



FACULTAD DE TURISMO Y FINANZAS

GRADO EN TURISMO

ROUTE 66 ROAD TRIP

Trabajo Fin de Grado presentado por Elena Mesa Castro, siendo la tutora del mismo la profesora María del Mar Torreblanca López.

Vº. Bº. del Tutora:

Alumna:

Dña. MARIA DEL MAR TORREBLANCA LÓPEZ

Dña. ELENA MESA CASTRO

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TÍTULO:

ROUTE 66 ROAD TRIP

AUTOR:

ELENA MESA CASTRO

TUTOR:

MARÍA DEL MAR TORREBLANCA LÓPEZ

DEPARTAMENTO:

DEPARTAMENTO DE INGLÉS

ÁREA DE CONOCIMIENTO:

INGLÉS

RESUMEN:

This study presents a detailed analysis of Route 66. Not only its history, since its beginning in 1926 but it also shows a detailed itinerary of the eight states which the Route 66 crosses, and the getting there and the coming back included. Also, the places of interest along the 3939 km of this road trip are mentioned, mainly the historic sites but also other places with some kind of interest and importance.

In addition, this work includes some important information, recommendations and prices, being useful before planning this road trip.

PALABRAS CLAVE:

Route 66; Road trip; United States; Itinerary; Historic

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Who has not heard sometime, either on TV, music or from a friend, about Route 66? For a long time, Route 66 only has not been in plenty of references such as in television or music but it has also been reason for travelling for millions of travelers every year who decide to traverse a section or the whole mythic road, appreciating the singularities between one state and another, or even between each city.

There are so many years of history behind the well-known Mother Road of America, since its birthplace in 1926 until its contemporary revival, passing through its decline in the 60s. In this study we intend to transform that idea or knowledge that every person has about this famous American road, a road trip from the beginning until the end of Route 66, crossing the 8 states that form this road and experience the different sensations that every single one of them has to offer.

1.2 Objectives and methodology

The objective is not only to get to know deeply the mythic Route 66 and the historic sites hidden on it but also to detail the prices and necessary data for planning a trip of these characteristics, however, it also depends on the money, time and personal preferences of the visitors who wish to begin this journey, given that along the way there are plenty of options either for lodging or leisure activities for all kind of economies and kind of tourists. The same happens referring to the time frame to spend on this journey, due to the complexity of the kind of trip we are planning, it can go from a week to a month or more, depending on the section to cross to.

In this case, my itinerary has a 13 days' approach, crossing the whole Route 66 but without an excessive amount of time spent on every city, having as an exception Chicago and Los Angeles due to the extension and importance of these two cities.

Our target tourist is a middle class visitor, willing to experience the adventure on the oldest and most famous road of America.

With respect to the methodology used in this study, due to the elaboration of this work in English, several webs or references consulted were in Spanish, therefore I translated them. For the climate data, climate webs from the United States were consulted and then the average temperature was estimated based on these data in order to elaborate graphics briefly showing this information.

At the beginning of every state, there will be an index card with the main information, this way it will be easier to follow the itinerary and the places we are visiting.

The bibliography used is not extensive, because most of the information was found mostly on the internet webs and there were not many books published about this topic. Also on the webs there was plenty of information and quite detailed. I mention them on the bibliography but also I have also complemented them with my own additions. Also, as this study is an itinerary, it takes more of my own elaboration and organization more than great amounts of information.

It has to be mentioned, that because of the number of cities, towns and villages that are along the way, all have not been mentioned, just those with relevance either because there were any historic sites on them or because there were some characteristic places of recommended visit.

CHAPTER 2

HISTORY OF ROUTE 66

2.1 BIRTHPLACE AND RISE.

The idea of Route 66 (known as the Main Street of America or the Mother Road) was born in 1926 as in the numerical designation 66 was given to the Chicago-to-Los Angeles route in the summer of that same year. Cyrus Avery (known as the "Father of Route 66") and highway engineer John Page finally decided "66", because they thought the double-digit number would be easy to remember as well as likable to be said and heard.

Even though Route 66 was signed into law in 1927 and it was in use that first decade, it was not completely paved until 1938.

The beginning of the route took place in Chicago, around Lake Michigan, and it crossed Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and Nuevo Mexico until its final point, Santa Monica, in Los Angeles. The overall length is 4000 kilometers.



Figure 2.1: Beginning and end of Route 66.

Source: route66.mightythorproductions.com

The importance of the Route 66 was achieved mainly for the two following reasons:

- It was the prevailing itinerary for the immigrants that were heading west, having in account that crossing the country was considerably difficult especially during the Dust Bowl of the early 30s (represented in the novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, John Steinbeck, 1939) and during World War II, when it became one of the main routes and also served for moving military equipment.
- The other reason was the important economy sustain that the route was for the zones where the route laid across, because it passed through numerous small

towns and, with the growing traffic on the highway, it helped create restaurants, service stations, gas stations and hotels that were constructed.

In the 1950s, the Route 66 became the main highway for vacationers heading to Los Angeles.

2.2 DECLINE

It wasn't until 1956 that the main street of America reached its decline and it was when the Interstate Highway System bypassed Route 66, arranged by President Dwight Eisenhower. Also paths far from Route 66's small towns were cut.

Among other things, the rise of modern air travel also diminished the appeal of the road trips, but it was not only new ways of transportation that faded Route 66, it was also a changing interpretation of "vacation.", which means that the thought that interstates were designed to move people to places "as quickly as possible" and no being a destination itself became more prominent.

During its nearly 60-year existence, Route 66 was under constant change and it fell into a long decline and disrepair, until it was officially decommissioned by the federal government in 1985.

With the decommissioning of route 66, there was no interstate route designated to replace it. Interstate 55 covered the section from Chicago to St. Louis; Interstate 44 carried the traffic on to Oklahoma City; Interstate 40 took the largest chunk, replacing 66 to Barstow, California; Interstate 15 took over for the route to San Bernardino; and Interstate 210 and State Route 2 or Interstate 10 carried the traffic of Route 66 across the Los Angeles metropolitan area to Santa Monica.

2.3 REVIVAL

First Route 66 associations were founded in Arizona in 1987, followed firstly by New Mexico and Missouri in 1989 and then by other groups in the other Route 66 states.

- In 1990, Route 66 was declared a "State Historic Route" by the state of Missouri.
- In 1999 the National Route 66 Preservation Bill was signed into law by President Bill Clinton for preserving and restoring the historic features along the route.
- In 2008, Route 66 was added to the World Monuments Watch list of 100 Most Endangered Sites by The World Monuments Fund.

The popularity of the mythical Route 66 has continued growing since then, and demands have begun to increase the improvement the signage, returning Route 66 to road maps and renovate its status and popularity.

Not only was Route 66 important because of being the road more circulated during the past half-century by the North American population, but also because of the cultural references that have been always made with the route being part of it.

The TV show "Route 66" or the movie "Cars" are some of the examples of these cultural references that are strongly inspired in this road, among others such as

the previously mentioned novel *The Grapes of Wrath* or songs like *(Get your kicks on) Route 66* by Bobby Troup.



Figure 2.2: Route 66 Tour. Source: route66chamberofcommerce.homestead.com

CHAPTER 3

PLANNING ROUTE 66 ROAD TRIP

3.1 WHEN TO GO?

It's unpredictable to describe the weather that a traveler is going to face during the Route 66, mainly because this road crosses several different places, such as desert, coast, cities, etc. The best way to find out the Route 66's weather is analyzing the climate of the different destinations that we want to cross.

Firstly, before analyzing the climate of the 8 states that we are crossing during the road trip, it has to be said that Route 66, like most attractions around the world has its high and low seasons. For example, summer is the period more crowded whereas winter has a lack of traffic because of the threat of snow and inclement weather.

It is needed to take into account that the route has a wide range of altitudes and climate zones, so it may be warm in one region and cold in another.

- **Illinois.**



Figure 3.1: Illinois. Source: Wikipedia

Illinois climate is continental, which means that we can distinguish four different seasons, with warm summers and cold winters. The weather in Illinois is unsteady and it could change suddenly, especially in winter. The main reason of this changeability is the lack of geographic obstacles in the State, which allows the quick movement of air currents coming from any direction. The proximity to the Lake Michigan softens the winter upstate.

The average rainfall annual fluctuates between 100 cm in the North and 85 cm in the South, whereas the annual average snow is 76 cm in the North and 25 cm in the South.

We need to pay special attention to the appearance of tornadoes, which is extremely common and especially destructive in this part of the country. Which is more, tornadoes have killed more people in Illinois than in any other state of the United States.

In the following graphic, it can be seen the average temperature in Illinois and which months are more likely to be the best option for planning this road trip.

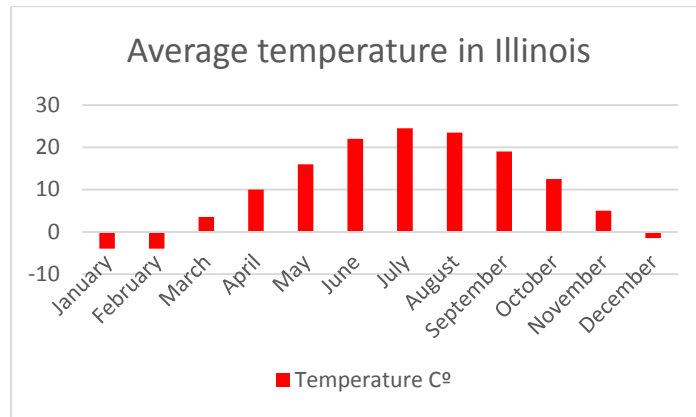


Figure 3.2: Average temperature in Illinois. Source: Own elaboration

- **Missouri.**



Figure 3.3: Missouri. Source: Wikipedia

Missouri’s climate is characterized by his continental temperature. Actually, it is described as the most continental of the North American climates.

It is considered a wet climate, with warm summers where the temperatures could reach 38°C. This condition begins in June and last until September.

Whereas the summer is considerably warm, the winter is totally the opposite. The temperatures fluctuate between -4°C and 2°C. However, the weather in this season is extremely changing, which means that one day could be reached high temperatures and the next day it could be freezing.

In the following graphic, it can be seen the average temperature in Missouri and which months are more likely to be the best option for planning this road trip.

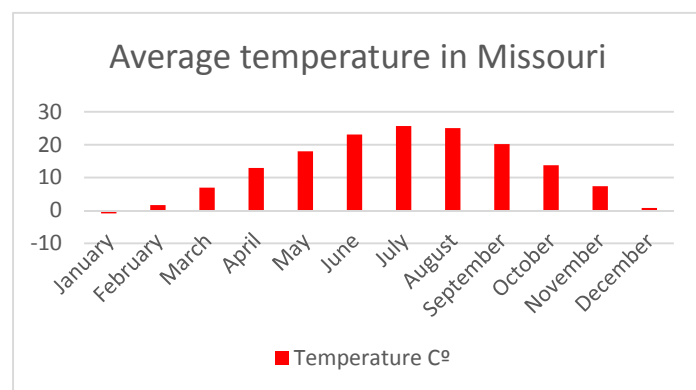


Figure 3.4: Average temperature in Missouri. Source: Own elaboration

- **Kansas.**



Figure 3.5: Kansas Source: Wikipedia

Kansas has a mild climate, with cold winters and warm summers. In general, the state's average temperature decreases as you head north.

Winter's average temperature is around -1°C . The lowest temperature ever registered was -40°C in 1905. On the other hand, on Kansas's summer, the temperature decreases from east to west, being the average 23°C as we can observe in the following graphic. The highest temperature registered was 49°C in 1936.

Also, Kansas is vulnerable to strong storms, mostly during spring, which can generate tornadoes. This state has an average of 50 tornados per year.

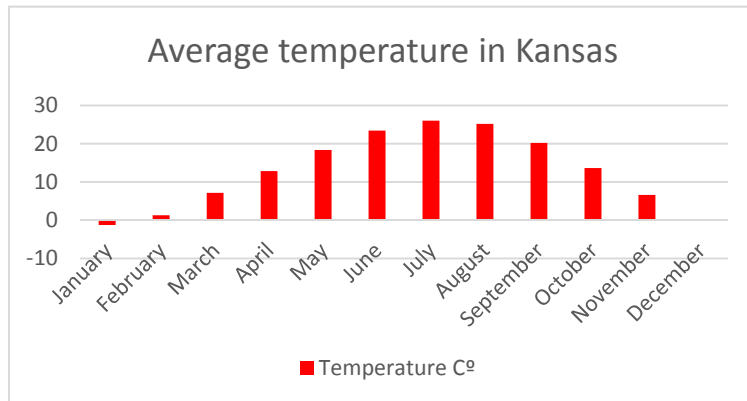


Figure 3.6: Average temperature in Kansas. Source: Own elaboration

- **Oklahoma**



Figure 3.7: Oklahoma. Source: Wikipedia

Oklahoma is located in a mild area with the characteristics of a continental climate.

Practically, the whole state is placed in a zone known as “Tornado Alley”, characterized by the frequent interactions between cold and warm air mass which produces adverse climatological conditions. An average of 24 tornadoes hit the state each year.

In Oklahoma’s winter, the average temperature is around 6 C°, whereas in the summer it fluctuates around 25°C, decreasing from east to west.

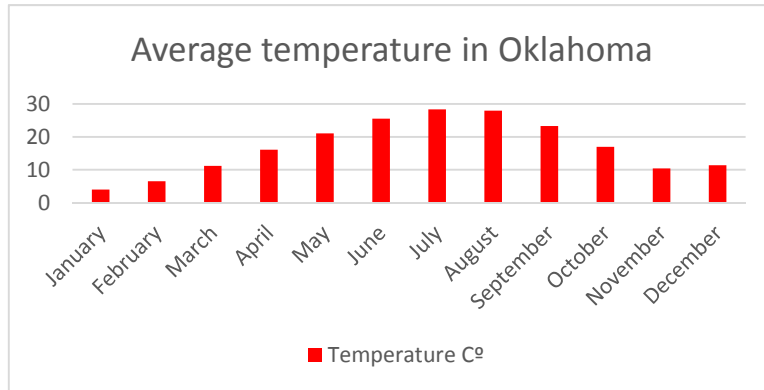


Figure 3.8: Average temperature in Oklahoma. Source: Own elaboration

- **New Mexico**



Figure 3.9: New Mexico. Source: Wikipedia

The climate of New Mexico is generally semiarid to arid, though areas of continental and alpine climates exist, and its territory is mostly covered by mountains, high plains, and desert. The average annual temperatures in winter, can oscillate from 5°C to -5°C.

During the summer, daytime temperatures can often exceed 38C°, but normally they are around 20°C as we can see in the following graphic.

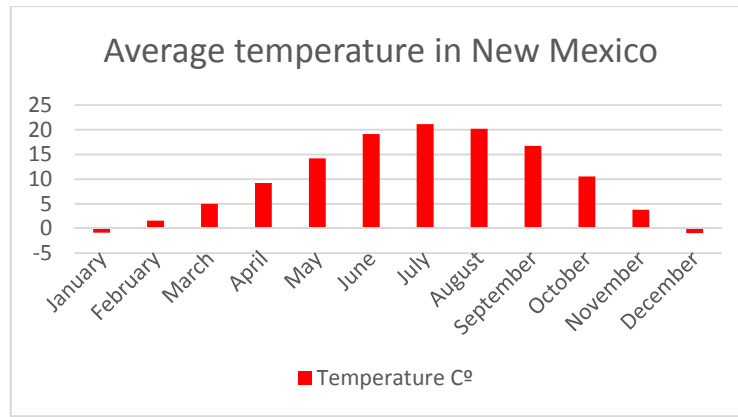


Figure 3.10: Average temperature in New Mexico. Source: Own elaboration

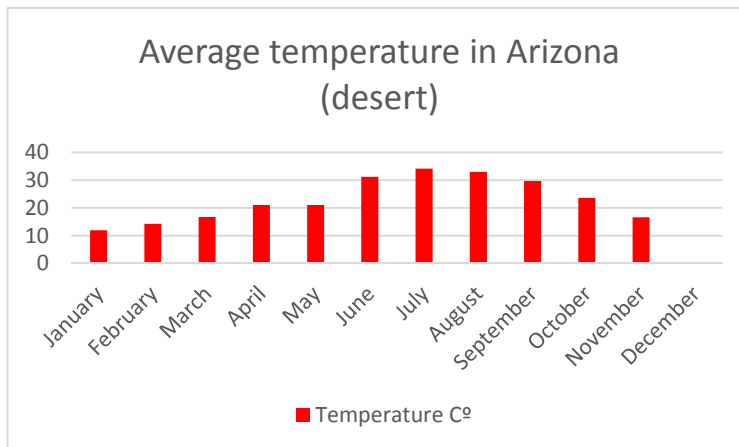
- Arizona



Figure 3.11: Arizona. Source: Wikipedia

In Arizona, it can be distinguished two different locations, the mountain and the desert.

Whereas the desert has constant temperatures practically the whole year, the mountain has a huge contrast between summer and winter, being the temperatures of the first one around 17°C and in winter they can reach 0°C temperatures or below.



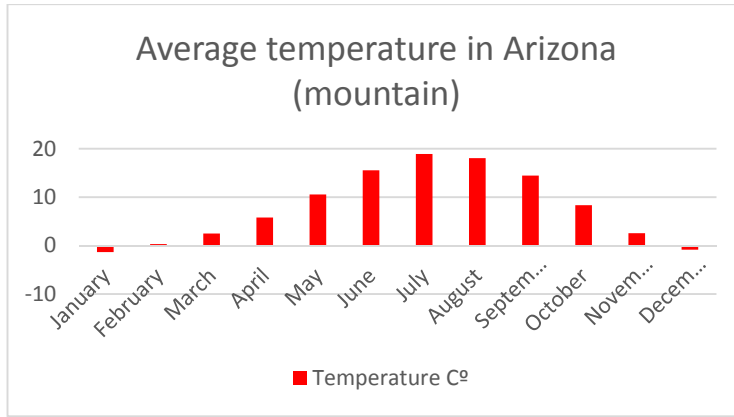


Figure 3.12: Average temperature in Arizona. Source: Own elaboration

▪ California



Figure 3.13: California. Source: Wikipedia

The climate of California varies from hot desert to subarctic, depending on latitude, elevation, and proximity to the coast. California's coastal regions, have a Mediterranean climate, with warm and practically warm winters too. The influence of the ocean generally moderates extreme temperature, causing warmer winters and substantially cooler summers.

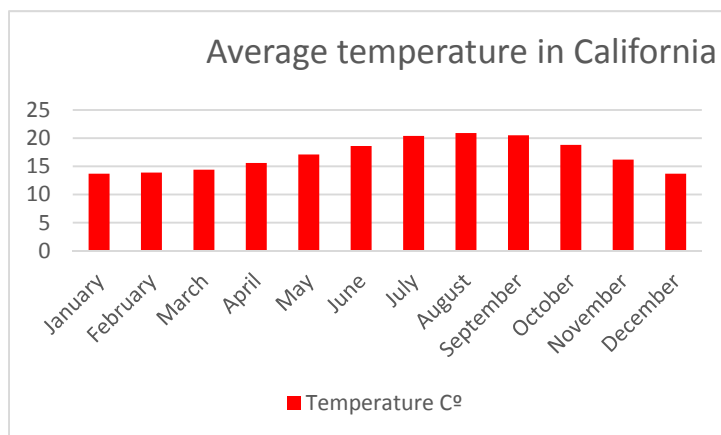


Figure 3.14: Average temperature in California. Source: Own elaboration

3.2 TIME FRAME AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

3.2.1 TIME FRAME

Different from other kind of trips, such as sun and beach tourism or cultural tourism, a trip to the Route 66 is difficult to predict and to estimate a fixed amount of time. This occurs for several reasons:

- The Route 66 encompasses 8 states (3,940 km), therefore each tourist could either choose to traverse a different combination of some of them. There is no comparison between the necessary amounts of time for driving across 2 states or for driving across 5 of them.
- Another factor is the time each tourist wishes to spend in every state or every city, or in the whole trip, due to their personal preferences or circumstances.
- The origin of each tourist is also a relevant factor to have in mind, because there is a difference in coming from Canada than coming from United Kingdom, since the amount of time to get there from both locations are quite different.
- Money is another important factor when planning a trip, even more an extended trip as this one, because it is going to determine the time and the places that can be visited along the way.

Considering these factors and having in mind the possible variations of circumstances, we are going to create this itinerary for two weeks. We estimate that is a considerable amount of time to visit all the states that encompass the Route 66 and the historical places on it.

3.2.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Travelling to America requires some special needs and arrangements that have to be considered when planning a trip to the United States. Those needs or requirements are as it follows:

- Documentation: Passports, US Visa (Applied at the US embassy or consulate in your home country), driver's license.
- It is necessary to have in mind that each state has its own driving laws, but they are quite similar to each other.
- In the United States smoking is not allowed in public buildings, hospitals, trains or elevators.
- The minimum legal age for drinking alcohol is 21.
- A navigation system or a map will be quite handy on the road along the way.

CHAPTER 4

ITINERARY

4.1 GETTING THERE



The beginning of our trip will take place in Madrid, and our meeting point will be Madrid's airport.

The details of our flight can be seen below. The departure time is at 10:35 and we will be arriving in Chicago at 18:15.


Ida- 14 de julio <Día- / Día>>									
10:35 Aeropuerto Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas, Madrid	18:15 Aeropuerto Internacional de Chicago O'Hare, Chicago	14h 40min	1 escala(s)		Hay plazas	1X	Precio, tasas incluidas: 580,87€		

By the time we get there, there are plenty of options to get to the city from the airport. Depending of our preferences or circumstances, we can either take the following next with their corresponding fares:

- ➡ Public transportation..... 1,75\$ / 1,55€
- ➡ Shuttles..... It depends on the destination
- ➡ Taxi..... 30-40\$ / 26-35€
- ➡ Rental cars..... It depends on the company
- ➡ Drop off & Pick up..... Free
- ➡ Parking..... It depends on the service
- ➡ Regional buses..... It depends on the destination

In our case, we are renting a car. We pick up the car in Chicago and then we return it in Los Angeles airport. For this, there are plenty of companies at the airport where we can rent a car, for us we have chosen Hertz, just because it suits our preferences and characteristics.

The details of the car renting are:

Your Itinerary: Edit	YOUR VEHICLE Economy Car (Group A) ECAR (A) Chevrolet Spark or similar	Edit NOT INCLUDED IN THE RATES
Pick Up Location Details O'Hare Airport	PAYMENT METHOD: Pre-Pay Online	? Personal Insurance
Pick Up time Thu, 14 Jul, 2016 at 20:00	RENTAL DURATION 2 weeks 2 extra days 2 extra hours	? Premium Emergency Roadside Service
Return Location Details Los Angeles International Airport	INCLUDED IN THE RATES	? Fuel
Return time Sat, 30 Jul, 2016 at 20:00	? Airport concession fee recovery	? Additional Driver Fee
Discounts: No Affiliations	? Loss Damage Waiver	FEES
Arrival Information: No Arrival Information	? Tax	? Tax (payable at location)
Your Age (please check age restrictions) 23	? Liability Insurance Supplement	? One way fee (payable on return of the vehicle)
What You Pay Now 912.97 EUR	? MISCELLANEOUS VLF FEE	? Young Driver Surcharge (Paid at Location)
	? Customer Facility Charge	PAY AT LOCATION * 1139.36 EUR
	Unlimited Free Miles Included	Total * 2052.33 EUR
	PAY NOW 912.97 EUR	
	What You Pay at Location * 1139.36 EUR	

Once we get the car, it will take around 50 min. to get from O'Hare international airport to the city, so approximately we will be arriving at the hotel by 21:00.

The chosen hotel is the Godfrey Hotel Chicago, which costs 215€ per night and is located in the city center. The details can be seen below.

Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Your booking includes:


- Free WiFi
- FREE cancellation

[Change your selection](#)

Price € 215*
(your currency)

Property's Currency **US\$298.89**
in USD **US\$243.33**
(for all guests)

Wonderful 9 ip
Score from 1287 reviews



Godfrey Hotel Chicago

★★★★★ ip

Chicago, United States of America – In city center
This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 9.1!

Check-in: Thursday, July 14, 2016 from 16:00

Check-out: Friday, July 15, 2016 until 11:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 13, 2016
Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

4.2. ILLINOIS





Illinois

Capital: Springfield

Population: 12.880.580

Route 66 length: 465 km

Beginning: Chicago

Ending: St. Louis

Historic places in Route 66:

- *Ambler's Texaco Gas Station (Dwight)*
- *Sprague's Super Service (Normal)*
- *Ariston Café (Litchfield)*
- *Belvidere Café, Motel, and Gas Station (Litchfield)*
- *Soulsby Service Station (Mount Olive)*
- *Chain of Rocks Bridge (Madison)*



Our road trip, as well as the Route 66, has its start in the state of Illinois, specifically in Chicago, the third most populous city in the United States, just after New York and Los Angeles respectively and the most populous city in the state of Illinois.



Figure 4.1: Beginning of Route 66. Source: route66.mightythorproductions.com

4.2.1 Chicago

Even though Chicago, divided in 77 districts, is the biggest and most populous city in the state of Illinois, the capital of the state is Springfield, which we will talk about later. In spite of this, Chicago is one of the most famous cities of the United States and its international acknowledgement makes Chicago one of the most important cities of the US.

Located in front of the majestic Lake Michigan, the city has plenty of attractions and sights worth visiting.

A) Must see attractions in Chicago

- **Chicago's Skyscrapers**

Also known as the *skyscrapers city*, Chicago, not only has 301 skyscrapers but also it was the place where the first skyscraper in the world was built. We refer to the Home Insurance Building, built in 1885 and then demolished in 1931.

Therefore, if we are in Chicago, we must visit the more emblematic symbol of the city.

Some of the most important ones are as follows:

- ➡ Willis Tower

The Willis Tower, built in 1974, is the tallest skyscraper of Chicago. With its 443 m. and 110 floors it was for many years the tallest building in the world until 1996, when a taller skyscraper was built in Malaysia. Nowadays, The Willis Tower is the second one in the United States, after The One World Trade Center in New York.

There are mostly two factors that attract visitors to the building. One of them is the marvelous view of the city that we can appreciate from the top of it and the other one is the visitors center, where is situated the Skydeck, noteworthy due to it is a box made of glass located at 412 m. with a really impressive view.

Fare.....19, 50\$ / 16, 45€



Figure 4.2: Willis Tower. *Source: Wikipedia*

➡ Trump Tower

The Trump Tower is the second tallest skyscraper in Chicago, with 423 m. and 95 floors. Nowadays it is one of the most famous hotels in the United States.

➡ Aon Tower

Aon Tower is the third tallest skyscraper of Chicago with 346 m. and it is the headquarters of the company Amoco since 1972.

➡ John Hancock Observatory

The John Hancock Observatory is the fourth tallest building in Chicago with 344 m. y 100 floors. This construction is one of the most emblematic skyscraper of the city, because its peculiar shape is recognizable from anywhere around the city. Also, it has a stunning view of the Lake Michigan.

Fare.....19\$ / 16€



Figure 4.3: John Hancock Observatory. *Source: 360 Chicago*

▪ Millennium Park

Millennium Park, located next to the Lake Michigan, is one of the biggest green areas of the city with 99000 m². The construction began in 1998 but it was not finished until 2004.

Not only is Millennium Park just a park, but also several events each year take place there because its importance as a cultural location of the city.

The most important attractions inside the park are:

➞ Jay Pritzker Pavilion

Built by Frank Gehry and dedicated to the Pritzker family, whose economic contribution helped to create the park, the Jay Pritzker Pavilion is the most recognizable construction in the Millennium Park. It has capacity for 4000 people and here takes place the best concerts of classical music of Chicago completely free.

➞ Cloud Gate

One of the most characteristic sculptures of Millennium Park is the Cloud Gate, which physically is comparable to a giant drop of 100 tons of stainless steel and it reflects the urban landscape of the Chicago's skyscrapers. The Cloud Gate can be considered one of the most outstanding attractions in the whole city of Chicago, due to its shape and its appeal to the sight.



Figure 4.4: Cloud Gate. Source: www.eternallycreative.com

➞ Lurie Garden

Designed by Kathryn Gustafson, Robert Israel and Piet Odolf, this garden displays the different vegetation that can be found in Illinois and also, it represents the urban transition that Chicago has experimented throughout history. The Lurie Garden is divided in two sections; the first one tells the past of the city and the second one shows the future.

➞ Crown Fountain

This work of 15 m. by Jaume Plensa, consists in two towers of bricks, usually displaying projections which shows the faces of different inhabitants of Chicago. The waters that flows from the fountain stops when a person's faces changes to lead to a new one.



Figure 4.5: Crown Fountain. Source: Wikipedia

- **Navy Pier**

Before being a leisure zone, Navy Pier was one of the biggest piers in the world. During the World War II, it was used as a training area for the United States Navy. Nowadays, the pier has an amusement park and a shopping area so it is visited by residents and tourists.

- **Magnificents Mile**

Not only is the financial center of Chicago, but also is one of the most popular avenues of the city, replete with restaurants, bars, skyscrapers and shopping centers.

4.2.2. Cities of Illinois



On the third day of the road trip, after we leave Chicago, we are going to traverse the rest of the state of Illinois. In the following lines it will be mentioned the towns and cities we will be crossing as well as the main recommended stops, sights and historic places that are a *must* see if you are traversing the Route 66.

Firstly, as the map below shows, the first city we are passing by, is Joliet, located at 1h30' away from Chicago. Not far from Joliet, just around 45 minutes away, we arrive to the first stop of the itinerary for today.

We are referring to **Dwight**, a small village and its historic Ambler's Texaco Gas Station, now the Village of Dwight's visitor's center. Even though the station is no longer in service as a gas station, it carries the record as the longest operating (1933-1999) gas station in the historic Route 66. It was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 2001.



Figure 4.6: Ambler's Texaco Gas Station. *Source: Wikipedia*

The first part of the day, heading south, we are passing by the following locations and stopping by in Odell, Pontiac and Normal:

A few minutes away from Dwight, we arrive to the village of **Odell**. Here, we also find another gas station which is on the list of National Register of Historic Places, in this case the Standard Oil Gas Station.

Right after we have passed Odell, another essential stop is the city of **Pontiac**, where we should visit the mural dedicated to the Route 66. Heading south, 40 minutes away from Pontiac, it is located **Normal**, a small town where is set the Sprague's Super Service building. Nowadays, the old station has an exhibition where it tells the story of Route 66's great significance and its impact on the community. Also, it is on the national Register of Historic Places since 2008.

The last part of the third day of the road trip, is going to be dedicated to the last section of the state of Illinois. This section will be Springfield, Litchfield, Mount Olive and finally the Chain of Rock Bridge (Saint Louis, where we will be staying the night).

Regardless of **Springfield** not having any historic place related to the Route, it is a recommended destination since it is the capital of the state and it is worth a visit. Right after we leave Springfield, we continue our journey heading to **Litchfield**, where we will find the Belvidere Café, Motel, and Gas Station, which is closed since 1971 but still works as a storage or that can be rented. It is part of the national Register of Historic Places since 2009. Another gas station being part of this register, is the Soulsby Service Station, in **Mount Olive**, and is the oldest service station on the highway in Illinois.

Finally, we end the day visiting the Chain of Rocks Bridge, in **Madison / Saint Louis**, close in 1970 due to the construction of the New Chain of Rocks Bridge.



Figure 4.7: Chain of Rock Bridge. *Source: astro4.ast.vill.edu*

Once we are in Saint Louis, we officially are in the second state of our road trip, Missouri, we will stay the night in the city. The details of the hotel are as it follows:

TFG-TUR. ROUTE 66 ROAD TRIP

Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Your booking includes:
- Free WiFi
- FREE cancellation

[Change your selection](#)

Price (your currency)	€ 184*
Property's Currency in USD (for 2 guests)	US\$209

Excellent 8.6
Score from 249 reviews

The Chase Park Plaza
★★★★☆
Saint Louis, United States of America
This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 9.1!

Check-in:
Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 16:00

Check-out:
Sunday, July 17, 2016 until 12:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 15, 2016
Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

4.3. Missouri





Missouri

Capital: Jefferson City

Population: 6 083 672

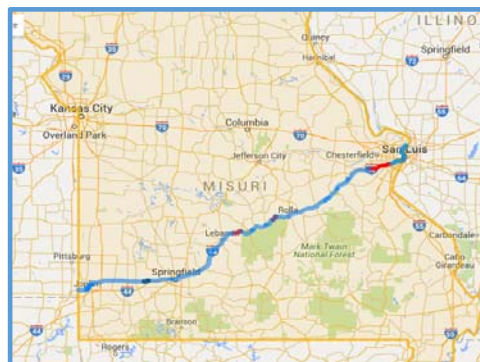
Route 66 length: 504 km

Beginning: St. Louis

Ending: Joplin

Historic places in Route 66:

- *Meramec River U.S. 66 Bridge (Eureka)*
- *Big Chief Restaurant (Wildwood)*
- *Red Cedar Inn (Pacific)*
- *Wagon Wheel Motel (Cuba)*
- *Gillioz Theatre (Springfield)*
- *66 Drive-In (Carthage)*



On the fourth day of our road trip, we being in Saint Louis. As we mentioned before, Saint Louis belongs to Missouri's state. Being it our start, we will be driving 504 km in Missouri.

Early in the morning, we depart from Saint Louis. Crossing by the historic bridge of Meramec River U.S. 66, we arrive to **Eureka**, where if we want a peaceful plan, we can go for a walk to the Route 66 State Park or if we want some adrenaline, we can visit the Six Flags theme's park.

Continuing our journey, we will have lunch in **Wildwood**, in the historic Big Chief Restaurant.


Next, Route 66 runs through the town of **Waynesville** where the most famous building in town is the Pulaski County Courthouse, which is a museum about the Civil War, World War I and II, and Desert Storm.

Our next stop will be the city of **Springfield**, visited annually by 3 million tourists and where we can either pass by the Rock Fountain Court, a semi-circle of nine original stone cabins or assist to a concert in the mythical Gillioz Theater or maybe if we want something more original, we can see a movie in the historic drive-in theater in **Carthage**



Figure 4.8 (left): Rock Fountain Court. Source: www.nps.gov **Figure 4.9 (right): Drive-in Theater. Source: www.nps.gov**

That night we will be staying here, in Carthage, at the Econo Lodge Carthage.

<p>Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property</p> <p>Your booking includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Breakfast - Free WiFi - Free parking - FREE cancellation <p style="text-align: right;">Change your selection</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Price (your currency)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">€ 67*</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property's Currency in USD (for 2 guests)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">US\$74.99</td> </tr> </table>	Price (your currency)	€ 67*	Property's Currency in USD (for 2 guests)	US\$74.99	 <p>Econo Lodge Carthage</p> <p>★ ★ ★</p> <p>Carthage, United States of America</p> <p>Check-in: Sunday, July 17, 2016 from 14:00</p> <p>Check-out: Monday, July 18, 2016 until 11:00 Change dates</p> <p>Total length of stay: 1 night</p> <p>FREE cancellation before 4:00 PM on July 17, 2016 Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!</p> <p style="background-color: #e0f0e0; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No payment needed today. You'll pay during your stay.</p>
Price (your currency)	€ 67*				
Property's Currency in USD (for 2 guests)	US\$74.99				

Early in the morning, we will be heading to our next destination, which will be Kansas.

4.4 Kansas





Kansas

Capital: Topeka

Population: 2,905,021

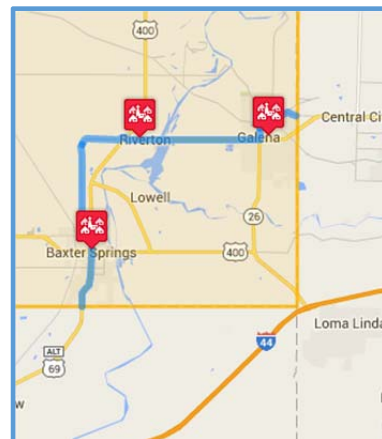
Route 66 length: 21 km

Beginning: Galena

Ending: Baxter Springs

Historic places in Route 66:

- *Independent Oil & Gas (Baxter Springs)*
- *Williams Store - Eisler Brothers Old Riverton Store (Riverton)*
- *Historic Rainbow Bridge (Riverton)*
- *Galena Historic District (Galena)*



Once we are in Kansas, there are mainly three important towns we should visit, mostly because of its historic importance. The first stop is **Galena**, the oldest mining town in Kansas. Galena has an historic business district, that joined the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.



Figure 4.10: Galena's historic business district. *Source: www.nps.gov*

The second town we are passing by, is **Riverton**, which counts with the oldest operating store in Route 66 (1925). Furthermore, this place was the inspiration for the Route 66 songs for the movie *Cars*. Also, in Riverton we find the historic Rainbow Bridge, in the National Register since 1983.



Figure 4.11: Rainbow Bridge. *Source: www.nps.gov*

The last stop in the state of Kansas, is **Baxter Springs**, where its Kansas Route 66 Visitor Center formerly was a gas station, the historic Independent Oil and Gas Service Station.

After all this, we will be leaving Kansas and we will head to Oklahoma.

4.5 Oklahoma



Oklahoma

Capital: Oklahoma City

Population: 3.878.051

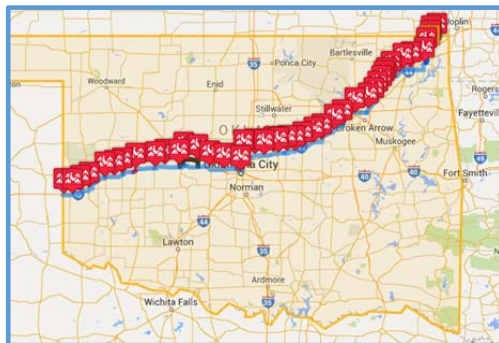
Route 66 length: 605 km

Beginning: Quapaw

Ending: Texola

Historic places in Route 66:

- *Round Barn (Arcadia)*
- *Coleman Theatre (Miami)*
- *Rock Café (Stroud)*
- *The World's Largest Totem Pole (Foyil)*
- *Brick Paved Broadway Street (Davenport)*

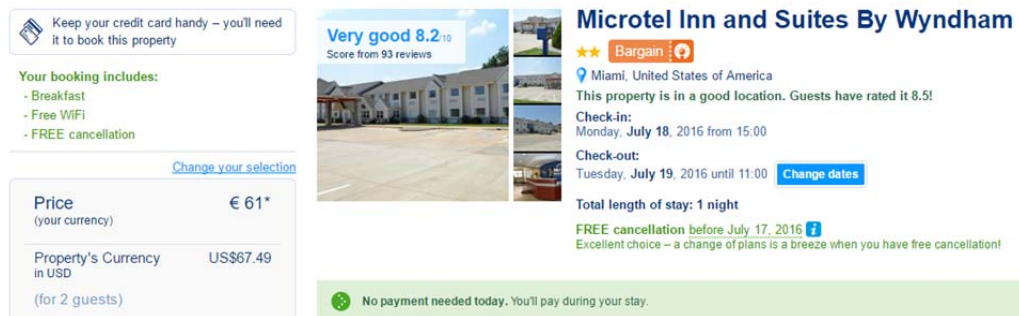


After we leave Baxter Springs, just a few minutes from it, we are officially in the estate of Oklahoma, characterized for being the third longest, in Route 66 speaking, after New Mexico and Arizona.

Due to the fact of its extension, we are going to spend two days in this state, but we will only make stops in a few cities, with historic sites on them, because we have to adjust ourselves to the time limit we have for this road trip.

The first stop will be the city of **Miami**, with a popular stop for travelers along the Route 66, as it is the Coleman Theatre, where we can enjoy a show in this majestic and important center of entertainment. Also, it has a little wall of fame and its inside is quite greatly conserved.

Here in Miami we will stay the night at the Microtel Inn and Suites by Wyndham.



Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Very good 8.2
Score from 93 reviews

Microtel Inn and Suites By Wyndham
★★ Bargain

Miami, United States of America
This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 8.5!

Check-in:
Monday, July 18, 2016 from 15:00

Check-out:
Tuesday, July 19, 2016 until 11:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 17, 2016
Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

Price (your currency) € 61*

Property's Currency in USD US\$67.49 (for 2 guests)

No payment needed today. You'll pay during your stay.



First thing in the morning, we will hit the road direction **Foyil**, a small town with a population of 308 inhabitants. Despite its reduced extension, in this town there is an important historic site with its own record as The World's Largest Totem Pole, which is made of red sandstone framed with steel and wood and it is sit on a giant turtle and has nine floors.



Figure 4.12: The World's Largest Totem Pole. Source: www.nps.gov

After approximately two hours driving, we are getting into **Stroud**, where we will stop for lunch in the famous Rock Café. This bar was the inspiration for the character Sally Carrera for the movie Cars, which meant plenty of visits from the Disney crew from 2001 to 2005. The Disney crew gave some gifts to the bar as a thank you for working with Pixar and Disney.



Figure 4.13: Gifts from the Disney crew. Source: www.rockcafert66.com

Near Stroud, after a few minutes driving, we arrive to **Davenport**, where we can find there The Brick-paved Broadway Avenue, on one of the few strips of original Portland cement that was laid for the Mother Road highway and a recommenden spot for any visitor of the Route 66.

Our final stop for the sixth day of journey, is **Arcadia**, another small town with 247 inhabitants. Without any doubt, when we arrive to Arcadia the first thing that calls our attention is the barn of 18 meters in diameter and 13 meters high, called Arcadia Round Barn. Due to its characteristics, the barn quickly became a Route 66 landmark.



Figure 4.14: Arcadia Round Barn. Source: [TripAdvisor](https://www.tripadvisor.com)

The rest of the day will be spent in Oklahoma City, the capital of the state. We have decided that way because the following day will be spent driving to leave Oklahoma and it is a long way so we recommend to be rested.

There are plenty of options for activities in the city that we can enjoy. It depends if we want some action to complete the day, in that case it is highly recommended to climb to new heights on the SandRidge Sky Trail, America's tallest dry slide or enjoy an aquatic adventure at the Riversport Rapids. Maybe if we want something calmer, we can just have a typical lamb fries for dinner at the Cattlemen's Steakhouse, Oklahoma City's oldest operated restaurant.

The hotel where will be staying at is the Howard Johnson Express Oklahoma City.

Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Your booking includes:

- Breakfast
- Free WiFi
- Free parking
- FREE cancellation

Change your selection

Price (your currency) € 52*

Property's Currency in USD US\$84.60

(for 2 guests) US\$57.60

Very good 8.1
Score from 854 reviews

Howard Johnson Express Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City, United States of America
This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 8.1!

Check-in: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 from 14:00

Check-out: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 until 12:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 18, 2016

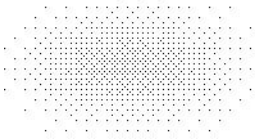
Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

No payment needed today. You'll pay during your stay.

4.6 Texas



On the seventh day, after 3 hours driving, we will leave Oklahoma and arrive in Texas, specifically to Shamrock. On the way we could stop anytime we need to for there is no specific town or city which we are going to stop at we will just pass through them and stop and take some pictures anytime we want.



Texas

Capital: Austin

Population: 26.448.193

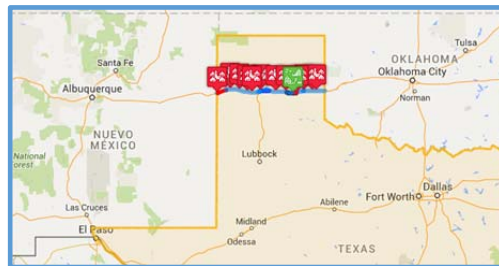
Route 66 length: 304 km

Beginning: Shamrock

Ending: Glenrio

Historic places in Route 66:

- *Conoco Tower Station (Shamrock)*
- *Cadillac Ranch (Amarillo)*
- *Midpoint of Route 66 - Cafe (Adrian)*
- *Triangle Motel (Amarillo)*
- *Vega Motel (Vega)*
- *Amarillo 6th Street District (Amarillo)*
- *Glenrio Historic District (Glenrio)*
- *Historic Route 66 Segment (Conway)*



Despite Texas being the second shortest alignment after Kansas, it has plenty of icons and important sites that we should visit while driving across the state, starting with the classic Tower Station and U-Drop Inn Café, our first stop in Texas, in the city of **Shamrock** and now operating as a visitor center, chamber of commerce office, and community center.

Secondly, we drive an hour and a half approximately, to reach our second destination which is the city of **Amarillo**.

Who has not seen the classic and famous Cadillac Ranch either on TV or in pictures? Well, this is where it is. It was created in 1974 by some members of an art group, which were Chip Lord, Hudson Marquez and Doug Michels and it consists in a sculpture of several Cadillac cars in line.

This icon of the Route 66 has been used as a reference in music, literature and movies during the years.



Figure 4.15: Cadillac Ranch. Source: www.nps.gov

Also, in Amarillo is The U.S. Route 66-Sixth Street Historic District, nowadays full with restaurants and stores where we can go for a walk and enjoy the city.

A few hours away from Amarillo, we get not only to the town of **Adrian** but also to the midpoint of Route 66, which we are celebrating in the best possible place, the Midpoint of Route 66 – Café.



Figure 4.16: Midpoint of Route 66. Source: en.wikipedia.org

Just on the border between Texas and New Mexico, we end up our visit through Texas in the town of **Glenrio**.

4.7 New Mexico



New Mexico

Capital: Santa Fe

Population: 2.085.572

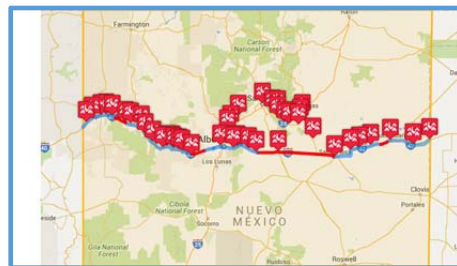
Route 66 length: 6314 km

Beginning: Glenrio

Ending: Manuelito

Historic places in Route 66:

- *Saint Joseph Church (Laguna Pueblo)*
- *Blue Swallow Motel (Tucumcari)*
- *De Anza Motor Lodge (Albuquerque)*
- *Kimo Theater (Albuquerque)*
- *Acoma Curio Shop (San Fidel)*
- *Roy T. Herman's Garage and Service Station (Thoreau)*



We will stay the night in New Mexico, in the city of **Tucumcari**, and we have chosen to stay in a historic motel, called Blue Swallow Motel, which has been operating since 1939, with awards from the visitors on TripAdvisor and conserving the essence of an antique motel.



Figure 4.17: Blue Swallow Motel. Source: www.blueswallowmotel.com

Our stay in the hotel is detailed below:

1 1 Queen Bed	Cambiar	74,95
20/07/16 - 21/07/16 (1 Noche)	Borrar	
2 Personas		
Subtotal		74,95
Impuestos		10,02
Total		84,97



Leaving Tucumcari, we are going to spend almost 3 hours driving to **Albuquerque**, the biggest city of New Mexico, where we could have lunch and spend some time watching a show at the KiMo Theater, the landmark of the city. Then, on our way out from New Mexico, we will pass by the historic sites of Acoma Curio Shop in **San Fidel** or the Roy T. Herman's Garage and Service Station in **Thoreau**.

By the end of the day we have crossed the border between New Mexico and Arizona. As a result of that, the night will be spent in **Holbrook**, a city located in this state. We will be staying at the Travelodge Holbrook. The details are as it follows:

Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Your booking includes:

- Free WiFi
- Free parking
- FREE cancellation

[Change your selection](#)

Price € 70*

(your currency)

Property's Currency **US\$77.49**
in USD

(for 2 guests)

Very good 8.4
Score from 382 reviews

Travelodge Holbrook

Holbrook, United States of America

This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 8.1!

Check-in:
Thursday, July 21, 2016 from 15:00

Check-out:
Friday, July 22, 2016 until 11:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 20, 2016 [f](#)

Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

No payment needed today. You'll pay during your stay.

4.8 Arizona



Arizona

Capital: Phoenix

Population: 6.731.484

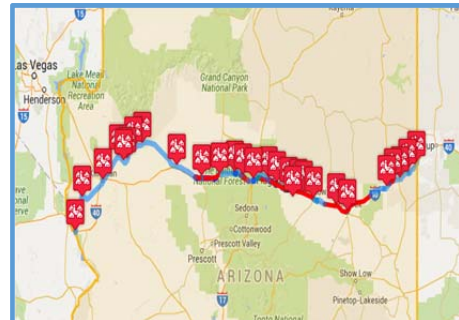
Route 66 length: 624 km

Beginning: Lupton

Ending: Catfish Paradise

Historic places in Route 66:

- Arizona has plenty of interesting places to see but none of them is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.





The city of Holbrook has a majestic National Park that is a recommended visit for us in our road trip. We are talking about the Petrified Forest National Park. In this park of more than 21000 ha is the greatest and most colorful concentration of petrified wood, also it has archeological sites and fossil samples dated 200 million years ago.



Figure 4.18: Petrified Forest National Park. Source: www.nps.gov

It is said that the city of Holbrook is full of dinosaurs' statues and mostly all of them are in front of the Rainbow Rock Shop, they were built over 20 years with cement by Adam Luna, the shop's owner.



Figure 4.19: Rainbow Rock Shop. Source www.roadarch.com

After this, we are going to drive for two hours and a half to **Flagstaff** because it is near to the place we will be visiting tomorrow. The chosen hotel is Days Hotel Flagstaff and the details are below:

Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Your booking includes:

- Free WiFi
- Free parking
- FREE cancellation

[Change your selection](#)

Price (your currency)	€ 157*
Property's Currency in USD (for 2 guests)	US\$175

Very good 8.1_{no}

Score from 822 reviews

Days Hotel Flagstaff

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Flagstaff, United States of America

This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 8.1!

Check-in:
Friday, July 22, 2016 from 15:00

Check-out:
Saturday, July 23, 2016 until 11:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 21, 2016 [f](#)

Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

No payment needed today. You'll pay during your stay.



It cannot be forgotten the National Park by excellence of the United States, Grand Canyon National Park. Some information we should know before visiting the park is:

- ✓ Colorado's river creates a barrier that separates the park in two sections, north and south.
- ✓ It takes about 5 hours by car to cross the 346 km that separates the north section and the south section.
- ✓ Mostly all the visitors go to the south section.

Fare..... 12\$ / 10€



Figure 4.20: Grand Canyon National Park. Source: www.nps.gov

For this night, we will be staying in the same hotel we were last night, mainly due to the proximity.

Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property

Your booking includes:

- Free WiFi
- Free parking
- FREE cancellation

[Change your selection](#)

Price (your currency)	€ 157*
Property's Currency in USD (for 2 guests)	US\$175

Very good 8.1
Score from 822 reviews

Days Hotel Flagstaff
★★★
Flagstaff, United States of America
This property is in a good location. Guests have rated it 8.1!

Check-in:
Saturday, July 23, 2016 from 15:00

Check-out:
Sunday, July 24, 2016 until 11:00 [Change dates](#)

Total length of stay: 1 night

FREE cancellation before July 22, 2016
Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!

4 people are also thinking of booking at this property



4.9 California



California

Capital: Sacramento

Population: 38.802.500

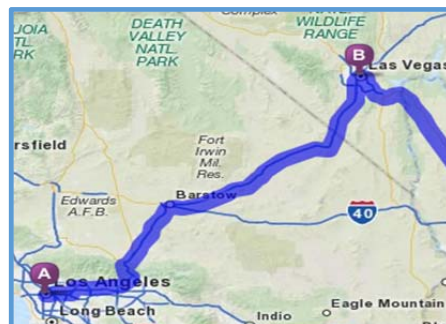
Route 66 length: 511 km

Beginning: Needles

Ending: Santa Monica

Historic places in Route 66:

- California has plenty of interesting places to see but none of them is listed on the National Register of Historical Places.



We finally arrive to our final destination, California. The start is the city of **Needles**, and after a four-hour drive, we will get to Los Angeles.

We will spend three days in the city, enjoying all the variety that Los Angeles has to offer to the visitors and the locals.


“It would take several lifetimes to experience all the activities that Los Angeles offers. There are world famous theme parks like Universal Studios Hollywood, Six Flags Magic Mountain and Disneyland, while studios like Universal, Warner Brothers, Paramount Pictures and Sony Pictures offer the ultimate film and TV fan experience”
(*Los Angeles tourism web*)

Definitely, Los Angeles is a city for every kind of person and every kind of interest but without a doubt, the site that every visitor coming from the Route 66 should visit, is the pier of Santa Monica, where the final spot of the route is located. This, marks the end of our road trip and the end of a journey that every person should make once in a lifetime.



Figure 4.9.1: Ending of Route 66. Source: TripAdvisor

Here in Los Angeles we will be staying at The Mayfair Hotel, with the details below:

<p>Keep your credit card handy – you'll need it to book this property</p> <p>Your booking includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Free WiFi- FREE cancellation <p>Change your selection</p> <p>Price (your currency) € 194*</p> <p>Property's Currency in USD US\$243.60 US\$215.60 (for 2 guests and 2 nights)</p>	 <p>The Mayfair Hotel</p> <p>★★★★ Bargain</p> <p>Downtown LA, Los Angeles, United States of America – In city center</p> <p>Check-in: Saturday, July 23, 2016 from 15:00</p> <p>Check-out: Monday, July 25, 2016 until 12:00 Change dates</p> <p>Total length of stay: 2 nights</p> <p>FREE cancellation before July 22, 2016</p> <p>Excellent choice – a change of plans is a breeze when you have free cancellation!</p> <p>4 people are also thinking of booking at this property</p>
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4.10 Coming back

It is time to come back home, departing from LAX (Los Angeles airport) to Madrid. We depart on July 25th and we arrive to Madrid on July 26th. The flight is detailed below:

Airline	Origin	Destination	Detail	
 AA8642 American Airlines	Los Angeles (Los Angeles Intl.) Monday, July 25, 2016 18:20 hs	Madrid Barajas Tuesday, July 26, 2016 14:20 hs	Economy Non-stop 11hr 0min Seats available: 7	

CHAPTER 5

TOTAL BUDGET

Transport	Euros	Dollars
Madrid - Chicago	580,87€/ per person	645,80\$
Los Angeles - Madrid	480€/ per person	533,66\$
Car renting	2052,33€	2281,77\$
Lodging		
Godfrey Hotel Chicago (Chicago)	215 €	239.03\$
The Chase Park Plaza (St Louis)	184€	204,57\$
Econo Lodge Carthage (Carthage)	67€	74,49\$
Microtel Inn and Suites (Miami)	61€	67,81\$
Howard Johnson Express (Oklahoma City)	52€	57,81\$
Blue Swallow Motel (Tucumcari)	84,97€	94,47\$
Travelodge Holbrook (Holbrook)	70€	77,82\$
Days Hotel Flagstaff (Flagstaff)	314€	349,10\$
The Mayfair Hotel (Los Angeles)	194€	215,68\$
Activities		
Grand Canyon National Park	10€	12\$
Willis Tower and Observatory	32,45€	36\$
Other optional activities	-	-
Visa		
ESTA visa	35-70€	
Approximate budget	4.447,62€	4.867,57\$

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS

The objective of this study was to analyze the itinerary of Route 66 from its beginning in Chicago (Illinois) to its end in Los Angeles (California), as well as to detail the places of historic and cultural interest that are found along the 3939 km conforming this route.

At first, Route 66 might seem a quite difficult and complex trip to plan, due to its extension, the 8 states on it, all the cities it traverses and all the places of interest that we can find in it. We must not forget that this road trip is an atypical kind of trip, because it does not imply the relax and normal routine that we are used to in more conventional vacations. This journey implies several hours driving, mostly by desert roads, not to mention the fact of sleeping every night in a different accommodation in different cities.

All of the above mentioned does not seem to discourage the traveler that is really motivated to do this kind of trip. After having done a thorough analysis of every state that has been visited (Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California), we have realized that perhaps planning this type of road trip takes plenty of time, but without a doubt it is worth it because of the final result.

In spite of the fact that this itinerary has been analyzed everything along Route 66 but in a brief way, we have to have in mind that every little space in this route has its spot in history, not only because of its function in the past but also because its continuity in the present, no matter if it is functioning or not anymore as in the case of the gas stations or motels or their state if we are referring to places. Route 66 is an icon not only in a touristic way but also it represents part of the history of America, given all the functions that it had in the past and what meant for the Americans having this road in the past and conserving it in the present and hopefully for a long time.

The elaboration of this study was made based on the data found mostly on the internet. There is plenty of information about Route 66, either from experts on the subject or former travelers telling their story but it was difficult to find much information in books, at least in books published in Spain.

We can conclude this itinerary remarking the fact that making this road trip is an incredible experience, highly recommended, not only because of the fame of this road but also because the traveler can see plenty of scenic landscapes, concentrated in eight states, every one of them with its peculiarities and its fascinating history behind every little space of them. My final recommendations when planning this road trip are the following ones:

- A previous research about the destination. Information about not only the historic sites and their history but also the laws, culture, data about every city you plan to visit.
- The time frame of your road trip. How many states you want to visit and how much time you want to spend in each one
- An approximate budget and how much money are you willing to spend in this trip.

Either if you choose to make the whole route or just a section, after elaborating this itinerary, I can assure you that this trip is by far so different from any other trip you have done before and even though it might seem quite complex when planning it, it is worth to take your time and look up for some information to make sure you have an unforgettable experience.

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