

Duration

15 nights

Approximate Road Miles

650 miles

Cost per person from

September £925

Phoenix to Santa Monica

Highlights

Flagstaff AZ

Museum of Northern Arizona & Pioneer Museum, side trip to Grand Canyon

Seligman AZ

Take a walking tour (map available at visitor centre), visit Delgadillo's Barber Shop (visitor centre) & Snow Cap Drive-In

Needles

Needles Regional Museum and Mojave Tribal Centre, complete with Indian Village.

Barstow

Mojave River Valley Museum and California Desert Information Centre offer a wealth of information on the surrounding desert. Visit nearby Calico Ghost Town, Rainbow Basin.

San Bernardino

Take the Rim of the World Drive with switchback turns and overlooks, to Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead.

Begin south of R66 in Phoenix, with two nights at a lovely resort property before heading to Sedona, set in the dramatic red rock landscape. A short drive brings you to Flagstaff, the first stop on R66 where attractions include the Lowell Observatory, Riordan Mansion and the 1899 Weatherford Hotel. Between Flagstaff and Kingman is one of the longest stretches of the original R66, be sure to stop in Seligman and visit the Visitor Center for local information. In Kingman don't miss the Route 66 Museum and the Mojave Museum of History and Arts. From here to the California border R66 heads into the rocky wilderness, switchback curves and steep gradients of the Black Mountains, over Sitgreaves Pass to the town of Oatman, then 20 more miles of desert scrub to Topock on the Colorado River where you meet up with I-40 to continue to Needles. If taking this option, check the brakes, top up with petrol, water and supplies before leaving Kingman. For the less adventurous, I-40 takes a more direct route from Kingman all the way to Needles, California. Between Needles and Barstow, through the Mojave Desert there is another choice of I-40 or R66 which criss-crosses the Interstate all the way. Leaving Barstow, R66 has mostly been swallowed first by I-15 and closer to LA by a maze of Interstates and Freeways, but be sure to visit Hula Ville in Victorville on the way to San Bernardino, gateway to 600,000 acres of wilderness, forest, mountains and lakes. Drive the Pasadena Freeway, Sunset Boulevard onto Santa Monica Boulevard where R66 ends at the Pacific Ocean.

Suggested Itinerary:

- 2 nts Phoenix AZ, Pointe Hilton at Squaw Peak
- 2 nts 115 miles to Sedona AZ, Sedona Real Inn & Suites
- 2 nts 30 miles to Flagstaff AZ, Inn at 410 B&B
- 1 nt 150 miles to Kingman AZ, BW Plus Wayfarer

- 2 nts 65 miles (I-40) to Needles CA, BW Colorado River Inn
- 1 nt 145 miles (I-40) to Barstow CA, BW Desert Villa Inn
- 2 nts 70 miles to San Bernardino CA, Hilton Hotel
- 3 nts 75 miles to Santa Monica, BW Gateway Hotel



The Complete Route 66

Duration

16 nights

Approximate Road Miles

2182 miles

Cost per person from

September £840

Here is an example of how the whole trip can be done with sensible driving distances (mileage is based on the Interstates), using mainly Best Western hotels. We will be pleased to make amendments to duration or choice of accommodation.

Suggested Itinerary:

- 2 nts Chicago IL, Essex Inn
- 1 nt 200 miles to Springfield IL, BW Clearlake Plaza
- 2 nts 100 miles to St Louis MO, BW Kirkwood Inn
- 1 nt 217 miles to Springfield MO, BW Route 66 Rail Haven
- 1 nt 286 miles to Oklahoma City OK, BW Plus Broadway
- 1 nt 259 miles to Amarillo TX, BW Santa Fe
- 2 nts 290 miles to Albuquerque NM, BW Rio Grande Inn
- 2 nts 325 miles to Flagstaff AZ, BW Pony Soldier Inn
- 1 nt 150 miles to Kingman AZ, BW Plus Wayfarer
- 1 nt 210 miles to Barstow CA, BW Desert Villa Inn
- 2 nts 145 miles to Santa Monica CA, BW Gateway Hotel



Holiday details

Costs shown are per person based on two adults sharing one room at the properties named. Sectors can be combined, or durations amended as required. Alternative accommodation is available in many locations.

Not included:

Scheduled Airlines

Expertly planned flight itineraries with scheduled services of major airlines. Ask about Special Business Class airfares for leisure travellers.

Vehicle Rental

Choose from the full range of vehicles including 4x4.

How to book

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Great Drives to Great Places

Route 66 - The Mother Road

From Chicago to Santa Monica, 2448 miles, 8 states & 3 time zones - Route 66 was a truly Great Drive. Now little of the original road survives, but remnants can be found if you take the time to look, and in towns along the way stores, diners and motels still wait to welcome travellers and share memories of the old days.

Go the whole way, or choose a portion of the route to explore.

NORTH AMERICAN HIGHWAYS

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Duration

14 nights

Approximate Road Miles

1024 miles

Cost per person from

September £699

Highlights

Litchfield IL

The Ariston Café, run by the Adam family has been serving home made fare to visitors since 1935.

St Louis MO

Ted Drewes Frozen Custard on Chippewa Street is a must, sample the original ice cream, milk shakes and other delights. Chain of Rocks Bridge, once the main route into town is now pedestrian only.

Stanton MO

Meramec Caverns, large show caves, zip line and river boat tours - open year round.

Tulsa OK

11th Street is home to several Art Deco buildings; The Metro and the 66 Diner offer traditional service and menus.

Chicago To Dallas

In January 1977, Route 66 was officially replaced, signs were removed and new Interstates were opened to take its place; I-55 through Illinois, and I-44 through Missouri and as far as Oklahoma City. Sticking to the Interstates will take you through the main cities but to find the remnants of the real historic route means venturing onto side roads and into small communities, our trip is designed to allow time to explore. In Chicago take the elevator to the Sky Deck on 103rd floor of the Willis Tower for incredible views, a perfect beginning to your adventure. Travel through Illinois to Springfield, home and final resting place of Abraham Lincoln, and on to St Louis, MO by way of the Martin Luther King Memorial Bridge. In St Louis visit Gateway Arch for views of the mighty Mississippi River, eat in an authentic diner or enjoy some live music. Drive through the beautiful Ozark Mountains to Springfield MO, and then at Joplin, a short detour on the original R66 crosses a corner of Kansas before entering Oklahoma and joining the Will Rogers Turnpike northeast of Tulsa. In Oklahoma R66 is easier to follow, with long stretches still accessible with stores and diners waiting to welcome travellers, wind your way to Oklahoma City, the last stop on this section of R66. Our tour ends with two nights in Dallas before the flight home.

Suggested Itinerary:

- 2 nts Chicago IL, Essex Inn
- 2 nts 200 miles to Springfield IL, BW Clearlake Plaza
- 2 nts 100 miles to St Louis MO, Hyatt Regency
- 2 nts 217 miles to Springfield MO, BW Route 66 Rail Haven

- 2 nts 185 miles to Tulsa OK, Hyatt Regency
- 2 nts 115 miles to Oklahoma City OK, BW Plus Broadway
- 2 nts 207 miles to Dallas TX, Hotel Indigo



Duration

15 nights

Approximate Road Miles

1227 miles

Cost per person from

September £799

Highlights

Oklahoma City OK

The Capitol Gallery & Oklahoma History Center National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Nr Amarillo TX

Cadillac Ranch, world famous row of partially buried old Cadillac cars.

Santa Rosa NM

Route 66 Auto Museum - over 30 beautifully restored vintage cars, R66 memorabilia and gift shop.

Tucumcari NM

TePee Trading Post - Curio shop with souvenir items and quality Indian jewellery and crafts.

Holbrook AZ

Wigwam Motel - stay in a concrete wigwam, we can arrange this if you like!

Dallas To Phoenix

Dallas is the gateway for this leg of Route 66, which takes you west through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, ending in Phoenix for the flight home. From Oklahoma City, the I-40 is the direct route and it will take you to all the overnight stops on this itinerary, but to find the real Route 66 you will need to leave the Interstate and explore the side roads. Sections of R66 can be found all across Oklahoma, through the rolling hills towards the Texas border. Just 180 miles of R66 were built in Texas, crossing the high plains of the 'Panhandle' from east to west, through a string of small towns. Today the I-40 bypasses all these communities until you reach Amarillo, the only real city in this region. Crossing into New Mexico, gain an hour when Central Standard Time becomes Mountain Standard Time. New Mexico the 'Land of Enchantment' is noted for Indian culture and history, turquoise and silver jewellery and glorious sunsets. Take a balloon ride in Albuquerque, cross the Continental Divide, and stay at the famous El Rancho Hotel in Gallup. In Arizona don't miss the natural wonders of the Petrified Forest, Painted Desert and Meteor Crater, while in Holbrook and Flagstaff enjoy the many R66 icons preserved by faithful enthusiasts. Leaving Flagstaff and R66, head south to Phoenix for the homeward flight.

Suggested Itinerary:

- 2 nts Dallas TX, Hotel Indigo
- 2 nts 207 miles to Oklahoma City OK, BW Plus Broadway
- 1 nt 259 miles to Amarillo TX, Hilton Garden Inn
- 1 nt 115 miles to Tucumcari NM, BW Discovery Inn
- 2 nts 176 miles to Albuquerque NM, Bottger Mansion B&B

- 1 nt 140 miles to Gallup NM, El Rancho Hotel
- 2 nts 95 miles to Holbrook AZ, BW Arizonian Inn
- 2 nts 90 miles to Flagstaff AZ, Inn at 410 B&B
- 2 nts 145 miles to Phoenix AZ, Pointe Hilton at Squaw Peak



Duration

13 nights

Approximate Road Miles

707 miles

Cost per person from

September £875

Highlights

Gallup NM

One of the largest displays of Neon signs remaining on R66 can be seen in Gallup.

Winslow AZ

Between Holbrook and Flagstaff, you could be 'standing on the corner in Winslow Arizona....' where a statue of a guitarist commemorates the famous Eagles song, and provides an ideal photo opportunity.

Grand Canyon AZ

This wonder of nature has to be a highlight, although not on R66, it is guaranteed to take your breath away.

Seligman to Kingman AZ

This section of Route 66 is one of the longest remaining stretches, and along the way you will find welcoming Diners offering homemade meals and stories of the old days of the Mother Road.

Albuquerque to Las Vegas

The gateway city for this leg is Albuquerque, which has a fascinating Old Town where the Bottger Mansion B&B is our favourite accommodation, ideal for a two night stay before making your way to Gallup. From Gallup to Kingman is Arizona all the way, with red rocks, desert, cactus and natural wonders to take your breath away. First the Petrified Forest and Painted Desert National Parks, then the vast Meteor Crater, a side trip to the Grand Canyon and finally the man-made Lake Mead, in the midst of the surrounding desert. In Holbrook we have included the BW Arizonian Inn, but if you wish we can arrange for you to stay in a concrete Wigwam instead, as all our routes and accommodations are flexible. Another lovely B&B awaits you in Flagstaff before you detour north to the Grand Canyon, returning to I-40 at Williams. The Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona is very active, and has managed to preserve many buildings, icons and businesses related to the old road within the State. Their successes include a wonderful stretch of original road between Seligman and Kingman, looping north via Peach Springs (included in mileage) - a real must on this road trip. Kingman is the final R66 stop on this section, head northeast via Boulder City and the Hoover Dam to Las Vegas for the homeward flight.

Suggested Itinerary:

- 2 nts Albuquerque NM, Bottger Mansion B&B
- 1 nt 140 miles to Gallup NM, El Rancho Hotel
- 2 nts 95 miles to Holbrook AZ, BW Arizonian Inn
- 2 nts 90 miles to Flagstaff AZ, Inn at 410 B&B
- 2 nts 80 miles to Grand Canyon AZ, Maswick Lodge
- 1 nt 65 miles to Williams AZ, Grand Canyon Railway Hotel
- 1 nt 132 miles to Kingman AZ, BW Plus Wayfarer
- 2 nts 105 miles to Las Vegas NV, The Mirage

