



SUMMER AND FALL

ROUTE 66 TOURS



DAY 1

TOUCH DOWN IN CHICAGO, IL

Welcome to Chicago, Illinois - aka, the Windy City! Stepping off the plane, you'll be greeted by a Route 66 Tours representative who will usher you from O'Hare Airport to the luxurious Sheraton O'Hare Hotel.

It's your first day, so all you really have to do is unpack your belongings, kick back and relax. You've travelled a long way from Australia or New Zealand, so you'll need that downtime before we get into it all!

DAY 2

WELCOMING YOU TO CHICAGO

We'll meet for a quick pre-tour briefing on what to expect over the next couple of days. This is an opportune time for you to ask any and all questions that you may have about this soon-to-be unforgettable journey.

Once the Q&A time is over, we'll jump on the chartered coach and take you on our customised guided tour of the Windy City (you'll quickly learn how it's earned that nickname!). This portion of the tour includes lunch at an iconic restaurant on Route 66. That evening, we will host our welcome dinner and get to know one another.

DAY 3

SELECTING YOUR RIDE

On the third day, we get to pick up our tour vehicles - and don't worry, we'll practice driving until you're comfortable on the other side of the road. We'll then cruise on over to an amazing classic car museum where you'll get to see some of the best vintage wheels in the country. Meanwhile, those on the bikes will be exploring the Harley Davidson Museum.





CHICAGO, IL TO SPRINGFIELD, IL

We're hoping you've recovered from jetlag at this point and are excited to get on the road. On day four, we'll be getting on the iconic Route 66 - our first stop? The Historic Joliet Prison from the movie "The Blues Brothers".

It's not quite on Route 66, but it's close enough and an absolute classic, so it's a must do.

This full day on the road will then take the time to stop and see classic diners, restored gas stations and the famous Route 66 Museum in Pontiac, Illinois. Prepare to be transported into history!



SPRINGFIELD, IL TO ST LOUIS, MO

Get ready for a big day of midwestern American fun. Day five takes you past golden corn fields of Illinois on the 80 plus year old alignment of the old school 66. You'll get to meet and greet with the locals of the small towns along the way.

We'll then cross over the massive Mississippi River (try spelling that doozy). We cross over the historic Chain of Rocks Bridge - upon doing so, we'll catch our first glimpse of the St Louis Skyline, made famous with its Gateway Arch.



ST LOUIS, MO TO LEBANON, MO

Continue to take in the beauty of the Midwest with the rolling hills of the Ozarks, Devils Elbow and John's Modern Cabins.

Day six boasts one of the best meals on the whole trip, we think. That's because you're going to get a taste of some good old fashioned Missouri home cooking - flavours you'll be thinking about long after this trip ends.





DAY 7

LEBANON, MO TO CARTHAGE, MO

We'd like to note that these days aren't crazy long to ensure you get to make the most of all the stops along the way! Because really, you want to be able to walk away saying not only did you drive Route 66, but you got to meet the people and see the places that the iconic route is known for worldwide.

Day seven is a continuation of all that captivation.

DAY 8

CARTHAGE, MO TO TULSA, OK

We'll continue on the old parts of the highway - and although we'll be moving forward, it feels like you'll be going backwards in time! Day eight is filled with historic buildings, stunning bridge crossings and the personalities that make up real America.

Lunch will be served at a famous family owned diner favoured by the locals. Make sure your camera is fully charged for all the sights you'll see on this day.

DAY 9

TULSA, OK TO WEATHERFORD, OK

Now you're really starting to get the feel of Route 66 - wind in your hair and all. We'll drive past some of America's richest farmlands and take in the traditional red barns and massive grain-filled silos.

We'll treat you to a morning tea in another classic midwestern diner and lunch with a famous artist!





WEATHERFORD, OK TO AMARILLO, TX

We begin the day in Route 66 Museum in Clinton, Oklahoma - it's a personal favourite of the tour guide, as it takes you through each era of the Historic Route 66 from the 1920s to present day. Once we've finished that tour, we'll introduce you to a man who is said to be one of the most famous Route 66 characters still interacting with visitors to this day.

Get ready for a roller coaster of emotions too - you'll laugh and cry at stories that will sure to become your own tales that you tell mates when you get back home! So you'll need that downtime before we get into it all!



AMARILLO, TX TO SANTA ROSA, NM

At this point, we're well into the heart of the Midwest - all of the states are great, but New Mexico is one of our personal favourite states. The scenery here is unlike any other you'll ever witness - though it is something you have to see to believe. The food is next to none, and the history is incredibly unique.

We're talking ghost towns, vintage diners, gas stations and gift shops galore!



SANTA ROSA, NM TO SANTA FE, NM

We'll start to move to higher elevation on this portion of the trip as we ride on to the fabulous Santa Fe, a town nestled in the Sangre de Cristo (Blood of Christ) mountains. These mountains are a sight themselves, as they have deep red hues, especially during sunrise and sunset. Founded in 1607, Santa Fe is the second oldest city (as well as the highest) and second oldest state capital in the States.

Oh, and your hotel for the next two nights? Get excited, because it's none other than the historic La Fonda on the Plaza!





DAY 13

SANTA FE AT YOUR LEISURE

Santa Fe is such a cool stop, and we've been on the road for a while at this point in the trip we thought it would be a good place to stop and explore the city and its surroundings.

The area is rich in Spanish and Native American history and culture making for seriously unique influence in the local art, architecture and cuisine. Enjoy it all at your own leisure!

DAY 14

SANTA FE, NM TO GALLUP, NM

Okay, day fourteen and we're back on the road! We'll journey through the high desert, passing red dirt plateaus and cactus blooms, as well as the adobe architecture that's been built to survive the elements. Fun fact, New Mexico is home to one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in America - Acoma Sky City.

It's set on top of the gigantic rock mesa just outside Route 66. This is a once in a lifetime view that's so spectacular you might just be coming back for another tour.

We'll take a 90 minute walking tour guided by a member of the Acoma tribe before we move on and settle down in Gallup.

DAY 15

GALLUP, NM TO WINSLOW, AZ

Now we'll be moving on to the Painted Desert (though it's a real desert, not a portrait) and the Petrified Forest National Park. This scenery is famous for its vivid colours that will absolutely stun you.

We'll grab lunch at a famous family owned cafe that features the history of Route 66 everywhere. The plan is to arrive at our hotel in La Posada in Winslow a little early so can take the self-guided walking tour around this cool hotel. We have a feeling this will be one of your favourite places to stay on the trip!

That night you'll have the option of dining in The Turquoise Room, which is one of the top 100 restaurants in Arizona.





WINSLOW, AZ VIA GRAND CANYON TO WILLIAMS, AZ

Day 16 has some of the most well known sights not only in the country, but around the world! We'll visit the amazing Meteor Crater, some of the eerie ghost towns of Two Gun's and Twin Arrows, on to the Divine Abyss, the stunning Grand Canyon. These are just sights you have to see to truly appreciate - there's no way to describe what standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon feels like.

We'll bop around some amazing vistas along the South Rim and make our way to one of the coolest Route 66 Towns in existence, Williams, Arizona. We'll have a two night break here to take it all in. So you'll need that downtime before we get into it all!



WILLIAMS AT YOUR LEISURE

Sleep in! Explore the town! Or head on back to the Grand Canyon if you couldn't get enough. The day is yours!

We'd like to make a couple of recommendations, however. For those who don't know what to do with the free time, check out the Sedona Loop or Bearizona (a cleverly named wildlife park based on some of the animals you'll see in there). If you need a break from driving yourself, check out the Grand Canyon Rail which transports you to the South Rim - it takes you to and from the hotel!



WILLIAMS, AZ TO NEEDLES, CA

We'll say goodbye to Williams as we head out to California. This part of the journey is a real treat. Our first stop will be in Seligman, Arizona where we'll meet more folks from Route 66 - specifically, at the home of "Angel of the Road", Angel Delgadillo. He is one of the few responsible for the highway becoming 'historic' in Arizona, kick starting the renaissance of The Mother Road.

From there we'll head to the Grand Canyon Caverns and grab some lunch. The afternoon will be dedicated to exploring Oatman, Arizona where you can explore what the old mining days of the wild west were really like.





NEEDLES, CA VIA THE MOJAVE DESERT TO LAS VEGAS, NV

The Mojave is filled with ghost towns, some of which we will be visiting on our final day on Route 66. The desert itself has unique terrain that's unlike anything we've seen yet and is a real treat to behold.

We'll take a group photo right in the middle of the old road as it makes for some of the most stunning backdrop for a picture to remember your trip by.



LAS VEGAS, NV

You know what they say - what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas, so we want to make sure you have a full day of enjoying this spectacular city! Once the city starts to get dark, we'll take you on a two and a half hour limousine tour to see all the lights in style.

We'll grab a farewell drink with each other and share contact information so you can plan your next trip (like 66 East Bound) with all your new friends!



TOUR ENDS AT CHECK OUT

All good things must come to an end, so we'll have to say our good-byes until we see you next time!

