

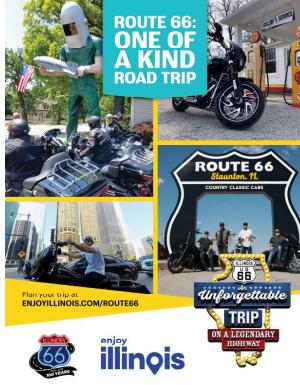
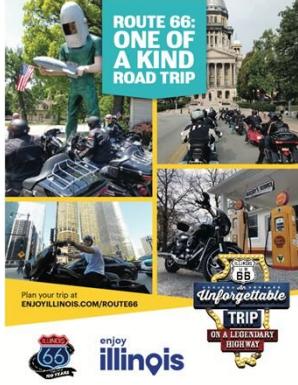
Route 66 Program Grant Update

Illinois Destinations Association



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Route 66 Magazine Single & Double Page Adverts



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Route 66 Digital Adverts



Route 66: One of a Kind Road Trip



Route 66: One of a Kind Road Trip



Route 66: One of a Kind Road Trip



Route 66: One of a Kind Road Trip



Route 66: One of a Kind Road Trip



Route 66: One of a Kind Road Trip



Route 66 Digital Adverts



Route 66 Pin Cards - Japanese & English

イリノイルート66

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シカゴを起点に、
イリノイ州を301マイルにわたって
南西へ伸び、
クラシックなダイナーや
歴史的なランドマークなど、
100以上の見どころが点在しています。
2026年に100周年を迎える
この伝説的なハイウェイは、
ノスタルジアと冒險に満ちた
究極のロードトリップ体験を提供します。






2026年にイリノイでお会いしましょう!

Illinois Route 66

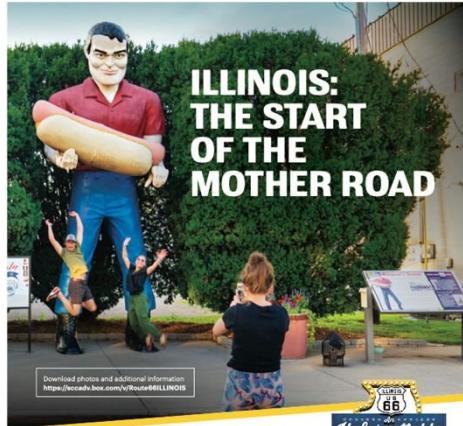
Route 66 stretches 301 miles through Illinois, beginning in Chicago and winding southwest past over 100 attractions - from classic diners to historic landmarks. Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026, this legendary highway offers nostalgia, adventure, and the ultimate road trip experience.






See you in Illinois in 2026

R66 Profile Sheet



Experience the iconic stops and photo ops that make Route 66 America's unforgettable road trip

WHAT'S NEW ON ROUTE 66 ILLINOIS

New additions, updates, and useful information from the communities that call Route 66 home:

Wanderverse | Oak Brook

Curated and imaginative worlds from popular film, television series, and video games.

Illinois Rock & Roll Museum | Joliet

Exhibits showcase music industry legends across all genres of music who are integral to the musical scene, complete with the World's largest hand-sculpted guitar.

The First Hundred Miles Welcome Center,

An Illinois Made Gift Shoppe | Joliet

A travel gift shop featuring Route 66 merchandise and unique gifts made in Illinois.

American Giants Museum | Atlanta

Learn about the longest on-collection collection of roadside giants in the world.

Legends Neon Sign Park at the Illinois Route 66 Experience | Springfield

Re-creations of neon signs cast their glow over this Route 66 town, including the signs of 12 communities on Illinois Route 66.

HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Plan your trip to these exciting events taking place along Route 66.

Red Carpet Corridor Festival

May | Joliet

Two days of music, fire vendors, food trucks, interactive activities, and more. This family-friendly event is fun for all ages.

Route 66 Festival

June | Joliet

Experience nostalgic family fun including a car show, live music, food.

International Hot Air Balloon Festival

June | Collingswood

At the intersection of art and world culture, Collingswood hosts a family friendly celebration.

Enjoy Illinois 300 NASCAR Cup Series

June | Madison

At the weekend's end, race fans and delivers for the biggest and best racing action of the season. This year's race will be held June 1st and again features the Community Fair, a family-friendly fair featuring world-renowned entertainment, food and activities.

The Melrose at Route History | Springfield
A virtual reality experience depicting the role of Black businesses, the Negro Motors Green Book, the Great Migration, and sundown towns along the Illinois leg of Route 66 during the Civil Rights and Jim Crow eras.

Historic Route 66 | Chicago

Tour the Gothic Revival stone arch where Civil War cannons were embedded into the stones and walls making an escape route.

West End Service Station | Edgewater

Having found new life as a museum and welcome center, this is the last original Route 66 service station standing.

Urban Collective Boutique Hotel | Edwardsville

This boutique hotel features eight distinct suites, each with its own unique ambience, colors, themes, styles, and decor.

World Wide Technology Raceway

The Circuit at the Gateway to the Americas | Madison

A jam-packed weekend with world class drag racing, jet car demolition derby, a car show, music/entertainment and a fireworks display not to be missed.

Murals & Monuments

Throughout Illinois Route 66 stunning murals and monuments have been installed for visitors to enjoy at any time of day.

NTT INDYCAR Series Bommarito Auto Group 300 | Springfield

A re-enactment of the classic masterpiece film, which begins in the Old Joliet Prison.

Watch as drivers navigate the track in hopes of breaking away from their competitors, reaching speeds of more than 200 mph.

Annual Illinois Route 66 Mother Road Festival

September | Springfield

Celebrate the golden age of Route 66. From classic cars to live music, & food this festival features over 1000 cars and over 80,000 visitors.

16th Presidents Cup at the International Country Club

September 10-12 | Madinah

Witness 25+ years of the world's most famous golf tournament.

USA battle the International Team.

Balloons Over 66

August 10-12 | Joliet

Over 100 beautiful hot air balloons will grace the sky over the city of Joliet.

Art, food, vendor shows, and more.

Illinois State Fair

August | Springfield

Illinois State Fair is a tradition and cornerstone at the

family-friendly fair featuring world-renowned entertainment, food and activities.



THE ULTIMATE ROUTE 66 ITINERARY

It's the things you see along the way that make a trip truly unforgettable — like a giant Paul Bunyan holding a hot dog, or a roadside attraction that brings you back to 1955. Legendary Route 66 begins in Illinois and offers road trippers 301 miles of vintage, quirky, and larger-than-life roadside attractions. Let's kick off America's most Instagram-worthy road trip!

Day 1 Chicago

Look up, look down, boat out and enjoy the city from a new perspective, then refuel at **Billy Goat Tavern**. Spend a relaxing afternoon visiting world-class attractions like the **Chicago History Museum**, **Shedd Aquarium**, and **Field Museum**.

Next, take in the city sights, like **Cloud Gate** or **Millenium Park** (aka "The Bean"). Or ride the **Centennial Wheel** at Navy Pier. To add to the fun, visit **Michigan Avenue** in Chicago or **South Michigan Avenue** in downtown Chicago or **3rd Street Promenade** in Chicago for incredible views of the skyline.

When you're ready to hit the road, don't forget to snap a photo at the **Route 66 marker** on the southbound launching point, Jackson Boulevard and Michigan Avenue.

Day 2 The First Mile

As you continue on your Route 66 journey, drive by the location of the first mile marker, located in the **Route 66 Hall of Fame**.

The Marx Brothers, family farm, Harvester Park & Burn Ridge, a Route 66-themed playground where kids can learn about the history of Route 66.

Morris while playing with replicas of landmarks along the Mother Road.

Tour the Old Home Farm, where history meets Hollywood. Just a little further down the road is Wilmington, put over for a pic with the **Big Blue Giant**, a 30-foot tall statue that's one of the most recognizable landmarks in the area.

After a stop for a bite at the **Big Blue Giant**, head to the **Cloud Gate** in Chicago for a group photo.

Finally, stop at the **Paul Bunyan** statue in Joliet.

Be sure to visit:

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site for a great view in the

sunrise/sunset, or the **Illinois State Police Highway Patrol Museum** for a historical

perspective with views of the added bonus of the thrilling **Arctic Alpine Coaster** waiting at the top for a ride down the bluffs. Time your trip to coincide with the **Illinois State Fair** in Springfield.

Top off your epic Illinois Route 66 road trip by visiting the **Chain of Rocks Bridge** before continuing onward.

Be sure to visit:

Lou Mitchell's | Chicago

A Chicago landmark since 1923, the friendly crew at Lou Mitchell's has welcomed travelers to the city including a free meal for military personnel.

Muffler Man with Chicken Wing | Berwyn

Resting atop the Cigars and Stripes ABC Lounge, the Berwyn Muffler Man includes a smoking cigarette and a bottle of hot chicken wing and a bottle of hot sauce.

Dell Mousie's Chicken Basket | Willowbrook

The three family members who welcomed travelers since the 1940s when it was a Blue Bird bus stop. Today, they serve some of the freshest best fried chicken.

Midwest National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve | Lakin

Get up close and personal with bison, 275 native prairie plants and more than 100 bird species. The preserve is a great example of prairie restoration, just south of Wichita.

Funktown | Shirley

Funktowner has been producing its special brand of pure maple syrup (blended that way) on purpose for more than 6,000 laps.

The Mill | Lincoln

Originally opening in 1852, The Mill is a historic, family-owned business that has welcomed travelers to the Lincoln County streets of Route 66.

Dave Thomas House | Springfield

Experiencing one of the owner's and family structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in this early 20th century house, featuring over 100 pieces of original furniture, art, great fixtures and lamps.

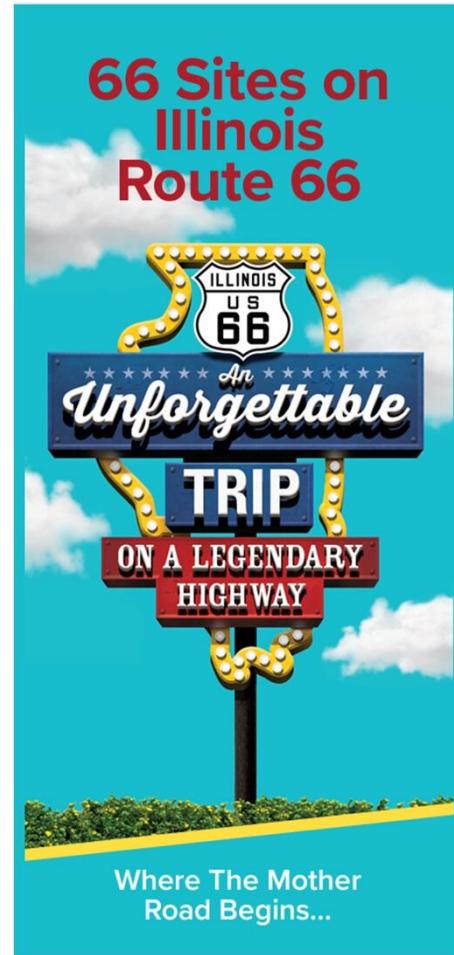
ILLINOIS

66

100 YEARS

ILLINOIS

Route 66 Map



Handheld Fan



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Advertising



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Print Media Placements



Print and online advertising in several high-profile locations, including:

- America Journal
- Essentially American / Mein Amerika Magazine
- GLUSA Guide
- Route Magazine
- Road Runner Magazine
- Rider Magazine

Media Campaigns



Tour Operator Campaigns

- Bike the Best (DE)
- America Unlimited (DE)
- Dial-A-Flight (UK)
- BonVoyage (UK)
- ATI (Global)
- Hotelbeds (Global)

Digital Campaigns

- Expedia
- Sojern
- Spearfish

Route 66 Themed Festivals



Statewide Projects



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SCHOOL OF
THE ART INSTITUTE
OF CHICAGO

Dor Maimoun
(HPA 2022)



Statewide Projects

Illinois is celebrating Route 66 with statewide initiatives to engage travelers and highlight its history. These efforts include:

- Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway Visitor Guide
- Illinois Route 66 Centennial Passport
- Statewide Influencer Program
- PBS Route 66 Project
- Route 66 Inspiration Guide – with Dot Dash Meredith
- Wayside Totem Poles





Route 66 and the spirit of the American Road Trip

ALL ROADS LEAD TO ILLINOIS



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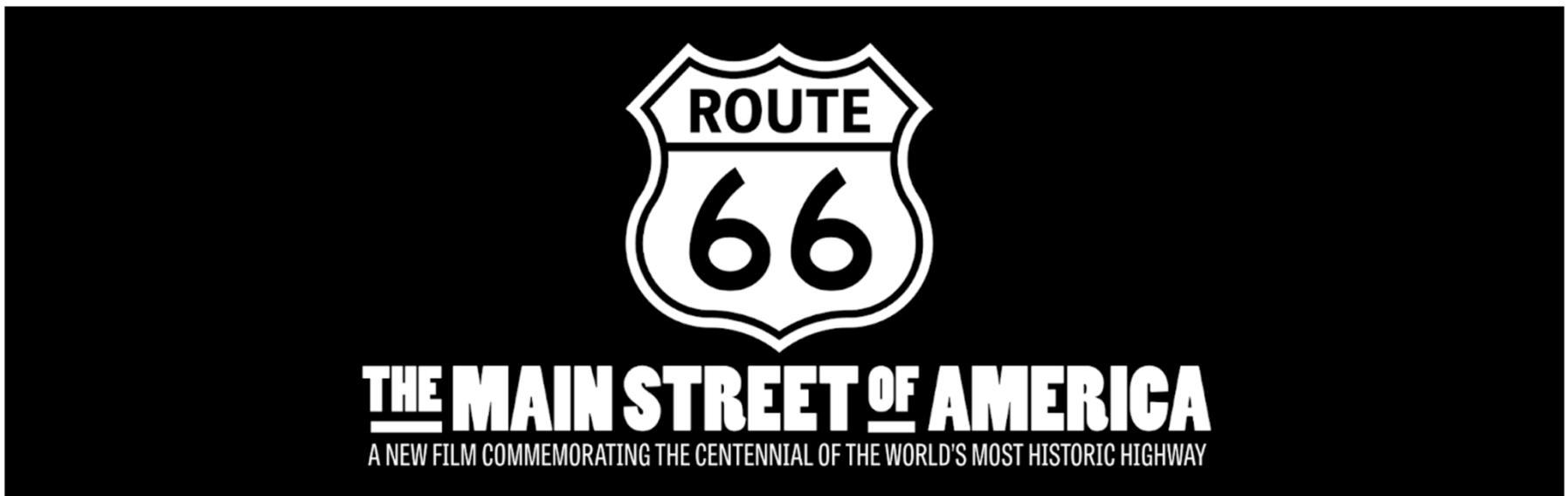
ILLINOIS ROUTE 66: AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP ON A LEGENDARY HIGHWAY

The Ultimate Illinois Road Trip
for the Modern Adventurer

ILLINOIS ★ USA

RETRO ROADS + MODERN MEMORIES

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Totem Waysides



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Where We've Been



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Tradeshows

Brand USA Travel Week - London



American Bus Association – Philadelphia





OLD JOLIET PRISON





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Welcome

to

historic

GILLESPIE



Cinema Theatre



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BIRTHPLACE OF
PROGRESSIVE
MINE WORKERS
OF AMERICA
1932

INCORPORATED





C. Thomas

Thank You



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