

CA School & Experiences'

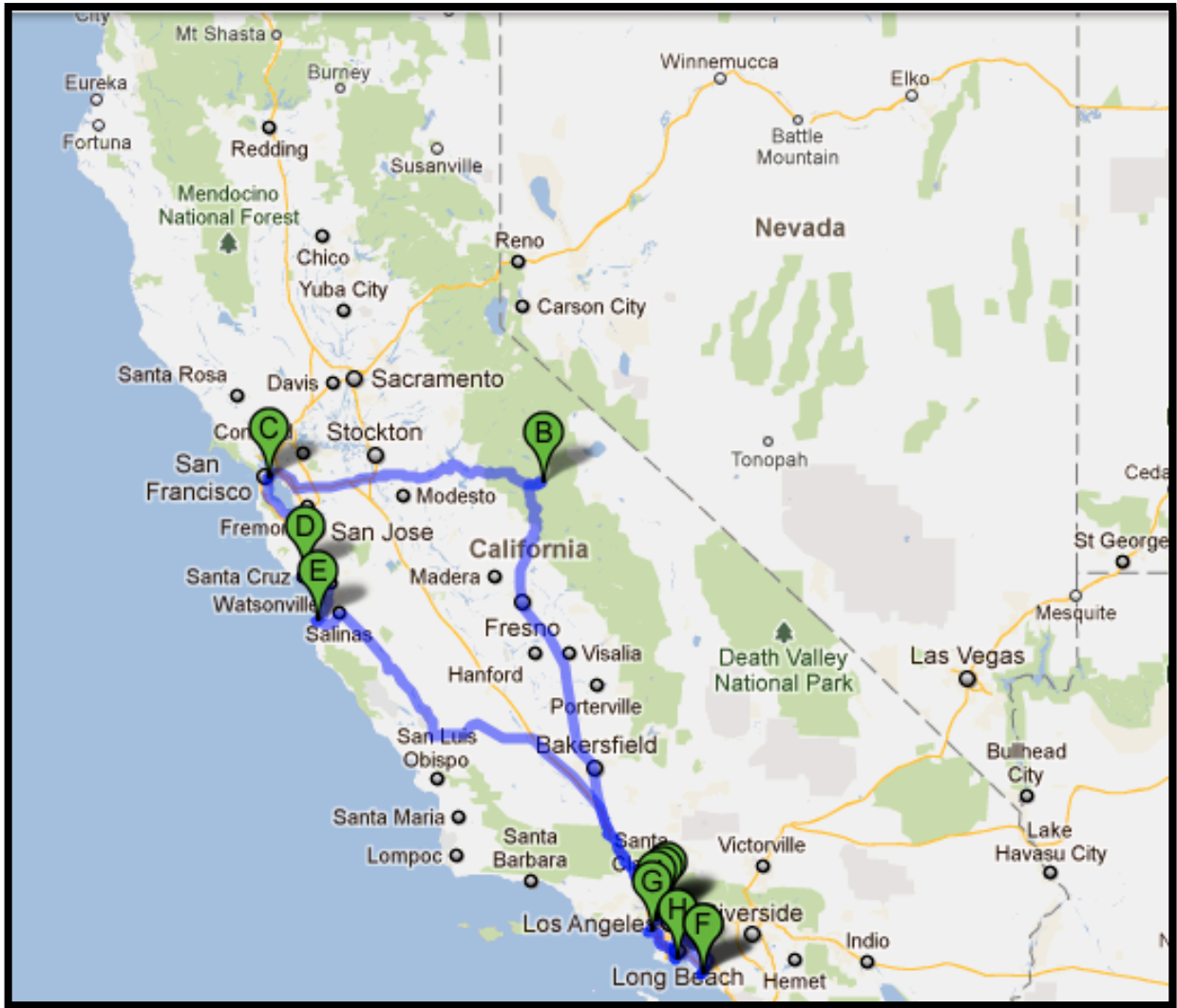
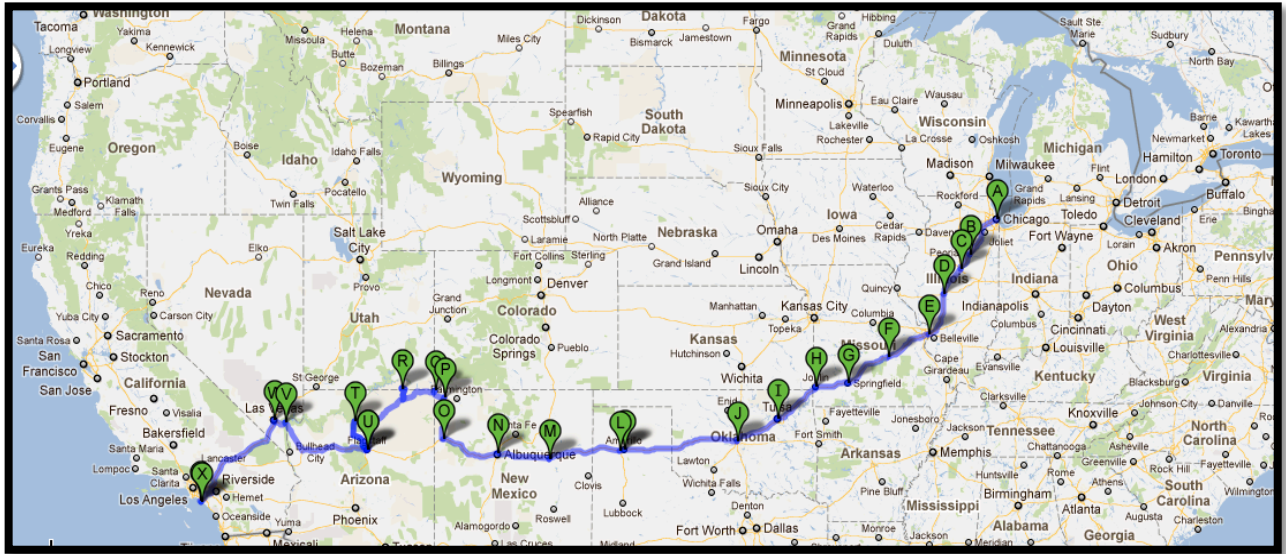


The Great American Adventure

Itinerary 2011

(Updated version with notes from actual trip)

July 22 - August 9, 2011



Total miles: 4,355 Total kilometers: 7,009

July 22 - August 9, 2011

INTRODUCTION: This is the updated itinerary for 2011 with directions and highlighted main attractions which include sights like: Chicago, Mississippi River, Monument Valley, Hoover Dam, Grand Canyon, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, The PCH, Yosemite, San Francisco, The PCH and much more! Hotel reservations aren't be made except for in downtown Chicago at the [Travelodge](#). Motorcycles are rented through [Eaglerider](#) and returned in Los Angeles. A 15 Passenger Ford Express Van is rented through [Bandago Vans](#) for the entire trip with pick up in Chicago and drop-off in Los Angeles. What actually happens each day is written in italics.

July 22, 2011:

Depart from Vienna at 9:35am to Amsterdam with KLM. Arrive in Chicago O'Hare at 2pm local time. Private shuttle service to [Travelodge](#). Get rooms, freshen up and go for a walk through the city. Main attractions include: **WILLIS TOWER, WRIGLEY FIELD, NAVY PIER and start of Route 66.**

(The flight and entrance to the States went without incident. A shuttle bus was rented through [Limobank](#) and was waiting for us at the airport with a CA School sign. We went to the downtown Travelodge and walked through the city. We ended up only having time to visit Willis Tower. The entrance fee was \$17 a head and took about an hour and a half to see everything. Really worth the experience! The [skydeck](#) was awesome. We also went to [Giordano's](#) on Jackson street and got three large deep dish pizzas and six pitchers of beer.)

July 23, 2011:

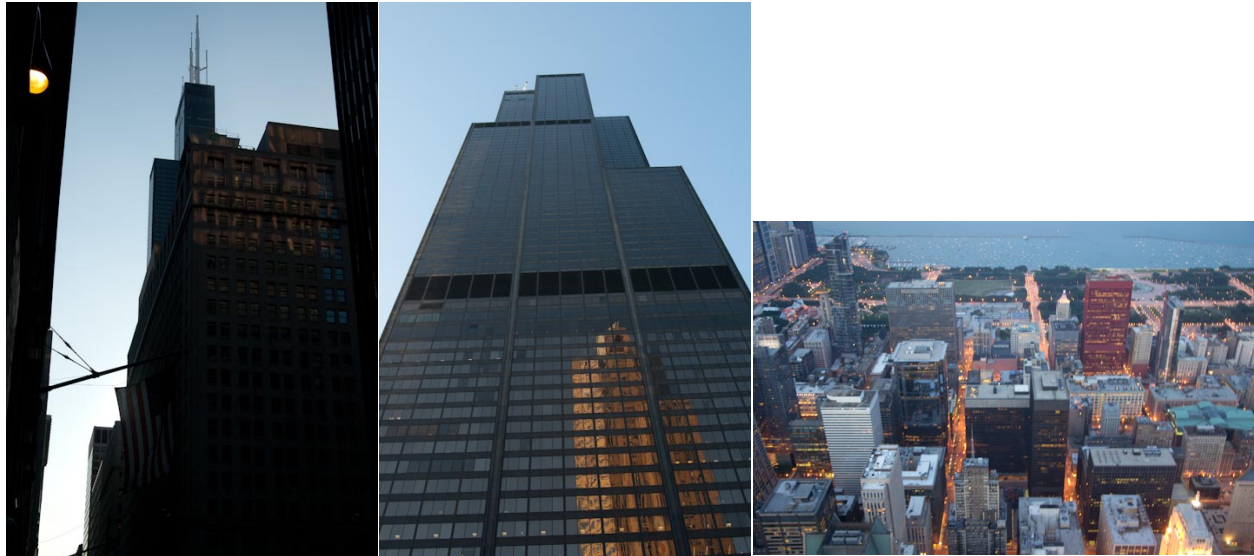
Wake up and pick up van at 11am and get the motorcycles at [Eaglerider](#) at 1pm and start our journey out west on Route 66!

*(Headed out for [Bandago](#) (situated one subway stop before the airport) at 9 am. Picked up 15 passenger Ford Express Van and took out the rear bench for luggage space. Drove back to downtown Chicago and got group. Drove out to [Eaglerider](#), rented the motorcycles and set off on Route 66. Stopped in **Pontiac, Illinois** and toured downtown museums. Stayed the night in the Days Inn by I55 in Bloomington.)*

Chicago to Bloomington, Illinois (135 miles, 2 hours 25 minutes)

All across Illinois, Historic Route 66 is very well marked. Alignments of the highways are bannered with their years of service, so in areas where the highway splits you have a choice of which alignment to

follow. While Illinois provides directional signage to show you where to turn, signs are not always well maintained and it is possible to miss a turn in some areas.



Looking west at downtown Chicago from the beginning of Route 66. The Pacific Ocean is 2448 miles from here.

Historic Route 66 begins at **Lake Shore Drive** (US 41) and **Jackson Drive**. Head west on **Jackson**. At **Michigan Avenue**, **Jackson** becomes one way (eastbound). Turn right, then left on **Adams Street**. The "Begin Historic Route 66" sign is posted here (this was an earlier beginning, but the traditional end is at Lake Michigan on **Lake Shore Drive**). Follow **Adams** through the "Loop", past the **Willis Tower**, to **Ogden Avenue**. Take **Ogden** all the way through the remainder of Chicago and Cicero. Turn south on **Harlem Avenue**, then southwest again on **Joliet Road**. At Indian Head Park, **Joliet Road** will dump onto **Interstate 55**. Follow **Interstate 55** to the next **Joliet Road** exit, then head south towards **Joliet**.



As we enter **Joliet**, we will follow **IL 53** through town all the way to **Gardner**. Turn west on **Main** to the east outer road of **Interstate 55**. *(Then we went to Pontiac where we were lucky enough to catch a summer bash. We also visited the Pontiac Museum and the Route 66 Museum. From there we followed Route 66 which was clearly marked and continued through Towanda and into Bloomington where we stayed the night.)* Follow this road through numerous towns to the **"Twin Cities"** of **Bloomington-Normal**. The outer road will become **Pine Street** and enter **Normal**. Turn south on **Linden Street**, west on **Willow Street**, south on **Main Street (Business US 51)**, on into adjacent **Bloomington**, and left on **Veterans Parkway**. (If we're hungry, we will stop for a sandwich at the original **Steak & Shake** drive-in, one of the classic Route 66 burger joints, almost exactly on the dividing line between **Bloomington** and **Normal**. "Authentic," and not for the calorie counter.) Turn on **Beich Road** which will become the north outer road of **Interstate 55**. Follow this outer road all the way to **Lincoln** (see the **Dixie Trucker's Home** in **McLean**, claimed to be the world's first truck stop). Follow **Lincoln Parkway** around **Lincoln**. Cross **Interstate 55** to the east outer road and follow it to **Williamsville**. Join **I-55**. Exit for **Sherman** (next exit) which is **Peoria Road (Business I-55)** into **Springfield**.

If we're in a hurry, we can skirt **Bloomington-Normal** on **Veterans Parkway**, an east-side semi-controlled highway also known to local old-timers as "The Belt Line." Veterans was a 1950s-vintage, Cold War project to bypass the growing community and allow civil-defense-oriented traffic to move on the highway at speeds up to 100 miles per hour, although nobody but drag-racing kids (illegally) actually attained such speeds there. The original Route 66 through town became known as "Business 66" when the Belt Line acquired the Route 66 moniker. Rather than entering **Normal** via **Pine Street**, simply get onto Veterans from **I-55** and stay on it until it rejoins **I-55** on the south side of town, and then continue to Springfield as above on the outer road.

July 24, 2011:

Bloomington to Springfield (69.2 miles, 1 hour and 24 minutes)

*(Stayed on the **I-55** to Springfield. Along the way, we hit a strong storm (the only one for the duration of the trip). So we stopped at an abandoned gas station to wait it out. Several hours later it was clear and we continued along the **I-55** to St. Louis where we parked and visited the Gateway Arch and the Mississippi River.)*

Springfield to St. Louis (99.1 miles, 1 hour and 49 minutes)



Springfield to the St. Louis Metro Area

Entering **Springfield** on **Peoria Road (Business I-55)**, turn west on **Taintor Avenue** which will curve around and become **Fifth Street**. Follow this to **Stanford Avenue** where it will merge and become **Sixth Street**. Continue south on **Sixth** as it dumps onto **Interstate 55**. Take the second exit and follow the west outer road to **IL 104** and return east to **I-55**. Exit for **Divernon** and continue south on the west outer road to several miles south of the **Carlinville** exit, then follow signs east and cross over **I-55**. Turn south on the east outer road through **Mount Olive** and Route 66 will cross back over **I-55**. At **Staunton**, join **IL 4**, then rejoin **I-55** west outer road through **Hamel**; this becomes **IL 157**. Follow **IL 157** south and west until west of **Edwardsville**, where IL 157 turns south to cross I-270. Instead, head west on Chain of Rocks Road. Here you can find **Mustang Corral** which is a popular attraction for French visitors. They have been featured in old Route 66 books in France as well as a documentary.

*Note: There are several alignments of Route 66 through the St. Louis area. This alignment will make for a continuous route. Follow **Chain of Rocks Road** to **Mitchell** at **IL 203**. Cross under **I-270** to where **Chain of Rocks Road** continues on the south side of the interstate. Follow this to **IL 3**. A "Spur Historic Route 66" continues west to the old **Chain of Rocks Bridge** (pedestrian only). Take the side trip to the bridge, and then return to **IL 3** and head north. Take westbound **Interstate 270** across the **Mississippi River** into Missouri. Turn south on **Riverview Drive**.*

(We weren't able to visit the Chain of Rocks Bridge as we got stuck in a heavy rainstorm. It was so strong and dangerous that I thought that it would blow over the van. This caused a major delay and we had to wait out the storm knowing that we needed to get a bike to Tulsa the following day at 2pm.)

*Note: There are several alignments through St. Louis. This alignment will maintain a continuous route. From the Chain of Rocks Bridge, turn south on **Riverview Drive**, continue to **Broadway**. Turn south on **Broadway**, then west on **Calvary** which runs between two cemeteries. Again turn south on **West Florissant St** which will eventually become **North Florissant St** (This is not a good neighborhood. It is advisable to keep the windows rolled up and doors locked.). **North Florissant** will make a couple of curves and eventually become **Tucker Boulevard** (at this point we will make a side-trip to the Mississippi River*

and visit the **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and the Gateway Arch**). **Tucker** will angle off to become **Gravois Road** (**Tucker** actually goes south here, but the road "naturally" angles southwest onto **Gravois**). At **Chippewa Avenue**, Route 66 turns southwest. **Ted Drewes Frozen Custard** will be on your left close to the west city limits of St. Louis. Follow **Chippewa** to the city limits where it will become **Watson Road** through the suburbs. **Marlborough** was the site of the **Coral Court Motel**, now gone. Continue west on Watson Road until it becomes an onramp for **Interstate 44**.

St. Louis to Rolla (108 miles, 1 hour and 45 minutes)

Continue on **I-44** to the **Allenton** Exit (Six Flags), **Business Loop 44**. A side trip to **Route 66 State Park** (site of Times Beach) can be made by exiting at **Lewis Road**. Follow **Business I-44** through **Pacific** to where it rejoins **I-44**. Continue west on the south outer road to **Missouri 100** at **Gray Summit**. Follow **MO 100** to **Supplemental Route AT**, follow this to **US 50** and continue on the north outer road to the exit for **Supplemental Route AH**. Cross to the south side, and continue on the south outer road to **St. Clair**. At **MO 30**, cross over **I-44** again and follow the north outer road to the **Stanton** exit (side trip to **Meramec Caverns**) and cross back over. South outer road to **Sullivan** (to **Springfield Street**) and continue down the south outer road through **Bourbon** to **Cuba** where the road becomes **Supplemental Route ZZ**. At **Rosati**, **Supplemental Route ZZ** becomes **Supplemental Route KK** (continue west, do not turn south). At **St. James**, turn north, cross **I-44**, and take the north outer road to **US 63** north of **Rolla**. Follow **US 63** into **Rolla**.

(In Rolla we had excellent steaks at Colton's Steak House and Grill and called it a night. Lodging was \$15 per person and the steaks with beers and desert came out to \$20 each.)

July 25, 2011:

Rolla to Springfield (113 miles, 1 hour and 49 minutes)



At **Business I-44**, head west and southwest (past the University of Missouri's reproduction of Stonehenge). Turn right on **Kings highway** and follow to **Martin Springs Road** (just before **I-44**). Turn west and follow through **Doolittle** until the road leads to **I-44** (Exit **176 -- Sugar Tree Road**). You MUST join **I-44** at this point (the road actually continues down the south outer road, but the road has been cut off by **I-44**). Exit at **Supplemental Route D (Jerome/Dixon)**, but continue west on the outer road (not east). Follow the north outer road and turn left on **Supplemental Route J**. Cross over and immediately turn west on **Supplemental Route Z** (an old divided highway). Watch for **Teardrop Lane**, turn left and drive through **Devil's Elbow**. The road will rejoin **Supplemental Route Z**. Follow this road to **Business I-44** in **St. Robert**, follow **Business I-44** to west side of **Waynesville** and continue west on **SOUTH MO 17** when **Business I-44** turns south. Follow **MO 17** across **I-44** at **Buckhorn**, turn west on **SR AB**. When **AB** reaches **I-44**, follow the south outer road until the exit for **Sleeper** (at one point, the outer road will become **SR N** and then **SR F**, always continue west). At the **Sleeper** exit, cross over to the north outer road and follow it into **Lebanon** where it will join **Business I-44**. At **SR W** (just before reaching **I-44**), continue on this road to **Phillipsburg**, cross the interstate and go west on **SR CC** to **Marshfield**. At **Marshfield**, follow **MO 38** (very briefly) to **SR OO** and follow this road which will become **MO 744** at the Springfield city limits.

Springfield (MO) to Oklahoma City (283 miles, 4 hours and 16 minutes)

Springfield to Joplin (75.8 miles, 1 hour and 19 minutes)

No breakfast. Wake up and go for short drive and try one of the popular Route 66 eating places, the **Steak and Shake**, located at **St. Louis** and **National**. However, one of the favorite dishes of Springfield is cashew chicken, a pseudo-Chinese dish invented in Springfield and available at any of the numerous Chinese restaurants in the city. It is not, though, available at **Steak and Shake**!

The Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque in downtown Springfield, Missouri.

Follow **Kearney Street (MO 744)** to **Glenstone Avenue (Business US 65)**. Turn south to **St. Louis Street**, turn west and go past the **Shrine Mosque** (on the National Register of Historic Places) to **Park Central Square** (a plaque on the west side of the square dedicates Springfield as "the Birthplace of Route 66"). Continue west on **College Street** to **Chestnut Expressway (Business I-44)**, follow this across **I-44** where it becomes **MO 266**. Follow **MO 266** to the junction with **MO 96** west of **Halltown**. At the junction, continue west on "Old 66" (a county road, **NOT MO 96**) through **Paris Springs Junction** to the intersection (again) of **MO 96**. Cross **MO 96** onto **SR N**, turn west on "Old 66" (county road – old bridge is visible), go through **Spencer** and follow the old road to **MO 96** (yet again!). Turn west on **MO 96** and follow it through **Phelps** and **Avilla**. Watch for an older highway on the right side of the road (non-drivable) in **Jasper County**. Where this road appears to swing across the highway, turn left onto **Old 66 Boulevard**. Follow this road back to **MO 96** and continue on **MO 96** into **Carthage**. At **Garrison Street (MO 571)**, turn south, then west again on **Oak Street**. This road will cross **US 71** and reach a V-intersection (take the left road). Follow **Old 66 Boulevard** (the road back outside the Carthage city limits) past the **66 Drive-in**. Crossover **Business US 71** to **Index Road** and follow **Route 66 Boulevard** west. The road will turn left onto **Pine Street** at an old cemetery and intersect with **Main Street** in **Cartersville**. Follow **Main Street** into **Webb City** where it becomes **Broadway** (at the fork near the city limits, go left)

and follow it to **Jefferson Avenue**. Turn south on **Jefferson**, west on **MacArthur Boulevard** (get into the leftmost lane); turn south again on **Madison Avenue (Business US 71)**. **Madison Avenue** will become **Rangeline Road** in Joplin.

Joplin to Miami (29.9 miles, 44 minutes)



The Marsh Arch Bridge west of Riverton, Kansas. Last of its kind and on the National Register of Historic Places since 1983.

Follow **Rangeline Road** in Joplin to **Zora Street**. Turn west on **Zora**, south on **Florida**, west on **Utica**, southwest on **Euclid**, south on **St. Louis Avenue**, and west on **Broadway**. **Broadway** will turn into **Second Street** as it crosses a viaduct. At **Main Avenue (MO 43)** turn south, then turn west again on **Seventh Street (MO 66)** and follow it out of the city (**Schifferdecker Park** at Joplin's west city limits houses a famous mineral museum). Follow **Seventh Street** to **Route 66 Boulevard** just before the **Kansas state line**, turn right and follow the road into **Galena**, Kansas. Route 66 will continue across a viaduct to **Main Avenue**. Turn south to **Seventh Street (KS 66)**, turn west and follow **KS 66** all the way to **Riverton**. At Alternate **US 69/US 400**, **KS 66** ends. The old highway continues straight west to the **Marsh Arch Bridge** (last of its kind, it's on the National Register of Historic Places). The road turns south and heads into **Baxter Springs**, ending at **Military Boulevard (Alt US 69)**. Follow this road south all the way to the Oklahoma state line (an alternate alignment goes behind Wal-Mart at the south end of town). Continue south on **Alternate US 69** (eventually becomes **US 69**) to **Commerce**, Oklahoma. Turn right on **Commerce Boulevard** to a T-intersection. Turn left here (**Main Street**) and follow this road back to **US 69** into Miami.

Miami to Tulsa (89.7 miles, 1 hour and 30 minutes)

US 69 will turn right, continue straight south past the Coleman Theater, and turn right at **Steve Owens Boulevard** to rejoin **US 69**. Follow **US 69** to **US 60** where the routes will merge. Go past the **Buffalo Ranch** (famous for "buffalo burgers", now closed — the new "Buffalo Ranch" is *not* the original business) and follow **US 60/US 69** past **Vinita**. **US 69** will turn south; continue west on **US 60** to **OK 66** near **White**

Oak. Follow OK 66 all the way to Tulsa. At Claremore is the Will Rogers Museum; at Catoosa is the Blue Whale (part of an old water park). When OK 66 turns onto Interstate 44, do NOT join the interstate. Continue south on 193rd East Avenue and continue south, turn west onto Eleventh Street and enter Tulsa.

(Just before Tulsa, we stopped to see Mater from the movie, CARS, at 4 Women! It was a great stop. The heat was unbearable. We continued along the old Route 66 through some ghost towns. Then we got onto once we crossed the border into Oklahoma. There was a toll. We were in a hurry to get to Tulsa to drop off one motorcycle. It turned out that we got there a day early and so we stayed the night at the hotel next door to the Eaglerider and went for ribs at the original Rib Crib)

July 26, 2011:

Tulsa to Oklahoma City (101 miles, 1 hour and 32 minutes)

Continue west on Eleventh Street through downtown Tulsa (it will curve around and change names a few times) to Southwest Boulevard. Turn southwest on Southwest Boulevard to Oakhurst and follow OK 66 through Sapulpa, Kellyville, Bristow, Depew, Stroud, Davenport, Chandler, Wellston, Luther, Arcadia and all the way to the intersection with Interstate 35 near Edmond. Do NOT turn onto I-35. Continue west on Edmond Road (US 77) to Kelly Avenue and turn south, following it all the way to Interstate 44 in Oklahoma City (at US 77, it will be necessary to jog over it).

Oklahoma City to Amarillo (270 miles, 3 hours and 56 minutes)

Oklahoma City to Texola (OK) (155 miles, 2 hours and 19 minutes)

Continue south on Kelley Ave to Interstate 44. Take the westbound exit, then exit at the next exit (Lincoln Boulevard) and continue south to the Oklahoma State Capitol. Go around the building to the right and continue west on 23rd Street. At May Ave, turn north, then turn west on 36th Street. When the road joins Interstate 44, do NOT get on the interstate (though a sign prohibits this anyway). Continue west on OK 66 to El Reno. West of El Reno, OK 66 ends, turning onto Interstate 40. Continue west on the road marked "To Fort Reno". Stay on the north frontage road as it becomes Spur US 281, then SOUTH US 281. Here we will cross the 3/4-mile long bridge over the Canadian River. Where US 281 turns south to cross I-40, continue west on the road north of the interstate through Hydro and Weatherford. Note: an alternate alignment turns north on US 270 through Calumet and Geary, then goes south on US 281 and rejoins the later route (as discussed above) at Spur US 281.

Through Weatherford, follow Main. At Seventh Street, continue west (do not curve off). At Fourth Street, turn south to the north frontage road and continue west. At 2330 Road exit cross over the interstate and continue west on the south outer road; at 2310 Road, cross back over to the north side of

the interstate and continue west on the north frontage road to **Clinton**. Follow **Gary Boulevard** to **10th Street**, then turn south, eventually crossing under **I-40**. The **Route 66 Museum** is located in **Clinton**, but not on Route 66. To visit, from **10th Street**, turn west on **Modelle Ave**, then back south on **Gary Boulevard**.

From **Clinton**, go south on **Gary** as it becomes **Neptune**, curve west and the road will become the south frontage road for **I-40**. At **Exit 57**, cross to the north frontage road; at **Exit 50**, cross back to the south and follow the frontage road into **Canute**. At **2070 Rd**, cross to the north frontage road. Follow this onto **Business I-40** and go through **Elk City**. Where **Business I-40** rejoins the interstate, continue west on the north frontage road. Follow this road to **Business I-40** in **Sayre**. Follow **Bus I-40** through Sayre, where it ends at **I-40**, turn west on the north frontage road. At **Exit 11**, join **Bus I-40** through **Erick**. When **I-40** turns north, continue west into **Texola**.

Texola to Amarillo (108 miles, 1 hour and 39 minutes)



*Note: On the stretch of Route 66 in Texas, on- and off-ramps for the interstate do not intersect crossing highways. Instead, the merge into the frontage roads. Take care when coming up on them (the frontage always yields to the ramp) so as not to get hit by traffic exiting **I-40**. Also, Texas (except in Amarillo and near Vega) does not really mark Historic Route 66; instead, signs on **I-40** for exits post Route 66 signs as if the highway actually continued down the interstate, only leaving to pass through towns. Although this was the case towards the last years of US 66's existence, the historic route posted here follows the earlier alignment.*

From **Texola**, head west on the main road. At the **Texas** state line, the road will become **Spur TX 30** and join **I-40**. Before reaching the interstate, head west on the south frontage road. Follow this road (which eventually becomes **Business Loop I-40**) all the way to **Shamrock**, site of the **U-Drop Inn**. Continue on **Bus I-40** to the west side of **Shamrock**, but stay on the south frontage road when the business route joins the interstate. At **County Line Road**, cross to the north frontage road and follow until it joins **Spur**

555 Highway through McLean. In McLean is the **Devil's Rope Museum**. West of McLean, do not join the interstate, but take the road which curves around and goes under it. Follow the south frontage road to Ranch Road 291 in Alanreed and get on I-40. Exit at TX 70 and follow the south frontage road west through Groom (site of the **World's Largest Cross** and **Leaning Water Tower** on the opposite side of the interstate) and Conway. West of Conway, the main road will turn southwest towards I-40. Cross I-40 and follow the north frontage road to Exit 85, and head northwest on Business Loop 40 to US 60. Follow US 60/Bus I-40 into Amarillo (where the road is Amarillo Boulevard).

(We stayed the night in Amarillo and went for dinner at the Big Texan where if you eat a 72 oz. steak, you get it for free.)

July 27, 2011:



Amarillo to Albuquerque (287 miles, 4 hours and 3 minutes)

Amarillo to Glenrio (TX) (78.1 miles, 1 hour and 11 minutes)

Follow Amarillo Boulevard into Amarillo (home of the **Big Texan**, no longer on Route 66). Route 66 followed Amarillo Boulevard through Amarillo, but an older alignment turned south on Pierce, then west on Sixth, southwest on Bushland, then west again on Ninth, and finally rejoin Amarillo Boulevard. At Indian Hill Road, go west all the way out of town to Blessen Road, turn south, then continue west on the north frontage road.

Cadillac Ranch

Watch for the **Cadillac Ranch** on the south side of the interstate, a must-see on Route 66. Stay on the north frontage road all the way to Vega, and then join Bus I-40 through town. Return to the north frontage road west of town through Adrian, which is the geographic center between Chicago and Los

Angeles, there is a cafe and gift shop called Midpoint. At **Gruhlkey** rejoin **I-40** (the original road is cut off) and follow the interstate all the way to **Exit 0, Glenrio**. West of **Gruhlkey**, the highway makes two massive drops of the High Plains over an escarpment. At **Exit 0**, follow **Bus I-40** into **Glenrio** (site of the famous First Motel/Last Motel in Texas), an almost ghost town on the edge of Texas and New Mexico.

Glenrio to Santa Rosa (100 miles, 1 hour and 24 minutes)

From **Glenrio**, continue west on the county road to **San Jon** (this road is gravel and may not always be drivable). Alternatively, return to **I-40** and enter **New Mexico**. Exit for **NM 392**, the head west on the north frontage road to **NM 39**, cross under the interstate and enter **San Jon** (the gravel road alignment connects here). The third road on the right is old Route 66, head west. Continue west to **Exit 335 (Tucumcari Boulevard)**, cross the interstate and enter **Tucumcari**. **Tucumcari** is the site of the famous **Blue Swallow Motel**. This road will become **US 54** and will join **I-40**. It will be necessary to join the interstate. At **Exit 321**, exit and head to the south frontage road. Follow this until the road passes under the interstate via a drainage opening and becomes the north frontage road (*NOTE: larger vehicles can NOT make this passage; exit the interstate at Exit 311*). Follow the north frontage road to the **Montoya** exit and cross to the south frontage road. At the first opportunity to cross over the interstate, return to the north frontage road to **NM 69**, and then get back on **I-40**. At the exit for **US 54 (South)**, exit and follow **US 54** into **Santa Rosa**. At **Coronado Ave**, turn north and return to **I-40**. (If you have time, pause in **Santa Rosa** to see the improbable **Blue Hole**, a deep spring/lake that's one of very few places in the world where you can find quality scuba diving in the landlocked middle of a desert.)



Santa Rosa to Albuquerque (118 miles, 1 hour and 43 minutes)

Follow **I-40** for 70 miles west (**I-40** was built directly on Route 66 here). *To follow the older alignment through **Santa Fe**, go north at **US 84**.* At **US 285** is **Clines Corners**, a famous Route 66 stop. At **Exit 209** head west on the north frontage road until it becomes **Central Avenue** in **Moriarty**; continue west on **NM 333**. Follow this road through **Tijeras Canyon** and the **Cibola National Forest** until **NM 333** ends at **I-**

40. Return briefly to I-40 and exit for Central Avenue, which curves under the interstate and enters Albuquerque.

(We started off with a stop at Cadillac Ranch. We made it to midpoint and had some lunch at the café. Then we went to Tucumcari to check out the Blue Swallow Motel. It was hot so we decided to go swimming at the Blue Hole. Then we drove out to Albuquerque and we dropped off the second motorcycle at Eaglerider and found lodging. We had a birthday dinner for Monika at Sadie's New Mexico.)

July 28, 2011:

Albuquerque to Gallup (141 miles, 2 hours and 3 minutes)

US 66 followed Central Avenue through Albuquerque, a beautiful city that sits like a bowl in the area above the Rio Grande River. The El Vado Motel is in central Albuquerque, another famous Route 66 motel. The road passes the University of New Mexico; if we're hungry (and if you can find a parking place, which is tough), stop at the Frontier Restaurant, a classic student dive across from campus, and order a Fiesta Burger. About half the population of New Mexico has had one at one time or another, and it'll seem like they're all in line ahead of you, but that's the way "local color" works. On the west side of Albuquerque, Route 66 crosses over I-40. Follow the north frontage road across the Rio Puerco Bridge and get on the interstate. Western New Mexico is mountainous (though not as mountainous as the Rocky Mountains north of here) and is a very beautiful area. It also passes through some Native American reservations here which have retained much of their heritage. Many of the souvenirs sold here reflect this. At NM 6, the alternate alignment through Santa Fe rejoins the historic route. At Exit 117, get off the interstate and head west on the north frontage road. This road will get away from the interstate and return near it near Laguna Pueblo, follow NM 124 to Budville, and turn north at "Old 66", following it until it returns to NM 124. Continue west on NM 124 until it joins the interstate, and cross over to the south frontage road. Follow this road until it crosses under the interstate (lava beds can be found here) and continue on the north frontage road until it becomes NM 117. Follow NM 117 into Grants; continue west on NM 122 to NM 606. Continue west (not on NM 606) on the north frontage road all the way to Continental Divide. Rejoin I-40. At Exit 36, return to the north frontage road until it passes under the interstate and becomes "Route 66" in Gallup. Note the teepees on the east side of town.



Gallup to Oljato-Monument Valley, UT (355 miles, 6 hours and 8 minutes)

Follow Route 66 through **Gallup**. On the west side of **Gallup**, the road becomes **NM 118**. Follow **NM 118** through Defiance and under **I-40**, back over **I-40** and all the way west to the **Arizona** state line. The spectacular scenery of the southwest continues on into Arizona. Numerous souvenir stands line the old highway at the state line (**Navajo** blankets are plentiful here, but know what you're buying -- so are pieces of imported tourist trash). At the first exit in Arizona, cross under **I-40** to the south frontage road. At **Exit 354** it will be necessary to join the interstate. At the **Allantown** exit, Route 66 follows the north frontage road, but the road is gravel, *or* stay on **I-40** to **US 191**. Follow **McCarroll Road** until it rejoins the interstate. Head west on **I-40** for 44 miles. Route 66 enters the **Painted Desert** here. Feel free to exit and tour **Petrified Forest National Park** (a quick trip can take about an hour — the southern exit of the park accesses **US 180** which can be taken back to Route 66 *or* return back to the northern entrance to rejoin **I-40** and Route 66).

*(At Gallup we got onto **US 491 N** to Shiprock. We stopped to take a few pictures then we got onto the **US 160 W** and stopped at the Four Corners Monument. We stayed on the **US 160 W** then got onto the **US 163 N** to Monument Valley.)*

Oljato-Monument Valley, UT to Flagstaff (176 miles, 3 hours and 17 minutes)

Follow **AZ 77** through **Holbrook** to **US 180**, which will join **I-40**. Follow **I-40** to the **Joseph City** exit. Follow **Main Street** through **Joseph City**, crossing over to the south frontage road at the first exit west of town. Just past the **Jack Rabbit Trading Post**, rejoin the interstate. At **AZ 87**, head into **Winslow**. If we wish to see **The Corner** turn left on **North Kinsley**. At **AZ 99**, go west until it rejoins the interstate and follow **I-40** to exit **211** towards **Winona**. Head north on **Winona Road**. Along here is the famous **Barringer Meteor Crater**, one of the world's best-preserved impact craters, although hardly the largest in the world as sometimes claimed. Meteor Crater is privately owned and maintained as a tourist attraction, and in contrast to most private "tourist attractions" on this stretch of road, is well worth visiting; the visitor center (fee) is quite well done, with interesting educational exhibits, and short walks along the rim give a sense of the size of the hole in the ground. It is 15 minutes south of **I-40** on good road. Plan on spending 1 to 2 hours there, more if you sign up for one of the longer, guided hikes. **Two Guns** is also located just off the interstate here. The elevation will rise here, and the desert will begin to be replaced by pine

forest. Follow **Winona Road** to **US 89** and continue southwest on **US 89** (street name: "Route 66") into **Flagstaff**, site of the **Lowell Observatory**.

(We ended up just driving straight to Flagstaff from Monument Valley on the US 160 W. It was a burly drive probably the longest stretch on the whole trip.)

July 9, 2011:

Flagstaff to Grand Canyon to Flagstaff (150 miles, 2 hours and 20 minutes)



Grand Canyon

Breakfast near hotel then head out to the Grand Canyon. Go to the South Rim on the US 180 W. Leave motorcycles just before the entrance to the park and everyone gets into the van. Admission to the park is \$33 per vehicle. Helicopter rides are for \$210 per person for 30 minutes. Bring water and sunblock. Travelodge \$80 a night.

(We spent almost the whole day at the park. We saw a bear that ran right in front of our van. The Grand Canyon was special for everyone. A lot of walking. Vasek and Jirka took advantage of the helicopter ride. The rest of the group went out for pizza, spaghetti and beers. We drove back to Flagstaff and stayed the night at the Travelodge.)

Flagstaff to Seligman to Hoover Dam to Las Vegas (253 miles, 4 hours and 12 minutes)



Visit Seligman and Hoover Dam along the way. \$11 entry fee with tour. Stay the night in Las Vegas at Circus Circus \$200 for a single king sized bed. Split it. Drinks and food are much more expensive. Expect to spend an additional \$100 on attractions for the evening.

At AZ 89A, continue west on Business I-40 and follow to I-40 west of Flagstaff. Exit at Spring Valley Road and head north to Parks Rd and go west. At Ponderosa Road, rejoin I-40. Head west to Williams. Williams was the last town on US 66 bypassed by an interstate; it is also the jumping off point for the Grand Canyon. To visit the Grand Canyon, head north on AZ 64, then north on US 180 to the South Rim. The Grand Canyon, though not on Route 66, is often a stop as it is only one hour north of the highway.

From the I-40/AZ 64 interchange, head west on Business I-40 to continue on Route 66. Follow Business I-40 through Williams and return to the interstate; continue west on I-40. Gradually, the road descends out of the mountains and reenters the desert. Exit for US 89 in Ash Fork, but head north (NOT onto US 89) and pass through Ash Fork on Lewis Avenue. On the west side of town, rejoin I-40 and head west.

West of Ash Fork, exit for AZ 66. This is one of the longest unbroken stretches of Route 66, and this section has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. AZ 66 gets well away from the interstate for many miles; there are no working gas stations left on this stretch, so fill up before you head out. Follow AZ 66 northwest through Seligman, a tiny town home to the Delgadillos Historic Route 66 Visitor Center, and the Aubrey Valley. Before Peach Springs is Grand Canyon Caverns. AZ 66 will pass through the Hualapai Indian Reservation and curve back south around the mountains to Kingman. Along the way, keep an eye out for the blink-and-you'll-miss-it ghost town of Hackberry, whose general store has been converted into a crazy little Route 66 gift shop/visitor center.

Take US 93 then take US 95 straight to Las Vegas. Check out Lake Mead along the way.

(It turned out to be a long day. Our first stop was at Seligman. It was a fun place to take the group. It was loaded with Route 66 souvenirs and mannequins. We then visited Hoover Dam. It was terribly hot so we decided not to take the tour and we left for Las Vegas. When we got to Vegas, we had a difficult time

finding accommodation because there was a convention. We drove around for several hours and decided to stay at Circus Circus. We checked out Las Vegas Boulevard and had a nice evening.)

July 31, 2011:

Las Vegas to Newport Beach (272 mi, 4 hours and 32 minutes)

Take I-15 South to the 91 W to the 55 S. Arrive at Newport Beach. Check into hotel and go to Huntington Beach.

(It turned out to be another long drive due to an accident on the I-15. The Mojave Desert was flooded. In the end, we got lucky because the US Open Pro Surfing championships and X-Games were going on at Huntington Beach. We had dinner at the Huntington Beach Brewing Company and we walked on the pier and checked out downtown.)

August 1, 2011:

Beach Day



US Open Pro Surfing Championships and X Games at Huntington Beach. We spent the entire day on the beach and went for dinner at El Ranchito and we had beers at the Goathill Tavern.

August 2, 2011:

Costa Mesa to Yosemite (417 miles, 7 hours and 38 minutes)



Took the 5 freeway to the 99 and got onto the 41N to Yosemite. Go for walk to check out Sequoias. Continue in park to see El Capitan and waterfalls.

Yosemite to Oakdale (93.4 miles, 1 hour and 56 minutes)

Stay the night in Oakdale.

August 3, 2011:

Oakdale to San Francisco (98.2 miles, 1 hour 52 minutes)



Spend a day in San Francisco. See sights such as Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf, Hyde's Park, Lombard Street and the Golden Gate Bridge.

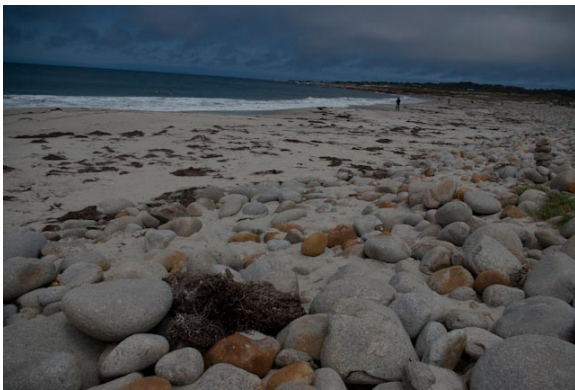
San Francisco to Maverick's to Santa Cruz (81.7 miles, 2 hours and 30 minutes)



Travel south along the Pacific Coast Highway. Make a stop at Maverick's which is famous for its big waves and stay the night in Santa Cruz. Went for a walk on the boardwalk after dinner.

August 4, 2011:

Santa Cruz to Monterey (42.3 miles, 48 minutes)



Continue south on the PCH and visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the 17 Mile Drive which is home to the Pebble Beach Golf Course.

17-mile drive to Costa Mesa

Stay on PCH to 101 S to the 5 S. However, we stayed on the PCH and 101. It was a long drive, but nice sights.

August 5, 2011:



Citadel shopping, Santa Monica end of Route 66, Venice Beach, Queen Mary and dinner at the Newport Beach Brewing Company.

August 6, 2011:



Hollywood, Griffith Park Observatory, Hollywood Blvd, Walk of Fame, Sunset Blvd, Beverly Hills, Bel Air, Hollywood Hills, Playboy Mansion, Rodeo Drive, Drinks atop a famous skyscraper in downtown LA. Return to hotel.

August 7, 2011:

Shopping at swap meets and beaches. Last dinner at Stubrik's Steak House.

August 8, 2011:

Relax and pack...Free morning. Check out of hotel. Return van rental in Hollywood at 3:30pm. Depart from LAX at 3:30pm with Air France.

August 9, 2011:

Arrive in Vienna at 2:35pm.

Attractions

- The **Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower)** in Chicago is a 110-story building (1,450 feet) built in 1974. When built, it became the tallest building in the world, surpassing the World Trade Center Towers in New York City by about 70 feet. It would remain the tallest building until the construction of the Petroness Towers in Malaysia in 1998. (\$17)
- The **Chain of Rocks Bridge** was the most famous crossing of Route 66 over the Mississippi River. It was a relatively narrow bridge (reportedly, two semis could not meet on it) and famous for a 22 degree bend about midway over the river. The road is closed to vehicle traffic, but open during daylight hours for pedestrians. From the bridge, the old water intakes for the St. Louis waterworks are visible as is the Gateway Arch. The bend was made to help accommodate navigation on the river.
- The **Jefferson National Memorial** in St. Louis, Missouri, of which the Gateway Arch is part, was built in 1965 to commemorate westward expansion. The Arch stands 630 feet high and is also 630 feet wide at the base. Underneath it is a free museum about the exploration of the Louisiana Purchase. The other part of the memorial is the old courthouse, where the Dred Scott Decision ruled that a slave did not become a free man because he was taken into a free state. (\$5-\$21)

Meramec Caverns (fee) is located near Stanton, Missouri. Billed as "The Jesse James Hideout", a disputed claim, advertisements were painted on barns up and down Route 66, though most are now located in Missouri and Illinois. In the past, before air conditioning, cars could park in the cave entrance while tours were given, so the cool cave air could be enjoyed for a while down the highway. (\$18)

- **Devil's Elbow**, Missouri is a small town located on the Big Piney River in the Ozark Mountains. The scenery is very beautiful and just west of town is a lookout area on the side of the road.
- The **Shrine Mosque** (officially, the Abou Ben Adhem Shrine Mosque) is located on St. Louis Street in Springfield, Missouri. Not an Islamic mosque, but rather a mosque for Shriners (a Masonic organization). The building was built in the 1920s (on the edge of a residential neighborhood at the time) and has ornate Arabian architecture in the middle of the Missouri Ozarks. The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **Schifferdecker Park** on the west side of Joplin, Missouri houses a mineral museum, Joplin once being an important mining town. Numerous examples of minerals can be found here.
- The **Marsh Arch Bridge** west of Riverton, Kansas, is the last concrete arch bridge on Route 66 (the former bridge over the Spring River east of Riverton was also one of these). It is routinely graffitied, but was recently repainted.
- The **U-Drop Inn** is an old gas station in Shamrock, Texas famous for its unique architecture.
- The **Devil's Rope Museum** in McLean, Texas is a museum devoted to barbed wire. An exhaustive collection of barbed wire, tools used to make it, and anything else related to it can be found here, as well as a small Route 66 collection, complete with poseable mannequins.
- The **Leaning Water Tower** in Groom, Texas is another famous, unique landmark. Formerly part of a truck stop, the tower still remains (free).
- The **Big Texan** in Amarillo, Texas is now located on the east side of Amarillo on I-40. Advertisements once (and a few still do) went up and down Route 66 boasting a free 72 oz. steak with little print reading "dinner, if eaten in one hour." Few people have been able to actually do this, usually people one would not suspect of being able to do it.
- The **Cadillac Ranch** (free entry) is an example of modern art found in the middle of the Texas Panhandle, west of Amarillo, Texas. Ten Cadillacs, nose down in the ground, stand in the middle of a cornfield, easily accessible and rarely empty.
- **Glenrio, Texas** (and New Mexico) is an almost ghost town (there are still a few residents there) on the Texas-New Mexico state line. Business Loop I-40 (at Exit 0) crosses into New Mexico as a four-lane highway which quickly turns into a two-lane gravel road. The remains of the First Motel/Last Motel in Texas, a famous motel on Route 66, are here.
- The **Blue Swallow Motel** is a famous old Route 66 motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico. It is listed on the National and State of New Mexico historic registers. Built in 1939 by W. A. Huggins, its most famous proprietor was Lillian Redman. Acquiring the motel in 1958, she ran it for almost 40 years. The current owners, Dale and Hilda Bakke acquired the motel in 1998 and completed a

major restoration in the summer 2005. While the motel is still for sale, it is once again in full operation.

- The **Blue Hole** is an 87-foot-deep artesian spring near Santa Rosa, New Mexico, that offers improbably good scuba diving. A permit is required (fee); purchase via the web site or at the dive center nearby (bring PADI or NAUI certification papers), which also rents equipment.
- **Pecos National Historical Park** lies just off the original (not recent) route through New Mexico, about 25 miles east of Santa Fe, and preserves cultural and archaeological sites. Many pertain to the Santa Fe Trail, which preceded Route 66 as an artery across the Southwest, and others deal with the Civil War Battle of Glorieta Pass, which was fought near here. (\$3)
- **St. Francis Cathedral** in Santa Fe, New Mexico lies just yards off the original route, at the terminus of the Santa Fe Trail. Free tours of the interior are available during the day, except during services (please be respectful and don't use flash for photography). A large city parking lot just south of the cathedral is a good place to stash your car while you wander downtown Santa Fe.
- **La Bajada Hill**, on the original route, was a major impediment to drivers in the road's early days. The winding, narrow road gingerly picked its way down a huge escarpment separating the high country near Santa Fe from the Rio Grande Valley and Albuquerque. Folklore has it that enterprising Santa Feans would wait at the top of the hill for intimidated motorists to pause at the top, daunted by what they saw, and offer to drive down the hill for them -- for a fee, of course. A rest area on northbound I-25 at the top of the hill provides views.
- **Coronado State Monument** north of Albuquerque preserves an archaeological site that was being actively excavated when Route 66 was young. There are interpretive exhibits. (\$5)
- The **Frontier Restaurant** is a classic "student dive" that has given generations of students at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque a place to eat, study and hang out. It's directly across Central Avenue from the University and is open 24/7 (except around Thanksgiving and Christmas); parking, if you're stopping to eat, can be hard to find, but is usually available south of Central.
- The **Painted Desert** is a scenic area of northeastern Arizona. A wonderful view is available in the Petrified Forest National Park. (Free)
- **Petrified Forest National Park** east of Holbrook, Arizona, contains a drive through many examples of petrified wood. A museum (free) is near the entrance. Many places outside the park sell samples of petrified wood. It is illegal to remove petrified wood (or anything, for that matter) from the park and vehicles are subject to search upon leaving due to numerous thefts.

(Note that wood purchases made at the visitor center/gift shop at the south end of the park are OK, but keep your receipt.) (\$5 walk in)

- **Four Corners** Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico
- **Monument Valley** Monument Valley is officially a large area which includes much of the area surrounding **Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park**, a Navajo Nation equivalent to a [national park](#). [Oljato](#), for example, is also within the area designated as Monument Valley. Visitors can pay an access fee and drive through the park on a 17-mile (27 km) dirt road (a 2-3 hour trip). Tours are also available, and the fee varies between about \$40 and \$100 per person depending on the services provided and route. There are parts of Monument Valley which are only accessible by guided tour, such as Mystery Valley and [Hunts Mesa](#).
- **Meteor Crater** is a geologically recent, well-preserved impact crater between Flagstaff and Winslow, Arizona. A fee is charged to enter the visitor center, which has educational exhibits and a theater. Short trails lead to overlooks from which the crater can be viewed. Longer (1 hour) hikes with guides from the visitor center occur several times a day. (\$10-\$15)
- **Two Guns, Arizona** about 30 miles east of Flagstaff contains the ruins of a gas station and a tourist trap animal park. It is abandoned now and worth a look. Historically, the area was the site of a major confrontation between the Navajos and the Apaches in the 19th century.
- **Lowell Observatory**, founded by Percival Lowell, is located on Mars Hill on the west side of the city of Flagstaff. Its original purpose was the study of Mars, as directed by Lowell, who believed that life could be found there and that canals had been built there to bring water to the cities. However, it grew into a serious astronomical observatory covering diverse research topics. In 1930, the planet Pluto was discovered using photographic plates obtained at this observatory. Visitors can tour the grounds; there are occasional evening programs that allow visitors to use some of the smaller telescopes. (\$6 entrance fee)
- **Oatman, Arizona** is an old west town complete with wild burros which are relatively tame and can be fed.
- **Amboy Crater** (free) is a volcano in the Mojave Desert in San Bernadino County, California, and is accessible on a short gravel road from the National Old Trails Road.
- **The Site of World's First McDonald's** is located in San Bernardino, California. Although McDonald's stands for something Route 66 is not (that is, fast food chains versus mom-and-pop restaurants which once lined the entire road), it has ties to Route 66. The first one located here and founded by the McDonald Brothers (bought out by Ray Kroc who bought the franchise rights initially and opened his first one near the other end of Route 66 in the Chicago area) was demolished. On the site there is now an unofficial McDonald's memorabilia museum with no or very little ties to the McDonald's Corporation.

- **Wigwam Motel**, located also in San Bernardino, sits near the border of Rialto. A classic Route 66 icon featuring a clever individual teepee shaped units arranged in a small village like setting. The motel recently went through major renovations and is the recipient of the Cyrus Avery Award for the best preservation project of 2005. A must see and stay!
- The **Pasadena Freeway** is one of the first freeways built in the US (between Pasadena and Los Angeles in California). A marker at the north end of Arroyo Parkway designates it as a State Historic Freeway. Trucks are now prohibited on the road, and it winds its way (at a relatively high speed) into downtown Los Angeles from Pasadena, passing by homes, etc. This is an absolutely fun road to drive.
- **Grand Canyon** <http://www.nps.gov/grca/> info can be found here. We can park the bikes outside of the entrance and all go in together with our semi SUV and drive to the south side to take in some breath-taking views! (\$25 per vehicle, or \$12 per person-walk in fee.)
- **Death Valley** <http://www.nps.gov/deva/> info can be found here. If we decide to go to death Valley and time allows...(\$10 per person)
- **Joshua Tree** <http://www.nps.gov/jotr/> info can be found here. If we decide to check this place out we could also rent some climbing shoes and do some free climbs (\$5 entry fee per person)
- **Mojave Desert** <http://www.nps.gov/moja/> info can be found here. If we decide to go to the Mojave Desert and time allows...(Free)
- **Chanel Islands** <http://www.nps.gov/chis/> info can be found here. (\$40-\$60 depending on what we want to do. Just go to the island or go on a special whale watching expedition...)
- **Angels Baseball game** (\$5-\$500) depending on what kind of ticket you want.
- **Venice Beach (free), Beverly Hills (free), Griffith Park observatory (free), Hollywood walk of fame (free), Bel Air (free), Hollywood Hills (free), Rodeo Drive (free), all beaches (free)**

Motorcycles:

HD® Electra Glide®



[Specifications](#)

HD® Street Glide™



[Specifications](#)

HD® Road Glide®



[Specifications](#)

HD® Road King®



[Specifications](#)

HD® Heritage Softail® Classic



[Specifications](#)

[HD® Fat Boy®](#)



[Specifications](#)

[HD® Dyna® Wide Glide®](#)



[Specifications](#)

[HD® Dyna® Low Rider®](#)



[Specifications](#)

[HD® Sportster® 883](#)



[Specifications](#)

Van Rental:



Total approximate charges for 18-day trip 10-person group:

Grand total per person with motorcycle for 15 days *all inclusive **138352 CZK**

Grand total per person with motorcycle for 7 days *all inclusive **115173 CZK**

Grand total per person with motorcycle for 3 days *all inclusive **98803 CZK**

Grand total per person without motorcycle, food and accommodation - base price - (includes: plane ticket, guide, van, gas and entrance fees to parks and attractions, visas ESTA, travel insurance)
63000 CZK

*All inclusive (summer rates) = plane ticket, guide, food, van, gas, entrance fees to national parks and attractions, parking, shuttle service to and from airports and hotel, ESTA tourist visas and travel insurance)