



Route 66: General Summary

France-USA-Net.Com | 2 448 miles | 8 Etats | 1926-2026

Historical and travel summary sheet. Route 66 was decommissioned on June 27, 1985 but remains a heritage corridor marked Historic Route 66.

1. Introduction

From Chicago (Illinois) to Santa Monica (California), Route 66 crosses eight states over roughly 2,448 miles (3,940 km). A symbol of the American road trip, it ran through Main Streets before the Interstate system.

2. Map and alignment

East-to-west alignment: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas (13 mi), Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, California. Three time zones (Central, Mountain, Pacific).

3. 8 States Table

State	Miles	Key cities	Highlights
Illinois	~301 mi	Chicago, Joliet, Springfield, Litchfield	Art Institute, Willis Tower
Missouri	~317 mi	St. Louis, Cuba, Lebanon, Springfield	Gateway Arch, Route 66 murals
Kansas	~13 mi	Galena, Riverton, Baxter Springs	Shortest of the 8 states
Oklahoma	~432 mi	Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Clinton, Elk City	Blue Whale Catoosa, Arcadia Round Barn
Texas	~186 mi	Shamrock, Amarillo, Vega, Adrian	Cadillac Ranch, Big Texan Steak Ranch
New Mexico	~487 mi	Tucumcari, Albuquerque, Grants, Santa Fe	Old Town, Sandia Crest, Santa Fe loop
Arizona	~401 mi	Holbrook, Winslow, Flagstaff, Seligman, Kingman	Petrified Forest, Meteor Crater, Seligman
California	~314 mi	Needles, Barstow, Pasadena, Santa Monica	Santa Monica Pier, Will Rogers plaque

4. History and timeline

November 11, 1926: Official creation of U.S. Route 66

1938: First fully paved transcontinental highway

1939: Steinbeck: the Mother Road in The Grapes of Wrath

1946: (Get Your Kicks on) Route 66 by Bobby Troup

June 27, 1985: Official removal from U.S. Highway System

1987: Angel Delgadillo founds preservation association (Arizona)

2006: Pixar Cars inspired by Route 66 towns

2026: Centennial: Route 66 Centennial Commission

5. Iconic attractions

Gateway Arch (St. Louis), Cadillac Ranch (Amarillo), Big Texan Steak Ranch, Petrified Forest, Meteor Crater, Seligman (Arizona), Santa Monica Pier.

6. Cultural impact

Steinbeck, Nat King Cole, Route 66 TV series (1960-1964), Cars (2006). Revival since 1987 thanks to preservation associations.

7. Official links

nps.gov/subjects/travelroute66

route66centennial.org

fhwa.dot.gov

loc.gov