

# illinois

Route 66



## the birthplace of the road trip

**Hit the mother road and all of her vintage glory**

It's the things you see along the way that you remember most. The giant statue of the guy holding a hot dog. The drive-in where it's not a day past 1955. The Lincoln monument. Legendary Route 66 begins in Illinois and offers road trippers 300 miles of vintage, quirky, and larger-than-life roadside attractions.



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## Route 66



Architecture Boat Tour



Lou Mitchell's



Cloud Gate - The Bean



Gino's Pizza

Many attractions have reopened with limited capacity or different operating hours. Inquire with attractions ahead of time for up-to-date travel policies and health and safety information.

### Day 1 Chicago

Chicago is known for its impressive architecture, famous museums, great music and delicious food. Start your day off with an **architecture boat tour** and enjoy the city from a new perspective. Then peruse the shops on the **Magnificent Mile** before refueling at a classic Chicago establishment like **Billy Goat Tavern** or **Lou Mitchell's**. Take it easy in the afternoon with a trip to the **Chicago History Museum** or the **Museum of Science and Industry**.

### Day 2 Chicago

Take in the city sights! **Cloud Gate** in **Millennium Park** (aka "The Bean") is a must-see attraction. Marvel at this unique sculpture from all angles and snap a few pics of your reflection. Then, take things to the next level with a visit to the best observation decks in the city: **Skydeck Chicago** and **360 Chicago**. Your jaw will drop as you marvel at the impressive scale of the city's skyline and Lake Michigan. Grab a slice of Chicago's famous **deep dish pizza** for lunch, and then spend the afternoon exploring the famous works of art at the **Art Institute of Chicago**, one of the largest art museums in the U.S.

### Day 3 Heritage Corridor

#### Willowbrook, Joliet & Wilmington

When you're ready to hit the road, be sure to snap the perfect selfie at the very spot Route 66 begins. You'll find the **iconic sign** on E. Jackson Blvd. On your way out of the city, set the course for **Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket**. As seen on Guy Fieri's Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives, this classic Route 66 spot will satisfy your appetite and leave you with a smile. Next up is the **Old Joliet Prison Tour**. Featured in The Blues Brothers, this historic location is sure to entertain. Hear tales of notorious inmates and grab a snap of yourself in a cell as you explore the prison grounds.

#### Pontiac

As you head toward Pontiac, pull over for a quick pic with the larger than life **Gemini Giant**, then get ready to start embracing Route 66 memorabilia up close. In Pontiac, visit the

**Route 66 Mural & Hall of Fame Museum** for an iconic photo spot and get your classic car fix at the **Pontiac-Oakland Automobile Museum**.

#### Atlanta & Springfield

On the way to Springfield, Atlanta is worth a stop for a pic with another iconic roadside Muffler Man figure – the **Paul Bunyon Statue**. Your Illinois road trip wouldn't be complete without a dose of Honest Abe – you are in the Land of Lincoln, after all. So if you've still got time on day 3, stop by the **Lincoln Tomb** and grab a photo rubbing Lincoln's nose (it's good luck!). **Route 66 Motorheads** is a great option for a themed dinner (plus there is a museum on site), or, check out **Obed & Isaac's Microbrewery** for a family-friendly brewpub atmosphere.

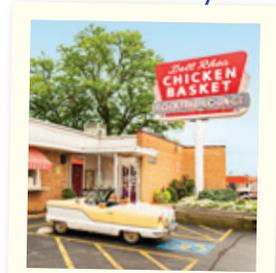
### Day 4 Springfield

In Springfield, visit both the **Illinois State Capitol** and Old State Capitol for a dose of history. Also make time for the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library & Museum** – known for its variety of unique and interactive exhibits. For food, **Cozy Dog Drive In** is the perfect lunch spot to break up your day. As you depart, make time for a quick photo stop on the **Historic Route 66 brick road** in Auburn.

### Day 5 Great Rivers & Routes

As you near the Great Rivers & Routes area, be sure to squeeze in as many unique roadside stops as you can. It'll be hard to leave empty-handed from the **Pink Elephant Antique Mall** where you can browse all kinds of retro knick-knacks and unique treasures. Then it's on to the **World's Largest Catsup Bottle** for a great roadside stop and photo-op. In Collinsville, be sure to visit **Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site** for a great view and breath of fresh air. **Chain of Rocks Bridge** is another unique attraction nearby. For a bit of extra height, a **Grafton Sky Tour** offers spectacular aerial views with the added bonus of **Aerie's Winery** waiting for you at the top.

**And that completes your Illinois Route 66 road trip! This itinerary can easily be started in Chicago – or flip the route if you are starting in southern Illinois.**



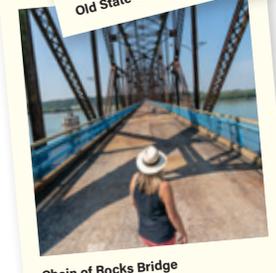
Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket



Gemini Giant



Old State Capitol



Chain of Rocks Bridge

