

Great American Road Trip: Texas to Illinois



Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Route 66
April 8 - 17, 2026
(10 days - 9 nights)

Highlights Include:

- 100th Anniversary of Route 66
- Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and Illinois
- Route 66 Neon Park and Historical Village (Tulsa)
- Will Rogers Memorial Museum
- Springfield, MO: the birthplace of RT 66
- Meramec Caverns
- St Louis, MO
- Cathedral Basilica of St Louis
- Chicago, IL: the official beginning of Route 66
- Chicago Architecture Cruise
- Breakfast at Lou Mitchell's
- Illinois Route 66 Hall of Fame
- Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
- National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- US Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (OKC)
- Pops 66 Soda Ranch

Wed, April 8

Tulsa, OK

To honor the 100th anniversary of Route 66, we set out on an unforgettable road trip to explore the iconic "Mother Road." Stretching across Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois, this historic highway—established in 1926—quickly became one of the most famous and cherished roadways in the United States.

Thu, April 9

Springfield, MO

This morning we visit some of the legendary Rt 66 landmarks in Tulsa before making our way northeast to Claremore, OK, home to the Will Rogers Memorial Museum. Dedicated to America's favorite cowboy, the museum celebrates Will Rogers' homespun humor, sharp wit, and timeless reflections on life and politics. We then continue along Route 66 to Springfield, Missouri, where we will overnight.

Fri, April 10

St. Louis, MO

With a knowledgeable local guide, we explore the rich history of Springfield, MO, the birthplace of the legendary Route 66. After lunch, we continue east to the Meramec Caverns, one of Missouri's most famous natural attractions. These stunning limestone caves are filled with dramatic formations and stories of outlaws like Jesse James. By evening, we arrive in St. Louis in time to board our river vessel for a dinner cruise on the Mighty Mississippi and breathtaking views of the city skyline—including the famous Gateway Arch.

Sat, April 11

Chicago, IL

This morning we walk along the historic Old Chain of Rocks Bridge, a nostalgic piece of St. Louis's Route 66 history stretching over the Mississippi River. We will then make our way northeast to Chicago, the official starting point of the legendary Route 66. Tonight's highlight awaits as we take a journey back to 1929 into the world of gangsters and flappers. This dinner and

show are in a hidden speakeasy tucked away behind an unmarked door. Gaining entry requires a secret password.

Sun, April 12

Chicago, IL

Enjoy a classic Route 66 tradition: breakfast at Lou Mitchell's. Known as the "Gateway to Route 66," this iconic Chicago diner has been serving hungry travelers for decades—complete with complimentary donut holes and milk duds, just like the old days. We then dive into the heart of the Windy City with a guided city tour. From the towering skyline to storied neighborhoods, Chicago's rich history shines through every corner. We conclude our city tour at Navy Pier, where we enjoy free time and lunch with views of Lake Michigan and the city skyline. We wrap up our day

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with a stunning architecture cruise on the Chicago River, the perfect way to see Chicago—where history, innovation, and art converge along the water.

Mon, April 13

Springfield, IL

After soaking in the sights and sounds of Chicago, we leave behind the big-city skyline that gives way to the charm of small-town America. Route 66 embodied the quirky and unforgettable roadside culture, like the Paul Bunyan statue holding a hot dog in Atlanta, IL—a beloved example of mid-century "Muffler Men" Americana—and the World's Largest Railsplitter Covered Wagon in Lincoln, IL, featuring none other than Honest Abe himself at the reins. Route 66 is a living museum of American ingenuity, humor, and roadside charm.

Tue, April 14

St. Louis, MO

This morning we visit to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, exploring the life and legacy of one of America's most iconic presidents. Afterward we make our way back to St. Louis in time for lunch. We then visit Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, renowned for its breathtaking mosaics and grand Romanesque architecture before seeing everyone's favorite horses, Budweiser Clydesdales at Anheuser-Busch.

Wed, April 15

Miami, OK

Following along Route 66, we will explore Joplin, MO. Joplin has taken its public art to the next level. Visitors don't just admire the artwork—they become a part of it. The city now features interactive 3-D murals, inviting you to pose and immerse yourself in scenes that celebrate the local spirit and Route 66 heritage. Heading west, we soon find ourselves on the shortest stretch of the Mother Road—just 12.8 scenic miles through Kansas before making our way into Oklahoma, one of the most iconic Route 66 states and home to some of the most well-preserved sites on the entire route.

Thu, April 16

Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma holds the longest continuous stretch of Route 66, offering more than 400 miles of authentic roadside Americana. We will encounter an array of classic attractions such as the Round Barn in Arcadia, OK. Every stop offers a glimpse into the spirit of adventure that has defined the Mother Road for nearly a century. This afternoon we visit the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum; a world-class museum houses an extensive collection of Western art, artifacts, and historical exhibits, from Native American culture and frontier life to rodeo history. Switching gears, we then visit the official Olympic and Paralympic Training Site for canoe/kayak and rowing.

OKC will take the global stage when it hosts canoe slalom during the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics.

Fri, April 17

Return home

As we conclude our Great American Road Trip along Route 66, we are reminded of the profound role this iconic highway has played in shaping both small towns and big cities across the heart of America. Stretching over 2,400 miles, the Mother Road is more than just pavement—it is a living story of resilience, community, and the American spirit.

Thank you for traveling with Bilbrey Tours!

Price Includes:

- Roundtrip transportation from:
Abilene, Big Spring, Midland & San Angelo
- 9 nights hotel accommodations
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage
- Meals: 1 breakfasts, 8 continental breakfasts
7 lunches or dinners
- Admissions to included attractions as per itinerary
- Services of a tour escort
- Gratuities for driver and local guides

Cost per person:

\$3145 (2 people per room)

\$3930 (1 person per room)

\$50 deposit due upon booking

Final payment due February 3, 2026

Travel Insurance

An optional Travel Insurance plan is available for purchase on overnight tours through TripAssure. Bilbrey Tours encourages the purchase of a Travel Protection Plan to help protect your investment, your belongings and most importantly you! Bilbrey Tours makes the Tour & Cruise Travel Protection Plans easily available. For complete details and to purchase a plan, follow this link:

<https://atc.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=BILB3262TX>

Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be reported to Bilbrey Tours, Inc. and TripAssure when the problem causing the need to cancel arises.

Tour Activity Level: EASY 1 2 3 4 ACTIVE

Luggage tags and a detailed itinerary will be provided 2 weeks prior to the tour.

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