



## TRI-STATE TRAVEL



### Celebrating 100 Years: A Route 66 Experience

7 Days/6 Nights | June 7-13, 2026

#### DAY 1: Sunday, June 7, 2026

On our way...Welcome Aboard!! Your Tri-State Travel tour director will familiarize you with your deluxe motorcoach as we begin our Route 66 Experience. Our first stop is an included lunch at the **Dixie Family Restaurant and Truck Stop in McLean, IL**. Established in 1928 it is considered the oldest truck stop on Route 66. **We will follow Route 66 and the Illinois Yellow Brick Road located in Auburn**; this is a unique and historic stretch of the Mother Road. As we drive over this charming road, we are experiencing a piece of history appreciating the craftsmanship and enduring legacy of Route 66. We arrive in Girard, a charming small town located just off historic Route 66. **A local guide will introduce you to Girard's vibrant Postcard Mural**, a colorful tribute to Route 66 that captures the essence of the town and its connection to the historic road. Additionally, the Route 66 Monument stands proudly in Girard, commemorating the cultural and historical significance of the legendary highway. **The local tour concludes at Doc's Off 66**. It is a nostalgic and charming spot that captures the spirit of historic Route 66. Originally opened as a service station and diner during the golden age of Route 66, Doc's Off 66 is adorned with vintage decor and Route 66 memorabilia, providing a delightful glimpse into the past.

An **Ice Cream Sundae is included**. We depart for the **Pink Elephant** via the Turkey Tracks. A quick stop will be made at the Turkey Tracks on 66. The Turkey Tracks is a quirky and delightful roadside attraction that captures the spirit of America's Mother Road. The **Pink Elephant Antique Mall** is a charming treasure trove nestled along historic Route 66. This eclectic mall is celebrated for its vibrant collection of antiques, vintage finds, and Route 66 memorabilia, which captures the spirit and nostalgia of America's famous highway. Among the highlights are whimsical Route 66 icons, such as classic neon signs, retro gas pumps, and vintage road maps, each evoking a sense of Americana and adventure. The **world's largest ketchup bottle** is a must see before we check



into our hotel. This quirky and beloved roadside attraction standing 170 feet tall was constructed in 1949 as a water tower for the G.S. Suppiger Company, bottlers of Brooks Old Original Tangy Catsup. **Our overnight is in Collinsville, IL. After hotel check in enjoy the kick back reception. (Lunch/Kickback Reception)**

#### Day 2: Monday, June 8, 2026

Breakfast is included at the hotel. We continue to explore Route 66 in Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma. The first stop is the **Chain of Rocks Bridge Park, St. Louis, MO**. The Chain of Rocks Bridge, spanning the Mississippi River between Madison, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri, is an iconic landmark. Built in 1929, this mile-long bridge is renowned for its distinctive 30-degree bend near the middle, a unique engineering feature that adds to its charm and historical significance. We arrive at the **Cuba, MO Visitor Center to meet our local guide**. Cuba welcomes visitors with a vibrant outdoor art gallery, earning the town the moniker "Route 66 Mural City." Building walls have been transformed into canvases depicting compelling scenes from local and national history. Lunch is included at **Frisco's Grill & Pub**. Although not part of the original route it is right off Historic Route 66 and is known for its unique train-themed decor that pays homage to the old Frisco Railroad a key part of your dining experience. We continue along Route 66 to the **"Route 66 Red Rocker,"** located just west of Cuba in Fanning. Erected in 2008 with the express purpose of breaking the Guinness World Record for the largest rocking chair, it stands at an impressive 42 feet tall with 31.5-foot-long rockers. We arrive at the Uranus Missouri Towne Center. A unique attraction located along historic Route 66 in St. Robert, Missouri known for its quirky name and offbeat charm. The center is a playful destination featuring a variety of novelty shops, a popular fudge factory, a general store, and a unique museum dedicated to oddities and curiosities. We **continue on to Waynesville** where you will have an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful murals created by the famous artist Ray Harvey. Take a picture of the 8-foot 2-ton Route 66 Shield. Visit the Cherokee Encampment and the National Park Service Trail of Tears Memorial, alongside the gorgeous Roubidoux Creek. **Our next stop, The Mexican Villa**, shares a notable connection with the historic Route 66, particularly through its original location at 1408 S. National Avenue. Established in 1951 by G.H. Ferguson and his wife Betty, the spot initially operated as the Pig 'N Bun Drive In. **Dessert this evening is at the Historic Rockwood Motor Court**. Built in 1929 it is one of the original motor courts on Route 66. With only 10 rooms for lodging, we were unable to overnight here, however, Phylis has invited us for dessert. **Our overnight accommodations are in Springfield, MO. (B,L,D)**

### Day 3: Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Breakfast is included before we depart with our local guide who will share stories of the Route. Our first stop is at the **Gary Turner “Gay Parita” Sinclair service station**. Step back in time to a 1930 Route 66 gas station. Fred Watson originally named the jumble of the art deco gas station after his wife Gay, and over the years, it became one of the favorite stops along Route 66. Next is a stop at Lottie’s Soda Shoppe: It is the story of a Route 66 romance between a Soda Jerk named Lottie and a Grease Monkey named Valgene. Take a look at the memorabilia on the walls including plaques displaying some of Lottie’s recipes. Enjoy an included snack prior to our departure. Just off Route 66—we will visit **Red Oak, a ghost town**—not really. It has authentic old buildings and an old cemetery, and it looks like a ghost town. Today, this quaint “ghost town” includes a Phillips 66 station, an old schoolhouse, feed store, diner, town hall, jail, several homes, and more. Frozen in time, a walk through Red Oak II is a vivid stroll through the past. **A salad lunch is included in the General Store**. We depart and arrive in Carthage for a mini tour. A centerpiece of the town is the Jasper County Courthouse. It is a striking example of Romanesque Revival architecture and one of the most iconic courthouses in the Midwest, and the second most photographed building in Missouri. Our next stop is at the **Praying Hands Memorial**. It is impressive-- an estimated 220,000 pounds of steel and concrete, 32 feet high, atop a 40-foot-high man-made hill, unannounced and unexpected. The Praying Hands were sculpted over a period of several years by local artist J.E. “Jack” Dawson and dedicated with much local fanfare on April 28, 1974. Next on our list is a visit to **Kan-O-Tex Service Station**. Originally Little’s Service Station, Kan-O-Tex Service Station is now home for Cars on the Route. It originally served U.S. Route 66 motorists in 1934 and is now home to a 1951 International boom truck on which Pixar’s animated character Tow Mater was based; Joe Ranft, a Pixar animator, discovered it during a research trip for the movie Cars. We now make our way to **Gearhead Curios**. Kansas is the state that has the shortest stretch of road on Route 66, approximately 11 miles. Built from native stone in 1939 the station has served Southeast Kansas in many forms over the years. It is presently a roadside attraction offering a variety of photo opts and souvenirs. Gearheads has only one restroom and it is so unique that people spend more time taking pictures of it than using it. It is a short drive to Commerce, OK via the **Rainbow Bridge**. Also known as the Brush Creek Bridge, it is a historic landmark on Route 66 in Baxter Springs, Kansas. Built in 1923, this unique and graceful structure is the sole surviving Marsh arch bridge on the entire length of the former Route 66 highway. It is known for its graceful, curved design that creates a “rainbow” appearance. We arrive **Commerce, OK**. Located on historic Route 66, it is a small, friendly town best known as the **home of baseball legend Mickey Mantle**. The modest childhood home of Mickey Mantle, the legendary New York Yankees slugger, stands as a testament to his humble beginnings along the storied path of Route 66. Nestled in the small town of Commerce, Oklahoma, this unassuming dwelling holds a significant place in baseball history. We arrive at the **Coleman Theater for tour, dinner and entertainment**. This beautifully restored vaudeville-era theater is located along the iconic highway, it has played a significant role in the area’s history. The tour provides insights into the Coleman Theater’s fascinating history, architectural features, and the miraculous story of its grassroots renovation. A highlight is experiencing the **Coleman’s Mighty Wurlitzer organ**. Built in 1928. It remains the only Wurlitzer theater organ in the world still playing in its original venue. Also included is a memorable evening with a delicious dinner followed by a classic film screening within the elegant ambiance of the Coleman Theater. **Accommodations tonight are in Miami, OK. (B,LD)**



#### Day 4: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Depart for **Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park**. Enroute a picture stop will be made at the "**Ribbon Rd.**" A new state at the time of Route 66's inception, Oklahoma could afford to pave a two-lane road halfway across the state or a one lane road across the whole state. They chose the latter. It is the only remaining 9-foot-wide segment on Route 66. Totem Pole Park is the oldest and largest example of folk-art in Oklahoma, its construction lasting from 1937 to 1961. It contains the highly decorated creations of Galloway, one of Oklahoma's premier folk artists and significant in the "visionary art" movement. He created a 90-foot-tall main totem pole heavily carved with bas-relief designs, the largest art object on the property. We arrive at the **Will Rogers Memorial Museum**. The museum pays tribute to America's Cowboy Philosopher. It houses the world's largest collection of Will Rogers memorabilia and his entire collection of writings. **Lunch is included at the Memorial.** Arrive at the **Blue Whale of Catoosa**. It has become one of the most recognizable attractions on old Route 66. Hugh Davis surprised his wife on their 34th wedding anniversary by unveiling an 80-foot-long sperm whale that he had built out of pipe and concrete in a little pond on their property. By the mid-1970s, the happy whale with the toothy smile had become the centerpiece of Hugh and Zelta's new attraction, Nature's Acres. The spring-fed pond had been enlarged by Hugh into a commercial swimming hole, and the Blue Whale became a Route 66 icon. Meadow Gold Mack is a Friendly Lumberjack. His new store, **Meadow Gold Mack's Route 66 Outpost** resides just below the world-renowned Meadow Gold neon sign on Route 66 in the heart of **Tulsa, Oklahoma**, just across the street from the famous **Buck Atom's Cosmic Curios and Buck's Vintage**. Buck Atom's is famous for their giant Buck Atom space cowboy muffler man statue who was recently joined by his female counterpart, 19-ft. tall Stella Atom, the Cosmic Cowgirl. Meadow Gold Mack is their good buddy across the street. Route 66 is becoming Tulsa's Land of the Giants. Dinner is included at the **Rock Café**. Opened in 1939, the Rock Cafe in Stroud has been a popular Route 66 attraction for multiple generations. This beloved eatery has maintained its historic rock walls, foundation and original grill since WWII. Travelers stop at this nostalgic destination on the National Register of Historic Places for unique menu items and rural Oklahoma hospitality. Dawn Welch has owned the cafe since 1993, and she was the inspiration for Sally Carrera in the 2006 animated Pixar film "Cars." **Overnight accommodations will be in Stroud, OK. (B,L,D)**



#### Day 5: Thursday, June 11, 2026

Breakfast is included at the hotel. Arrive the **Historic Threatt Filling Station**. Built around 1915 using local sandstone, the Threatt Service Station, was a historic filling station. It was founded in 1915 by Allen Threatt, Sr., and was the only known Black-owned and operated gas station along Route 66. The station served as a safe haven for Black travelers during the Jim Crow era, providing a place to rest and refuel when other businesses along the route were off-limits to them. The Threatt Filling Station was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1995 and was designated a National Treasure by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2021. We now depart for **Oklahoma City**. **Our tour includes The Oklahoma City National Memorial** which stands as a solemn reminder of the tragic bombing of 1995. Although not directly on Route 66, the iconic Mother Road, weaves through the city, and it is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. The tour also includes a ride on the **Wheeler Ferris Wheel**. Located for decades on the iconic Santa Monica Pier in California, this historic landmark was featured in countless Hollywood films and captured the hearts of millions. While it doesn't have a direct historical link to the exact end of Route 66, its presence in Oklahoma City adds to the city's connection to the iconic highway's spirit of travel, revitalization, and creating memorable experiences. Lunch is on your own. This iconic Route 66 landmark is instantly recognizable by its towering, **66-foot-tall soda bottle sculpture** that pays homage to the historic highway it sits beside. More than just a quirky photo op, **Pop 66** serves as a unique gas station, diner, and a soda lover's paradise, boasting a selection of hundreds of different soda varieties, from classic flavors to the truly bizarre. For anyone traveling the "Mother Road," it offers a fun blend of nostalgia, roadside Americana, and a chance to discover our next favorite (or most surprising) fizzy drink. A rest stop will be made at the **Will Rogers Archway** near Vinita, Oklahoma. It holds a notable place in McDonald's history. This unique structure, spanning Interstate 44's Will Rogers Turnpike, was once recognized as the world's largest McDonald's restaurant. While it no longer holds that title, having been surpassed by other locations, its architectural significance remains. Originally known as the Glass House Restaurant, the archway now serves as a service plaza, incorporating a McDonald's alongside other establishments. It's a roadside landmark that offers travelers a distinctive experience, blending food services with a piece of Oklahoma's highway history. **Overnight is in Joplin, MO. (B, Kickback Reception)**

## Day 6: Friday, June 12, 2026

Breakfast is included at the hotel. We will **tour Joplin with our local guide**. Learn about Joplin's beginnings using City Hall's murals. Joplin at the Turn of the Century, 1896-1906: Painted by world-renowned American Regionalist artist Thomas Hart Benton, this is his only autobiographical work and one of his finest creations. This mural was the final piece that Benton signed and it was dedicated in 1973, on Joplin's 100th birthday. Our next stop is **Bonnie and Clyde Hideout Apartment**: While not on Route 66, this location is an important piece of the history of Bonnie and Clyde. **Schifferdecker Park in Joplin, Missouri**, has become a vibrant canvas for 3D street art, particularly through its hosting of the World Street Painting Festival. Artists from around the globe have transformed sections of the park's pavement into interactive, optical illusions. These captivating artworks invite visitors to step into the scenes, creating engaging photo opportunities and a unique, immersive art experience. **Grand Falls**, nestled in Joplin, Missouri, is a remarkable natural wonder renowned as the largest continuously flowing waterfall in the state. While its drop is a modest 12 feet, it spans an impressive 163 feet wide across a solid chert rock ledge on Shoal Creek, creating a picturesque **"miniature Niagara Falls."** **Precious Moments Chapel** is our next stop. It all began more than thirty-five years ago, when Precious Moments® creator Samuel J Butcher began drawing the endearing teardrop-eye children he called "Precious Moments" as gifts for family and friends. **Lunch is included at Precious Moments. Our last overnight is in St. Joseph, MO. (B,L, Kickback Reception)**

## Day 7: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Breakfast is included at your hotel. This morning, we are **joined by a local step on guide** who will share the local history of St. Joseph, MO. The tour offers glimpses into this city's rich historical fabric, highlighted by figures like Walter Cronkite and the infamous "Mr. Howard." One can easily imagine the pioneering spirit that shaped this city while passing by the campus of Missouri Western State University, home to the Walter Cronkite Memorial, a tribute to the legendary journalist born here. We have scheduled a stop at the **Pony Express Museum**: It marks the birthplace of this daring mail service. It is time to make our way home with many fond memories and stories of our "Route 66 Experience". (B)

### YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Deluxe Motorcoach Transportation
- 6 Nights' Accommodations
- 14 Meals (6 breakfasts, 5 Lunches, 3 Dinners) & 2 Kick Back Receptions
- Visit to the Pink Elephant Antique Mall
- Visit to the World's Largest Ketchup Bottle
- Visit to Chain of Rocks Bridge
- Guided tour of Cuba Murals and Route 66 Red Rocker
- Visit to Uranus Missouri Town Center
- Guided tour of Waynesville Missouri's murals and the National Park Service Trail of Tears Memorial
- Guided tour between Springfield, MO and Miami, OK to include:
  - Tour of Tulsa, OK
  - Tour of Oklahoma City
  - Admission to Ed Galloway's Totem Pole Park
  - Admission to the Will Rogers Memorial Museum
  - Admission to and tour of Precious Moments Chapel
- Guided Tour of St. Joseph, MO including:
  - Luggage Handling for one suitcase not to exceed 50 # (Not available/Hampton Inn Stroud, OK.
  - Taxes and Gratuities on Included Accommodations, Attractions, Meals and Step on Guides



\*Tri-State Travel reserves the right to change any arrangements listed in this itinerary. Should conditions necessitate changes: substitution of equal value or cancellations of the arrangements may occur. \*Tri-State Travel reserves the right to add any fuel surcharges that we receive from all our vendors ie: airlines, cruise lines, motorcoach companies, etc. Additional costs may be added any time prior to travel. \*Tri-State Travel cannot guarantee round trip hotel luggage handling due to hotel staff shortages

***We have assigned a Physical Activity Rating LEVEL 3 to this tour, possibly climbing a flight of stairs and some standing during tours and handling your carry-on bag.***

### Your Tour Price:

\$2,449.00 per person – 2 to a room  
\$3,039.00 per person – single