



cosmos®

# 2026 HIGHLIGHTS OF ROUTE 66

*With Mother Road & Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta*

**15 Nights / 17 Days Land Tour • Escorted From Honolulu**

**September 23 – October 09, 2026 • Tour Managers: Dean & Annette Mizumura**

**Featuring:** Chicago • Pontiac • Springfield • International Route 66 Mother Road Festival  
St. Louis • Joplin • Tulsa • Oklahoma City • Elk City • Amarillo • Tucumcari  
Albuquerque • Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta • Gallup • Winslow • Williams  
Excursion to Grand Canyon National Park • Seligman • Las Vegas • Victorville • Los Angeles

Get your kicks on Route 66 with a legendary trip across America. This historic route, which was called the “Main Street of America” for more than 50 years before the advent of the US Interstate system, begins in Chicago, travels through eight states, and ends in Los Angeles. On this trip down memory lane, you’ll visit the major cities along Route 66, visit Route 66 museums, and step back in time to when the journey was part of the fun! And you’ll be just in time to experience two special events — the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Mother Road Festival and the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta! The annual Mother Road Festival in Springfield, Illinois, brings automobile and motorcycle enthusiasts with hot cars, cool trucks, and vintage bikes together to salute Route 66 and the tradition of the open road. Enjoy classic cars, live entertainment, and other scheduled activities. Then on to St. Louis to witness amazing views of the city and the Mississippi River from the top of the 630-foot-tall Gateway Arch. Visit the National Route 66 Museum in Elk City to view antique cars and historic documents that help you feel what it was like to travel Route 66. In Albuquerque, watch the colorful spectacle of hundreds of balloons rising into the sky at the early morning Balloon Glow and the Mass Ascension at the International Balloon Fiesta, before continuing your journey. Overnight in Williams Arizona — listed in the National Register for Historic Places and where you’ll see neon signs of the intact circa 1940s “Motel Row.” Deviate from Route 66 to see breathtaking scenery at one of the Natural Wonders of the World, the Grand Canyon and then experience the excitement of Las Vegas where you can explore the Vegas Strip, take an optional trip to see Hoover Dam, an engineering marvel, or just relax by the pool. In Los Angeles, you’ll enjoy a tour of Hollywood, the Sunset Strip, Beverly Hills, and finally Santa Monica, the ending point of Route 66. Discover vintage Americana, wide open spaces, and national treasures on this Route 66 tour designed for value-minded travel lovers.

## Your Escorted Highlights of Route 66 Land Tour Includes:

Roundtrip Economy Airfare from Honolulu • 15 Nights Hotel Accommodations  
9 Breakfasts (4 Breakfasts + 5 Continental Breakfasts) • All Taxes and Fees

\* Fares are per person, USD based on double occupancy and include all airline taxes and fees. Airline fuel supplements, taxes and fees are subject to change and tour member is responsible for any increases. Some airline-imposed personal charges, including but not limited to baggage, priority boarding and special seating, may apply. For details visit [www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees](http://www.tripadvisor.com/AirlineFees). After initial deposit, a \$75 per person Non-Stop Travel (NST) cancellation fee may apply. Group departures may be cancelled, if there is less than 20 tour members. NST does not guarantee that all tour members will fly together with Tour Manager. Tour Manager assignments, number of meals offered on tour, tour price, discount, and the “final” cruise or tour itinerary are subject to change with/without notice. **NST reserves the right to correct errors or omissions including but not limited to, fares, fees and surcharges at any time.** Deposit: \$750 per person (\$250 is non-refundable). Final Payment Due: 05/19/26. Final payment to NST for air/transfer portion must be made by cash, check, or money order only. Final payment for land portion may be made by credit card. On vacations that include an overnight stay in Las Vegas, at least one member of the traveling party must be 21 years of age or older. NST at its discretion, may use group and individual photos on its website, print, television, and various social media. †† Earn rewards every time you refer a friend. For each “new-to-NST” customer you refer, both you and your referral can receive a \$25 discount off your next NST escorted group. **Special Assistance:** You must notify NST, at time of reservation, of any disability requiring special attention. NST reserves the right to cancel your booking or terminate your vacation if your special needs or disabilities are not suitable for the vacation or if you are not traveling with a companion who will provide all the assistance you require. **Wheelchair and electric scooter access outside of the USA is severely restricted.**

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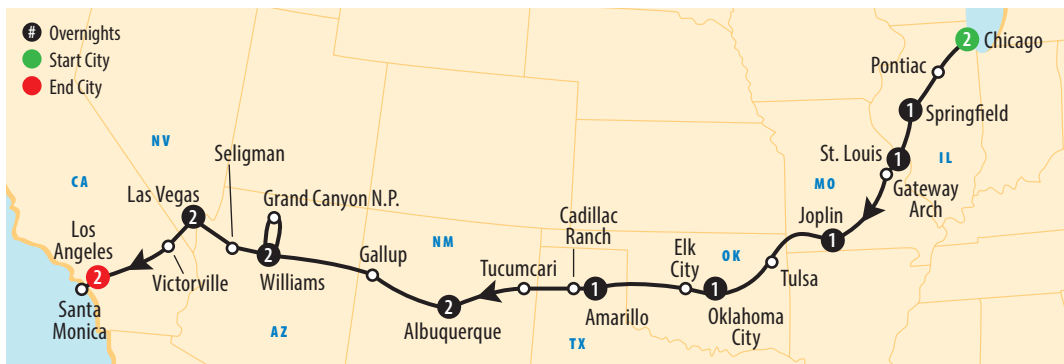
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Select sightseeing is included in tour. Additional Optional Tours are available for purchase through Cosmos. Itinerary shown is based on Cosmos' 2026 tour. Tour itinerary and inclusions are subject to change at any time with or without notice by Cosmos.

**Day 1: Wed, Sept 23** – HONOLULU. Depart Honolulu.

**Day 2: Thur, Sept 24** – CHICAGO. Welcome to Chicago, the start of Route 66! Transfer by coach to the hotel in Chicago. The day is at your leisure – start exploring the city on your own. Your hotel rooms will not be available until the afternoon. Your Tour Director is on hand late this afternoon to answer questions. HOTEL SAINT CLAIR or Similar (2 Nights)

**Day 3: Fri, Sept 25** – CHICAGO. Known as the “Windy City,” Chicago is home to magnificent architecture including one of America’s tallest buildings, notorious gangster Al Capone, and countless jazz and blues clubs. Oh, and deep-dish pizza, of course! Get to know this exciting city on a **morning sightseeing tour** that includes the **sign marking the start of historic Route 66**. Spend a free afternoon exploring Chi Town – perhaps a visit to the 103<sup>rd</sup> floor Skydeck of the Willis Tower (formerly Sears Tower), a walk along the Magnificent Mile, or an optional river cruise for a different view of the city’s celebrated architecture. (CB)

**Day 4: Sat, Sept 26** – CHICAGO – PONTIAC – SPRINGFIELD – INTERNATIONAL ROUTE 66 MOTHER ROAD FESTIVAL. This morning, take a spin through **Route 66 memorabilia** with a visit to the **Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum** in Pontiac. Housed in a historic fire station, this collection of fascinating items includes large maps to sketch out your upcoming Route 66 adventure, as well as nostalgic photos and postcards from the Mother Road’s heyday. Then on to Springfield, the capital of Illinois, to enjoy the **International Route 66 Festival**, where the streets come alive with the rumble of engines from hotrod cars, cool trucks, and vintage motorcycles. There is free live entertainment featuring R&B, Motown, and chart-topping tunes of the 50s and 60s. There are also various exhibitors, vendors, and dozens of specialty food stalls. DRURY INN & SUITES SPRINGFIELD or Similar (1 Night) (CB)

**Day 5: Sun, Sept 27** – SPRINGFIELD – ST. LOUIS. Cross the mighty Mississippi River and continue to St. Louis, “Gateway to the West.” Your **orientation tour** includes the towering **Gateway Arch National Park**. Ascend to the top of the 630-foot-tall arch for a **panoramic view of the city and river**. Then drive along an original stretch of Route 66 and get the chance to savor some of Ted Drewes Frozen Custard, a Route 66 treat since 1929. PEAR TREE INN ST. LOUIS CONVENTION CENTER or Similar (1 Night) (B)

**Day 6: Mon, Sept 28** – ST. LOUIS – JOPLIN. Travel through the Missouri countryside, exploring interesting quaint towns and quirky roadside attractions along Route 66. Overnight in Joplin, a town where a couple of infamous outlaws named Bonnie and Clyde once hid out. DRURY INN & SUITES JOPLIN or Similar (1 Night) (B)

**Day 7: Tue, Sept 29** – JOPLIN – TULSA – OKLAHOMA CITY. After a quick drive through Kansas, enter Oklahoma, once known as Indian Territory and home to the Cherokee Nation. In Tulsa, see the “**East Meets West**” sculpture that pays tribute to Cyrus Avery, “**The Father of Route 66.**” Later today, arrive in Oklahoma City. SHERATON OKLAHOMA CITY DOWNTOWN HOTEL or Similar (1 Night) (B)

**Day 8: Wed, Sept 30** – OKLAHOMA CITY – ELK CITY – AMARILLO. Start the day with a **city sightseeing tour** of Oklahoma City, the capital and largest city in Oklahoma. From here, travel to Elk City and visit the **National Route 66 Museum** for a journey through each of the eight states Route 66 passes through. Continue into the Texas Panhandle en route to Amarillo, “The Yellow Rose of Texas.” COUNTRY INN & SUITES AMARILLO WEST or Similar (1 Night) (B)

**Day 9: Thur, Oct 01** – AMARILLO – TUCUMCARI – ALBUQUERQUE. On the way out of Amarillo, stop at **Cadillac Ranch**, a quirky art sculpture consisting of a collection of 10 colorful Cadillacs. Before crossing into New Mexico, reach **Adrian, the halfway point on Route 66**. Across the New Mexico border, visit **Russell’s Car Museum**, featuring classic cars and memorabilia. Next, stop in Tucumcari and shop for souvenirs at Teepee Curios. See the **iconic Blue Swallow Motel** that has been serving travelers of Route 66 since 1939, along with many original signs from the town’s heyday. Visit **Central Avenue** in Albuquerque, where many of the **original Route 66 buildings and businesses still stand**. HILTON GARDEN INN ALBUQUERQUE UPTOWN or Similar (2 Nights) (CB)

**Day 10: Fri, Oct 02** – ALBUQUERQUE. Enjoy a day at leisure in this Southwestern city of diverse cultures, authentic art, and rich history. Consider spending time in Old Town, site of the city’s original settlement or visit one of the city’s fine museums, like the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, Albuquerque Museum, or the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

**Day 11: Sat, Oct 03** – ALBUQUERQUE – ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA – GALLUP – WINSLOW – WILLIAMS. Enjoy an unforgettable experience at the **Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta’s early morning Balloon Glow** followed by the **Mass Ascension**, where hundreds of colorful hot-air balloons fill the morning sky. Depart Albuquerque and continue to Gallup, sometimes called the “**Indian Capital of the World.**” It is the homeland of Navajo, Hopi, Zuni, and many other tribes who comprise a large percentage of the population. Then we’ll be “**Standing on the Corner of Winslow, Arizona,**” the sleepy Route 66 town made famous by The Eagles in their hit song *Take It Easy*. The next two nights are in Williams, gateway to the Grand Canyon, and listed in the National Register for Historic Places. The Historic Downtown District covers six square blocks and boasts a rich heritage that features the Old West and Route 66. LA QUINTA INN AND SUITES – GRAND CANYON AREA or Similar (2 Nights)

**Day 12: Sun, Oct 04** – WILLIAMS – EXCURSION TO GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK – WILLIAMS. Deviate from Route 66 to see **one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World, Grand Canyon National Park**. Wander along the canyon rim for breathtaking views and wildlife with the chance to spot elk grazing in the forested areas on the South Rim. For an unforgettable experience, consider an **optional helicopter flightseeing tour** for an awe-inspiring bird’s-eye-view of the canyon. Return to Williams where the evening is free to explore the historic Americana-style shops and restaurants dating back to the early 1900s. Be sure to take note of the neon signs of the preserved circa 1940s “Motel Row.” (CB)

**Day 13: Mon, Oct 05** – WILLIAMS – SELIGMAN – LAS VEGAS. Depart Williams for **Seligman, home to the rebirth of Route 66**. Detour once again from Route 66 to visit the bright lights of Las Vegas. An **orientation tour** upon arrival shows off many of the themed casino resorts along the glittering “Strip.” This evening, join an **optional night on the town** featuring an extravagant dinner followed by a dazzling live show featuring top Vegas entertainment. SAHARA LAS VEGAS or Similar (2 Nights) (CB)

**Day 14: Tue, Oct 06** – LAS VEGAS. A **day at leisure** to relax by the pool or explore the legendary Las Vegas Strip. Float through a Venetian canal, visit jaw-dropping horticultural displays, or test your luck at one of the many world-famous casinos – it’s all possible in Las Vegas! Don’t miss downtown Las Vegas, where you’ll find the Fremont Street Experience, five city blocks enclosed in a glass atrium and filled with dazzling lights, sounds, and action. History and engineering buffs won’t want to miss an optional excursion to nearby Hoover Dam. Learn about the massive undertaking in buildings this towering engineering marvel known as the “Greatest Dam in the World.”

**Day 15: Wed, Oct 07** – LAS VEGAS – VICTORVILLE – LOS ANGELES. Today, depart the man-made oasis of Las Vegas, and cross the natural beauty of Mojave Desert and the San Bernardino Mountains en route to Los Angeles. Visit the **California Route 66 Museum** to see its **nostalgic 50’s diner, VW Love Bus, and the 1917 Model T Ford exhibits**. Overnight in Los Angeles, where you’ll visit Santa Monica, the ending point of Route 66. WESTIN BONAVENTURE or Similar (2 Nights)

**Day 16: Thur, Oct 08** – LOS ANGELES. Explore the exciting “City of Angels” with a morning tour of legendary **Beverly Hills, Sunset Strip, and Hollywood**, where you’ll walk along the stars on **Hollywood Boulevard**, and get a **photo of the iconic Hollywood sign**. This afternoon is at leisure. Get a taste of Hollywood on the **optional Warner Bros. Studio tour** where you’ll get a behind-the-scenes look at how TV and movies are made, including seeing famous sets from the big and small screen.

**Day 17: Fri, Oct 09** – LOS ANGELES – HONOLULU. Depart Los Angeles. Arrive Honolulu. Aloha and welcome home!