITES

JOLIET SOUTHWEST
1471 Rock Creek Blvd.
(779) 206-2915
visitwill.org

HOME2 SUITES JOLIET/PLAINFIELD

4095 Hennepin Dr.
(815) 727-3310
visitwill.com

MAINSTAY SUITES I-55 JOLIET

3235 Norman Ave.
(815) 436-5141
visitwill.com

MAINSTAY SUITES I-80 JOLIET

135 S. Larkin Ave.
(815) 744-1770
visitwill.com

TRU BY HILTON

3051 Ring Rd.
(815) 782-0044
visitwill.com

WINGATE BY WYNDHAM

101 McDonald Ave.
(815) 741-2100
visitwill.com

ELWOOD**ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY**

20953 W. Hoff Rd.
(815) 423-9958
cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/
abrahamlincoln.asp

**DOUGLAS STREET ROUTE 66 PAVEMENT
& WORKERS ROADSIDE EXHIBIT**

Southeast Corner, Mississippi Ave.
& Douglas St.
(815) 423-5011
villageofelwood.com

WILMINGTON**GEMINI GIANT**

201 Bridge St. (South Island Park)
(815) 476-2175
wilmington-il.com/tourism

WILMINGTON (continued)

THE LANDING PAD SOUVENIR SHOP

110 S. Park St. Unit C
thelandingpadil.com

HISTORIC WATER STREET SHOPPING DISTRICT

North & South Water St.
(815) 476-2175
wilmington-il.com/tourism

ROUTE 66 ANTIQUES

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

MAR THEATRE

121 S. Main St.
(815) 476-4662
the-mar.com

BRAIDWOOD

BRAIDWOOD ZOO & POLK-A-DOT STATUES

140 & 222 N. Front St.
(815) 458-2333
braidwood.us

GODLEY

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 MINING MUSEUM & ROUTE 66 INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT

150 Kankakee Rd.
(815) 458-2222
facebook.com/p/Illinois-Route-66-Mining-Museum-100057566917068

BRACEVILLE

MAZONIA/BRAIDWOOD FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

IL-53 & E. Huston Rd.
(815) 237-0063
dnr.illinois.gov/parks/park.mazonia-braidwood.html

GARDNER

THE 2 CELL JAIL/HISTORIC STREETCAR DINER

E. Mazon & N. Center Streets
(815) 237-3008

THE SHOP ON 66 - PERKINS WOOD AND GLASS

315 N. Center St.
(815) 237-0068
facebook.com/ThePerkinsShopOn66

DWIGHT

AMBLER'S TEXACO GAS STATION

417 W. Waupansie St.
(815) 584-3077
dwightillinois.org

CRAZY 80'S AUTO MUSEUM

316 W. Waupansie St.
(815) 405-1232
bit.ly/Crazy80sMuseum

OLD ROUTE 66 FAMILY RESTAURANT

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

ODELL

ODELL SUBWAY TUNNEL

Corner of Hamilton & West Streets
(815) 998-2133
odell-il.com

STANDARD OIL GASOLINE STATION

400 S. West St.
(815) 998-2133
odell-il.com

PONTIAC

BOB & RINGO'S GRILL & SMOKEHOUSE

223 W. Madison St.
(815) 844-6565
bobandringossmokehouse.com

DARGAN PARK SCULPTURES

Madison and Fountain Streets
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

EAGLE PERFORMING ARTS AND CONFERENCE CENTER

319 N. Plum St.
(815) 844-1187
pontiaceagle.com

MILL ST. TAP

316 N. Mill St.
(309) 224-2029
bit.ly/MillStreetTap

PONTIAC MUSEUM COMPLEX & GIFT SHOP

321 N. Main St.
(815) 419-7015
visitpontiac.org

JURASSIC GEMSTONES

117 W. Madison St.
(815) 844-2977
jurassicgemstones.com

LIVINGSTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

112 W. Madison St.
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WAR MUSEUM

321 N. Main St.
(815) 842-0301
visitpontiac.org/2189/Livingston-County-War-Museum

MURALS ON MAIN STREET TOUR

Downtown Pontiac
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

ROUTE 66 HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

110 W. Howard St.
(815) 844-4566
visitpontiac.org & il66assoc.org

SWINGING BRIDGES OF PONTIAC

*Throughout Pontiac
over the Vermilion River*
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

THE INTERNATIONAL WALLDOG AND SIGN ART EXHIBIT PONTIAC MUSEUM COMPLEX

110 W. Howard St.
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

THE MUSEUM OF THE GILDING ARTS

217 N. Mill St.
(815) 842-1848
visitpontiac.org

Lodging

BEST WESTERN PONTIAC INN

1821 W. Reynolds St.
(815) 844-1187
bestwesternillinois.com

HAMPTON INN

2000 Grand Prix Dr.
(815) 844-4400
visitwill.com

Central Section

CHENOA

CHENOA DOG PARK ON ROUTE 66

205 N. Morehead St.
(815) 945-7619
chenoail.org

CHENOA ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 ALIGNMENT PHOTO STOP

S. Morehead St. US 66
& US 24 Intersection
(815) 945-7619

J.W. LENNEY DRUGS & BOOKS MURAL

202 S. Veto St.
(815) 945-7619
chenoail.org

MATTHEW T. SCOTT HOUSE

227 N. First Ave.
(815) 945-4555
bit.ly/MatthewTScottHouse

ROUTE 66 OF CHENOA ROADSIDE ATTRACTION & TOURIST INFO

Historic US 66 & US 24 Intersection
(815) 945-7619
chenoail.org

LEXINGTON

"AMERICAN STANDARD" ELEPHANT SCULPTURE

W. Main St. & Route 66
(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON

W. Main St. & Route 66
(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

LEXINGTON NEON ARROW W. MAIN ST. & ROUTE 66

(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

LEXINGTON ROUTE 66 PARK

W. Main St. & Route 66
(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

LEXINGTON (continued)

LEXINGTON CASTLE/ THE CASTLE OF ROUTE 66

10 N. Spencer St.
(415) 602-7060
lexingtoncastle.com

ROUTE 66 MEMORY LANE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 ALIGNMENT

(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

Lodging

THE LEXINGTON HOUSE ON 66 AIRBNB

1002 W. Walnut St.
lexingtonhouseon66.com

TOWANDA

DEAD MAN'S CURVE

Historic Route 66 at Jackson and Quincy St.

MONEY CREEK BRIDGE

Old Route 66 north of Towanda

TOWANDA ROUTE 66 PARKWAY

2.5 miles NE of town

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Normal

CARL'S ICE CREAM

1700 W. College Ave.
(309) 454-7732
carlsicecream.com

DESTIHL BREWERY & BEER HALL

1200 Greenbriar Dr.
destihl.com

DESTIHL RESTAURANT & BREW WORKS

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

CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY MUSEUM

101 E. Beaufort St.
(309) 433-3444
childrensdiscoverymuseum.net

HISTORIC NORMAL THEATER

209 North St.
(309) 454-9722
normaltheater.com

ILLINOIS ART STATION

101 E. Vernon Ave.
(309) 386-1019
illinoisartstation.org

RADER FAMILY FARMS

1312 Ropp Rd.
(309) 454-6880
raderfamilyfarms.com

RYBURN PLACE AT SPRAGUE'S SUPER SERVICE

305 Pine St.
(309) 585-4103
ryburnplace.com

UPTOWN NORMAL

11 Uptown Circle
(309) 454-9777
uptownnormal.com

Bloomington

BLOOMINGTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

600 N. East St.
(309) 434-2777
artsbloomington.org

BN ARTISTS

105 W. Jefferson St.
(309) 319-8672
facebook.com/BNartists

CARL'S ICE CREAM

601 W. Locust St.
(309) 828-7732
carlsicecream.com

"CRUISIN' WITH LINCOLN ON 66"

VISITORS CENTER

200 N. Main St.
(309) 827-0428
cruisinwithlincolnon66.org

DAVID DAVIS MANSION STATE HISTORIC SITE

1000 Monroe Dr.
(309) 828-1084
daviddavismansion.org

EVERGREEN MEMORIAL CEMETERY

302 E. Miller St.
(309) 827-6950
evergreenmemorialcemetery.com

HANGAR ART COMPANY

3 Towanda Service Rd.
 (309) 319-8672
 thehangarartco.com

HERB EATON STUDIO AND GALLERY

411 N. Center St.
 (309) 828-1575
 bit.ly/HerbEatonGallery

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON

(309) 434-2255
 downtownbloomington.org

MCLEAN COUNTY MUSEUM OF HISTORY

200 N. Main St.
 (309) 827-0428
 mchistory.org

MILLER PARK AND ZOO

1020 S. Morris Ave.
 (309) 434-2250
 millerparkzoo.org

**POWER HOUSE ART
410 SCULPTURE PARK**

410 S. Madison St.
 (309) 261-6893
 powerhouse-art.com

**POWER HOUSE ART
THE HOUSE ON GARLING**

1905 Garling Dr.
 (309) 261-6893
 powerhouse-art.com

**PRAIRIE AVIATION MUSEUM
CENTRAL ILLINOIS REGIONAL
AIRPORT COMPLEX**

2929 E. Empire St.
 (309) 663-7632
 prairieaviationmuseum.org

RED RACCOON GAMES

301 N. Main St.
 (309) 828-9196
 redraccoongames.net

Events**ROUTE 66 ART TRAIL**

(Annually in July)
 Bloomington-Normal
 (309) 319-8672
 facebook.com/BNartists

SLOW ART DAY ON ROUTE 66

(Annually in April)
 Bloomington-Normal
 (309) 319-8672
 facebook.com/BNartists

Lodging**BEST WESTERN PLUS BLOOMINGTON EAST**

604 1/2 IAA Dr.
 (309) 808-0628
 bestwesternillinois.com

SHIRLEY/FUNK'S GROVE**FUNKS GROVE HERITAGE FRUITS & GRAINS**

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

FUNKS GROVE PURE MAPLE SIRUP

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

McLEAN**HISTORIC DIXIE TRUCK STOP**

315 E. Dixie Rd.
 (309) 874-2900
 facebook.com/DixieFamilyRestaurant

**MCLEAN DEPOT TRAIN SHOP/
A HOME ON THE ROAD INTERPRETIVE STATUE**

266 E. Dixie Rd.
 (309) 244-5900
 mclean-il.com

MCLEAN WATER TOWER

210 Center St.
 coreofmclean.org

**SHORTY'S BARBER SHOP
ROUTE 66 WALLDOGS MURAL
DOWNTOWN MCLEAN**

(309) 874-2102
 mclean-il.com

ATLANTA**AMERICAN GIANTS MUSEUM**

100 NW Arch St.
 (217) 650-7117
 americangiantsmuseum.com

ATLANTA (continued)

ARCH ST. ARTISANS SHOP

103 SW Arch St.
facebook.com/ArchStreetArtisans

ATLANTA PUBLIC MUSEUM

114 SW Arch St.
(217) 746-6151
atlantamuseum.org

BUNYON GIANT/HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

SW Arch St.

LOGAN COUNTY VISITORS WELCOME CENTER

(located inside the Atlanta Public Museum)
114 SW Arch St.
(217) 746-6151
atlantamuseum.org

ROUTE 66 ARCADE MUSEUM

(located inside the Atlanta Public Museum)
114 SW Arch St.
(217) 746-6151
atlantamuseum.org

ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY & CLOCK TOWER

100 SE Race St.
(217) 648-2112
atlantapld.org

LINCOLN

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LINCOLN

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

HISTORIC LOGAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

601 Broadway St.
(217) 735-2376
destinationlogancountyil.com/
logan-county-courthouse-downtown

ABE'S CARMELCORN SHOPPE

117 N. Kickapoo St.
(217) 732-4564
abeslincolnil.com

LINCOLN CHRISTENING SCENE/ HISTORIC LINCOLN DEPOT

101 N. Chicago St.
(217) 732-8687
lincolnillinois.com

MUSEUM OF ROUTE 66

508 Broadway St.
(217) 732-8687
lincolnillinois.com

GIANT DONUT AT MEL-O-CREAM DONUTS

227 N. Kickapoo St.
(217) 735-1218
destinationlogancountyil.com

PHONE BOOTH ON LINCOLN CITY HALL

700 Broadway St.
(217) 732-8687
lincolnillinois.com

POSTVILLE COURTHOUSE STATE HISTORIC SITE

914 5th St.
(217) 732-8930
bit.ly/PostvilleCourthouse

THE COW IN THE CORN SCULPTURE

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

THE LODGE OFF 66

HISTORIC ROADSIDE TAVERN
2265 900th Ave., Hartsburg
(8 miles Northwest of Lincoln)
(217) 737-0553
facebook.com/p/The-Lodgeoff-66-100083309948643

THE MILL MUSEUM ON 66/ LOGAN COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU

738 S. Washington St.
(217) 735-1218
destinationlogancountyil.com

THE TROPICS RESTAURANT NEON SIGN

1109 Hickox Dr.
(217) 735-1218
destinationlogancountyil.com

WALDOGS MURALS

Downtown Lincoln
(217) 732-8687
lincolnillinois.com

RAILSPLITTER COVERED WAGON

1750 5th St.
(217) 735-1218
destinationlogancountyil.com

BROADWELL

PIG HIP MARKER & SIGN

101 W. Oak St.
bit.ly/PigHipMarkerSign

ELKHART

ELKHART CEMETERY/ ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL

County Rd. 10
(217) 947-2238
elkharthistoricalsociety.org

ELKHART HILL FARM & VINEYARD

(formerly Old Gillett Farm)
4-6 Drake Ln.
(217) 947-2158
connshg.com/historic-gillett-farm

ELKHART HISTORIC ROUTE 66 WALL MURALS

Corner of Latham St.
& Governor Oglesby St.
elkharthistoricalsociety.org

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(217) 947-2238
elkharthistoricalsociety.org

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ELKHART

Governor Oglesby St.
(217) 947-2287
destinationlogancountyil.com/explore-our-towns/elkhart-menu-item

JOHN P. GILLETT MEMORIAL BRIDGE

(Arch Bridge)
County Rd. 10
(217) 947-2238
elkharthistoricalsociety.org

LOGAN COUNTY VISITORS WELCOME CENTER AT THE COUNTRY BUMPKIN ANTIQUES

103 Governor Oglesby St.
(217) 947-2238
destinationlogancountyil.com/country-bumpkin-visitor-center

ROUTE 66 MODEL RACEWAY

109 Governor Oglesby St.
(217) 971-6408
route66modelraceway.com

WILLIAMSVILLE

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WILLIAMSVILLE

W. Main St.
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

THE OLD STATION

117 N. Elm St.

MULTI-DIRECTIONAL SIGN AT WILLIAMSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

217 N. Elm St.
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

WILLIAMSVILLE PARK-TRAIL-LAKE

706 E. Main St.
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

WILLIAMSVILLE RAILROAD DEPOT AND BOX CARS

102 S. Elm St.
(217) 566-3520
williamsville.illinois.gov

SHERMAN

CARPENTER PARK ROUTE 66 PAVEMENT

1 Carpenter Park Trail
(217) 789-2360
bit.ly/CarpenterParkAlignment

HISTORIC ROUTE 66 BIKE/ HIKE TRAIL TRAILHEAD

Corner of Bahr Rd. &
E. Andrew Rd.
(217) 496-2621
shermanil.org

ROUTE 66 WAYSIDE PARK

Corner of Old Route 66/Sherman Blvd.
and Andrew Rd./Route 124
(217) 496-2621
shermanil.org

SHERMAN VILLAGE PARK & VILLAGE PARK AMPHITHEATER

1200 Rail Fence Rd.
(217) 496-2621
facebook.com/shermanvillagepark

SPRINGFIELD

ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY & MUSEUM

112-212 N. 6th St.
(217) 782-5764 or (800) 610-2094
presidentlincoln.illinois.gov

ACE SIGN CO. SIGN MUSEUM

2540 S. 1st St.
(217) 522-8417
acesignco.com/museum

ALIVE! ON 66

600 Toronto Rd.
(217) 685-1055
aliveon66.com

BREZIE'S ROASTED BEANS AND GAMING

(Southern View)
3351 S. 6th Street Rd., Suite 2
(217) 761-0996
breziesroastedbeans.com

COZY DOG DRIVE-IN

2935 S. 6th St.
(217) 525-1992
cozydogdrivein.com

DANA-THOMAS HOUSE

(Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright)
301 E. Lawrence Ave.
(217) 782-6776
dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/experience/
sites/site.dana-thomas-house.html

GRAB-A-JAVA

1702 S. 6th St.
(217) 523-5282
grabajava.com

GRAB-A-JAVA

3115 Hedley Rd.
(217) 523-5282
grabajava.com

GRAB-A-JAVA

300 Chatham Rd.
(217) 523-5282
grabajava.com

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 EXPERIENCE

*(Inside Gate 2 - Enter through
the Main Gate off Sangamon Ave)*
801 E. Sangamon Ave.
bit.ly/ILRT66Experience

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

502 S. Spring St.
(217) 782-7386
illinoisstatemuseum.org

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM SOCIETY

502 S. Spring St.
(217) 524-4222
illinoisstatemuseum.org/ism-system-
content/illinois-state-museum-society.html

JAMIE'S ROUTE 66

3351 S. 6th St.; Suite 3
(Southern View)
(217) 741-1377
jamiesroute66.com

KIDZEUM OF HEALTH AND SCIENCE

412 E. Adams St.
(217) 971-4435
kidzeum.org

KNIGHT'S ACTION PARK & SPLASH KINGDOM

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

LAKE SPRINGFIELD MARINA

17 Waters Edge Blvd.
(217) 483-3625
lakespringfieldmarina.com

LINCOLN HOME NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

413 S. 8th St.
(217) 492-4241
nps.gov/liho/index.htm

LINCOLN MEMORIAL GARDEN

2301 E. Lakeshore Dr.
(217) 529-1111
lincolnmemorialgarden.org

LINCOLN TOMB STATE HISTORIC SITE/ILLINOIS WAR MEMORIALS AT OAK RIDGE CEMETERY

1500 Monument Ave.
dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/experience/
sites/central/lincoln-tomb.html

MAID-RITE SANDWICH SHOP

118 N. Pasfield St.
(217) 523-0723
facebook.com/MaidRiteSandwichShop

MEL-O-CREAM DONUTS

217 E. Laurel St.
(217) 544-4644
melocreamspringfield.com

MEL-O-CREAM

3010 S. 6th St.
(217) 529-7708
melocreamspringfield.com

MEL-O-CREAM DONUTS

525 N. Grand Ave. E
(217) 528-2303
melocreamspringfield.com

OBED & ISAAC'S THE CIDERY

503 S. 7th St.
(217) 670-0627
connshg.com/obed-and-isaacs/
springfield/cidery

OBED & ISAAC'S MICROBREWERY & EATERY

500 S. 6th St.
(217) 670-0627
obedandisaacs.com

OFFICIAL SPRINGFIELD VISITORS CENTER

1 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
(217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

OLD STATE CAPITOL STATE HISTORIC SITE

1 S. Old State Capitol Plaza
(217) 785-9363
dnrhistoric.illinois.gov/experience/
sites/site.old-state-capitol.html

PAPA FRANK'S RESTAURANT

4111 Wabash Ave.
(217) 679-8700
papafranksspringfield.com

ROUTE 66 DRIVE-IN

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

**ROUTE 66 MOTORHEADS BAR & GRILL,
MUSEUM & ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX**

600 Toronto Rd.
(217) 679-7323
66motorheads.com

SAPUTO'S RESTAURANT

801 E. Monroe St.
(217) 544-2523
saputos.com

SHEA'S GAS STATION

2075 N. Peoria Rd.
(217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com/
LocationDetails/?id=Shea%27s-
Gas-Station

**SONRISE DONUTS SIGN
ACE SIGN CO. SIGN MUSEUM &
ROUTE 66 MOTORHEADS MUSEUM**

(217) 789-2360
visitspringfieldillinois.com

THE CHILI PARLOR

820 S. 9th St.
(217) 523-4989
facebook.com/beals6

THE CURVE INN

3219 S. Sixth St.
(217) 529-5806
thecurveinn.com

THE FOUNTAIN ON 66

1101 S. 9th St.
(217) 241-0905

THE STADIUM SMOKEHOUSE BAR & GRILL

2300 N Peoria Rd.
(217) 241-0905
stadiumsmokehousebarandgrill.com

**TRISH & MARY'S PUB AT
VINEGAR HILL MALL**

107 W. Cook St., Suite A
(217) 679-3287
connshg.com/trish-marys-pub

WM. VAN'S CAFÉ AT VINEGAR HILL MALL

107 W. Cook St.
connshg.com/wm-vans-coffee-house
(217) 679-4726

SPRINGFIELD (continued)

Events

INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66

MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL

(September 25–27, 2026)

Historic Downtown Springfield
route66fest.com

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 SCENIC BYWAY AWARDS GALA, STATEWIDE CONFERENCE & ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

(November 10 & 11, 2026)

Gala held at Ace Sign Co. Museum and
Conference & Celebration held at Route
66 Motorheads Bar & Grill, Museum &
Entertainment Complex
bit.ly/GalaConferenceCelebration100

MILES OF POSSIBILITY ROUTE 66 CONFERENCE

(October 8-10, 2026)

President Abraham Lincoln Springfield-
a DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
701 E. Adams St.
route66milesofpossibility.com

25TH ANNUAL ROUTE 66 FILM FESTIVAL

(November 20 & 21, 2026)

Hoogland Center for the Arts
Peggy Ryder Theatre
420 S. 6th St.
route66filmfestival.net

Lodging

BEST WESTERN CLEARLAKE PLAZA

3440 E. Clear Lake Ave.
(217) 525-7420
bestwesternillinois.com

INN AT 835 BOUTIQUE HOTEL B&B

835 S. 2nd St.
(217) 523-4466
innat835.com

SPRINGFIELD HOTEL LODGING ASSOCIATION

shla.info

Southern Section

CHATHAM

APPLE BARN

2290 E. Walnut St.
(217) 483-6236
applebarn.net

CHATHAM RAILROAD MUSEUM

CHICAGO & ALTON DEPOT

100 N. State St.
(217) 483-7792

SANGAMO BREWING

& SANGAMO BREWERIANA MUSEUM

109 E. Mulberry St.
(217) 697-8026
sangamobrewing.com

Lodging

DOUBLE J CAMPGROUND

9683 Palm Rd.
(217) 483-9998
doublejcampground.com

GLENARM

SUGAR CREEK COVERED BRIDGE

769 Covered Bridge Road #587

AUBURN

HISTORIC BRICK ROAD

Snell and Curran Roads
bit.ly/AuburnBrickRoad66

DIVERNON

HILDA'S ANTIQUE MALL

14266 Frazee Rd.
(217) 628-9192
facebook.com/hildasantiquemall

NICKORBOBS HOME & GIFTS

14260 Frazee Rd.
(217) 628-9191
nickorbobs.com

SWEET PEA'S ANTIQUES & MORE

14335 Frazee Rd.
(217) 628-1122
sweetpeasantiquesandmore.com

TAMMI'S TREASURES, ANTIQUES & MORE

490 Illinois Highway 104
(217) 628-3333
tammistreasures.com

VIRDEN

A MARC ABOVE

905 Bronaugh St.
(217) 652-3918
facebook.com/AMarcAboveLLC

**DNR CUSTOM APPAREL &
ROUTE 66 SOUVENIR SHOP**

207 County Line Rd.
(217) 965-4510
dnrcustomapparel.com

JO'S PLACE

217 E. Jackson St.
(217) 965-3442
facebook.com/JosPlaceviriden

NEATOS ELEMENTS

216 E. Jackson St.
(217) 370-3596
neatoselements.com

**SHOWTIME LANES,
KAYLEE'S CAFÉ & VISITOR CENTER**

1515 N. Springfield St.
(217) 965-5521
showtimelanes.com

SILVERNICKS NEW & USED

167 N. Springfield St.
(217) 891-6514
silvernicks.com

SIPS COFFEE CO

1240 N. Springfield St.
bit.ly/SipsCoffee66

THE SLYFOX BOOKSTORE

123 N. Springfield St.
(217) 965-3641
slyfoxbooks.com

VIRDEN HISTORY MURAL

105 E. Jackson St.
viridenmural.com

VIRDEN DRAG RACING HISTORY MURAL

105 E. Jackson St.

**VIRDEN MINER'S MEMORIAL/
CENTRAL PARK VIRDEN SQUARE**

175 E. Jackson St.
(217) 965-6139
viridenchamber.com

**FARMERSVILLE
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN FARMERSVILLE**

601 S. 4th St.
(217) 891-6103

THE ROOTED HOME

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

Events

IRISH DAYS CELEBRATION

Historic Downtown Farmersville
(May 28–30, 2026)
facebook.com/p/Irish-Days-
Celebration-100057336854828

WAGGONER

BEAL'S M&M MUSEUM

355 S. Buchanan St.
(217) 494-3320
facebook.com/Bealsmuseum

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE HIGHWAYS

(Raymond)
22353 W. Frontage Rd.

GIRARD

DOCS JUST OFF 66

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

HIDDEN RIDGE AT OTTER LAKE

(217) 416-6394
facebook.com/HiddenRidge.OtterLake

WHIRL-A-WHIP

309 S. 3rd St.
(217) 627-9447
whirlawhip.net

Lodging

HIDDEN RIDGE AT OTTER LAKE

(217) 416-6394
facebook.com/HiddenRidge.OtterLake

NILWOOD

TURKEY TRACKS IN PAVEMENT

South of Nilwood on Donaldson Rd.

CARLINVILLE

BRAVE HAZEL BOUTIQUE

254 S. Side Square
(217) 313-7937
facebook.com/beBrave.Hazel

CARLINVILLE (continued)

CARLINVILLE HISTORIC SQUARE DOWNTOWN CARLINVILLE

(217) 854-4076
cityofcarlinville.com

COLLECTED BOUTIQUE

122 E. Side Square
(217) 299-1183
shopcollectedboutique.com

CROWE BOOT & SHOE

218 W. Main St.
(217) 854-SHOE (7463)
crowebootandshoe.com

MACOUPIN COUNTY CANNONBALL JAIL" OF 1869

205 E. First South St.
(217) 854-3341
macoupincountyil.gov/tourism/
cannonball-jail

MACOUPIN COUNTY "MILLION DOLLAR" COURTHOUSE

200 E. Main St.
(217) 854-3341
macoupincountyil.gov/tourism/
courthouse-history

MOTHER ROAD ANTIQUE MALL

106 N. Side Square
(217) 854-8029
facebook.com/MotherRoadAntiqueMall

ROUTE 66 OLD FASHIONED RESTAURANT & SPEAKEASY

366 S. Side Square
(217) 716-2333
route66oldfashioned.squarespace.com

STANDARD ADDITION/SEARS, ROEBUCK, & CO. MAIL ORDER HOUSES

Charles and Rice Streets
(217) 854-4076
cityofcarlinville.com

VICTORY LANE CHRYSLER DODGE-JEEP-RAM

400 W. Main St.
(217) 854-5337
victorylanechrysler.com

GILLESPIE

DOWNTOWN GILLESPIE

Gillespie City Hall & Civic Center
115 N. Macoupin St.
(217) 839-2919

GILLESPIE ROUTE 66 MURAL AT MICHELLE'S PHARMACY

120 S. Macoupin St.

ILLINOIS COAL MUSEUM AT GILLESPIE

121 S. Macoupin St.
(833) 228-8603
gillespiecoalmuseum.org

STAUNTON

DECAMP STATION

8767 State Route 4
(618) 637-2951
facebook.com/decampstation

MULLINS & MAYFIELDS LANDSCAPING

120 S Hibbard St.
(618) 635-3050
mayfieldslandscaping.com

STAUNTON ROUTE 66 MURAL

Corner of Elm & West Main Streets
(618) 635-2233
cityofstauntonil.com

ROUTE 66 PARK/ HISTORIC DOWNTOWN STAUNTON

127 E. Main St.
(618) 635-2233
cityofstauntonil.com/parks-and-recreation

VINTAGE STATION

225 Phillips St.
(618) 779-2956
facebook.com/vintagestationstaunton

LITCHFIELD

ARISTON CAFÉ

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

JUBELT'S RESTAURANT & BAKERY

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

LAKE LOU YAEGER RECREATION AREA

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

LITCHFIELD MUSEUM & ROUTE 66 WELCOME CENTER

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

HISTORIC CARNEGIE LIBRARY BUILDING

400 N. State St.
(217) 324-8147
visitlitchfield.com

SKY VIEW DRIVE-IN THEATRE

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

VICTORY LANE FORD

903 Old Route 66 North
(217) 324-3965
victorylaneford.com

VICTORY LANE OUTDOORS

1117 Old Route 66 North
(217) 324-2452
victorylaneoutdoors.com

WALTON PARK

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

Events

LITCHFIELD PICKERS MARKET

400 N. State St.
(217) 324-8147
facebook.com/litchfieldpickersmarket

Lodging

COUNTRY BEND CAMPGROUND

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

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS & SUITES LITCHFIELD WEST

4 Thunderbird Circle
(217) 324-4556
ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/
us/en/litchfield/ltes/hoteldetail

LAKE LOU YAEGER PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUNDS

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

MT. OLIVE

MOTHER JONES MUSEUM

Mt. Olive City Hall
215 E. Main St.
(217) 999-4261
facebook.com/therealmotherjonesmuseum

SOULSBY'S SERVICE STATION

710 W. 1st St. (Old Route 66)
nps.gov/places/soulsby-service-station.htm

UNION MINERS CEMETERY AND MOTHER JONES MONUMENT

700 N. Lake St.
riversandroutes.com/directory/mother-
jones-monument-and-burial-site

NEW DOUGLAS

YOGI BEAR'S JELLYSTONE PARK AT RUSTIC ACRES

12246 Binney Rd.
(217) 456-1122
rusticacresjellystonepark.com

LIVINGSTON

MOTHER ROAD FUDGE-N-CANDY

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

PINK ELEPHANT ANTIQUE MALL & TWISTEE TREAT DINER

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

AREA 66 HAUNTED SCHOOL

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

WORDEN

BOONIES FARM GLAMPING & EVENT VENUE

8863 Dustman Rd.
(618) 888-2422
booniesfarm.com

VITALE'S HIDEAWAY PROHIBITION BAR & GRILL & GAMING

7708 State Route 4
(618) 633-2575
facebook.com/profile.
php?id=61563740289559

HAMEL

ROUTE 66 CREAMERY

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

NEON CROSS AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6969 W. Frontage Rd.

ROUTE 66 MURAL/MONUMENT/WAYSIDE EXHIBIT

Village of Hamel
111 S. Old US Route 66
(618) 633-2484
villageofhamel.com

EDWARDSVILLE

WEST END SERVICE STATION GREAT RIVERS & ROUTES/ CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE VISITOR CENTER

620 St. Louis St.
riversandroutes.com/directory/
west-end-service-station

DOWNTOWN EDWARDSVILLE SHOPPING DISTRICT

118 Hillsboro Ave.
cityofedwardsville.com

EDWARDSVILLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

722 Holyoake Rd.
edwcm.org

EDWARDSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICTS

St. Louis Street & LeClaire Park
cityofedwardsville.com

WILDEY THEATRE

252 N. Main St.
(618) 307-1750
wildeytheatre.com

TROY

BEST WESTERN TROY HOTEL

2020 Formosa Rd.
(618) 667-9200
bestwesternillinois.com

COLLINSVILLE

BROOKS CATSUP BOTTLE WATER TOWER

800 S. Morrison Ave.
(618) 344-8775
catsupbottle.com

CAHOKIA MOUNDS STATE HISTORIC SITE

30 Ramey Dr.
(618) 346-5160
cahokiamounds.org

FAIRMOUNT PARK CASINO & RACING

9301 Collinsville Rd.
(618) 345-4300
fairmountpark.com

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COLLINSVILLE

125 S. Center St.
618-346-5200
collinsvilleil.org

GRANITE CITY

BOARDGAMERY

1406 Niedringhaus Ave.

DOWNTOWN DINER'S EVENT SPACE

1400 Niedringhaus Ave.

DOWNTOWN GRANITE CITY

riversandroutes.com/cities-towns/
granite-city

HISTORIC ROUTE 66 FLEA MARKET

3121 & 3123 W. Chain of Rocks Rd.
(618) 720-0122
route66fleamarket.net

HISTORIC ROUTE 66 DINER

3121 & 3123 W. Chain of Rocks Rd.
(618) 720-0122
facebook.com/historicroute66diner

ROUTE 66 KICKSTAND ROADHOUSE BAR

3121 & 3123 W. Chain of Rocks Rd.
(618) 720-0122
facebook.com/Route66KickStand

GARDEN GATE TEA ROOM

1410 Niedringhaus Ave.

HORSESHOE LAKE STATE PARK

3321 Highway 111

(618) 931-0270

dnr.illinois.gov/parks/park.

horseshoelakemadison.html

IT'S ELECTRIC GRANITE CITY

NEON SIGN PARK

19th St. and Delmar Ave.

(618) 465-6676

riversandrout.com/directory/

its-electric-neon-sign-park-on-route-66

MOTHER ROAD MERCH MART

1404 Niedringhaus Ave.

O'BRIEN TIRE & AUTO CARE/ EARL THE MECHANIC/ GIANT MUFFLER MAN/ LARGEST TIRE ON ROUTE 66

3924 Nameoki Rd.

(618) 876-7616

obrientire.com

THE SPEAKEASY

(618) 709-7218

1318 Niedringhaus Ave.

PONTOON BEACH

RUSTY THE SLEDGEHAMMER

GIANT MUFFLER MAN

614 Niedringhaus Ave.

(618) 465-6676

riversandrout.com/blog/

giants-of-granite-city

Lodging

BEST WESTERN PLUS PONTOON BEACH

4 Regency Parkway

(618) 512-1314

bestwesternillinois.com

MADISON

OLD CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE

traillink.com/trail/old-chain-of-rocks-bridge

FAIRMOUNT CITY

PEE PAWS ANTIQUE MAW

5401 Collinsville Rd.

(618) 806-6798

bit.ly/PeePawAntiqueMaw

EAST ST. LOUIS

HOUSE OF MILES

1701 Kansas Ave.

(618) 213-8120

houseofmilesestl.com

General Information

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

LAWNDALE

(312) 567-8500

chicago.gov/city/en/sites/

invest_sw/home/north-lawndale.html

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

CITY OF JOLIET

(815) 724-4000

joliet.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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS (continued)

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD

(815) 458-2333
braidwood.us

VILLAGE OF GODLEY

(815) 458-2222
Godfreyil.org

VILLAGE OF DWIGHT

(815) 584-3077
dwrightillinois.org

VILLAGE OF ODELL

(815) 998-2133
odell-il.com

CITY OF PONTIAC

(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

CITY OF CHENOA

(815) 945-7619
chenoail.org

CITY OF LEXINGTON

(309) 365-3331
lexingtonillinois.org

VILLAGE OF TOWANDA

(309) 728-2811
villageoftowanda.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 LINCOLN

(217) 735-2815
lincolnil.gov

VILLAGE OF ELKHART

(217) 947-2287
elkhartillinois.com

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

VILLAGE OF CHATHAM

(217) 483-2451
chathamil.gov

VILLAGE OF THAYER

(217) 965-5413
villageofthayer.org

CITY OF VIRDEN

(217) 965-5805
virden.municipalimpact.com

VILLAGE OF FARMERSVILLE

illinoisroute66.org/farmersville-il

CITY OF CARLINVILLE

(217) 854-4076
cityofcarlinville.com

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

VILLAGE OF HAMEL

(618) 633-2484
villageofhamel.com

CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE

(618) 692-7535
cityofedwardsville.com

CITY OF COLLINSVILLE

riversandroutes.com/cities-towns/
visit-collinsville

GRANITE CITY

granitecity.illinois.gov

CONVENTION & VISITOR BUREAUS, TOURISM OFFICES, & CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEMBERS

BERWYN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

3322 S. Oak Park Ave., 2nd Floor
(708) 788-8100
berwyn.net

PLAINFIELD SHOREWOOD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(815) 436-4431
plainfieldchamber.com

VISIT BN

(Bloomington-Normal Area CVB)
(800) 433-8226
visitbn.org

VISIT PONTIAC

(Pontiac Tourism)
(815) 844-5847
visitpontiac.org

LOGAN COUNTY TOURISM BUREAU

(217) 735-1218
destinationlogancountyil.com

LINCOLN, ILLINOIS TOURISM OFFICE

(217) 732-8687
lincolnillinoistourism.com

ELKHART HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(217) 947-2238
elkharthistoricalsociety.org

VISIT SPRINGFIELD

(Springfield CVB)
(800) 545-7300
visitspringfieldillinois.com

VIRDEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(217) 965-6139
virdenchamber.com

GIRARD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(217) 341-4436
girardilchamber.org

VISIT LITCHFIELD

(Litchfield Tourism)
(217) 324-8147
visitlitchfield.com

STAUNTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

229 W. Main St.
(618) 635-8356
stauntonchamber.com

GREAT RIVERS & ROUTES TOURISM BUREAU OF SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS

(Route 66 - The Last Hundred Miles)
(800) 258-6645
RiversAndRoutes.com

BYWAY PARTNERS

ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

(Looking for Lincoln)
(217) 492-8366
lookingforlincoln.org

ATLANTA BETTERMENT FUND

(217) 648-5077
americangiantmuseum.com/
betterment-fund

CORE OF MCLEAN

coreofmclean.org

HERITAGE CORRIDOR DESTINATIONS

(Route 66 - The First Hundred Miles)
(844) 944-2282
hcdestinations.com
thefirsthundredmiles.com

ILLINOIS LOCAL

illinoislocal.org

ILLINOIS MAIN STREET

(312) 610-5619
ilmainstreet.org

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

illinoisroute66centennial.org

ILLINOIS GRAPE GROWERS & VINTNERS ALLIANCE

(217) 726-8518
illinoiswine.com

LANDMARKS ILLINOIS

(312) 922-1742
landmarks.org

BYWAY PARTNERS (continued)

MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

1001 Mission Dr.
(217) 483-7911
midwestmission.org/location

NATIONAL ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

route66centennial.org

NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY FOUNDATION

(330) 231-3468
nsbfoundation.com

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

(202) 588.6000
savingplaces.org

ROUTE MAGAZINE

routemagazine.us

ROUTE 66 ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP

route66roadahead.org

TREES FOREVER

treesforever.org

STRONG TOWNS BLONO

strongtownsblono.com

ILLINOIS INFORMATION

ILLINOIS OFFICE OF TOURISM

enjoyillinois.com

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

dnr.illinois.gov

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

idot.illinois.gov

ILLINOIS HIGHWAY DRIVING CONDITIONS

gettingaroundillinois.com

RIDE ILLINOIS (ROUTE 66 BIKE TRAIL)

rideillinois.org

LODGING & DINING INFORMATION

BEST WESTERN ILLINOIS

(800) 528-1234
bestwesternillinois.com

CONN'S HOSPITALITY GROUP

(217) 522-3123
connshg.com

SPRINGFIELD HOTEL LODGING ASSOCIATION

shla.info

ILLINOIS CAMPGROUND ASSOCIATION

(866) 895-2267
illinoisgocamping.com

ILLINOIS HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION

illinoishotels.org

ILLINOIS RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION

illinoisrestaurants.org

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 \$200 for the year!

Disclaimer:

Please note the Business Directory only includes 2026 Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway Members. The Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway and their contractors assume no liability for the accuracy of the information or representations contained herein. To ensure accuracy or for more information, please check websites or call ahead.

ABOUT

the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

The United States Department of Transportation designates National Scenic Byways based on their unique significance to the American people. Route 66 in Illinois received this prestigious recognition in 2005.

The Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing economic opportunities for our local communities. We achieve this by preserving the road's historic heritage and fostering sustainable cultural tourism. Today, we serve over 90 Illinois communities, from Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge near Madison, most of which have populations of 2,500 or fewer.

We empower local attractions, small businesses, and municipalities to leverage their Route 66 resources, ensuring a world-class experience for visitors from across the globe. Additionally, we provide travelers with the essential information they need to plan their ultimate Mother Road adventure.

Whether we are helping a mom-and-pop restaurant secure new tuck-pointing, aiding a small business with their digital presence, or guiding a traveler to the best milkshake in Illinois, we are here to help.

For more information on Illinois Route 66:

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 SCENIC BYWAY

1045 S. 5th St. Springfield, IL 62703

Email: info@illinoisroute66.org

Website: illinoisroute66.org

BYWAY STAFF

Mrs. Casey Claypool: Executive Director

Mr. Geoff Ladd: Assistant Director

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Quinn Adamowski: President

William Thomas: Vice President

Scott Dahl: Treasurer

Liz Vincent: Secretary

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Jeff Woodard

Bob Navarro

Joi Austin

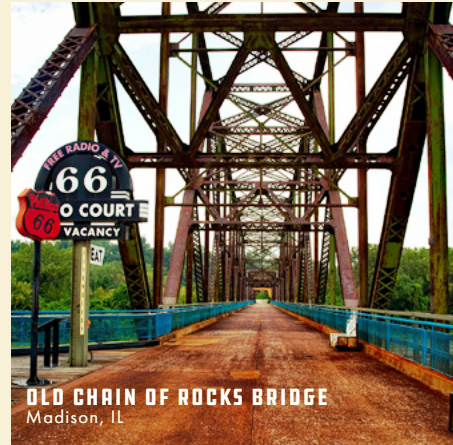
Cory Jobe

Beth Buenger

Erik Reader



ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 EXPERIENCE
@ ILLINOIS STATE FAIRGROUND
Springfield, IL



OLD CHAIN OF ROCKS BRIDGE
Madison, IL



SONRISE DONUTS SIGN
@ MOTORHEADS BAR & GRILL
Springfield, IL



THE RAILSPLITTER COVERED WAGON
Lincoln, IL

OBED AND ISAACS MICROBREWERY & EATERY



CENTENNIAL STOP



MICROBREWERY | EATERY
SPRINGFIELD AND PEORIA, ILLINOIS

ONE FOR THE ROAD

If you're exploring historic Route 66

and looking for one of the best places to eat in Springfield, Obed & Isaac's is a must stop. A local favorite for great food, cold drinks, and good company, you'll find us downtown, just steps from Lincoln's Home. Our menu blends treasured family recipes with creative, crowd-pleasing dishes for every appetite. We proudly serve our own craft beer made right next door. We also have an extensive libations menu full of creative cocktails. And if you're here on a Sunday, brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. is a local tradition.

Be sure to step over to our award winning Beer Garden, the perfect place to relax along your Route 66 journey. It's family friendly, pet friendly, and bicycle friendly —

with bocce, bags, and plenty of room to unwind. Obed & Isaac's is famous for its patio, and for good reason: It's the best outdoor dining in Springfield. Enjoy a meal, share a drink, or sip a cocktail with a view you won't find anywhere else in the city. And yes, your four-legged travel buddy is welcome too (weather permitting).

No visit is complete without stopping by The Cidery right next door. Set inside a beautifully preserved Lincoln era home, it's a cozy spot to enjoy a meal and sample our lineup of ciders, meads, and cocktails — the perfect complement to your downtown adventure.

Whether you're a traveler, a history buff, or simply hungry for something memorable, Obed & Isaac's offers a true Springfield experience right at the heart of Route 66.

VISIT OBEDANDISAACS.COM

500 S. 6th St. • Springfield, IL



GET YOUR HEAD INTO GEAR.

ROUTE 66 MOTORHEADS BAR, GRILL & MUSEUM

stands as a high-octane celebration of America's most legendary highway. More than a simple eatery, this destination serves as a vibrant living museum, meticulously designed to immerse guests in the nostalgia and adventurous spirit of the "Mother Road."

Stepping inside is like entering a time capsule of 20th-century Americana. The space is filled with an expansive collection of vintage memorabilia, antique gas pumps, neon signage, and classic motor vehicles that tell the story of the people and places that shaped the road's history. It is an environment where every artifact serves as a tribute to the enduring legacy of the open road.

The menu is a flavorful journey through classic American comfort. From thick, juicy burgers and

hand-cut steaks to savory barbecue, every dish is prepared with high-quality, locally sourced ingredients. To complement the meal, the fully stocked bar features talented mixologists and an extensive selection of craft beers and signature cocktails, ensuring there is a perfect pairing for every palate.

Beyond the food, Motorheads is a thriving community hub. The complex regularly hosts live music, car shows, and trivia nights, bringing together a diverse family of road enthusiasts. As the 2026 Route 66 Centennial arrives, Motorheads remains a mandatory stop for those looking to experience the authentic charm and freedom of the highway. Whether you're a lifelong gearhead or a hungry traveler, join the Motorheads family and help keep the spirit of the Mother Road alive.



Four score and seven years ago

he stood upon this continent

is dedicated to the proposition

that all men are created equal

Now we are engaged in a great

struggle, not only for the Union

but also for the principle that

governs our lives

Whether we will fight to

preserve or to destroy that

principle is the question

to which all eyes are turned

and to which the answer

will determine whether we

are to remain a united

people or to become a

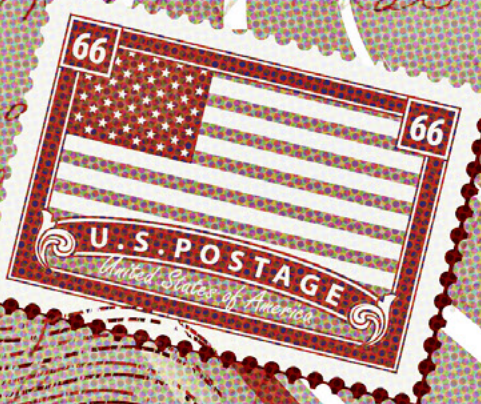
collection of warring

states

and nations

and whether we are to

Springfield



ABRAHAM LINCOLN PRESIDENTIAL MUSEUM



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

