

AN AMERICAN ODYSSEY
HISTORIC

ROUTE 66

CHICAGO TO SANTA MONICA ON THE MOTHER ROAD

May 20 - June 1, 2027

October 14 - 26, 2027



UNCOMMON JOURNEYS



"Get your kicks on Route 66," sang Nat King Cole—and for the Mother Road's 100th anniversary in 2026, it's still the best advice around. No highway in America is more iconic than Route 66, the storied ribbon of asphalt immortalized in songs, stories, and the American imagination. To honor this centennial milestone, we've crafted a special tribute journey packed with everything you've come to expect from us: small-group touring, superb hotels, two-night stays in both Santa Fe and the Grand Canyon, scenic train travel, legendary dining, and—naturally—the iconic Route 66; the great American roadtrip.

Your adventure begins in downtown Chicago and winds westward through some of Route 66's most famous waypoints—St. Louis, Springfield, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, Santa Fe, Winslow, and Kingman, just to name a few. Along the way, the road reveals its full grandeur: the Painted Desert and Petrified Forest, the majestic Grand Canyon, and the Pacific Coast Highway at Santa Monica where Route 66 meets the Pacific. You'll also encounter marvels of human achievement, such as St. Louis's soaring Gateway Arch and the historic Grand Canyon Railway.

This journey is a true passage through time and across America's legendary highway. Quirky roadside treasures await at every turn—the Chain of Rocks Bridge in St. Louis, the shimmering Meramec Caverns, the beloved Blue Whale of Catoosa, the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, and Meteor Crater near Winslow. Speaking of Winslow, you'll enjoy an unforgettable overnight stay at the beautifully restored La Posada Hotel, the last great hotel built by the Santa Fe Railway. And of course, there's time to stand on that corner in Winslow, made famous by the Eagles.



Great dining is woven throughout your trip. Savor deep-dish pizza at Giordano's in Chicago, indulge in Ted Drewes Frozen Custard in St. Louis, and sample one of America's most celebrated hamburgers in El Reno, Oklahoma. A highlight awaits in Amarillo: a magnificent steak dinner at the legendary Big Texan Steak Ranch.

After crossing the country in comfort and wonder, your adventure concludes at Santa Monica's iconic "End of the Trail" sign—the

triumphant finale to your Route 66 odyssey. This centennial year is the perfect moment to embrace the open road, the wide sky, and the trip of a lifetime on America's most legendary highway.



FEATURES

Small group touring with no more than 24 travelers. There is a professional tour manager from start to finish to handle all of the details.

A gentle pace with no long days of travel and the luxury of a few **two-night hotel stays** in the itinerary.

Superb hotels throughout, all **with breakfast daily**. Carefully planned **luncheons and dinners** are also included on some days with some special treats like **Giordano's, for the best deep dish pizza in Chicago**, legendary **Lou Mitchells in Chicago for the 'best breakfast in America'**, and the **world-famed Big Texan Steakhouse in Amarillo** to name just a few.

Must-see sights like the famed **Arch in St Louis**, the **Petrified Forest National Park** and the **Painted Desert**, the **Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo**, historic **Santa Fe** and the **Santa Monica Pier**, the '*end of the trail*' for Route 66.

Exceptional interludes with **two nights in enchanting Santa Fe, NM**, and **two nights in quaint Williams, AZ**, with a **full day excursion with the acclaimed Grand Canyon Railway to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon** where we tour the **South Rim including Grandview and Desert View**.

Epic sightseeing from start to finish with all admission fees included.

Special farewell dinner in Los Angeles with an excellent airport hotel with complimentary shuttle at the end of the trip. Guests may enjoy extra time in Chicago before the trip or in Los Angeles after the tour taking advantage of our special hotel rates.

ROUTE 66 POINTS OF INTEREST



CALIFORNIA

Roy's Motel & Cafe in Amboy
Bottle Tree Ranch in Barstow
The Wigwam Motel in San Bernardino
Santa Monica Pier

ARIZONA

The Painted Desert National Park, and Petrified Forest
The Wigwam Hotel in Holbrook
Meteor Crater
Williams and the Grand Canyon Railway
The South Rim of the Grand Canyon
The best-preserved stretch of Route 66, from Ash Fork to Kingman via Seligman and Peach Springs, with many stops

ILLINOIS

The Official Route 66 Beginning Sign on Adams St in Chicago
Lou Mitchell's Restaurant and Jackson Blvd
The remains of Route 66 seen from our train trip between Chicago and St Louis

MISSOURI

The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge over the Mississippi River
The St. Louis Arch
Ted Drewes Frozen Custard Shop
Meramec Caverns
Cuba, MO with its Route 66 Murals
The Route 66 Car Museum
The Wagon Wheel Motel

OKLAHOMA

The Mother Road Market in Tulsa
The Will Rogers Theatre
The Blue Whale of Catoosa
Lucille's historic Route 66 Service Station
Pops 66
Sid's Diner in El Reno, a Route 66 tradition famed for its burgers

NEW MEXICO

The famed Blue Swallow Motel, a Route 66 landmark
Tee Pee Curio shop
Blue Hole in Santa Rosa
Santa Fe and the historic Plaza



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Chicago, IL / Silversmith Hotel **D**

Your adventure begins where the Mother Road itself begins. Settle in at the elegant Silversmith Hotel, nestled in Chicago's vibrant Loop and just steps from Grant Park—where Route 66 officially starts its legendary westward run. This evening, get to know your fellow travelers over a casual welcome dinner at Giordano's, home to Chicago's most beloved deep-dish pizza. The perfect start to a nostalgic American journey.

DAY 2 St. Louis, MO / Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch **B**

Fuel up with an unforgettable breakfast at Lou Mitchell's—an institution as iconic as Route 66 itself. Then relax aboard a scenic train ride from Chicago to St. Louis, mirroring the historic path of the Union Pacific Railroad. Arrive in the afternoon and visit the Gateway Arch, America's shimmering monument to westward dreams. Your lovely hotel sits just steps from the Arch. The evening is yours to unwind.

DAY 3 Springfield, MO / DoubleTree by Hilton **B**

Start your morning with a sightseeing tour featuring graceful Forest Park and the stunning Basilica of St. Louis. Next, journey to legendary Meramec Caverns—one of Route 66's most celebrated roadside attractions. Drive through classic Ozark landscapes to Springfield, birthplace of the name "Route 66," passing the mural-filled town of Cuba and the charming Wagon Wheel Motel. Enjoy a restful overnight stay with the evening at leisure.

DAY 4 Oklahoma City, OK / The Skirvin Hilton **B**

Today brings a medley of Mother Road delights: the bustling Mother Road Market in Tulsa, the quirky Blue Whale of Catoosa, the mid-century Will Rogers Theatre, and the modern neon-inspired icon POPS 66 with its colossal soda bottle. You'll overnight at the historic Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City's grand dame and the perfect place to rest after a day of adventure.

DAY 5 Amarillo, TX / Embassy Suites Downtown **B D**

This morning we pass the Milk Bottle Grocery—yes, a building shaped like a milk bottle—and visit Lucille's Historic Highway Gas Station. Lunch in El Reno is a treat, at an old-school diner famed for some of the best Route 66 hamburgers anywhere. Crossing into Texas, stop at the beautifully preserved U-Drop Inn in Shamrock, an art deco gem that inspired scenes in Pixar's

Cars. In Amarillo, visit the surreal Cadillac Ranch—ten Cadillacs nose-down in the desert, an ever-changing canvas of spray paint. Tonight's dinner is at the legendary Big Texan Steakhouse.

DAY 6 Santa Fe, NM / Inn of the Governors **B D**

Follow Route 66 through wide-open skies to Tucumcari, where you'll see the iconic Blue Swallow Motel and quirky Tee Pee Curios. Pause at the Blue Hole of Santa Rosa, a sparkling natural pool, before taking the historic Santa Fe Loop—an early alignment of Route 66. Arrive in timeless Santa Fe and enjoy a stroll past La Fonda on the Plaza and the Palace of the Governors. Tonight features a delicious New Mexico dinner as we begin our two-night stay.

DAY 7 Santa Fe, NM / Inn of the Governors **B**

This morning's city tour includes the remarkable Loretto Chapel and its fabled "Miraculous Staircase." The rest of the day is yours—wander the art galleries, museums, and boutique shops that make Santa Fe one of America's most enchanting towns. Dinner tonight is on your own, with dozens of wonderful restaurants to choose from.

DAY 8 Winslow, AZ **B D**

Today's journey is a feast of natural beauty. Travel along preserved stretches of Route 66 to the Painted Desert and the Petrified Forest—otherworldly landscapes that stir the imagination. Stop in Holbrook to see the famous Wigwam Motel before arriving in Winslow, where standing on the corner is practically a rite of passage. Your overnight stay is at La Posada, the last-built (and lovingly restored) Harvey House hotel—an architectural masterpiece and a true step back in time.

DAY 9 Williams, AZ / Best Western Plus Inn of Williams **B**

This morning visit Meteor Crater, the massive, awe-inspiring impact site formed 50,000 years ago. With panoramic viewpoints and an excellent museum, it's an unforgettable stop. Continue on to Williams, a quintessential Route 66 town filled with neon lights, Western charm, and classic storefronts. Enjoy a relaxing evening and begin your two-night stay.

DAY 10 Williams, AZ / Best Western Plus Inn of Williams **B**

All aboard the Grand Canyon Railway! Ride this historic line just as early travelers did in 1901. At the South Rim, enjoy a full tour of the Grand Canyon including Desert View, Ooh Aah Point,

Grandview and Grand Canyon Village. Return to Williams in the late afternoon and soak in the town's glowing neon nightlife.

DAY 11 Laughlin, NV / Edgewater Hotel & Resort **B L**

Today is one of the most nostalgic stretches of Route 66 anywhere. Travel the original road through Seligman, Peach Springs, and Hackberry—classic stops dotted with Burma Shave signs and vintage Americana, framed by the rugged Black Mountains. Arrive in Laughlin, a peaceful desert oasis along the Colorado River, and enjoy a relaxing evening.

DAY 12 Los Angeles, CA / Hyatt House LAX **B D**

Cross the Mojave Desert, stopping at Roy's Motel & Café in Amboy—one of the most photographed landmarks on Route 66—and the whimsical Bottle Tree Ranch. As the Pacific draws near, follow the final miles of the Mother Road to the Santa Monica Pier, the emotional "end of the trail." Celebrate your journey tonight with a memorable farewell dinner.

DAY 13 Homeward Bound **B**

Depart with your heart full and your camera loaded: vintage motels, sweeping deserts, neon nights, historic cafés, and the spirit of America's greatest road all woven into thirteen unforgettable days.

FARES	2027
Double occupancy	\$5,995 pp
Single occupancy	\$7,195

BOOKING REQUIREMENTS

A 35% deposit of the Total Fare is required to confirm reservations aboard any tour or program. After 5 days, confirmed reservations without deposit will be automatically cancelled by our reservation system. Final Payment is due 120 days prior to the departure date. Payment by American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Discover Card, or check is accepted.

Cancellation penalties do apply and for this reason trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Trip insurance is available at a modest cost and additional information may be obtained from your travel professional or the insurance carrier of your choice. We strongly suggest that you purchase travel insurance to cover 100% of your tour cost as there are no exceptions to the cancellation penalties. CST20447949-40

For details about cancellation as well as terms & conditions, please visit <https://uncommonjourneys.com/terms-conditions>



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