

FREE ULTIMATE GUIDE FOR THE ROUTE 66 TRAVELERS

ROUTE

Zadajte text písaním

ON ROUTE 66

FOR THE

first time

by Marián Pavel

HISTORIC 

ILLINOIS
U S
66

ROUTE 66
THE AMERICAN LEGEND

R O U T E

218 CREW POLAND

ESTONIA



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ABOUT

CONTRIBUTION

This book is one of our contributions to the Route 66 community.

It is the first guide in the world, also published in English, Italian, Spanish, German, French, Slovak and Czech.

We will always be guys who like to be first. That is why we are the first in the world to invent and launch a mobile navigation for the historical Route 66.

And now we are sitting together and thinking of something new in which we will be first again :)



ABOUT

ROUTE 66

Official sources say that Route 66 measures 2,448 miles (3,940 km) and takes less than 2 days to drive it in one go. But it depends on the point of view and how much you want to explore Route 66.

If you want to travel all legally available sections of Routes 66, it will take you at least 23 days and at the end of Route 66 in Santa Monica Pier your speedometer will show 4,085 miles (7,057 km).

How do we know that exactly?

We enjoyed every single mile of Route 66!



ABOUT



ABOUT ME

I'm Marián Pavel (43), and I have worked for 23 years for the most influential media in local and multinational publishing houses.

I started as a journalist, and gradually reached board of directors in the position of managing director of digital media. I understand print and digital publishing, online marketing, building a number of significant digital projects from scratch. I am among the pioneers of applications for mobile phones and tablets in Slovakia.

Currently, I'm fully involved in the Route 66 Navigation project, managing its development, marketing and communication activities. I'm a passionate biker, reader and traveler. I'm also a lover of good beer :)



ABOUT

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The thanks for inspiration belongs to anyone who loves Route 66 with all their heart and share the fact that this journey is the most beautiful of all the roads in the world. At the beginning, I would like to thank my companion and uncle Jan Švrček, because we have supported each other on this wonderful journey. Without him, we would never have set off and got to where we are today.

THANKS YOU TO MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS AT HOME FOR SUPPORT:

Mia Hanáková, Ivka Pavlová, Majko Pavel, Viki Procklová, Roman Bohuslávěk, Slávek Boban Pléha

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And last but not least, thanks to everyone who can't find their name here. I'm sure there will be an opportunity to thank you in person!



ABOUT

INTRODUCTION

When you're on Route 66 for the first time, you see it as the route you have chosen to go along. But something amazing will happen to you - you will become infected by its atmosphere. I have visited many beautiful places in my life, met many interesting people and can think of dozens of destinations I want to go back to. But Route 66 is exceptional, like no other place in the world.

Once you have experienced it, you will be taken over by a lingering pleasure to do it again. Why? It's inexplicable.

A large part of its spirit arises from the location of the road, its diversity, preserved and ruined structures at the side of the road, as well as the fact that it is constantly changing. But the biggest credit goes to the people who live on Route 66. It is incredible how strong is this community of people living in eight states across the US. Once you join the family of Route 66 roadies, you will find that this cohesion and friendship can transcend borders and function all around the world. Route 66 brings people together in the strongest meaning of the word.

Getting on Route 66 is or was a lifelong dream for many of us. When the opportunity finally comes, this journey of a lifetime must happen without a single error. Dreams with errors are not allowed.

Many travelers on Route 66 who don't live in the US and don't know the local circumstances are anxious about the unknown when making travel plans. I wrote this book to dispel those fears.

We went on four expeditions on Route 66. We travelled it on motorcycles and in cars. We drove more than 18,000 kilometers total. We have gathered a lot of practical experiences I will describe in this book.

And, of course, I will try to answer all the questions travelers have before their first trip on Route 66.

If you're planning your Route 66 trip for later, check updates in this book in your Bookstore before embarking on the journey. We will be regularly adding more practical information.

We also assume that our reader has already studied everything about the history of Route 66, its beauty and misery from the many publications or websites dedicated to Route 66. In this book, I'll focus more on the practical part of the guide rather than history.



PREPARATION FOR YOUR
ROUTE 66 TRIP





CHAPTER 1

WHAT IS ROUTE 66 AND WHAT IT IS NOT



Hooker's Cut in Missouri is a little-frequented four-lane highway in the middle of beautiful land



Route 66 was once the most important route connecting the east and west of the USA. It was built gradually from 1926 until it was replaced by a highway between 1956 and 1984 and officially closed in 1985. Since 1999, it has been protected by law as a symbol of cultural heritage.

In some places, Route 66 is formed by a narrow cement road, in others it is an abandoned four-lane. In one area it's a dusty dead end, in another it is replaced by the highway and simply can't be found anymore.

Route 66 is NOT a complete and continuously marked road from Chicago to Santa Monica. It has many turns, several alternate routes from different periods of operation, and so you need to prepare before the trip and decide what route to choose. Route 66 is labeled only in some sections, each state having different labeling methods and traffic signs. Some signs stand densely together and then they are missing for long stretches of road, whether because they were not installed or because tourists have been stealing them. It is also difficult to find sections of Route 66 in large cities without a map or GPS.

HISTORICAL ROUTE 66



"GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66"

TOWANDA, ILLINOIS USA



CHAPTER 2

MYTHS ABOUT ROUTE 66



Those who claim that Route 66 is just an endless straight road have never been on it

When I talked about Route 66 to people from different European countries, I was shocked by the myths and inaccurate information I learned during the conversations. Route 66 needs to be discussed much more and so I have decided to explain and even debunk some of these myths in this book.

MYTH NO. 1: ROUTE 66 IS ESSENTIALLY A HIGHWAY

False. Approximately 85% of Route 66 consist of unique stretches of old roads from different periods of operation. Route 66 is unique because it was not usual to expand roads in the US and instead, a new, wider, and more modern route was simply built in many places. Thanks to this generous spatial approach, you can now drive along the original and oftentimes abandoned route from 1926, with stretches from different time periods, all along Route 66. Believe me, it has its charm. My favorite abandoned part is Hooker's Cut - a largely empty four-lane highway in the middle of a dense forest. With its grassy patches and ravishing greenery, it looks like it's been taken straight from a post-apocalyptic film.

Only 15% of the entire length of Route 66 is formed by a highway. This is in places where it was not possible to build another road and so the highway completely overlapped Route 66. However, these are short sections where you get on the highway and after a few miles you are back to the historic Route 66.

Due to the growing number of tourists, you will also find that the most damaged parts or sections of low historical value have a new asphalt or concrete surface, but most of the repairs are being done in a similar way as the original road to preserve its character.

MYTH NO. 2: ROUTE 66 CANNOT BE COMPLETED AS ONE WHOLE TRIP AND IT'S JUST MADE UP OF DEAD ENDS

This is false as well. Route 66 is a comprehensive route linking Chicago and Santa Monica. It is made up of many historical sections and various alternative routes, but it is a road that takes you farther every day.

During its 60 years of existence, Route 66 has had many sections and its shape has been constantly changing. That is why you can find dead ends with either a closed or washed away bridge, a fence to a private land, or a hard-to-drive dusty road. But these are considered places you can but don't have to see.

MYTH NO. 3: THE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66 IS NOT SUITABLE FOR MOTORCYCLES AND CARS; YOU DRIVE ON MUDDY OR DUSTY ROADS

The most frequently used route has an asphalt or concrete surface and is comfortable to drive on for both motorcycles and cars along its entire length. So Route 66 can be traveled all the way without having to turn to a dusty or field road. On the other hand, some unmaintained sections are so beautiful that it would be a shame to ignore them - for example, from Glenrio to San Jon, a section near Jericho, or the Cuervo - Santa Rosa section.

MYTH NO. 4: ROUTE 66 HAS NO TWISTS

On Route 66, especially in Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma, the road twists enough to enjoy a motorcycle ride. In New Mexico, Arizona and California, there are really long stretches on which you literally chase the horizon for the whole day, but the beautiful natural scenery is worth it. The reward for crossing long flat stretches is the ride through Sitgreaves Pass to Oatman. The journey along Route 66 is so varied with all the stops that you will definitely not feel bored from the long and straight route.

MYTH NO. 5: ROUTE 66 IS BORING

Why is Route 66 still attractive when it was officially closed more than 30 years ago? There are several reasons. In the US, private property is protected so effectively that a large number of original buildings and facilities have remained along Route 66 to this day. Some have been preserved or restored to their original state, others have gradually deteriorated and been absorbed by nature. It is, however, unusually exciting to travel on a route where each step is encompassed by historic sites in different stages of decay.

Route 66 passes through eight US states, with three time zones, and nature changing before one's eyes every few kilometers. Illinois and Missouri are similar to the Czech Republic, with mainly fields and dense forests. The landscape gradually changes in Oklahoma, with an increasing number of endless pastures in the prairie. Texas and New Mexico are full of volcanic formations and the plains are replaced by hills concealing the Grand Canyon, one of the most beautiful, deepest and most extensive tectonic faults in the world. You will reach the desert in Arizona, where sand is removed from roads using shovels like we do with snow. And you end up at the Pacific Ocean. This is something we don't have in Europe. And regardless of how much you love Europe, the USA is still worth a visit.

And the last reason why you'll want to see Route 66, only to become enchanted by an insufferable lust for return, are the people. Pleasant people at every step, always in a good mood. You'll make new friends. You'll have a nice chat. Not only at the road stops, but also while getting gas at the stations. You can enjoy this without knowing any English. The real ones recognize each other at first glance and get along without words. People on Route 66 are pleasantly relaxed, they don't intrude, and can talk for hours about living on the road. With and without beer. And during these conversations you realize that you had a lot of unnecessary prejudice against the USA. And that your experiences on Route 66 is the real USA.

MYTH NO. 6: ROUTE 66 IS NO LONGER WHAT IT USED TO BE, AND ATTEMPTS TO REVIVE IT ARE VAIN

You can't revive the past, but much of it can be preserved and commemorated. And this is what's happening on Route 66. It is incredible how many historic sites have been preserved, many times in their original state. An example is the Boots Court Motel, where you can stay in rooms that have remained in their original condition from the 1940s after renovation. Nevertheless, they are beautifully and luxuriously furnished and perfectly clean, and a night in this hotel is a real experience. Behind all the activities to support and save Route 66 are passionate people who do wonderful work. Much

of what once represented Route 66 is being revived and travelers are ecstatic. And you will be, too. Trust me.

MYTH NO. 7: ROUTE 66 IS A TOURIST TRAP

On Route 66, most places worth stopping at are run by decent business people. Prices are transparent, disregarding the complicated tax system in the US, thanks to which all prices are listed without value added tax. Most merchants try to offer unique goods, so we recommend splitting your souvenir budget into a few portions and not spending all your money right at the beginning of your trip. Like everywhere in the world, you can find some tourist traps on Route 66, but they are easy to recognize and avoid. You should know that the store owners on Route 66 are not aggressive or obtrusive, and many are happy that you are visiting the store even if you just exchange a few nice words and don't buy anything.



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CHAPTER 3

HOW TO TAKE A TRIP ON ROUTE 66



If you are traveling on Route 66 on your own or in a small group, you can freely decide what you want to see and where you want to stay. However, the downside is that you can miss a lot of nice places on Route 66 without good preparation



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF ROUTE 66

Australian Route 66 Association

<https://www.ozroute66association.com>

Historic Route 66 Association of Belgium

<https://www.rt66.be>

Brazil Route 66 Association

[https://www.facebook.com/
BrazilRoute66Association](https://www.facebook.com/BrazilRoute66Association)

Canadian Route 66 Association

<http://www.route66.ca>

Czech Route 66 Association

<http://www.r66.cz>

Dutch Route 66 Association

<https://www.rte66.nl>

Route 66 Germany

<https://www.route66.club>

Hungarian Route 66 Association

<http://www.r66.hu>

Route 66 Association in Italy

<https://www.lastrada66.com/rt66/>

Route 66 Association of Japan

www.route66association.jp

Norwegian Route 66 Association

[https://www.joyridestours.com/
norwegian-route-66-association/](https://www.joyridestours.com/norwegian-route-66-association/)

UK Route 66 Association

<http://www.ukroute66association.co.uk>

Source: <http://historic66.com>

There are three ways you can complete Route 66. You can either use the services of a travel agency, which will take you across Route 66 in comfort, or you can set off on your own. In both cases, you have plenty of options to enjoy your journey without stress and fear of getting lost.

Organized trips are offered not only by travel agencies but by local Route 66 associations in most European countries.

Another option is to directly contact travel agencies in the US and let them organize the trip. Consider whether the only price is the single most important criteria for you. If not, then compare the parameters of the individual offers. It is important to know who will be your guide - you will enjoy the trip much more with a person who drives Route 66 with groups several times a year, or even with a local guide. The selected route and program during the trip are also important.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS OF ROUTE 66

Route 66 Association of Illinois
<http://www.il66assoc.org>

Route 66 Association of Missouri
<http://missouri66.org>

Route 66 Association of Kansas
[https://www.facebook.com/
KansasRoute66Association](https://www.facebook.com/KansasRoute66Association)

Kansas Historic Route 66 Association
<http://kshistoricroute66.com>

Oklahoma Route 66 Association
<https://www.oklahomaroute66.com>

Texas Old Route 66 Association
<http://rt66oftexas.com>

New Mexico Route 66 Association
<http://www.rt66nm.org>

Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona
<https://historic66az.com>

California Historic Route 66 Association
<http://route66ca.org>

Route 66 Alliance
<http://www.route66alliance.org>

National Historic Route 66 Federation
<https://www.national66.org>

Zdroj: <http://historic66.com>

Being a member of an organized group has its advantages and disadvantages. The advantage is that you don't have to speak English - your guide will take care of you. You get a complete itinerary with scheduled program for each day, which usually includes local specialties for lunch and dinner as well as meetings with Route 66 personalities. At the same time, you travel light - if you choose a motorcycle trip, your luggage will be transported in an accompanying van. On the last day of the trip you will receive a souvenir T-shirt with the Route 66 logo and the name of your trip, as well as a certificate for having experienced Route 66.

The second option is to use travel agency services as an individual traveler. They will prepare your itinerary, select hotels, arrange the entire trip, and you don't have to do anything, just read and follow the agency's instructions.

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ILLINOIS

Museums, Murals, Merchants, and More!

MUSEUMS

Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum

110 West Howard Street
(815) 844-4566

Livingston County War Museum

321 North Main Street
(815) 842-0301

Museum of Gilding Arts

217 North Mill Street
(815) 842-1848

Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum & Resource Center

205 North Mill Street
(815) 842-2345

EXHIBITS

Pontiac Museum Complex
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(815) 844-5847

Walldog Mural and Sign Art Exhibit Life in the 1940s

The Bob Waldmire Experience
Music of the Civil War

ATTRACTIONS

Looking for Lincoln Exhibits

Route 66 Wayside Exhibits

Colorful Art Cars

3 Swinging Pedestrian Bridges

Humiston Wood Nature Center

Murals on Main Street



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Well, and finally, there's the third option - you'll visit Route 66 on your own. From the very beginning, I will say that if you organize everything on your own, two people can travel on a motorcycle at the cost of one person in the case of a travel agency. But the difference in price will be reflected in the fact that the entire trip's preparation will be on your shoulders.

While there is enough information about Route 66 on the Internet, you might get lost in it. You also won't be able to assess how relevant that information is for you: what's important to see and experience on Route 66 and what is not. That's why we've decided to write this book and help you get a better idea of what you need to look out for and what to focus on before the trip.

If you travel on Route 66 repeatedly, you'll find two essential things: for the second time, your travel is much more relaxed because you know what you're doing. And you will also find that you did not see even a third of what Route 66 offers to its visitors your first time.

We have another good tip for you - many local guides live on Route 66. Route 66 is close to these people's hearts and they know a lot about their city and history. They will take you on a guided tour, often topped off with a delicious dinner and a drink. If you have enough time to take advantage of their services, do it. You'll be rewarded with yet more unforgettable experiences.

One of the best-known promoters, writers and local guides is Jim Hinckley, whose walking tours in his home town of Kingman are well known and sought after.

Before you set off for Route 66, carefully think about what you expect from the trip. This will help you make the right decision to either invest your money in the security of a travel agency or choose the risk that you might not handle your own planning and turn your dream into an overpriced motorcycle or car ride across the USA.





CHAPTER 4

HOW MUCH IN ADVANCE SHOULD YOU PLAN BEFORE YOUR TRIP?



Warm sunny days can be enjoyed on Route 66 in November or December, but only in the western part - so in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California



Depending on your chosen pace, Route 66 can be a challenging trip - especially in the seat of a motorcycle, on which you will spend about 300 kilometers a day, regardless of the weather.

I assume you will not just want to move from point A to point B; there is no planning involved in that. On the contrary, you'll want to use every day to the fullest. You need to approach in this manner - last minute planning is not worth it. It is ideal to start at least six months before the scheduled departure.

IN WHAT SEASON/MONTH SHOULD I TRAVEL ROUTE 66?

Right from the beginning, you'll be faced with the tough decision on how many days you can afford to spend on the road. Take this advice - 15 full days is the bare minimum for the complete experience. Add one day to acclimate yourself and get over the jet lag in Chicago after the long flight, and at least two days in Los Angeles after the end of the trip. If you can afford a longer trip, spend at least three to four weeks on Route 66. You won't regret it.

You can visit Route 66 from spring to late fall. In spring and fall, count on unstable and rainy weather with the risk of tornadoes; in the summer, with abnormal heat compared to Europe.

ROUTE 66 WEATHER

The best time for planning a trip on Route 66 is from May to October.

JANUARY

We don't recommend traveling on Route 66 in January. Most states through which the road passes are covered in snow, the road may be frosty, and the weather is cold and unstable.

FEBRUARY

February is still a winter month, some roads can be closed due to the weather, and various operations on Route 66 also run in the off-season mode. Depending on the weather, some stretches of Route 66 in California and Arizona can be traveled on motorcycle as well.

MARCH

In March, Route 66 starts getting ready for a new season, but it's still cold and the weather can be very unpredictable. Travel temperatures start becoming pleasant in the western part of Route 66.

APRIL

In April, temperatures start rising even in the eastern part of Route 66, but the snow and ice can still surprise you in the elevated parts of Arizona.

MAY

When it's a good year, the entire Route 66 can be crossed on a motorcycle in May. But the weather can still be treacherous and give trouble to travelers.

JUNE

In June, the weather is much more stable, but it's still not as hot as in the middle of summer.

JULY

In July, the season is in full operation. Beware of temperatures, which can rise above 40°C, especially in the western part of Route 66. Please consider that traveling on a motorcycle in such hot weather may not be comfortable. Beware of torrential summer rain and strong storms!

ROUTE 66 WEATHER

AUGUST

August weather is very similar to July, with high temperatures in the eastern and western parts of Route 66, damp air and high humidity in the east, and dry and windy weather in the west.

SEPTEMBER

In September, the weather will drop to pleasant temperatures, but all of Route 66 is still warm and sunny. The weather is still stable. I consider September and June to be the two most ideal months for travel.

OCTOBER

The eastern part may be cooler and you might be surprised by first snows. Prepare for rapid weather changes and high temperature fluctuations in the east and west parts of Route 66. During an Indian summer you can enjoy a great ride along the entire Route 66.

NOVEMBER

In November, you will experience typical chilly autumn weather with rain, drizzle, fog and temperatures just above zero, especially in Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma. In the western part you can enjoy windy weather with pleasant temperatures above 20°C. Beware of the elevated parts of Arizona, where it may snow.

DECEMBER

In December, the weather definitely resembles winter. The entire length of Route 66 can be crossed by car, but you will definitely not enjoy it as much as in the summer. But the other hand, many places on Route 66 have beautiful Christmas decorations!

Winter may be unpleasantly long in the eastern part of the US. In the spring of 2018, when this book was being written, Route 66 was still covered in snow in late April. But we've traveled Route 66 in November as well - unpleasant rain followed us from Chicago to the Texas border and it was 4 - 10°C; yet temperatures rose rapidly as we advanced further west, enjoying the sun and temperatures above 20°C in New Mexico, Arizona and California. And in these three states, Route 66 is good for traveling on in good weather almost all year round. Even on a motorcycle! However, remember that it is very windy at that time, especially on such a vehicle.

September seems ideal for a trip across Route 66. The 43-45°C heat ends in the desert and the temperature drops to 38°C, while ranging between 23°C and 32°C in other parts of the USA.

But don't forget that you'll travel across hugely different landscapes - you start in fertile Illinois and gradually pass through the prairie to desert areas. And the weather can change dramatically on the 4,200 km stretch Route 66 runs along. Also prepare for exhausting heat with extremely humid areas, and on the contrary, with extremely dry air in the prairie and desert.

During our September trip we did not get wet once, but the bikers who rode out of Chicago one day later were caught by a strong downpour. This shows that the weather can be unstable and

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bikers in particular must always be ready for the changes. Actually, it can't be overplanned: you're either lucky or not.

September is also suitable because the main holiday season ends in the US and you have a much greater chance of getting a bike or a car of choice at a rental company. On the other hand, expect some of the attractions and restaurants on Route 66 to be closed in September. The decline in the number of customers is being radically handled by the Americans - the business simply closes and awaits a new season.

Make sure the date doesn't further change. You will need it not only for taking days off of work, but also for the plane tickets and for the motorcycle/car rental.





CHAPTER 5

DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO TRAVEL TO THE USA



You can't cross US borders with an Route 66 Passport on Route 66, but you'll have a lot of fun on Route 66 with it

Before the trip, please verify what documents you need in order to be admitted to the US by the border customs officer. Your passport should be valid for no less than 6 months before expiration. A European Union citizen only needs an ESTA document to enter the US. Please check its validity; after expiration, you must apply for a new ESTA. You also need to apply for a new ESTA if you change your passport during its validity period. Verify all your visa requirements for entering the US in good time before traveling!

Although car rental services do not usually require it, driving in the USA requires an international driving license. It is issued by the authority in your country, has a limited one-year validity and serves as a separate, additional document to your local driving license. According to law, you must have the license with you and failure to observe this duty can have negative consequences, for example, if an insured incident occurs.





CHAPTER 6

FROM WEST TO EAST OR EAST TO WEST?



When you drive east, you have the sun in front of you only in the morning



Before making any plans, you need to clarify in which direction you want to cross Route 66. Route 66 begins in downtown Chicago and ends at the Santa Monica Pier, on the ocean coast in Los Angeles. So most travelers follow the Mother Road as it was originally built, from east to west. However, you will also be running into bikers, cars or RVs going in the opposite direction on a daily basis.

We have checked many times whether airfares and motorcycle/ car rentals are cheaper from west to east, from LA to Chicago. They are not.





CHAPTER 7

WHAT'S A GOOD NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON THE TRIP?



We enjoyed riding in a group of three motorcycles. For a comfortable ride in a small group we recommend three or maximum four motorcycles.



It's obvious when you have a car - the number of your friends or family members on the trip is limited by the number of seats.

Bikers have it a bit more difficult, because the group has to synchronize the riding of several machines. A challenging daily itinerary, an unknown country, a fixed program and extreme weather can test even the strongest relationships. Those who ride alone always have the greatest freedom. But if you're in a group, try to make it as small as possible - three to four motorcycles are ideal.

Before the trip, you should know these people well and create the group, making sure that everyone has a similar world view, interests and that there are no significantly weaker members. Take it as a fact, but each group experiences a smaller or bigger crisis during the trip. And it is up to the individuals and their strength to handle a small or big conflict that may affect the whole trip.

Relying on collective decision-making does not pay off - an effort to resolve something during the trip disappears with increasing fatigue. So even a small group needs a leader and must have pre-agreed rules. Otherwise, you will be faced by unnecessary conflicts and tense situations that can make the trip unpleasant for everyone. You can also avoid conflict by making it mandatory for everyone in the group to properly study the itinerary and summarizing what is ahead of you at the beginning of each day.

Discipline is also important - fatigue will catch up with you if you stay up all night partying from the beginning. Forget about drinking sessions everyday - there will be days when the passengers get you off the bike and you fall on your bed like a sack of potatoes :)





CHAPTER 8

HOW TO GET A CHEAP PLANE TICKET

Itinerary

From	To	Flight	Class	Date	Departure	Arrival	Resa (1)	NVB(2)	NVA(3)	Last check-in	Baggage (4)	Seat
Thursday 02 November 2017												
PRAGUE Terminal 2	PARIS CDG Terminal 2F	AF1383	L	02Nov	09:50	11:40	Ok	02Nov	02Nov	09:10	1PC	
Operated by		<u>AIR FRANCE</u>				Fare Basis					VLP99CZ	
Equipment		Airbus Industrie A320-100/200				Marketed by					<u>AIR FRANCE</u>	
											Duration	01:50 (Non Stop)
Thursday 02 November 2017												
PARIS CDG Terminal 2E	CHICAGO ORD Terminal 5	AF0136	V	02Nov	13:10	16:30	Ok	02Nov	02Nov	12:10	1PC	
Operated by		<u>AIR FRANCE</u>				Fare Basis					VLP99CZ	
Equipment		Airbus Industrie A330-200				Marketed by					<u>AIR FRANCE</u>	
Flight Meal		Meal, Snack or brunch									Duration	09:20 (Non Stop)
Monday 04 December 2017												
LOS ANGELES Terminal B	PARIS CDG Terminal 2E	AF0065	V	04Dec	15:30	11:15	Ok	04Dec	04Dec	14:30	1PC	
Operated by		<u>AIR FRANCE</u>				Fare Basis					VLP99CZ	
Equipment		Airbus Industrie A380-800				Marketed by					<u>AIR FRANCE</u>	
Flight Meal		Meal, Snack or brunch				Arrival Day+1					Duration	10:45 (Non Stop)
Tuesday 05 December 2017												
PARIS CDG Terminal 2F	PRAGUE Terminal 2	AF1082	L	05Dec	12:40	14:20	Ok	05Dec	05Dec	12:00	1PC	
						Fare Basis					VLP99CZ	

If you buy tickets sufficiently in advance before arrival, you can have them at a fraction of the price in comparison to traveling at the last minute

The total cost of travel is significantly affected by the ticket price. On average, the prices of tickets from various places in Europe to Chicago are around €700 per person, but if you have a sufficient margin (that's why you should plan at least 6 months ahead!), you can also get them for less than €400.

First of all, remember that you need a special open ticket - that is, you fly to Chicago but fly back from Los Angeles. So you can't get those without the assistance of airline websites, such as Momondo.com. Travel agencies specializing in ticket sales can also get them for you for a reasonable fee.

If you're not pressed for time, you can wait for special airline discounts. But don't wait too long because usually, the closer the date to departure, the more expensive the airfares.

When booking your ticket, consider one more fact - check out multiple flight times; ticket prices can vary significantly even within the range of one day. You should also know that it doesn't make sense to plan anything before you have booked a ticket. And last but not least, remember that the group of members is definite and closed after booking the tickets. The likelihood that anyone else will buy an additional ticket for the same plane will gradually but greatly decline.

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CHAPTER 9

WHAT VEHICLE SHOULD YOU TAKE ON ROUTE 66? CAR, OR MOTORCYCLE?



Driving on a mighty Harley Davidson has an unrepeatabe charm



Every biker will immediately say that the bike is the best, no doubt! And, of course, the best thing to do is ride a Harley-Davidson Electra Glide or Indian Chieftain. Rental companies carry these models the most, but have a wide selection of other types and brands available. If you are traveling on your own, Electra Glide or Chieftain are the most comfortable bikes with huge storage space in the trunk. And it'll come in handy on a long journey with a lot of gift shopping! If you have a companion in a car who carries your stuff, it's not a bad idea to choose a lighter bike.

When choosing between cars, the heart will definitely select a cabriolet and most often it is the Ford Mustang. It's not a bad choice, but think about how many people and how much baggage you'll have. And don't forget that driving during the season in an open cabriolet under the blazing sun isn't the most pleasant of experiences.

If you to travel the most famous routes, you will need a sedan or city SUV. If you want to use the oldest routes, definitely choose a SUV 4x4 with a high chassis.

Don't forget about the passengers - if there are more of you, choose the car size that provides enough comfort to everyone. In each case, choose a car with powerful air conditioning!



Miss Outdoor



CHAPTER 10

CHOOSING YOUR BIKE AND RENTAL COMPANY



To cross Route 66, we recommend comfortable Touring class motorcycles with sufficient storage space, such as Indian Chieftain or H-D Electra Glide

You can also transport your own beloved motorcycle from home to the US, but it will travel in a container for several months and with insurance and shipping charges, you are likely to get a higher final price than the rental fee.

Renting a motorcycle is the most expensive item of the trip - the rental fee is high enough to buy a used bike :) So make sure to breathe deeply and don't faint after receiving the first rental quote.

You may be disappointed, but even after an extensive Google search you'll find that Eagle Rider has a monopoly in the US. Other players on the market are either Eagle Rider brokers or smaller rental companies with a small selection of motorcycles. You can rent a motorcycle directly at Harley-Davidson dealership.

Before choosing the rental company, you should be clear about what you want to ride on Route 66. We chose the most expensive but the best classic - Harley-Davidson Electra Glide Ultra Limited, with an alternative choice of Indian Chieftain or Roadmaster.

Beware - the Glide is not for everyone. With no operating fuel it weighs 420 kg and, fully loaded with the passenger, it is over 700 kilograms. Not recommended for shorter and slimmer riders. Don't underestimate this; if you realize that you can't handle the bike while already on the road, it will be too late.

Eagle Rider offers a wide choice of different bike models - so choose at your own discretion. Rental companies have only a few restrictions. You must be over 21 years of age and have at least 2 years of experience on a bike with a 650 ccm engine and above. However, only the age is checked, the second restriction is just a recommendation in reality. Again, I emphasize to NOT TO OVERESTIMATE yourself - riding for 15 days on a beast that you can't easily handle will be pure suffering.

When riding just in your shirt and open-faced helmet plus with a passenger, your choice will be greatly reduced by the need to ride a bike with a comfortable seat, with three luggage compartments and ideally a carrier - for this, Electra Glide or Indian Chieftain are absolutely insuperable in terms of performance. However, we saw many German BMW R1200GS in full gear on the road.

Whatever the different agencies or rentals offer, the total price is comprised of three main items - the basic price of rental, insurance, and shipping fee from Los Angeles to Chicago (or vice versa).

The base rental price is usually relatively low, but the remaining two items plus the environment tax and VAT increase it significantly.

Eagle Rider's motorcycles are serviced and should remain in good condition throughout the trip. But always remember that it's just a machine and it can break down. It's up to you whether you take

the risk of going on your own or pay extra for assistance on the road in the event of a breakdown or other services.

We were fortunate enough to have three completely new H-D Electra Glide. We needed to add oil twice and the rental company paid for it. At the same time, we had a minor breakdown along the way - one Glide started leaking oil. We looked up an HD dealer and got it repaired for about \$160, but after calling the rental office we didn't have to deal with any subsequent papers or payments.

The people at the rental office and the car repair were extremely accommodating and willing on the phone and in person. As I say - here you will experience much better service and customer care.

With the exception of the last stretch of the desert, Route 66 runs near the highway or through populated areas. H-D dealerships are quite common in the US. That's why I believe that a bigger problem could be solved on the road and save \$10 a day on assistance (for 15 days it is \$150 and with three motorcycles the savings are \$450). However, we don't have experience with a major problem on the road, so choose yourself whether you want to be safe in this case. With other brands, we'd probably go with the charge for assistance services.



Launching Pad

The Launching Pad Drive-in Restaurant is now open
Come in and experience our Chicago Dog
and the famous Dole Whip Pineapple Soft Serve.
Also visit Mini America Museum Gift Shop
and Welcome Center

Open 7 days a week 11AM - 8PM

810 E Baltimore St, Wilmington, IL
828.726.9554 | www.geminigiant.com



follow us on Facebook @thelaunchingpadroute66

If you are a responsible rider with appropriate experience, choose the EVIP Plus Damage Waiver insurance, which combines a reasonable risk and price ratio. We recommend others to be safe and go with EVIP ZERO, since fees in the US are very high for everything.

Once you are all set up, you can start Googling and reaching out to different rental companies. Eagle Rider is relatively expensive. Brokerage agencies were cheaper at the time we searched. We have also discovered an anomaly - while the Eagle Rider raises the prices with the upcoming date of travel, an agency can freeze the prices for several weeks.

We didn't find the lowest-priced agencies trustworthy enough for various reasons, and Harley-Davidson didn't get back to us with either of the two rental requests. That's why we chose the middle ground and booked the bikes through Wil Sakowski - Ride Free. Wil includes his service in the rental rates - he is very friendly, able to give advice and help, and offers telephone support throughout your trip.

Also, be aware that everyone will ask for full payment upon confirmation of a binding order. This means that the sooner you book, the longer they'll keep your money. The money transfer is seamless, but the banks will wring you out like a sponge with charges - both American and ours. So consider paying via PayPal, for instance.





CHAPTER 11

CHOOSING A CAR AND RENTAL COMPANY



As a couple, you can also comfortably drive a small car such as a Ford Focus, with excellent fuel economy. To discover old stretches in the prairie or in the desert, you should definitely rent a SUV 4 x 4.



Route 66 can, of course, be crossed in a comfortable car. The choice of rental companies is huge and, if you want to find the most advantageous offer, it will take a while. At a time when we were looking for a rental car, we noticed an anomaly - car prices were sometimes higher on rental aggregators than on the websites of rental companies. Be careful.

When choosing a car, check several parameters. Consider, in particular, the appropriate car size for your needs - American cars have very high consumption compared to European standards. That's why a simple rule usually applies - the bigger the car, the higher the consumption. If you are lucky, you will find a discount and the rental company will remove the charge for transporting the vehicle back from your destination. And it can reduce your total cost by hundreds of dollars.

Another parameter that significantly influences the price is insurance. Rental companies will try to sell different types of insurance for different charges - compare them well, price differences can be quite large and you can save a lot with the right choice.

Also, consider that many times the rental company will not provide you with exactly the same model you have chosen, even though it is available in the parking lot. For various internal reasons, it will offer you a similar model with the same parameters in the same class for your chosen destination. We traveled like this with a

Ford Flex instead of SUV Ford Explorer. And I have to admit that despite the switched model, we were satisfied in the end.

The rental price consists of a base rate, service charges, insurance, and other fees and taxes. Remember that what rental companies always advertise is the basic price and you almost certainly won't be able to rent a super cheap car. The base rate is often only a third of the price, with two-thirds for fees and taxes. A special charge is for more than one driver - if you want to take turns with a partner, you pay approximately \$130 for this option. But this charge is sometimes removed with a discounted offer.

Beware of rentals that don't have a transparent pricing policy and won't give you a clear final rental price even while swiping your credit card. It's safer to choose one that communicates with you openly and fairly.

All major rentals have their parking lots near the airport, with a free shuttle bus from the terminal to the office. If you decide to pick up the car the next day after your arrival, choose a hotel with a shuttle bus to the airport and when you combine both services, you can get to the rental company quickly and for free. When you pick up your car, just fill out the form and get the papers for the car, which will be waiting at the parking lot with the keys inside. Returning a car is also smooth - the rental employee checks the car's condition, writes down the odometer's status and you can leave without a lengthy process.





CHAPTER 12

WHEN TO PICK UP/RETURN THE RENTED CAR OR MOTORCYCLE?



You should be careful when riding a motorcycle the first time - especially a Harley-Davidson. Besides the fact that this motorcycle is much heavier and robust than other models, it will take a while for you to be able to select neutral gear :)

Much depends on the length of your flight, the time of your arrival and your ability to deal with fatigue and jet lag. We generally recommend the first day after arrival for relaxation and adaptation to the new environment. You will be able to pick up the car well-rested in the morning.

EXTRA ADVICE FOR BIKERS:

The morning pickup of a motorcycle also has a drawback - at that time, almost everyone is picking up their machines, and so the wait at the rental office is extended. If your itinerary allows you to do so, consider picking up the motorcycle in the afternoon or early evening. At that time, there are fewer customers at the rental office and you get the bike faster. Additionally, you gain enough time to get to know the bike and the next morning you set off on Route 66 more ready and calm.

Also plan to drop off the car or bike with a time reserve. We don't recommend that you schedule your return on a day when you are passing through, for example, Las Vegas to Los Angeles and are flying home in the evening. It doesn't look like a long trip on the map, but in fact you might get stuck in huge traffic jams in Los Angeles, due to which you might not have enough time to return the car. In addition to unnecessary stress, you will also be charged for a late return. So plan only short trips on the last day, for example from Victorville to Los Angeles, or plan the same day in Los Angeles for the last day, and you can return the car or motorcycle on that day however you like.





CHAPTER 13

BOOK THE HOTELS BEFORE OR AFTER ARRIVING AT THE LOCATION?



Blue Swallow, Tucumcari, New Mexico



It depends on when you're traveling on Route 66. During the season I recommend booking hotels in advance so you can get a better price. This isn't necessary during the off-season; you can book hotels at a great price right on the spot. However, it may happen that in smaller cities, such as Chelsea, your iconic motel of choice on Route 66 might be fully booked.

We have also noticed that traditional historic motels on Route 66 maintain the same price not only during the season but during various cultural events (such as the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque).

If you ride a motorcycle, try to imagine it. You'll get up early every day and reach your destination late at night. You will be tired, sunburned, sticky from sunscreen and sweat. You'll often be hungry. Will you feel like searching for a hotel in such a condition?

On our first trip, we stuck closely to the itinerary and decided to pre-select the towns where we would sleep and booked accommodation.

Whether you book your hotels in advance or directly based on where you choose to spend the night, you can compare the prices using the most popular services, such as Booking.com, Expedia.com, and others.

Be careful: the prices are always listed without local taxes and various service fees. When booking, be highly cautious - some

services guarantee the final transparent price while paying, others allow the hotel to charge additional fees on the spot. Also, always check the actual final price before paying. Fees or their composition may vary significantly from place to place. If you're not cautious, you might lose dozens of dollars. Cancellation is almost always non-refundable, even if you make a mistake when entering a date or other data.

Sometimes you can also encounter a scam - large intermediary accommodation servers will declare that they offer the best price, but you can get a better one at the motel. We realized this when we were mistakenly charged for accommodation that had already been paid through one of these servers. Be careful when checking in - most motels ask for your credit card as a deposit, but make sure they don't charge you for a room you've already paid for. Your money will then be refunded within one to three weeks, or in the worse case, you won't even notice the double payment.

We slept in chain motels and even in iconic historical motels. The characteristics of US motel franchises is that although they should provide the same standard across the board, this is not the case. It often happens that the motel is well furnished in one city, but in another one the motel from the same chain has a lower standard.

Iconic motels on Route 66 mostly tend to fight for the customer with the quality of services - and during our first two trips we never found accommodation with which we would have been very

dissatisfied. Our luck had left us on the third trip - in Pontiac we wanted to try out the historic Fiesta motel, but it was a mistake. The room had a strange smell, it was full of flies and we found insects in the shower. The quality didn't match the price at all.

The Boots Court motel in Carthage made it up to us. It would be a sin to pass such a beautifully restored 1940s-style motel without stopping, also because meeting its operator, Debbie Dee, is one of the most enjoyable encounters we have experienced on Route 66.

When planning, search for motels right on Route 66, especially in larger cities, even if they are more expensive. Why?

The cheapest motels are located near the airport. But airports are on the outskirts of cities and if Route 66 runs along the other end, you have to make evening and morning transfers across city highways. It looks just fine on the map, but in reality it is a time wasted in traffic jams. And the distances look different while traveling with your finger on the map and in real life. The US is simply huge and the term "in the neighborhood" can easily mean 15-20 miles. So, whatever you save on accommodation, you'll spend on driving in traffic jams.

We would recommend looking for hotels near malls (if at all possible). It may happen that after a few days you'll get sick and tired of all the burgers and sandwiches, dying for a Walmart salad instead. But arriving exhausted at the hotel and then spending another 20 to

30 kilometers searching for a mall and dinner around the city breaks even the toughest of men. You'll end up with root beer from a gas station and beef jerky.

American breakfast is a big theme. If you book a hotel from the comfort of a European home, the concept of a "continental breakfast" will evoke the image of scrambled eggs, kielbasa, frankfurters, warm buns and croissants. You'll happily book one motel after another offering a continental breakfast.

And then you'll realize that the only thing that American continental breakfasts have in common with the European one is the orange juice - see a separate chapter on food in America.

HERE ARE A FEW MORE PIECES OF ADVICE AT THE END OF THE CHAPTER:

If possible, order rooms on the ground floor of the motel to avoid dragging your luggage up and down the stairs.

Almost every motel has a public laundromat with a washing machine and dryer. And if you feel like Crocodile Dundee in America when trying to use a washing machine, it is done like this: quarters are inserted in the machine and dryer (they're placed next to each other and the total amount is written on the devices, which start after the coins are inserted) and the laundry detergent is added. It is usually sold either at reception, in a vending machine by the reception desk, or somewhere close to the washing machine. One wash and drying comes out to about \$5 - 6 and it takes about 3 hours. But then... You'll ride in clean clothes!

HOTELS IN WHICH WE WERE SATISFIED ON ROUTE 66



Howard Johnson Inn

Springfield ILLINOIS



Sands Motel

Grants NEW MEXICO



Super 8 by Wyndham Eureka/Six Flags Nearby

Eureka MISSOURI



Best Western Premier

Grand Canyon - Tusayan
ARIZONA



Boots Court Motel

Carthage MISSOURI



El Trovatore

Kingman ARIZONA



Microtel Inn & Suites

Joplin MISSOURI



The New Coral Motel

Victorville CALIFORNIA



Route 66 Inn

Shamrock TEXAS



Travelodge Hotel LAX

Los Angeles CALIFORNIA



Baymont by Wyndham Amarillo East

Amarillo TEXAS

SANDS
MOTEL

NO
VACANCY

HISTORIC
NEW MEXICO
66
ROUTE



CHAPTER 14

HOW TO BUILD AN ITINERARY



Most often the last point on the Route 66 itinerary :)

Of course, you don't need an itinerary if you choose to cross Route 66 in the style of "I'll stay where the night catches me." However, this would be a costly trip and so we recommend creating a basic plan at least - determining where you'll stay for the night. This helps you to avoid the disappointment of incorrect planning, which can cause a time delay or result in missing the places you wanted to see.

Three parameters are important for planning - the total number of days on the road, the number of attractions you want to see on Route 66, and a reasonably spread-out daily travel distance. It's not a problem to manage even a thousand kilometers a day on a good motorcycle or in a car, but you'll get nothing out of Route 66 in such a case. Don't plan on doing more than 300 kilometers a day - that's my advice after the mistake we made on our first trip, driving more than 400 kilometers every day.

Don't plan your itinerary according to an estimated time on your GPS either - this is definitely not how it works on Route 66. Time on Route 66 flows at its own pace. Schedule what you want to see on that day and keep a time reserve.

Plan even fewer kilometers per day and keep more time to wander around in those parts of Route 66 with many points of interest. Take this advice - if you are poorly prepared, you will regret the lack of time in some sections of Route 66.

ITINERARY FOR 19 DAYS (15 DAYS ON MOTORCYCLE)

DAY 1 - arrival by plane

DAY 2 - pick up of motorcycles, visit
Chicago

DAY 3 - Chicago - Springfield (326 km)

DAY 4 - Springfield - St. Louis (164 km)

DAY 5 - St. Louis - Joplin (457 km)

DAY 6 - Joplin - Oklahoma City (367 km)

DAY 7 - Oklahoma City - Amarillo (418 km)

DAY 8 - Amarillo - Santa Fe (460 km)

DAY 9 - Santa Fe - Gallup (321 km)

DAY 10 - Gallup - Grand Canyon (451 km)

DAY 11 - Grand Canyon - Williams (95 km)

DAY 12 - Williams - Las Vegas via Kingman
(380 km)

DAY 13 - Las Vegas - Kingman (166 km)

DAY 14 - Kingman - Victorville (420 km)

DAY 15 - Victorville - Los Angeles (195 km)

DAY 16 - trip to Santa Barbara, returning of
motorcycles

DAY 17 - trip to Los Angeles

DAY 18 - swimming the ocean in Santa
Monica

DAY 19 - flying home

Also consider the fact - especially on motorcycles - that fatigue will increase in the second half of the trip and so you should split your daily distances in a way everyone can manage.

If you've noticed that we planned a significantly higher daily mileage for the stretches before the Grand Canyon compared to after, I owe you an explanation. Riding in fertile parts of the US, and partly in the prairie, is better than in the desert and you swallow the kilometers with a larger appetite. From Williams, you are riding at very high temperatures and it's tough not just on the motorcycle, but also on your body. Believe me, managing 428 kilometers from Las Vegas to Victorville in the desert is a completely different story than the same distance between Oklahoma City and Amarillo.

Also, consider the number of kilometers as indicative; in fact, you end up riding more everyday - Route 66 has a number of turns and dead ends and

so the calculations from the map are good just to roughly calculate what's ahead of you.

We slept for two nights in Chicago - we arrived in the afternoon and had 24 hours to settle. We picked up the bikes from the rental company the next day at 4 p.m., and set out on Route 66 in the morning of the third day. Since it was our first time in Chicago, it was more comfortable that way. We spent one night in every city, with two exceptions. We arrived at the Grand Canyon late in the evening and so we had to postpone visiting the canyon to the next day. But staying in Grand Canyon is expensive and climbing the hills is tiring, and so we booked another hotel only 95 km away in Williams.

We also opted for a two-day stay in Las Vegas. After a full day of travel, you want to sleep more than party, and so you likely won't spend the first night gambling. On the next day, fatigue from 11 days on Route 66 will catch up with you, and outside it is unbearably hot. You'll end up getting to downtown Las Vegas in the afternoon, spend the night there, and be glad if you get back on the road after 9 a.m. the next morning.

And then it's up to you how many days you spare for Los Angeles before flying home. Three days were sufficient for us to return the motorcycles, swim in the ocean, buy gifts, and see Beverly Hills 90210 with our own eyes.

Grants, New Mexico

Historic Route 66





CHAPTER 15

HOW TO SEARCH FOR AND FIND ROUTE 66



Route 66 between the towns of Ludlow and Barstow

Remaining on Route 66 is impossible without maps or GPS. Anyone who has been on it agrees that you can't find all its sections the first time. Another problem is experienced by those who do not arrive before the trip - it is not at all difficult to pass the beautiful places that deserve at least a short stopover. And that's why the navigation method is the biggest problem everyone who wants to ride on Route 66 has to solve. Here's a baseline of solutions that we've personally tried for you on Route 66.

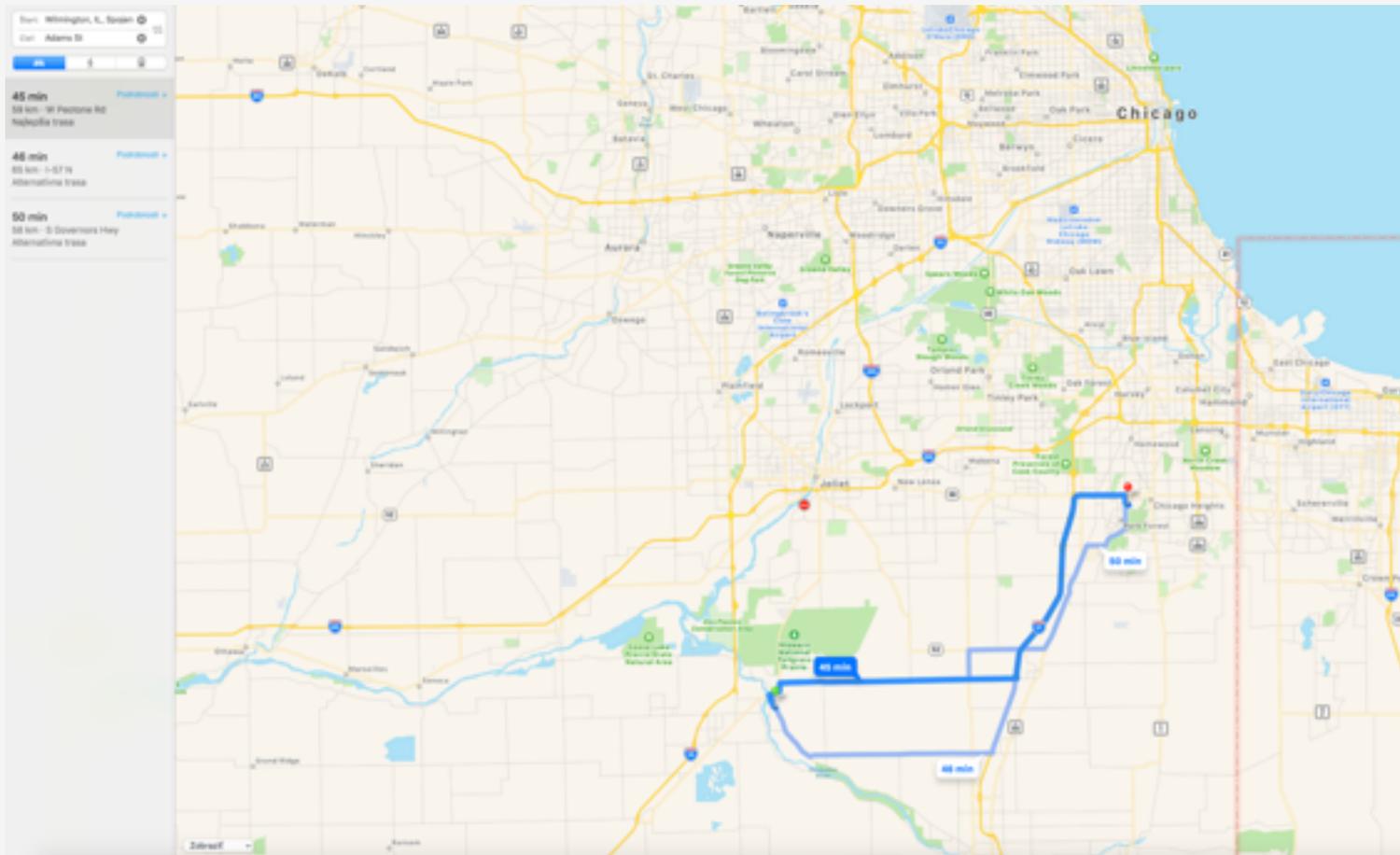


ROUTE 66 WITHOUT MAPS AND GPS

Do not rely on Route 66 to be labeled. It's not. Well it is, but not everywhere, not logically, and the signs don't follow the previous ones. Each state has a different style of labeling, and a different frequency of signs. Not to mention their designs and colors. And many of these signs are stolen by tourists. We only recommend this method to those travelers who explicitly desire it and are aware of the risk of getting lost (or they literally enjoy it) and missing many stretches and attractions on Route 66.

PRICE: FREE

PREPARATION FOR YOUR ROUTE 66 TRIP



ROUTE 66 WITH MAP APPLICATIONS

When you open Google Maps or Apple Maps, you will find that many of the sections are alternatively labeled Route 66. But if you choose turn-by-turn navigation, the application will not keep you on Route 66 and select a route based on traffic or road type. This solution is still applicable in practice, especially if you are driving, but you'll be staring at the phone more than on the road. Map apps also don't show the attractions along the way.

PRICE: FREE



ROUTE 66 WITH PAPER MAPS

You can buy original paper maps of the historic Route 66 online in advance or, for example, at the Joliet Museum right on the road. On our trip, we used the "Here It Is!" maps. Route 66 - The Map Series, Chicago To LA - A complete set of eight fold-out maps by Ghost Town Press. The authors are two respected Route 66 experts, Jerry McClanahan and Jim Ross.

These maps include a layout of all Route 66 routes, as well as parallel ones from different periods of operation, and a detailed textual description of how to find the sections. As a bonus, the selected attractions along the way are marked. You can also find

texts on the history of Route 66 in the various states the Mother Road passes through.

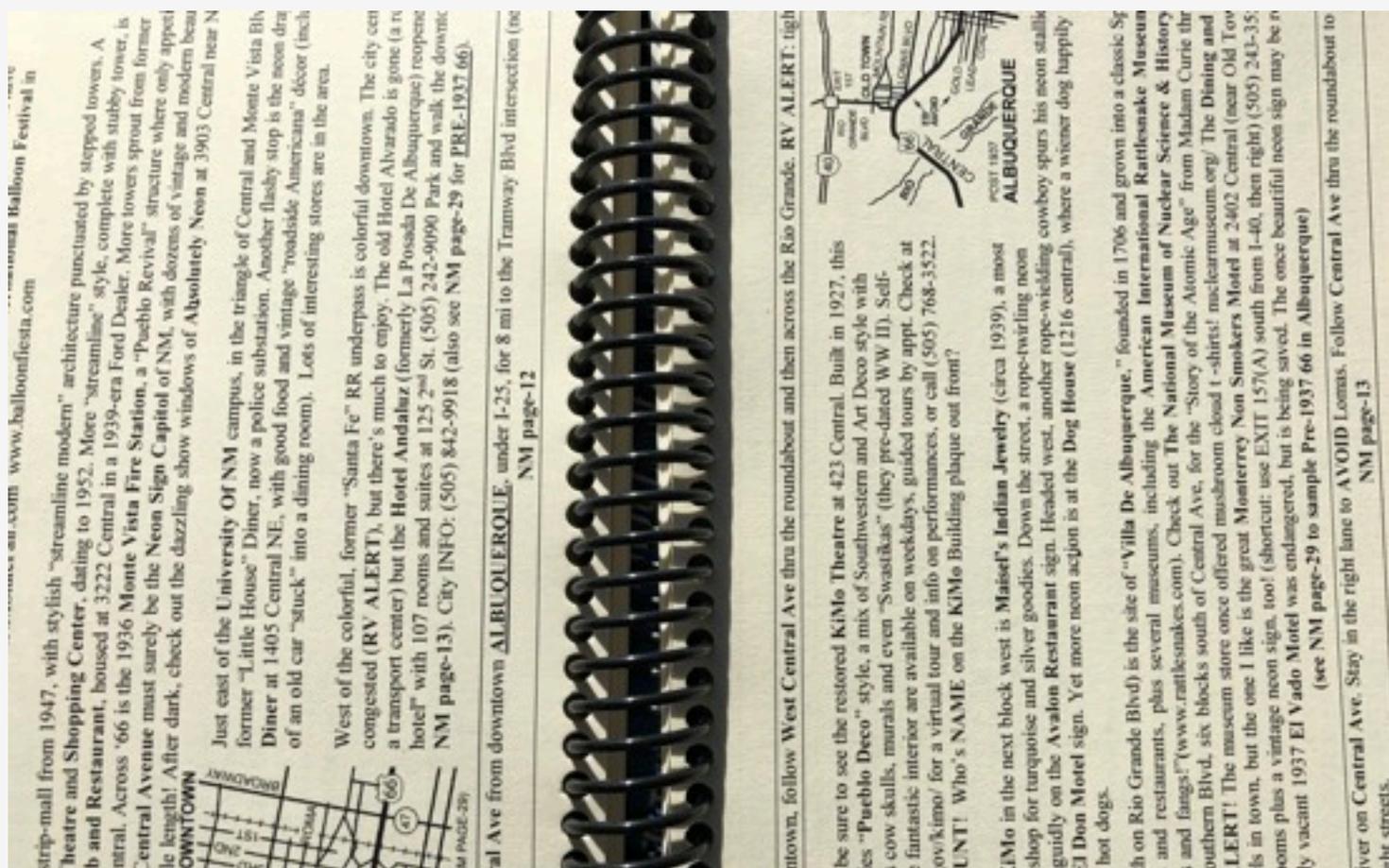
Paper maps have a number of drawbacks - you need to know how to read them in the air and they require a lot of attention. You will find it very difficult to use them as a guide especially in larger cities. They can't guarantee that you will avoid incorrect turns or blunder about. If you want to use them, you will need an attentive co-driver or follow directions yourself as the driver.

We used these maps on our first motorcycle trip and it was crazy - imagine having a paper map in one hand while holding a fully loaded 700-kilograms Harley-Davidson in the other. It is almost certain that the one navigating will enjoy Route 66 the least.

But if you decide on paper maps, we have extra advice for you - prepare well each evening and study the maps every day; this will streamline your day behind the wheel. A lot of useful information can be found in the text descriptions of each map.

Various paper maps are also issued by the Route 66 associations, always for the state in which they operate. They can be grabbed for free at information centers, museums, or gift shops along the way.

PRICE: approximately USD 12



ROUTE 66 WITH THE EZ66 GUIDE FOR TRAVELERS

The EZ66 Guide for Travelers is considered to be the bible for travelers on Route 66. It was written by one of the greatest experts on Route 66, Jerry McClanahan and published by the National Historic Route 66 Federation.

It's a thick book with practical comb binding printed on a solid hard paper, which can withstand rough handling on the road. It contains very detailed information about Route 66 - the instructions alone for using the maps are described on 7 pages! Each page of the book describes sections of Route 66 with detailed maps based

on the state, from the starting point of Route 66 in Chicago to Santa Monica Pier.

Each page contains a very detailed route description and points to alternative sections. It's essentially a textual turn-by-turn navigation.

Like any other paper map, it requires the constant attention of the person who navigates. While in our experience, paper maps from the same author can also be read by the driver in a limited way, we can't imagine doing it with a book guide. It is so detailed that the driver must entrust a navigator with it. The details about the points of interest the author recommends visiting are very compelling.

We used the book on our second trip as a complementary source of information; it is very useful for those passengers who have already been on Route 66 and want to explore various alternative and old sections during their return.

PRICE: approximately USD 26



ROUTE 66 WITH KML FILES

Do you know what a KML file is? Don't worry if you don't; you belong to 98% of the population :)

KML files are processed navigation instructions that can be uploaded on your GPS device, made by world manufacturers, such as Tom Tom, Garmin and so on.

These files are offered for free by enthusiasts on the internet, or you can buy them from travel agencies that specialize in self-guided tours.

Of course, you must own a GPS device to upload KML files. At the same time, it must be compatible with KML files. Last but not least, you must be able to connect the GPS with your computer and transfer the files to the device. Keep in mind that in order for a GPS device to work in the US, you must check the availability of the maps for America in the GPS. If you have bought a GPS outside of the US, these maps may not be included in the pre-installed selection and you will need to purchase a license.

The quality of KML files fluctuates and you will only be able to navigate along one route chosen by the author. Prepare for possible problems when using these routes in an eastern or western direction, since they have different highway exits or different routes due to one-way roads in cities.

We installed free KML files from the Internet into a special TomTom Rider GPS for bikers, but weren't convinced by the results.

With all their limitations and the necessity of being technically competent, we consider this method of navigation to be suitable for real technocrats and undemanding Route 66 travelers, rather than a standard user.

The disadvantage is that KML files may not contain current closures on Route 66.

PRICE: FREE or paid service according to the travel agency's pricelist + license for US maps when needed.



ROUTE 66 WITH ROUTE 66 NAVIGATION FOR IPHONE AND ANDROID

Although there are several ways to handle navigation on Route 66, we missed a simple turn-by-turn application that would keep us on Route 66 for the entirety of the trip, show us all the POI along the way, and be easily and quickly installed on a phone. With such an app, you can fully enjoy Route 66 stress-free.

And so my companion and I, Jan Švrček, decided to invent and create this navigation. I carried the idea in my head for an entire year after coming back from Route 66, until I decided to end my 23 years

of working for media and focus solely on the Route 66 Navigation project.

In the past, I developed nearly twenty different mobile and tablet apps for different publishers, and this experience proved to be very handy. The mobile app development for iPhone and Android phones took more than a year and it was one of the toughest projects we've ever worked on. The result, however, is an application made by travelers for travelers - from the beginning it was made with regard to the needs of those on Route 66 for the first time and who want to travel it comfortably. And for those who want more.

Route 66 Navigation is the world's first mobile navigation designed exclusively for travel on Route 66. And this was the most difficult aspect of its development - to figure out how to navigate a traveler on Route 66 so that it only guides them along the route. And we did it.

It is suitable for travelers who want to simply complete Route 66, as well as those who want to explore old romantic sections or alternative routes. We recommend combining the navigation with the EZ66 Guide, where you can study everything you're interested in, and use the Route 66 Navigation to skip having to look at the book while traveling.

In most cases, the main route the GPS will guide you through is the same as the one recommended by the EZ66 Guide, but you can use one special feature. If you turn onto one of the alternative routes described in the EZ66 Guide, the application will automatically enable you to connect to the main route at its end and continue to your destination.

You can install Route 66 Navigation for free. Selected features are also available for free - a complete list of points of interest (POI) and their details, a complete list of events organized on Route 66, news from the respected Route 66 News server, S.O.S. function in the case of problems, and a travel report to notify other users about possible issues on the road.

You can purchase in-app navigation functions.

WHAT DOES ROUTE 66 NAVIGATION DO?

FULL-FLEDGED GPS SERVICE

Route 66 Navigation is a full-fledged GPS service that gives you the convenience of standard GPS systems while reliably keeping you on Route 66. You can also use voice instructions (in different languages) in conjunction with the intercom in your helmet. The maps and the application navigation system are provided by HERE Technologies.

DISPLAY OF POINTS OF INTEREST ALONG THE WAY

You will no longer miss any interesting point of interest. Notifications are displayed right in the map while driving. You can see their location every time you approach them.

WESTBOUND & EASTBOUND DIRECTION

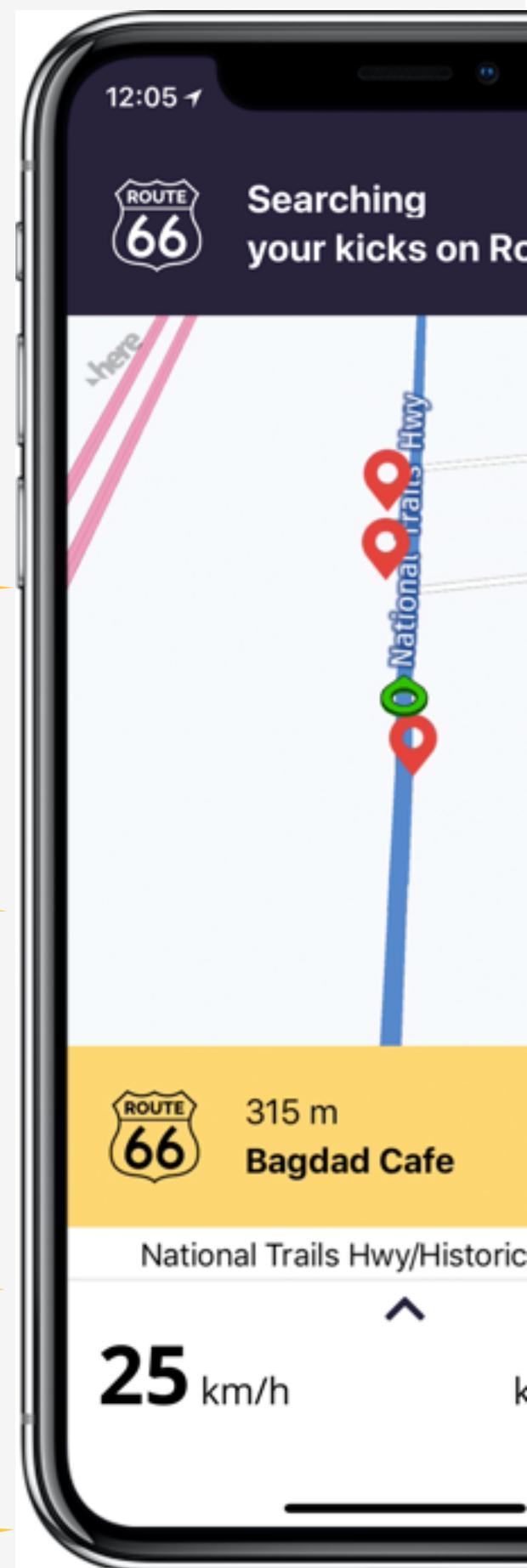
The navigation reliably guides the Route 66 traveler, regardless of whether they're going westbound or eastbound. It can reliably recognize the right exit from a highway or junction and select the right one-way street in cities.

ROUTE A or ROUTE B

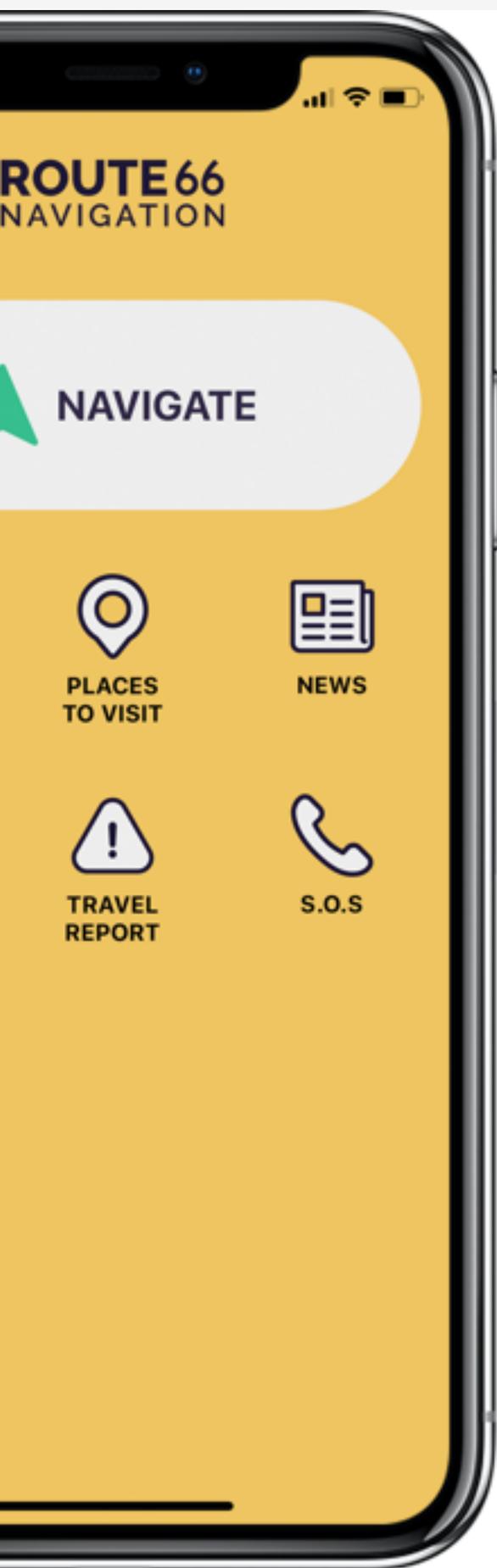
In the Route 66 Navigation you can choose up to two different routes you can complete on Route 66. On ROUTE A you will find all the most interesting attractions on the Mother Road. If you want to enjoy the selected old or forgotten sections of Route 66, which we have checked out for you, ROUTE B is just the right thing.

CREATE YOUR CUSTOM ITINERARY

Prepare your itinerary in advance and then launch your saved routes whenever you need them



WHAT DOES ROUTE 66 NAVIGATION DO?



OFFLINE NAVIGATION

Want to avoid paying for data roaming? Are you afraid you'll get lost in areas with no signal? We've taken care of that. The offline navigation guides you reliably and securely through those stretches of Route 66 where there is no mobile signal.

ALWAYS UP-TO-DATE ROUTES

We monitor the road closures on Route 66 throughout the year and guide you along the current detours. We are constantly updating our POI list to make sure you don't miss anything interesting on Route 66

GPS AT THE START OF ROUTE 66

Are you in Chicago or Los Angeles and want to start your journey from the official Route 66 starting point? If you are within 50 miles of downtown Chicago, the system offers you two choices - you can either start your journey from the starting point and the app will guide you to it, or you can connect to the nearest Route 66 point along the way and continue to the destination.

SPEED LIMIT WARNINGS

Your speed is also under control thanks to the GSP - if you exceed the speed limit, you'll be alerted by a color change. And you'll avoid getting a ticket :)

TRAVEL REPORT

Report any event on Route 66 and let other travelers know about it

WHAT DOES ROUTE 66 NAVIGATION DO?

NAVIGATION TO POINTS OF INTEREST

Are you interested in a selected point of interest? Get the GPS instructions directly from its detail

SEARCH ACCORDING TO POI

Do you want to navigate directly to a hotel or other POI in your destination city? Simply enter it when planning the route

MORE THAN 900 POI's

Discover more than 900 unique places on Route 66 worth stopping at. And we look for new ones every day, regularly updating the list.

ROUTE 66 EVENTS

Have you set out on a trip on Route 66 ? See if an interesting event is happening in your area and enjoy an unforgettable experience

ROUTE 66 NEWS

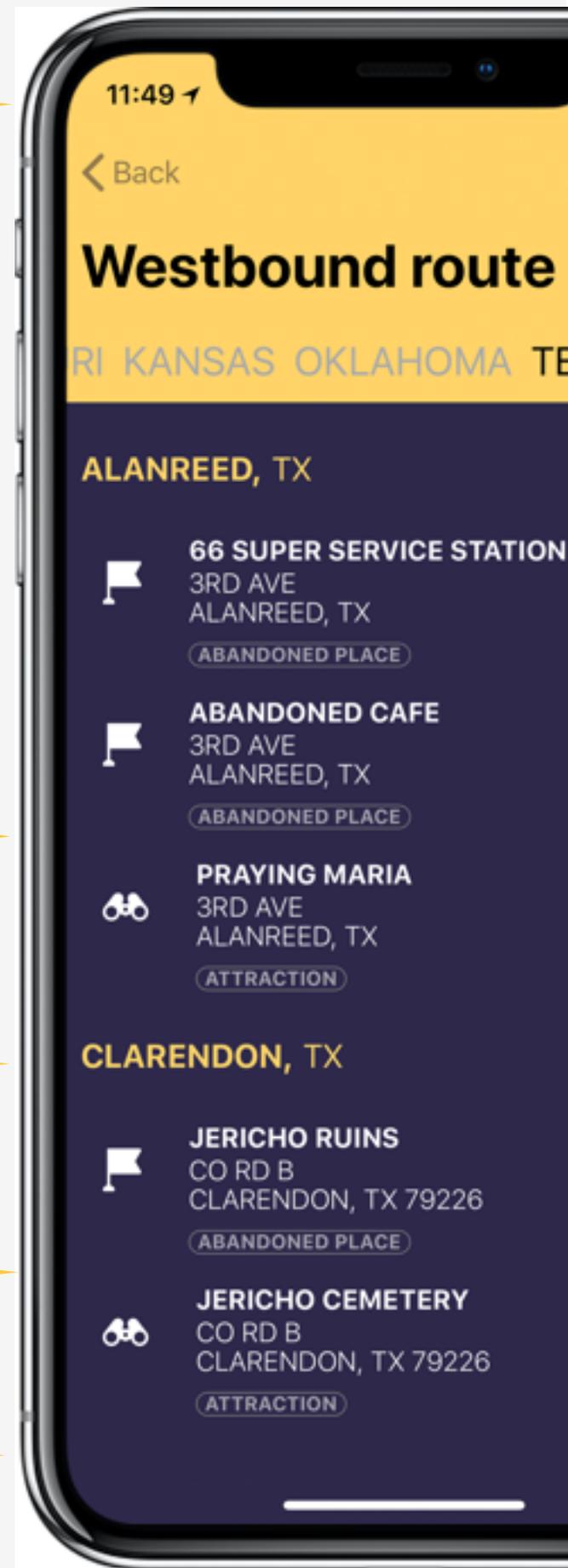
You can read news from Route66News.com from the app

S.O.S

Did you get into trouble on Route 66? Call help directly from the app!

EASY OPERATION

Whether you drive a motorcycle or a car, the application is always easy to operate. It is made for you to enjoy your trip



We believe that Route 66 Navigation will make your trip easier and let you enjoy the travel. We intend on the continuous development of the application to add further and more practical functions.

Find more information on www.route66navigation.com

Check out our blog where we regularly publish interesting tips and insights - www.route66navigation.com/blog

If you have questions or want to send us feedback regarding Route 66 Navigation, please contact us at hello@route66navigation.com

PRICE: €/USD 39.99 for annual license, €/USD 19.99 for week license or less with a limited promotion







CHAPTER 16

ROAMING AND DATA ON ROUTE 66



Using data in the US in the LTE network may not be so easy, especially for those with Android phones

In the US, most operators use a GSM network with a data extension; some areas have the slow EDGE network, but most of the time you'll be able to connect to a full-speed LTE network. In other areas, you won't be able to get any signal for dozens of kilometers. This means that you'll be fine with your GSM phone from home in the US, and you don't have to deal with anything (be aware that LTE uses different frequencies in the US; check if your phone supports them. For example, Apple iPhone is fully compatible, but some Android phones are not).

You don't need to pay for overpriced roaming data packages when using the Route 66 Navigation. Just download maps on your app via WiFi before the trip and you can use it in full offline mode. If needed, you can get WiFi in hotels or at restaurants.

If you still need to use data on the go and your data usage fits into your mobile operator's sensibly set-up roaming package, don't hesitate to use it. It's quicker and much easier than to activate a local SIM card in the US.

If you expect a high usage or want a local phone number, T-Mobile USA has a very good offer for tourists (https://prepaid.t-mobile.com/marketing-module/prepaid_international_tourist_plan.html).

Beware - you don't have to explicitly buy a tourist package. Dealers will willingly offer you a prepaid card with more free data at a slightly higher price.

Another option is to acquire a card from one of the virtual operators. Walmart has a great selection. However, my experience with them was terrible - prepare yourself for an extremely complicated card activation, a chaotic selection of a functioning SIM card (three different ones in the pack), a reluctant help desk and blocked hotspot function, so you can share your paid data with relatives only at an additional charge.

RAIL CROSSING ROAD

2

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RESTORING ROUTE 66
REPAIRS
Parts & Accessories
AUTOMOTIVE

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76





CHAPTER 17

TECHNOLOGY - WHAT TO TAKE WITH YOU



Choosing the right technology saves you a lot of time and nerves along the way. I love technology and so I spent a lot of time thinking about the optimal mix before the travel so that we wouldn't have to needlessly carry electronics we didn't need. I also admit that I went to USA to ride and not record a documentary film, which also affected my selection of technology and accessories.

PHONE HOLDER

A car phone holder can be purchased at any gas station, so focus more on the phone holder for your motorcycle. Waterproof holders are produced by many companies. We have good experience with the Interphone brand. Select a holder that is simple to mount on the handlebars. Harley-Davidson Electra Glide handlebars don't have much space, but a holder can still fit. In both a car and on the Harley, it is standard to have permanent power connection for the phone.

ACTION CAMERA + MOUNTING KIT + 128 GB SD CARD

I couldn't decide for a long time whether to buy the latest GoPro or risk buying a cheaper camera made in China. Finally, I got help from my friend, professional photographer Mišo Smrčok. He recommended TomTom Bandit, an action camera with an intriguing technical solution of one body with a battery and a USB connector. Seeing the comparison videos on YouTube was enough to make my decision.

Take the entire assembly kit with you - i.e. the handlebar mount and anti-slip holders for the helmet and other surfaces. Before the trip, we purchased several other mounts and a selfie-stick.

The 128 GB SD card proved to be a very good choice - it saved us from constantly moving video files from the card to the hard drive and provided much more user comfort.

The TomTom Bandit endured the entire adventure under really extreme temperature conditions without a single fault; the recording is extremely sharp and clear even though the camera was exposed to shocks and dust the entire time.

The camera was alternately attached to the Electra's crash bungs and the helmet. The front crash bungs of the motorcycle were comprised of a thick tube for which the mount was too small, so it was possible to use only the rear crash bungs, which however allowed us to shoot images behind the motorcycle.

We also had the camcorder attached to the helmet on selected routes, whereby we chose its upper part.

Due to the tubular shape of the camera, we did not have to deal with air resistance even in the stiff head wind and so our necks didn't suffer so much.

CAMERA + SPARE BATTERY

If you have a good camera in your cell phone and you're not a professional photographer with a single-lens reflex camera, taking a small camera has proven to be an unnecessary burden.

Quite quickly, it ran down during the continuous shooting, so it was necessary to putting it aside and substituting it with the cell phone while driving. Still, the quality of the photos was often much better from the cell phone photographs.

The most up-to-date smartphones have very high quality cameras. You can take especially good pictures with the iPhone 8 Plus or Samsung Galaxy series phones to capture great images. At the same time, it is important to save GPS coordinates to your photos. We did not do this with the camera while being on the first "expedition" and the domestic investigation "where we photographed it" took up a lot of precious time.

POWER BANK

The most important technical development on your expedition! Don't regret spending money on a power bank with as high capacity as possible and a fast recharge function, ideally able to charge two or more devices at the same time.

On Route 66, your phone will run down along with your action camcorder at a surprising speed many times, so you may find out no sooner than on the road how pleasant it is to recharge your action camcorder and cell phone during lunchtime or while having a cup of coffee at a gas station. If you use a cell phone for taking pictures, you

won't get along without the power bank in the last third of the day for sure - the cell phone will be permanently connected by cable so you can take photos without being bothered.

POWERCUBE WITH ADAPTERS

The charging of multiple devices at once and how to solve the issue of American supply network adapters was a tough nut to crack. Upon arriving to your room, you need to charge the following:

- cell phones
- action camcorder
- camera

while having a notebook or tablet connected. So we're taking into consideration at least five devices per one "double outlet." We couldn't figure out any optimal solution until we discovered the Powercube. It's a cube on which you can easily change the adapter for different electrical networks around the world and to which you can connect four electrical cables and another two USB cables, so overall it's six (!!!) devices at once.

Even though it is a bit oversized, the practical dimension has prevailed over its bigger size. Upon arriving to our room, we connected everything and left it alone till morning. I definitely recommend it, because I have yet to find anything better and more useful on the market. Alternatively, you can just take an ordinary four or six socket extension strip and plug it into a US adaptor plug.

LAPTOP + EXTERNAL DRIVE

Should you take a laptop or not? It involves the personal comfort of each person. I do much better on my laptop than on my cell phone or tablet and I didn't have to screw up my eyes looking at a small display while planning a route and reporting on Facebook :)

A small, 13-inch notebook fitted smoothly not only in the hand luggage, but wasn't even obstructive in the motorcycle trunks.

Moreover, I recommend that you take a large enough hard drive with you and, if possible, back up photographs and videos on a daily basis into separately named directories. You can save so much time in later sorting.

CABLING

Be sure to pack all the necessary cables - a charging cable for laptop, cell phone and other devices. In large cities, you can buy any cables you forgot in major hypermarkets, but you'd spend much more time doing that than thoroughly preparing before journey.





CHAPTER 18

PACKING FOR THE EXPEDITION



When traveling on a motorcycle, a thought-out packaging system will save you an unexpected amount of time on the road

It's clear to each of you that good packing is probably the most important task before the journey. It's not easy at all to conceive the entire journey so that it works out logistically. There is only a little information on the internet on what to pack for the journey and you don't have the chance to be prepared for everything until you experience two time zones and temperature differences to such an extent that it is snowing on one side of the route and people are wearing swimsuits on the other.

What things to pack and pack into what? We speculated for a couple of weeks before we thought of something. Of course, we are talking about a motorcycle expedition. If you rent a car, your packing problems are practically eliminated.

First of all, you can't pack things in a suitcase, because you can't put it on a motorcycle and it would be a pity to throw out the suitcase in the US. A travel bag will get wet along with its contents in the rain. So a dry bag is the best choice. It's storable, flexible, firm enough and, primarily, waterproof. But be sure to buy a real dry bag in yacht stores, not any imitations made from rubberized thin fabric in sports stores! You should spend no more than €50 for a large quality 70-liter bag.

We also took along a hand bag from soft material (to be folded and packed in the trunk of the motorcycle if necessary) along with the dry bag and we carried the notebook, all the equipment and emergency clothing reserve in the hand bag.

MOTORCYCLE CLOTHES (SEPTEMBER)

- ★ Leather jacket or quality textile jacket
- ★ Kevlar moto jeans with protectors
- ★ Bandana (face scarf)
- ★ Kidney belt
- ★ Moto sneakers
- ★ Open leather gloves
- ★ Full-featured leather gloves
- ★ Waterproof riding suit
- ★ Tire repair spray
- ★ Helmet cleaner spray
- ★ Beeswax for leather jacket
- ★ Rubber downhaul ("spider") + tensioners (don't forget !!!)
- ★ Impregnating spray
- ★ 1 pair of short pants
- ★ 1 swimsuit
- ★ 1 sweater
- ★ 4 pairs of underwear
- ★ 4 pairs of socks
- ★ jeans
- ★ sneakers

CLOTHES - BOUGHT IN THE US

- ★ short-sleeved T-shirts
- ★ long-sleeved T-shirts
- ★ long-pocket pants
- ★ underwear
- ★ pairs of socks

DRUGSTORE

- ★ Antiperspirant
- ★ Cream with SPF 50
- ★ Lip salve

CLOTHES TO TAKE WITH YOU

- ★ sunglasses
- ★ 3 short-sleeved T-shirts
- ★ 1 long sleeved T-shirts

We also took our own helmets onboard the aircraft. Even though you can rent a helmet and in some states it's even not obligatory to wear it, we preferred to use our own helmets.

A dry bag has one another fantastic advantage - during the journey you will most likely buy clothes and souvenirs you can carry in the dry bag and you will still have plenty of space.

Before leaving for home, just buy a new suitcase or a travel bag and the problem involving space for additional shopping is definitely solved :)

However, when buying a dry bag, you have to think of buying a rubber downhaul ("spider") and tensioners - thanks to them you'll be able to fasten everything comfortably on the motorcycle and it will hold securely while riding.

We recommend taking motorcycle equipment with you. In the US, there probably won't be time to buy anything you're missing. Gloves, bandanas, T-shirts, leather jackets or vests can be bought at the motorcycle rental (not to be rented).

Keep in mind while packing that you will run more than 4,200 kilometers in three time zones. You'll be passing through a desert, as well as through mountains with typical weather changes. On the way, you can be caught by a short summer storm, as well as a several-day, heavy rain with significant drops in temperature. So be prepared for

different situations, even at the cost of waterproof riding suit accompanying you the entire journey without ever being used.

A kidney belt is an absolute must - pack it first. Whatever the heat will be, you'll go most of the way in windy weather and the wind will be getting under your T-shirt all the time. We had our full-featured gloves packed for cold or rainy weather, but also some light ones with open fingers, which we did not use at all in the heat.

We were there during very warm sunny days, so our jackets and Kevlar jeans in the suitcase, it being too warm to wear. But we were grateful to have them in the surroundings of Santa Fe and the Grand Canyon, where temperatures tended to drop to 10 degrees out of nowhere.

On warm days we rode while wearing short/long-sleeved T-shirts and jeans or camouflage pocket pants. They proved to be an exceptionally practical necessity - they weren't so warm as black jeans in the desert and they hid the fact that we did our laundry once every 5 days :)

Our special moto sneakers really proved their worth. They endured extreme conditions, even the continuous resting of the leg on the Elektra's exhaust, which you can't prevent. The same can't be said about the usual sneakers in which we drove into towns and after one ride we found our soles glued to the exhaust.

We took our casual clothes only in the quantities we absolutely needed for the first days. The list also included items we wore onboard the aircraft. You'll buy other items on the spot. The clothing in the US is high quality and sinfully cheap. If you have photosensitive skin, it is an absolute necessity to have long-sleeved shirts. You can get sunburnt by the harsh sun fast in a short T-shirt, so a long-sleeved T-shirt is much safer and more comfortable, and you won't even feel that much warmer in it.

Cosmetics is a special issue. Don't assume, for example, that you can buy a quality antiperspirant in the US! Even in big stores there is a surprisingly poor offer. You will also need a lip salve. In the US you can buy it at a gas station in a miniature pack for an incredible \$5. The further west you go, the more your lips be damaged by the harsh and dry air. And if you don't want things go wrong like the cowboys from Sergio Leone's westerns, who had permanently cracked lips, the lip salve will be a part of your daily basic kit. Particularly in Arizona or California, your lip salve may get so hot during the day that it will just pour out of the tube!

A sunscreen with a protective factor of 50 is an **ABSOLUTE MUST-HAVE**, even for those who sunbathe in Croatia with just face cream on their noses. The American sun, especially in the desert, is much stronger than in Europe, and despite thoroughly using sunscreen with SPF 50 we pretty much got a suntan.

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I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I
ENJOY MY TRIP?



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION



In this composition, we fell in love with Route 66: Robert, Marián, Jan, Slávek, Zuzka and Miška, in order from left to right

Have you ever experienced the fear of an unknown? You get off the plane in Chicago or Los Angeles and in front of the airport hall you ask yourself - where am I and where is Route 66?

Just take a deep breath and set off on your adventures. You have nothing to worry about. Use your common sense and you'll perfectly manage your first trip in the US.

But first, read this section of the book in which we present what awaits you in the USA.

A MUST STOP ON YOUR ROUTE 66 JOURNEY

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ILLINOIS

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WELL KNOWN SITES ON ROUTE 66

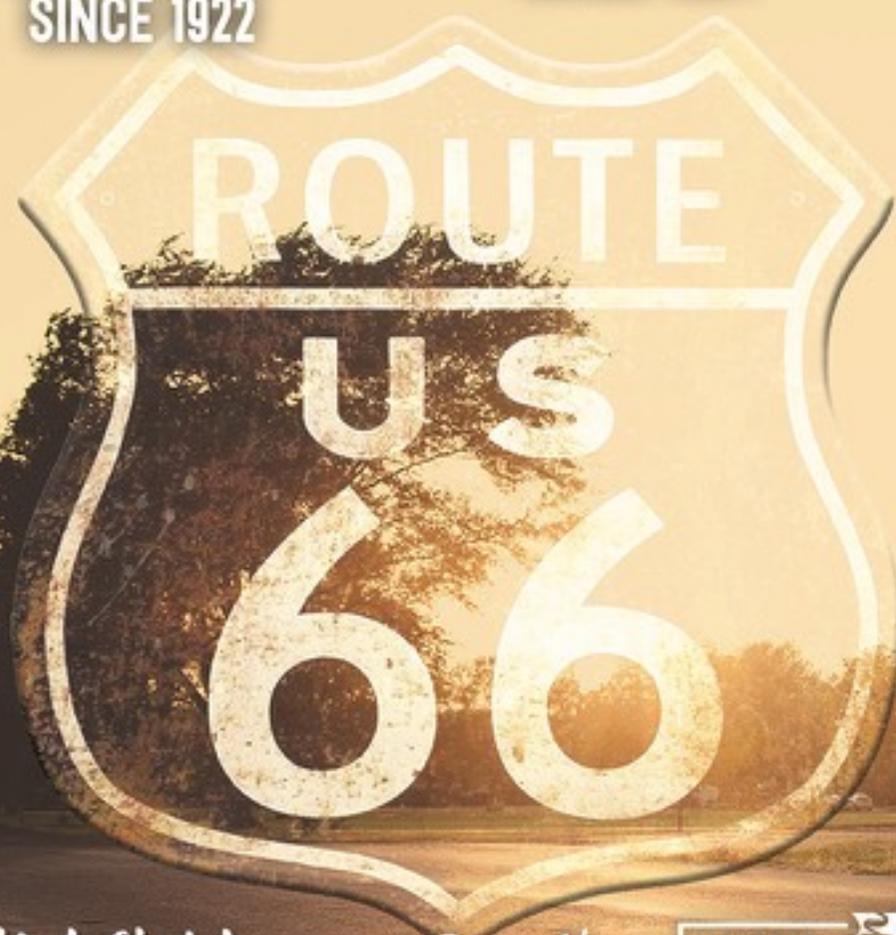


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CHAPTER 2

GENERAL INFORMATION ON ROUTE 66



Old marking of Route 66

Route 66 is smoothly drivable on the main route. It's either asphalt road (in many places it's repaired) or concrete road. Certain stretches are broken due to age and the cracks in the concrete are unpleasantly bumpy, but still drivable.

Route 66 heads nowhere in many places. Either it has disappeared completely or has been overpassed by the I-40 highway or it's simply not properly marked. In other places, it exists and it's possible to drive onto it, but it ends after a few miles and you'll have to turn back. For example, there's a stretch between Topock and Needles, where the map shows Route 66, but the extremely broken and unmaintained route ends after approximately 0.6 miles.

There are parallel stretches of Route 66 from different periods of its operation. It's mostly a way round through a town or a beautiful old road leading through the woods. Several stretches lead Route 66 through some so-called dirty roads, that is, dusty, unmaintained roads. In rainy seasons, these stretches are soaked and driving them is not recommended - you can imagine something better than pulling a Harley or a rental sedan out of the mud. You should also think over whether you want to drive on these stretches during the dry season - you'll have dust everywhere on your bike as well yourself.

The desert along Route 66, especially around the town of Kingman, can be dangerous during rain - there are depressions with water flowing through them. Yes, you can experience such extreme situations on Route 66. When it rains, there is a large amount of water flowing from the nearby Rocky Mountains, which flows into the sand through the lowest points and you can submerge both a motorcycle and car in regularly repeating depressions. So these stretches are marked with a driving prohibition during rainy seasons. Remember this and never drive into such an area! You can be caught by dust storms in Arizona, so be sure to use a bandana on your face.

We don't recommend traveling Route 66 at night, especially because you are in the middle of beautiful scenery or points of interest along the way in the dark. Plan your trip so that you reach the destination before sunset. In the case of problems, you may wait for a longer time for help at night. Many stretches of Route 66 are little frequented.

Prepare yourself for the dazzling sunshine due to the sun setting low over the horizon at the end of day while heading west. The sunsets will be part of your most beautiful experiences and if you are in the right place you'll have unforgettable photos.

Realize that if you're traveling on Route 66 in other seasons besides summer, the sun rises late in the mornings and sets very early in the afternoons. You'll need to adjust your daily itinerary to this fact.

Good point: If you plan to reach the sunset in Oatman or the Mojave Desert near the town of Amboy or the Amboy Crater, you'll take astonishing pictures. You can stay in Oatman at night, or you can travel at night to Needles. In the vicinity of Amboy there's no problem with accommodation. You can either stay in a small motel in Ludlow (you can pick up the keys at the gas station across the road) or you'll have to go as far as Barstow.

It is important, especially when you want to discover old and abandoned stretches, to manage your fuel refilling to prevent running out of gas in abandoned country. The main path of Route 66 has a dense network of gas stations, especially near the highway. In the Mojave Desert it is not so easy and the distance between gas stations is longer, so drive through the desert only with a full tank. In case of emergency, you can also fill up the tank at oases, but at twice the price of fuel.





CHAPTER 3

DIVISION OF TASKS ON THE ROAD



We checked the motorcycles every night, prepared them for the next day and locked the brake discs in order to find them at their place in the morning. The passenger unpacked the suitcases and prepared the next day's clothes.



Practical tasks need to be solved before the first exit on Route 66. If you want everything to go well during your trip, you should share the tasks on your team. Whether it's the leader's tasks in case there are more of you in the group, or the division of tasks among two people during the journey.

The division of tasks is simple inside a car - the crew is divided into those who drive and those who ride. Ideally, if you take turns driving, you'll enjoy Route 66 much more.

On a motorcycle, the situation is somewhat more complicated, and well-divided tasks with a passenger can make the journey much easier. So let me describe how we divided our roles.

My task was to navigate, drive, search for interesting places... in short, to manage daily preparation before the trip and ensure that we travel safely and without hitting snags. Don't underestimate the trip, it's not easy at all. The passenger was above everything else.

The passenger took photographs during the drive. Thanks to this we brought home a huge collection of photos. It also ensured that all devices were in the charger during our breaks. While preparing the motorcycle for the next day or trying to pick a good local restaurant after arriving at the motel, the passenger unpacked the suitcases and prepared the next day's clothes. And again it ensured that all the necessary devices were charged.

In the mornings - while preparing the bike for the next journey - the passenger packed all things back into the suitcases and made sure nothing remained in the room.

Of course, the division of tasks is very individual and overlapped in many cases. Each of us did what he/she managed to do so that we spared as much time for leisure as possible.

Having strictly divided responsibilities is useful on this journey - neither of you will forget something important, relying on the fact that the other person remembered.

It's also important to note that good and thought-out logistics will save you a lot of work with packing and with the constant transfer of your items between the motorcycle and the motel. We packed worn clothes into one side trunk of the motorcycle, so we didn't have to unpack daily. We put aside items in the second side trunk necessary for use during the ride, because it's much easier to open than the main suitcase in the center with a loaded dry bag in the back part. In the main trunk we had waterproof items and clothes we did not need to pull out frequently. Everything else was stored in the dry bag, which we just unfastened after arriving at the hotel and carried to the room. And again in the mornings, we fastened it again without more unnecessary packing.

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CHAPTER 4

WHAT'S DRIVING LIKE IN THE US?



You can often encounter patrolling police cars on Route 66. If you don't break the rules, the police won't stop you.



There's nothing to worry about - from the European perspective, riding in a car or on motorcycle is very comfortable in the US and there are only minimum differences in regulations.

As drivers Americans are like elsewhere in the world - the drivers in cities are more aggressive and driving in the country is calm and slow. Be ready for highways with 6 to 10 traffic lanes (especially in Los Angeles) and heavy traffic on them, not rarely jammed in all lanes.

If there's more of you in a car or on motorcycle, you can use the so-called carpool, fast lane. Indeed, it's much faster than usual lanes with cars containing only one person.

Americans are mostly disciplined on the roads, and arrogant driving is rarely seen. On the other hand, you can find yourself on the road along with a drunk driver. So be careful.

When riding a motorcycle, there can occur some problems due to trucks. They are bigger and longer than European ones, and they also drive much faster. So be very careful in case you overtake them, or vice versa, when they overtake you. The air lock behind the semitrailer may unexpectedly shake you.

Traffic signs are highly readable and additional text commands are comprehensible as well. Nevertheless, prepare for a few differences.

ALLOWED RIGHT TURN ON A RED LIGHT

In the US, you drive on the right side of the road, just like in mainland Europe. One of the big differences is that in the US you can turn right, even though there's a red traffic light. Of course, you have to give preference to cars crossing the intersection when there's a green light. BE CAREFUL! At some intersections, turning on a red light is prohibited, but a traffic sign always warns you.

4-WAY "STOP" SIGN

The ALL STOP or 4-WAY STOP signs will be a novelty for a European. At simple intersections, all incoming vehicles must stop at the STOP sign and cross the intersection in the order in they arrived, respectively. The STOP sign is used very often, even on a wide and clear road. In the US, roundabouts are becoming more and more popular, where you have to give preference to the vehicle passing through the roundabout.

SPEED LIMIT

The speed limit is usually very well marked. We recommend strict adherence to speed limits in cities. Unmarked police cars with radar often patrol throughout the towns and cities. Fines are high in the US. Automatic radars, so-called "camera traps", are only rarely used on Route 66 and are marked particularly in large cities.

TURNING TO A SIDE ROAD

Direction traffic signs are placed behind the intersection, beware of them. When you see the sign, turn. The mileage on a traffic sign indicates the total distance from a destination, not the distance to the crossroad.

ROAD CLOSURES AND DETOURS

In recent years, authorities in charge of Route 66 have been investing heavily in road repairs, so it might happen that you will encounter closed roads and detours. In the Route 66 Navigation application, we monitor all detours and they are all updated in the navigation. Be careful about short-term detours because they can only be marked for large trucks, so there may be some shorter and faster alternatives for cars and motorcycles. Use common sense and intuition

POLICING

In the United States, the police stop you only if you break the law or commit a crime. There are no preventive checks. If you drive according to regulations, the chance that the police stop you is minimal. Police patrol different places, and they usually have a typical car in a classic black and white combination. However, speed is also measured in unmarked cars, mostly black ones.

BEWARE! Never stop the car on the road BEHIND the police vehicle. The police may consider this a threat and pull out a weapon on you.

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CHAPTER 5

TRAFFIC SAFETY



Unfortunately, there are memorials like this commemorating victims of road accidents on Route 66. German cyclists Harry Jung and Heinz-Gerd Buchel died on Route 66 in May 2018. May they rest in peace.

We didn't experience any dangerous situation on the main corridors of Route 66.

However, in the US, the crime rate is higher than European countries, so follow basic safety rules and remain in the center in larger cities. There's a sufficient number of police patrols in the main corridors and in the city centers to make you feel safe, but you'll be passing the police arresting someone more than once.

If you park a car or a motorcycle at a motel parking lot, they are safe unless you have any valuables clearly visible through the windows. Nor did we notice any incident in any of the hotels where we stayed (except when the police arrested a man on the floor above us, but the arrest took place quietly without affecting the other guests staying in the hotel).

But travelers won't avoid accidents on Route 66. As this book was being written, in the space of one week cars collided and killed a motorcycle crew and two German cyclists.

Although in principle you just have to follow basic safety rules like anywhere else in the world, drive carefully and safely, and watch the rearview mirrors.





CHAPTER 6

POI - ATTRACTIONS ON THE ROUTE 66



A very popular visitor place right after the exit from Chicago is the museum in Joliet.

Route 66 is not just driving on a road. You can experience the greatest enchantment upon visiting different places: either inhabited, operated, or ghost towns and abandoned buildings, reminiscent of the past glory of Route 66. And despite many interesting places having already been destroyed by people or nature, you can still find hundreds of places worth stopping by on Route 66. Once you have a trip on Route 66 behind you, you can give people planning to go there just two pieces of advice:

1. YOU'LL NEVER MANAGE TO SEE EVERYTHING

Remember this well. If you accept this right from the start, you have a great chance of enjoying your Route 66 journey. Otherwise you'll be rushing nervously all over the place, you'll spend such a short amount of time at every spot that there is not enough time to take pictures, and in the evenings in bed you'll find out that you only remember being nervous all day long. Be ready for the fact that you won't manage to see some attractions, that some bars and museums will be closed, or some attractions will disappoint you and instead of a planned hour-stay you'll continue along in a few minutes. And there's the charm of Route 66: every day you'll have an offer of many other beautiful places, and there are so many of them that you wouldn't see them all even in the space of a month.

2. EVERY DAY OF THE TRIP SHOULD BE PLANNED AT HOME BEFORE DEPARTURE

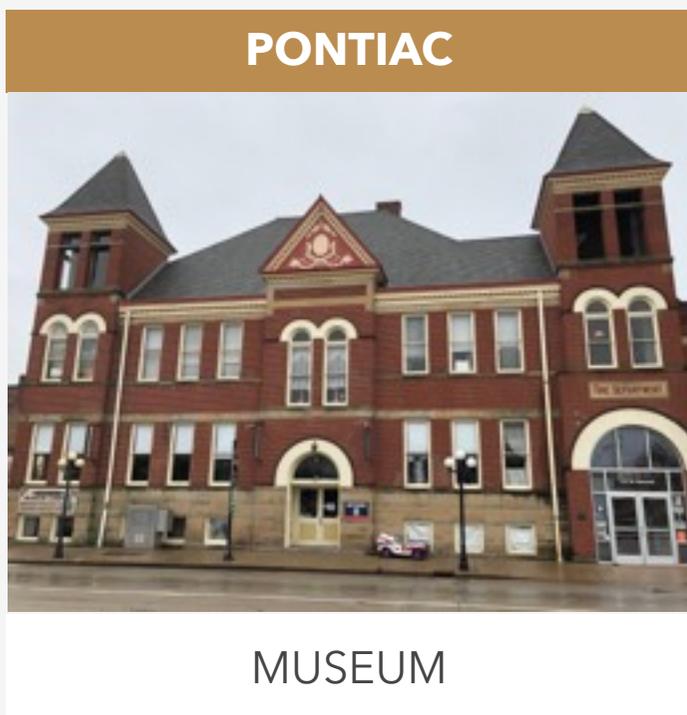
There are millions of tips on the internet on everything that can be seen on Route 66. At home you'll have time to search through them. And if you happen to have a little time while traveling, you won't have the energy. Ideally, prepare a chronological list of places and attractions you would like to see each day. Think of priorities so that you won't miss something big at the expense of stupid diversions. Make yourself a small reserve for some unexpected discoveries. Even so, Route 66 will do what it wants, you just drive on it!

Route 66 is bordered by more or less degraded and abandoned buildings. The attractions along the road can be divided into three basic groups - individual road constructions (interesting stretches of road, bridges), renovated buildings (mainly gas stations, restaurants, bars, museums) and tourist attractions (the Henry's Rabbit Ranch, The Launching Pad, Rocking Chair, Blue Whale, totems, etc.). It's up to you what you get out of it, everything is somehow interesting and worth seeing.

Think about whether you want to see the very cities you are staying in. There was little time left in our itinerary, which was a pity sometimes.

PLACES WHERE YOU MUST STOP

We have prepared a list of places which we felt extremely good. Of course, each of us has different needs, priorities and ideas, but perhaps our list can help you make decisions.



NORMAL



RYBURN'S PLACE

ATLANTA



BUNYON GIANT

SPRINGFIELD



COZY DOG DRIVE IN

LINCOLN



THE MILL MUSEUM

LITCHFIELD



ARISTON CAFE

STAUNTON



HENRY'S RABBIT RANCH

I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

ST. LOUIS



DONUTS DRIVE IN

ST. LOUIS



TED DREWES

CUBA



WAGON WHEEL MOTEL

CUBA



MISSOURI HICK BAR-B-Q

CUBA



THE FOURWAY

FANNING



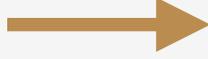
THE FANNING OUTPOST

I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

NEWSBURG



TRAILS OF TEARS



WAYNESVILLE



ROUTE 66 GALLERY



EVERTON



GAY PARITA FILLING STATION



CARTHAGE



BOOTS COURT MOTEL



GALENA



THE CARS ON ROUTE 66



AFTON



AFTON STATION

I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

CATOOSA



THE BLUE WHALE



SAPULPA



HEART OF RT 66 MUSEUM



CHANDLER



SEABA STATION MUSEUM



TEXOLA



TUMBLEWEED GRILL



AMARILLO



LILE ART GALLERY



AMARILLO



TEXAS IVY ANTIQUES

I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

ADRIAN



MIDPOINT CAFE

TUCUMCARI



TEE PEE CURIOS



SANTA ROSA



THE BLUE HOLE

TUCUMCARI



ROADRUNNER LODGE



ALBUQUERQUE



66 DINER

GRANTS



SANDS MOTEL



I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

HOLBROOK



WIGWAM MOTEL

JOSEPH CITY



JACK RABBIT TRADING POST

WILLIAMS



ADDICTED TO 66 DEALS

PARKS



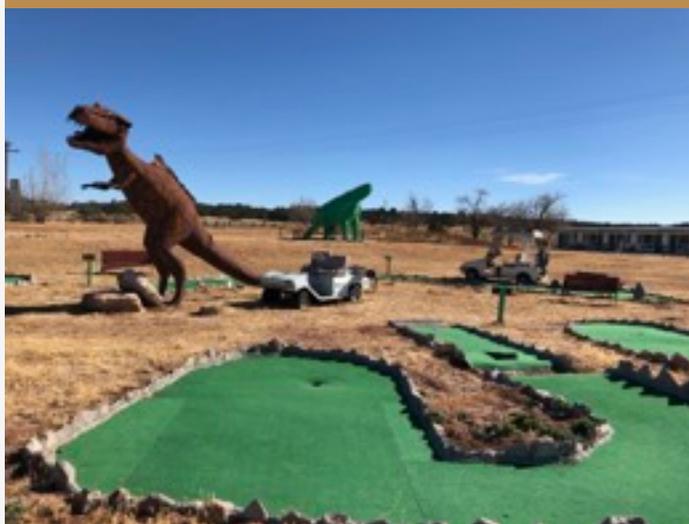
PARKS IN THE PINE DELI CAFE

SELIGMAN



ANGEL DELGADILLO

PEACH SPRINGS



GRAND CANYON CAVERNS

I'M IN THE US - HOW CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

KINGMAN



HACKBERRY GENERAL STORE

KINGMAN



KINGMAN VISITOR CENTER

OATMAN



OATMAN HOTEL

GOLDEN VALLEY



COOL SPRINGS CABINS

NEEDLES



WAGON WHEEL RESTAURANT

AMBOY



ROY'S CAFE

LUDLOW



LUDLOW CAFE

NEWBERRY SPRINGS



BAGDAD CAFE



VICTORVILLE



ROUTE 66 MUSEUM

ORO GRANDE



IRON HOG SALOON



SAN BERNARDINO



WIGWAM MOTEL

RANCHO CUCAMONGA



CUCAMONGA SERVICE ST.





CHAPTER 7

ROUTE 66 PEOPLE



Holly and Tully have resurrected the Launching Pad in Wilmington. Although they are literally surrounded by tourists, they always find time for a few sweet words.



For your first time a good deal of the trip is traveling, but later you're back on Route 66 mainly because of the awesome people. The pleasant atmosphere, many inspirational encounters and unexpected friendships are appreciated on Route 66 by almost everyone who has tried it.

Many people have spent all their lives on Route 66, or belong to generations who ran their business during the glory days of Route 66. Others bought and rescued buildings on Route 66, which would have collapsed and remained only in people's memories. They share the enthusiasm with which they care for their place as well as a continuous good mood.





CHAPTER 8

DISCOVERING ABANDONED STRETCHES OF ROUTE 66



The abandoned road to the ramshackle bridge in Lincoln was once the original Route 66.

Route 66 is unrepeatably beautiful because it consists of dozens of abandoned stretches from different time periods. Most of them are no longer drivable unfortunately - either they are in very bad condition or located behind a closed gate on private land. In the Route 66 Navigation application, you'll find the most beautiful abandoned stretches that are still accessible. Just choose Route B in the navigation. If you want to drive on these stretches, reserve enough time and patience for it. They'll offer you old dusty roads with beautiful natural scenery - and you will be forever delighted.

In case the stretches are drenched following rain, it is better to miss out on this experience - it would be better not to attempt them. Many times they lead through an area without a cell phone signal, which could be a problem if you got stuck.

Our tip: the most beautiful stretches include the old road from Glenrio to San Jon with historic wooden bridges; another incredibly beautiful stretch lies between the towns of Cuervo and Santa Rosa and definitely don't miss the alternative route to Flagstaff from Winona.

For more details on these stretches, visit www.route66navigation.com/blog





CHAPTER 9

SURROUNDING PATHS OF ROUTE 66 WORTH A VISIT



San Francisco

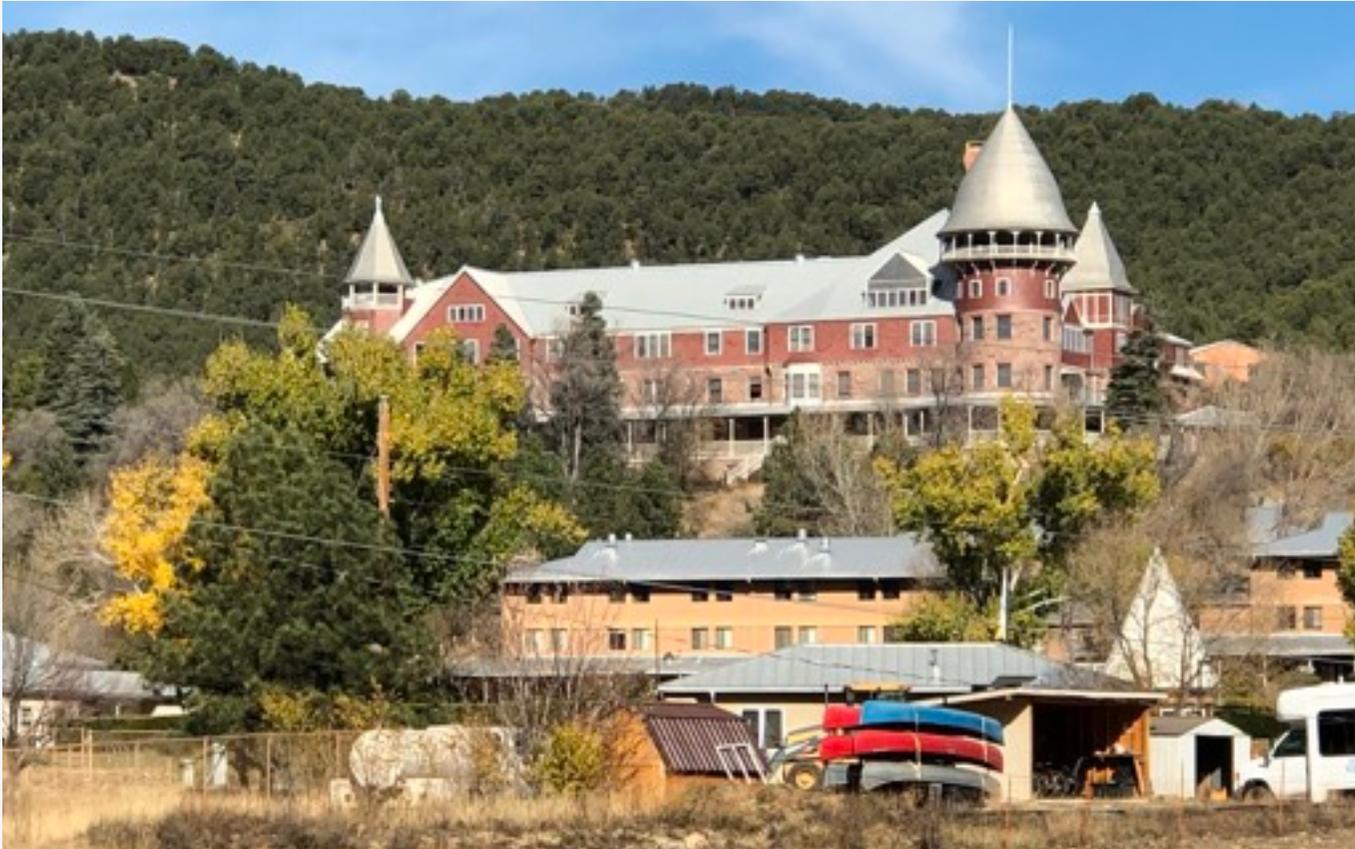
If all the attractions of Route 66 still are not enough, or in case you have reserved a longer period to travel the Mother Road, we have some personal advice on surrounding paths. So that nothing escapes your attention, always go back from the surrounding path to the spot you left and continue further on Route 66.



HARLEY-DAVIDSON IN MILWAUKEE

100 miles from Route 66

From Chicago, you can take a trip along the coastline of Lake Milwaukee, the hometown of Harley Davidsons. Visiting the museum is a mandatory activity for every motorcycle lover.



LAS VEGAS (NM), MONTEZUMA, HOT SPRINGS

13 miles from Route 66

It's not Vegas like Vegas. Opt for the Santa Fe loop on your trip. Turn onto highway 94 from Santa Rosa, and turn right at the 125 crossroad in Romeroville. After a few miles, you'll encounter the beautiful historic town of Las Vegas. Be sure to stop at its center - you'll find the old Plaza Hotel on the historic square and don't miss the downtown area at Bridge St. Then go back onto Route 65 and head toward Montezuma. A surprise awaits you - a castle on a hill. It is not thousands of years old like many castles in Europe, but seeing it in the US is perfectly surprising! (Beware, it's not open to the public.) In Hot Springs, you can bathe in hot springs, admiring the beautiful natural scenery, and after endless days on flatland, motorcyclists can ride serpentine roads on Route 65 towards Gallinas. You have a magnificent view of the valley with the castle from the ridge of a hill.



PECOS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

0.5 miles from Route 66

If you have enough energy left over for a long walk on a former battlefield and residence of a Native American site, be certain not to miss the turn to Pecos National Historical Park.



LA BAJADA HILL

12 miles from Route 66
(from the Santa Fe side)

We recommend the trip to the legendary La Bajada pass only to those who have a 4 x 4 car or off-road motorcycle at their disposal. The route to the pass is among the more difficult off-road routes with deep tracks and big sharp stones. Be sure not to set off on this route in your regular sedan! If you manage a 60 to 90-minute off-road trip, you'll be rewarded with a beautiful view from a hill of the land with one of Route 66's oldest stretches. La Bajada is a legendary place, but the pass itself is not drivable. The road was blocked not only by barbed-wire barriers, but partially by fallen rock.



RED ROCK PARK

1 mile from Route 66

Just a little distance from Route 66, between the Continental Divide and Gallup, you can take a beautiful stroll through Red Rock Park. Already from a distance you can see two characteristic hills - Pyramid Rock and Navajo Church. Tourist trails lead to it from a large parking lot.



MONUMENT VALLEY

164 miles from Route 66 from Chambers

172 miles from Route 66 from Flagstaff

Monument Valley is among the iconic places of the USA, but it is a relatively long way round from Route 66. The shortest route to it leads either from the town of Chambers or from Flagstaff. We opted for the route from Chambers. It leads through magnificent land with many breathtaking views of the surrounding hills and rocks. At the same time, the country is sparsely populated, so be sure to have your vehicle filled up with gas. We recommend motorcyclists to tank up everywhere possible. And don't go out without a bandana on your face, dust storms in the area are not unusual. According to the distance, plan the trip for one whole day.



PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK

29 miles from Route 66

The entrance to the Petrified National Park is only half a mile from Route 66 or the I-40 highway, but don't let yourself be wrong by this - passing through the entire park measures less than 60 miles there and back. There's a path leading through the park alongside which there are visitors' places. And from those places there's a fabulous view of wonders of nature. We definitely recommend seeing it as an appetizer before the Grand Canyon!



METEOR CRATER

6 miles from Route 66

Traveling across Route 66 and not visiting the Meteor Crater is a sin. Yes, it's the crater where the final scene of Starman was shot! The huge crater, created millions of years ago by a meteor, still emanates a mysterious cosmic energy and the visitors' center will prepare for you a lifetime experience.



GLEN CANYON DAM

130 miles from Route 66

If you love spectacular technical work in conjunction with beautiful nature, you must definitely see Glen Canyon Dam. The path to the dam is bordered with unusually shaped rocks, which turn all shades of red, particularly at sunset. On the way, a view from the top of the hills of the canyon land awaits you. After a long ride on flat land it's a pleasant change. The dam itself, which the Colorado River feeding Powell Lake enters, is also stunning due to the fact that it's built in a deep canyon with captivating views. Even here you can make the best of the sunset and obtain beautiful pictures.

If you enter Road 64 in Cameron on your way back, it will take you directly to the Grand Canyon. But it would be a shame not to return to Flagstaff, to cross the beautiful stretches of Route 66 by Bellemont and Parks or not set off for the Grand Canyon, for example, from the town of Williams. Plan to spend a night in Williams - there are amazing restaurants and bars in the center, the town is vibrant with life all night long and it is somehow reminiscent of Europe. Maybe it's also because there has opened a new craft brewery with a restaurant where you can have fresh draught beer from all over the world. They also have Pilsner and weissbier!



GRAND CANYON

60 miles from Route 66

The Grand Canyon is another of those “mandatory stopovers,” just because you can’t find any other place in the world stretching out on such a big area. There are millions of options for what to do in the Grand Canyon and you can spend quite a few hours there, as well as a few days. We recommend to start the sightseeing from the Desert View Watchtower and gradually stopping by other places for visitors, down to the Grand Canyon Village. You can sightsee according to your plan, and you can use shuttle transport, included in the price. If you have more time and are physically fit, you can even plan a hike along the tourist paths in multiple places. For more information, visit <https://www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/day-hiking.htm>

From the Grand Canyon you can go back to Route 66 through Williams.



GRAND CANYON SKYWALK

80 miles from Route 66

Adrenaline enthusiasts can visit the next attraction - the Grand Canyon Skywalk. This is also possible when traveling to Las Vegas. Skywalk is located approximately 52 miles from Highway 93. An adrenaline walk right above the Grand Canyon, a flight by helicopter or airplane, and a gift shop with souvenir - all this awaits you. The ascent to the Skywalk, an overhead platform with glass floor, is available with entry charge.



HOOVER DAM

75 miles from Route 66

The largest American dam where several well-known movies, including the James Bond film, *Quantum of Solace*, were filmed, is located on the border of Arizona and Nevada. Lake Mead, which is supplied with water from the Colorado River, runs into the dam. It's a colossal construction with a unique architectural design and it is definitely worth visiting.



LAKE MEAD, LAS VEGAS BAY, ECHO BAY, VALLEY OF FIRE

80 miles from Route 66

Even if you have to pay to enter the Lake Mead national reservation area, a trip by foot around the lake and subsequent traveling through the Valley of Fire will be appreciated not only by motorcyclists. The sad sight of the drying and constantly shrinking lake is compensated by a zigzagging path through the bizarre rock formations. The entire round trip up to the center of Las Vegas measures 126 miles, so don't forget to refuel before entering the national park; there's no petrol station in the reservation. If you still haven't grown tired of the view of other rocks, check out the well-known Valley of Fire. You'll then get to Las Vegas by the I15 highway.



LAS VEGAS

105 miles from Route 66

There's definitely no need to introduce you the City of Sin. It belongs among the most frequent visitor stopovers on Route 66.

In Las Vegas you should stay in casino hotels - they are well-furnished and inexpensive at the same time, and usually there are fast food places in the hotels that are usually open late at night.

If you're thinking about how to continue from Las Vegas further to Los Angeles, you might be tempted to use the I15 highway to Barstow and Victorville. Don't do it. If you take Highway 93 to return to Kingman, Route 66 will reward you with one of the most beautiful stretches through Cool Springs, old cowboy-style Oatman, Golden Shores, Needles, and the Mojave Desert. You would make a huge mistake if you missed this part of Route 66.



DEATH VALLEY

250 miles from Route 66

Death Valley is the furthest destination located from Route 66, but if you still want to visit the desert, plan it as a trip from Las Vegas, from where it's just 150 miles. Plan it as a long full-day trip with an early morning departure. Death Valley is huge and the distances between individual visitor places can be several dozens of miles. There's no mobile signal in the area and there's not even a gas station in Death Valley, so don't forget to fuel up before entering. Death Valley is known for its high temperatures, so read the precautions carefully before taking the trip and take enough water with you. Start at Dante's View, the view of the 360° panorama will take your breath away.

Even in this case, we recommend returning from Death Valley to Kingman and continuing on Route 66 further from this town and not take a short-cut by highway.



ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST

20 miles from Route 66

If there remains enough time in Los Angeles, we have a great tip for a trip to the Angeles National Forest. And due to the nature of the journey, this is a must-ride trip for every motorcyclists! If you are heading in the direction from Victorville, turn onto Road 138 at the Cajon Junction. At the next intersection, turn right again to onto Road 2 toward Wrightwood. Through Big Pines and Cedar Springs you will gradually ascend to a height of about 2,000 meters above sea level. The zigzagging path will provide you not only with a full value driving experience, but beautiful views of the land up to Palmdale. The road through the woods up to La Cañada Flintridge and Pasadena is very popular with local motorcyclists all year round. The total length of the route from Cajon Junction to La Cañada Flintridge is about 76 miles.



SANTA BARBARA

85 miles from Route 66

From Santa Monica you can take a beautiful trip along the Pacific Ocean coastline via Malibu to the picturesque seaside resort of Santa Barbara. Enjoy the holiday atmosphere in the pretty center or take a walk along the beach. However, your trip can be spoiled by a specific weather characteristic of the entire coastline. Very often there arise dense and cold fog coming in from the sea. Most often, the fog remains on the shore in the morning and it dissolves before noon, but it's not so rare that it lasts all day. The fog is treacherous also because they can appear anytime of day and spoil your stay at the beach. Motorcyclists should pack warmer clothes with their shorts and T-shirts. You won't be able to stop yourself from being cold in summer clothes on a motorcycle. Unfortunately, it's our own experience...



SAN DIEGO

135 miles from Route 66

The distance from Los Angeles to San Diego is not so great that you can't take a beautiful trip along the coast. In San Diego, visit an old lighthouse at Point Loma with a beautiful view of the bay and visit Sea World. If you are in the area, try the amazing Mexican seafood specialties at the Los Panchitos buffet. A great experience is the USS Midway aircraft carrier. Take the Coronado Bridge to the peninsula and see the famous Hotel de Coronado. It has accommodated presidents and many famous celebrities from all over the world, and the movie *Some Like it Hot* with Marilyn Monroe was filmed at the hotel.



MEXICO, TIJUANA

145 miles from Route 66

If you're tempted to visit nearby Mexico, you can reach Tijuana by crossing the border in San Diego. And we highly recommend you visiting this colorful city of many tastes - you'll be really delighted! Life in Tijuana is completely different from what you see in the US and this trip will be a welcome diversion.

Never cross the border in a rented car or motorcycle - you need to take out an insurance policy in order to drive in Mexico, which is not issued to tourists. In case of an inspection, Mexican authorities can seize your vehicle. Residents, of course, don't have this problem. The car can be parked at one of the many guarded parking lots right

on the border. You can cross the border on foot. You'll sign a residence declaration or show your visa at the border crossing point (see whether Mexico has a visa waiver agreement with your country, Slovaks don't need visas).

It's not recommended to take a taxi the short distance beyond the border, they're usually expensive. Take a short walk and a taxi on the main street. The price ranges from \$15 to \$25 per trip to the center.

When you return to the US, you have to undergo the same customs and passport procedures as upon arrival. In case you don't have luggage, the check along with the interview is quickly conducted.



SAN FRANCISCO

462 miles from Route 66

From Los Angeles you can set off for San Francisco, but expect two days to drive there and back. It's almost 9 hours along the coastline and more than 6 hours on the highway. San Francisco is another place in the US we don't have to introduce you to. A visit to Alcatraz and the Golden Bridge is a lifetime experience as well as a stroll through the steep streets of San Francisco.

On the way back, you can stop by in Silicon Valley to pay tribute to the technology giants. Enter by Highway I-5, taking State Route 152 via Pacheco State Park and see the huge San Luis water reservoir.



CHAPTER 10

PAYMENT CARD OR CASH?



Launching Pad, Wilmington, Illinois

Paying in cash is not a problem in the US. Cash is accepted in all shops or operations on Route 66. However, we don't recommend carrying bundles of banknotes or an overstuffed purse in public.

Be prepared for some problems using your payment cards, especially if you're coming from Europe. Some car rentals don't accept online payments from some European countries, so you have to pay for your car when picking it up at a branch. During your stay, you'll have a problem with the failure of US systems to correctly recognize debit and credit cards, and you'll have to repeat the payment with different settings until the system accepts it. If you are not successful in paying with a debit card, do not hesitate to repeat the payment and mark it as a credit one; We didn't encounter any problem with the acceptance of Visa or Mastercard, but we had both with us just in case.

You almost won't be able to pay with a foreign credit card at a gas station. The system simply doesn't accept it or asks for a local postal code (somewhere 000 000 worked, but 95% of the time nothing worked). If you want to save time, don't fight with the pump and go straight to the gas station cash register to pay the amount of gas you want. If you choose a sum higher than your final balance statement, you don't have to worry, the system will temporarily block the selected credit, but will eventually withdraw the actual amount on your bill from your account.

Paradoxically, we had slight problems paying at hypermarkets - don't be surprised if you pay by simply dragging a card through a terminal with a card that is strictly blocked from entering the PIN. They don't care very much about protection of payments in US, but we haven't experienced any misuse either.





CHAPTER 11

FOOD ON ROUTE 66



Chicken breast with pineapple and potato chips, Kingman



I hesitated including a chapter on eating in this book for a long time because for me the American level of gastronomy is a sensitive subject, and I know that, due to my opinion, I'll either be walking on thin ice or maybe I'll even make a couple of American gourmands angry.

The differences are huge between American and European cuisine - while our chicken soup is cooked by simply putting chicken and root vegetables in a pot, seasoning it to taste with salt and black pepper, then slicing meat into pieces and serving with thin egg noodles, in the US you'll get broth from chicken bouillon cubes, strongly seasoned to taste with "Vegeta" seasoning and so strongly thickened with starch, cream and boiled pasta that a spoon can stand in it. And there's no chicken. Frankly, it's very difficult to get used to it.

Even the first hotel continental breakfast was a huge shock to us - and we suffered another one when we realized that such a breakfast awaited us in the motels until the end of our stay.

What is an American continental breakfast? In the morning, you'll find yourself in a motel mini kitchen, where you can find an orange juice tray, burnt or coffee warmed over 100 times in a thermos flask, hot water and flavored oatmeal in paper bags. Motels that are a little better will add over-sweetened muffins with a mild chemical taste of preservatives. Motels that are a little better still have over-sweetened bagels, salty butter, mini bottles of jam with

cranberry flavor, a waffle dough tray and waffle maker. Just in one motel they had scrambled eggs made out of a semi-product and fried potato pancakes made of minced meat the receptionist had taken out of the freezer and had thawed in the microwave. And yeah, in one motel they had boiled eggs!

Not having any idea what awaited us, we came to the US for our first trip on Route 66 unprepared - we hadn't studied any recommendations for good restaurants. On the second trip we relied on our own judgment. It would be even more difficult for me to evaluate these restaurants now because my view of food is strict. I can't even get used to the fact that some restaurants and all fast foods serve food on plastic dishes with plastic cutlery and that you get your drinks in crumpled plastic cups.

That's why I don't want to evaluate restaurants in the US - I'm too influenced by a different culture of cooking and dining, and so my assessment wouldn't be objective for some readers. But I definitely want to specialize in Route 66 restaurants during one of my other visits in the future. Only when I visit them personally, I'll be glad to add information to the other editions of this book.

So now I only mention those restaurants where we felt good and where we enjoyed the meal, knowing that somewhere on the Mother Road there are dozens of others worth mentioning, though I haven't discovered them yet.

FAST FOOD RESTAURANTS

Fast food is literally everywhere in America, and they dominate restaurants. Despite the fact that there are plenty of brands and types, the quality and taste of food is very similar everywhere. It's highly probable that within a few days you'll have developed an aversion to fast food, not only because it's mostly junk food, but because the food is literally drenched in oil from the fryer, no matter whether it's a beef sandwich or chicken. If you want to taste a traditional hot dog from Chicago, Lu Lu's on Route 66, Henry's Drive In or Cozy Dog Drive In aren't a bad choice. You'll get hotdogs with various side dishes in a fast food style at fast food prices.

BISTROS

The Vietnamese, Chinese and Thai bistros are in a sharp contrast with the fast food places. Their quality also fluctuates, but they're one level higher and tastier than fast food, perhaps because they use a lot of vegetables. While we didn't enjoy Mexican fast food much, the Mexican bistros were the most pleasant surprise. Try the Chipotle chain, for example. You'll also enjoy the little donut bakeries - there was nothing to complain about concerning the one we visited along the way. We still think back to the legendary Donuts Drive In in St. Louis with two charming ladies who have been baking donuts on Route 66 for many years.

ICE CREAM

Americans make great ice cream! You'll definitely have to stop by at Rich & Creamy in Joliet and at Ted Drewes Frozen Custard in St. Louis as well. The huge range of ice cream paralyzes you for a few minutes because you won't be able to decide what you'd actually like to have. I like the fact that both operations are open even out of season, and you can get some good ice cream even when it's drizzling outside and the thermometer is a few degrees above zero.

STEAKS

If the US plays first fiddle in gastronomy in something, then it's steak. Good restaurants can prepare them in a hundred ways and thanks to the excess of beef cattle around Route 66 you can enjoy high quality meat. We recommend trying out steaks in specialized steakhouses. In smaller restaurants we also encountered some steaks that were not good. Definitely don't try a fried steak - though it's a local specialty full of fat, it would be far from the gourmet experience a classic grilled steak can give you. We had extraordinarily great steak at Big Texan in Amarillo. A very unusual and delicious steak grilled on juniper wood can be tasted in the Yippee-Ei-O Restaurant! Steakhouse in Tusayan (Grand Canyon). We had good steaks at Kingman at the Dambar & Steakhouse restaurant, and the Sizzler chain all over the US. Remember the rule - the further west, the more expensive the steak.

BARBEQUE

You can definitely try out American BBQ restaurants, you can especially count on the ribs - they're generally delicious. We had a great time eating at Swadley's BarB-Q in Oklahoma City.

Wonderful ribs and other BBQ specialties can also be enjoyed in Missouri Hick Barbeque at Cuba or at Sweetwater Bar-B-Que in St. Robert.

PIZZA

Not everybody likes American pizza, but in many places it's also possible to find Italian pizza as well. We had a very attractive-looking pizza in Kelly's Restaurant on Route 66 in Lexington; there was a delicious pizza and draft beer at the Cave Gang Pizza in Carthage, and we enjoyed the meal at the Cross Eyed Cow Pizza in Oro Grande on entry to Victorville.

BREAKFAST

Taste an American breakfast at one of the traditional restaurants, such as Rutherford's Family Diner in Kingman. In a stylish interior, you can have crumpets, scrambled eggs or a filled sandwich. It's definitely better than the aforementioned continental breakfast in hotels!

TRADITIONAL AMERICAN RESTAURANTS

You must definitely try various traditional American restaurants along Route 66. As we reached Route 66 by Thanksgiving Day, we got the opportunity to taste traditional turkey with apple pie in the historic Wagon Wheel in Needles. It's definitely worth it! We also very much liked stopping by at the Rutherford Family Restaurant in Kingman where we have never been disappointed by food nor service.

A good piece of advice to conclude: From Thursdays to Sundays, popular restaurants are completely full at night around 7 pm; many times you have to wait in a long line outside for as much as one hour so that you can get a table. As most travelers end their daily trip just at this time, we recommend you to have dinner earlier. Then you'll avoid a long and frustrating wait for your meal on a completely empty stomach.

BEER, WINE, ALCOHOL

If you want the dust from the roads to be flushed away by alcohol in the evening in your hotel room, in most states through which Route 66 passes it's possible to buy alcohol in specialized shops, gas stations and supermarkets. In some stretches where Route 66 passes through Native American reservations, the sale of alcohol is limited and, for example, you can't buy it even at gas stations.

Opinions about American beer are different, there are never ending arguments about it, so we prefer not to evaluate it. Instead let us look at the issue through the practical eyes of a European.

If you drink a lot of traditional American beer, you'll have a headache in the morning. If you have a choice, buy Mexican beer, such as Pacifico - it tastes the most like European beer and you won't have a headache. Buy 6-pack beer, it's much cheaper than individual cans. At gas stations as well as in supermarkets, beer is stored in huge cooling boxes, so it's no problem to buy a well-cooled 6-pack even on hot days. Draft beer is not very common, in restaurants you'll mainly get beer bottles.

The legal drinking age in the US is 21 years, and you have to keep alcohol hidden in public places, so bottles are often packed into a paper bag in stores right at the cash register.

In the US, there are not even stands with draft beer or beer gardens; however we found one in Chicago on a river bank at the Island Party Hut bar. You'll also be happy with the choice of draft beer in a pizzeria in Carthage, and you'll discover another garden no sooner than in the town of Williams, Arizona. In supermarkets, we want to draw your attention to a large range of so-called craft beer from small breweries. Here, a beer connoisseur should be able to find something. Supermarkets also have global beer such as Heineken, Amstel, Corona and Stella Artois.

In the US, however, small breweries with their own beer and restaurants are rapidly expanding. We can recommend one of the best ones: the Grand Canyon Brewing Company, based on our own experience, in the town of Williams.

COFFEE

Similar to the theme of American cuisine, I'm also confused about American coffee. Most Europeans are bred on Italian coffee, we can sit for hours in a good café, taste different blends of roasted coffee and enjoy the sun on terraces.

We're accustomed to enjoy drinking coffee and we're literarily attached to the combination of good coffee + good company + relaxation and tranquility. In the US coffee is drunk like any other drink. A traditional americano is prepared as percolated coffee into a large jug, which is constantly warmed up. This beverage is poured into large paper cups where the coffee is flavored with powdered cream and huge amounts of sugar. Coffee is usually drunk standing up, while walking, on the way to work, or at home during breakfast. You can get an americano in restaurants, bars and hotel lobbies. At the gas stations, a cafe latte with different flavors can be bought through the vending machines. Try it out, the experience is worth the couple of dollars.

European style cafés are hard to find in the US and mostly can only be found in large cities.

Starbucks is a kind of rescue, but the quality of prepared coffee is different at individual operations. But it's a standard level that can, with certain concessions, satisfy your taste for a good cup of coffee.

Occasionally, you do come across a paradise - a place where you have a high-quality Italian espresso pressure machine and where trained staff can serve top-quality coffee. We've managed to find only three such places, but we're looking forward to discovering others, because we know they are somewhere certainly!

If you want to enjoy a great cup of espresso, go to The Coffee Shop in the town of Las Vegas, New Mexico (just 6 miles from Route 66!); there's another one by the pool at the Tropicana Hotel café in Laughlin, and you can be pleasantly surprised by small bistros like Pao's Pastries & Cafe in Los Angeles.

If you can't live without a morning cup of coffee, we have a great thing for you. Though you'll have to sacrifice a little of your luggage space, it's worth it. You should buy a Keurig Hot K-Cups capsule coffee machine at the first supermarket for \$20-30. There's a huge selection of capsules on the market, so you can make a cup of coffee every morning that's a few categories better than the americano from the hotel thermos bottle. On the last day of our stay in the US we donated our coffee machine to the hotel staff, who welcomed it thankfully.

HYPERMARKETS AND SUPERMARKETS

There's a small grocery store or a supermarket open in every town. In larger cities, hypermarkets of well-known chains are open for a long time or even nonstop.

The selection of food is wide in smaller shops as well; however, in hypermarkets you'll appreciate the great offer of fruits and vegetables. If you have a choice, buy fresh pastry baked on site. It's somewhat more digestible than the packaged kind.

Semi-finished goods prevail strongly over fresh food; almost everything needs to be heated or baked. Most hotels have a microwave in the room, so it won't be a problem.

There's a huge selection of cold beers and non-alcoholic soft drinks in hypermarkets. Only two types of water - purified water and spring water - are actually available in stores, in some of them only the purified one is available. Of course, all bottled water is health-friendly, but we recommend buying spring water. It tastes much better than the purified one.





CHAPTER 12

MERCHANDISE, GIFT SHOPS AND ANTIQUES



Seligman

On Route 66 you can shop in hundreds of gift shops; they're open all the way along the route. Every museum has its own gift shop. At the same time, there are art galleries and antique shops on Route 66, where the owners offer you original products. We can't forget to mention the authentic Native American shops.

If you want to support people who live and create on Route 66, definitely set aside a part of your budget just for visiting galleries or antique shops. By shopping in these stores you won't only support their owners, but a number of activities on Route 66. Most of them are active in various associations that contribute to developing Route 66. In antique shops, you can buy items somehow connected to the historic Route 66 and you can bring home an original souvenir for a good price. If you want truly genuine memorabilia from Route 66, we have a great tip for you - follow Facebook's voluntary fund raising to support Route 66. Many of them have limited editions of T-shirts or other items. By purchasing them, you'll get an extraordinary item, while contributing to support Route 66 to further develop or to rescue some of the historic bridges or buildings.

Our most popular galleries include the Route 66 Community Art Gallery in Waynesville, or Lile's Art Gallery in Amarillo. An amazing collection of antiques can be found on Route 66 at the Antique Mall in Phillipsburg or at Texas Ivy Antiques in Amarillo. Of course, there's many more of them; we'll be extending this list further in other book editions.





CHAPTER 13

HOW TO BEHAVE ON ROUTE 66



You will not want to leave Tom Perkins' The Shop in Gardner. Tom's Route 66 stories are so captivating that you forget the time

Give back everything the people on Route 66 gave you, and better to add something extra as well. In the deserted places of the Mother Road the residents like it if you enter into conversation with them, or if you just simply greet them.

Do you know what's rude on Route 66? When you stop at an attraction, take a picture from an open window and move on. I see that you're trying to make the most of the journey, but to get out of the car and tell the owner "Hello" won't take more than a minute. Many times, tourists ignore the owner on purpose and pretend he or she is not there. Please don't do it - imagine someone would do it to you. You don't even have to worry about the language barrier, if you don't speak English, just smile :) A smile works everywhere in the world.

Every attraction on Route 66 features a guest book. Put a note in it. Owners keep their books aside as souvenirs and at the same time know from which parts of the world tourists came from. In many places, you can get a stamp on your travel diary. In Arizona, try to get a Route 66 Passport at one of the visitor places. After meeting simple conditions, the local Rt66 association will issue a unique certificate stating that you have traveled through the Arizona Route 66.

Did you like it a lot somewhere? Contribute financially to the place's operation. A donation is, of course, voluntary and not required, but it will help to maintain various attractive places on Route 66 open. Don't hesitate to taste local specialties as well - you

can get great fudge in a newly opened store by the Rocking Chair in Fanning or in Uranus. Along Route 66, you can buy excellent beef jerky, especially in New Mexico and Arizona. And, for example, in Tumbleweed Bar in Texola, a ghost town, the owner can make you on request the best homemade hamburger you will ever eat in the US. By purchasing things in places like this you'll help keep Route 66 incredibly diverse in a way tourists love.

CUCAMONGA SERVICE STATION®

9670

GAS 13 ¹/₂
TAX 4 ¹/₂
TOTAL 17 ¹/₂

GAS 13 ¹/₂
TAX 4 ¹/₂
TOTAL 17 ¹/₂





CHAPTER 14

HOW MUCH IS A ROAD TRIP ON ROUTE 66?



Can you guess how much money is in this bag? Write your answers to www.fb.me/route66navigation. The first three to write the right answer will get a T-shirt from us :)

ROUTE 66 COSTS FOR TWO PEOPLE

- ★ Open-jaw flight ticket | €900
- ★ Motorcycle rental rate | €2,225
- ★ Bank charges €48
- ★ Accommodation | €1,542
- ★ ESTA | €27
- ★ Insurance | €61.50
- ★ MIF fee stamp | €6.50
- ★ **INTERMEDIATE | 4810 €**
- ★ Gas, food, beverages, taxi, admissions,
other charges during the trip | €1,370
- ★ Cell phone + data bill | €100
- ★ **IN TOTAL | 6280 €**

The most common question we've been asked millions of times from all sides is: "How much did it cost?"

Right at the beginning, we made it our aim to fit the trip into a budget of 6,000 euros (2 persons); so including not only travel costs, but subsistence and gasoline expenses, admissions, and so on.

As you can see in the left column, we didn't manage it. However, it was just because we did not limit ourselves and enjoyed the trip so that we didn't miss anything on Route 66.

However, we proved that you can set off for Route 66 by spending less than half the fee per person for an organized tour through a travel agency. And it makes a difference!

If you need to find out about prices, we'll help you.

You can find a decent standard accommodation - bed & breakfast for €30-35 per person (i.e. no more than €70 room/night), but in historic motels you'll pay more - from approximately €70 to €100.

Food in a restaurant costs about €40 for two people including tips. In a fast food place you'll pay no more than €15 per portion of food and drink from a menu.

A full H-D tank costs no more than 10 euros on average. Drinks, especially water, are expensive. Be prepared to pay 2 euros at least for a small bottle.

Prices in supermarkets are in dollars about one and a half to double the European prices for comparable goods - as usual, something is a bit cheaper and something a little bit more expensive. You pay more for food than for consumer goods and clothing. American beer costs about €2-3 per can in a 6-pack; you can find individual cans for €5-6.

Clothes needed for the trip (T-shirts, socks, lingerie) can be, on the contrary, bought at a fraction of the price in our country, especially in big supermarket sales.

Travelers from Europe are used to taxes and VAT being automatically included in the price of goods. However, in the USA, sales tax is added when you pay, so the price marked on an item -

and virtually everything is taxed - isn't necessarily the final price. For example, those sunglasses you picked up for \$10 might actually cost you \$10.66 at the till. Even more confusingly, the tax rate changes from state to state and city to city! However, the average is around 7%. When booking into a motel, you may be charged a city tax as well as sales tax.

You can spend as much money as you have with you on trumpery - the attractions are at every step whether you visit a Native American gift shop or a Harley-Davidson store on the way..



TESLA

SLA

LA

LA

A

A

3B

3A





CHAPTER 15

LIST OF IMPORTANT ROUTE 66 WEBSITES

Historic Route 66

Turn by turn Events Books & Maps Gallery FAQ Links

Route 66: The Ultimate Road Trip
28.95 USD

The Ghosts of West
13.25 USD

Route 66: America's Main Street
13.99 USD

Turning down Route 66 has been the lifetime dream for travelers, adventurers, and dreamers. The Historic 66 website formation for all those who want to visit the legendary Route 66.

Route 66 no longer exists, the majority can't be driven and enjoyed. The [turn by turn](#) navigation will guide you on your journey through the states from Chicago to Los Angeles. It will help you to stay on track, but you'll also find ground information on the hundreds of landmarks that dot the landscape.

Along the way, you'll find inspiration for your next road trip or take a trip down memory lane. From roadside diner to reservation organizations, volunteers, and owners, a lot of these landmarks can still be seen and enjoyed along Route 66. Some treasures, however, have disappeared and can only be seen in pictures.

Are you ready for the big adventure and start building your very own memories? Current roadmaps and travel guides are poor at indicating where Route 66 ran and signs can be spotty or even missing all together. You will need a [detailed map](#) and [guide](#) before hitting the road and getting your kicks on wheels.

MM - 2014: abandoned rusty car that provides an excellent photo opportunity!

[See more...](#)

Oklahoma Tourism video features Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios on Route 66

We know this was going to happen eventually: The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department recently produced a video for Discover Oklahoma about Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios on Route 66, the gift shop that opened along 11th Street (aka Route 66)...

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Loading...

Flor Wamick · September 24, 2018 · Attractions, Businesses, Television · 1 Comment

[read more](#)

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Home

Route 66

The Complete Online Route

With our Travel Guide you can plan the Road Trip of your dreams to know to help you plan your vacations along US Route 66

US Highway 66 Travel Guide USA

America's Main Street

Preparations before the trip pay off. Everyone needs to prepare himself or herself in a different way, so we've put together a list of webpages for you where you can find interesting information.

WWW.ROUTE66NEWS.COM

A valuable source of information. Although in many cases it maps what happens in the Route 66 community, many pieces of news are of great value to tourists as well.

[HTTPS://WWW.ROUTE66GUIDE.COM/](https://WWW.ROUTE66GUIDE.COM/)

A nicely elaborated Route 66 tourist guide

[HTTPS://WWW.HISTORIC66.COM](https://WWW.HISTORIC66.COM)

A very useful webpage about Route 66

[HTTP://WWW.DRIVINGROUTE66.COM](http://WWW.DRIVINGROUTE66.COM)

Another travel guide to Route 66

[HTTPS://WWW.THEROUTE-66.COM](https://WWW.THEROUTE-66.COM)

I like this page very much. Although you can be discouraged by the opaque design, be patient, it contains a huge amount of information.

[HTTPS://WWW.ROUTEMAGAZINE.US](https://www.routemagazine.us)

Route Magazine is very well elaborated in terms of graphics and content. Be sure to buy its paper edition along the way; you'll support its publishing.

[HTTP://WWW.ROUTE66MAGAZINE.COM](http://www.route66magazine.com)

International magazine about Route 66. Be sure to buy its paper edition along the way; you'll support its publishing.

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/
ROUTE66WORLD/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/route66world/)

FB group with continuous supply information on Route 66

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/
673445826165770/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/673445826165770/)

A new group where you can find a community of nice people

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/
ROUTE66PICTURES/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/route66pictures/)

A group where travelers share photos and tips on interesting places on Route 66

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
ROUTE66NAVIGATION/](https://www.facebook.com/route66navigation/)

Route 66 Navigation application FB page where you can find current information on the situation on roads, closures and detours, as well as the selection of the most attractive information directly from Route 66

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/
FIRST-TIMEONROUTE66](https://www.facebook.com/groups/first-time-on-route-66/)

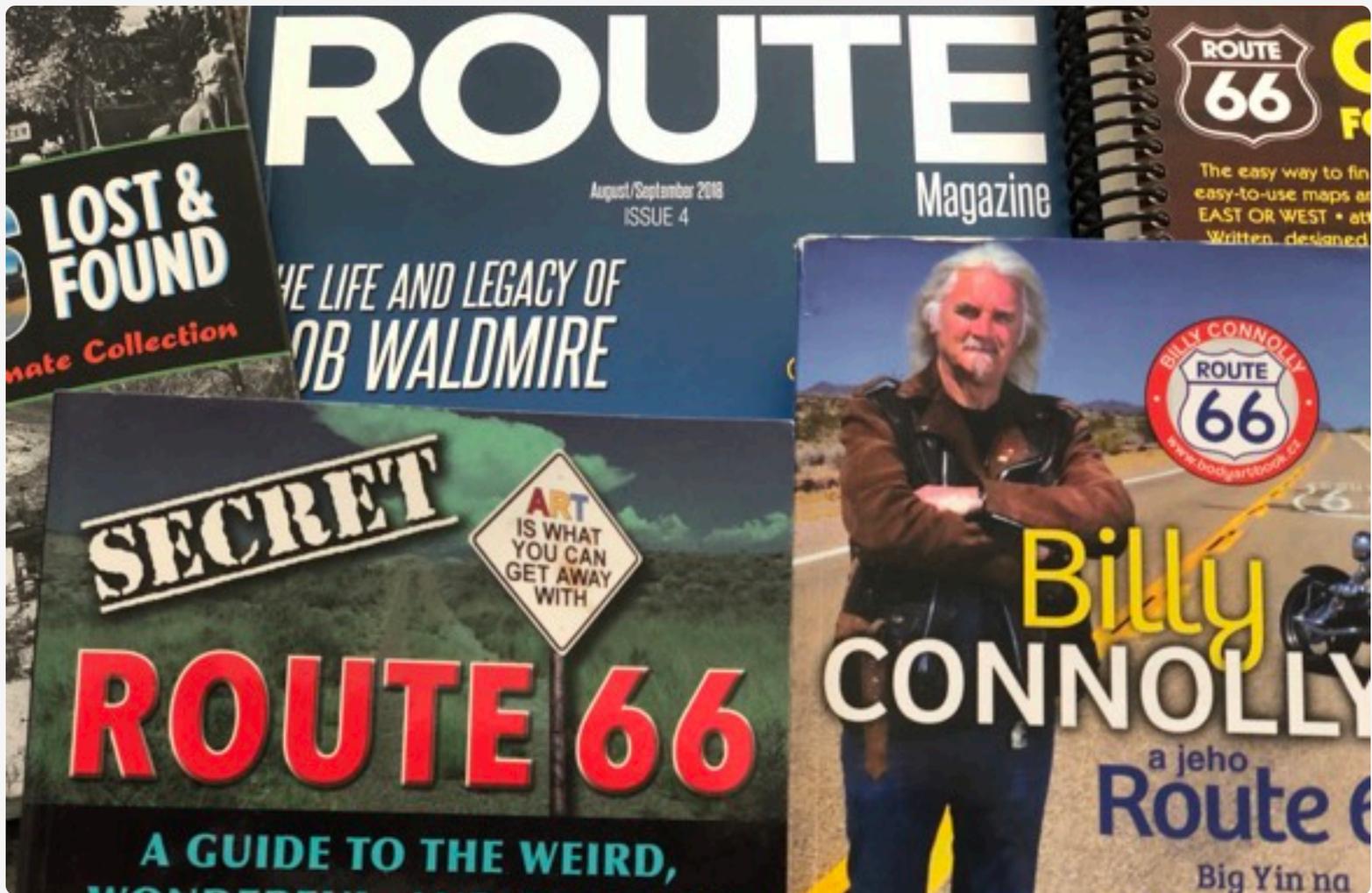
A new FB group for people like you - you'll find here pieces of advice and a community of people who can give you advice and help you before your journey.





CHAPTER 16

LIST OF "MUST-HAVE" BOOKS



There's an inexhaustible number of literature that deals with Route 66. Gradually, we'll be extending our list of books we personally read and that we can highly recommend.

BILLY CONNOLLY: BILLY CONNOLLY'S ROUTE 66

Beautiful talk about Route 66, which always awakens my desire to set off for Route 66 again when I read it. It's not a book of travels or a travel guide, but it's a great read though.

JIM ROSS: SECRET ROUTE 66: A GUIDE TO THE WEIRD, WONDERFUL, AND OBSCURE

I absolutely love this book, it reveals various secrets of Route 66

JIM HINCKLEY: THE ROUTE 66 ENCYCLOPEDIA

Jim Hinckley is one of the most active personalities on Route 66. He wrote several books about which you definitely won't go wrong.

A. OLSEN RUSSELL: ROUTE 66 LOST & FOUND

On Route 66 several historical places vanish every year. In this book the author describes many of them along with their interesting stories.

I'M IN THE US - HOW
CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

JIM HINCKLEY: 100 THINGS TO DO ON ROUTE 66 BEFORE YOU DIE

The hundred-first thing is clear - buy this book :)



CHAPTER 17

CONCLUSION



I'M IN THE US - HOW
CAN I ENJOY MY TRIP?

EACH OF US IS DIFFERENT, AND EACH OF US
CAN FIND SOMETHING UNIQUE ON ROUTE 66.

ENJOY YOUR RIDE. EXPERIENCE TRUE
FREEDOM ON ROUTE 66 WITH THE WIND
IN YOUR HAIR.

RIDE FREE!



[FACEBOOK.COM/ROUTE66NAVIGATION](https://www.facebook.com/route66navigation)



[INSTAGRAM.COM/ROUTE66NAVIGATION](https://www.instagram.com/route66navigation)

CONCLUSION