

Route 66

Opened in 1926, **Route 66** connected Chicago, Illinois, the largest city in the Midwest, to Los Angeles, California, the home of Hollywood, on the West Coast. At 2,448 miles (3,940 km.), Route 66 was the longest road in America for many years.

It was so famous that there was a song and a TV show about it. The song started: *If you ever plan to travel west, Travel my way, take the highway that is best. (...) It goes from Chicago to L.A., More than two thousand miles all the way. Get your kicks on Route sixty-six.*

Today, it is not possible to take Route 66 all the way from Chicago to Los Angeles. Parts of it are closed, and other parts were incorporated into newer, larger highways. But some parts of Route 66 are being preserved or renovated as a monument to America's past.

Route 66 song: © Bob Troup



CHICAGO

LOS ANGELES

ROUTE 66

KANSAS

OKLAHOMA

TEXAS

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO

ARKANSAS

MISSOURI

ILLINOIS

CALIFORNIA

WISCONSIN
MICHIGAN

NORTH DAKOTA

MINNESOTA

MONTANA

WASHINGTON

OREGON

IDAHO

WYOMING

SOUTH DAKOTA

NEBRASKA

IOWA

INDIANA

KENTUCKY

TENNESSEE

MISSISSIPPI

ALABAMA

MEXICO

CANADA

MEXICO

GULF OF MEXICO

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

WELCOME TO FABULOUS LAS VEGAS NEVADA

MOTEL

HOLLYWOOD

Sitting Bull

Annie Oakley

Abraham Lincoln

Louis Armstrong

KEY TO ILLUSTRATIONS

- Because it went to Los Angeles, the home of Hollywood, Route 66 appeared in a lot of movies. This "Captain America" motorcycle appeared in *Easy Rider* (1969); and the big, old car transported the Joad family's possessions from Oklahoma to California in *The Grapes of Wrath* (1940).
- Route 66 was famous for "giants" - very big statues of animals, astronauts and more. They were advertising for restaurants and gas stations etc... Most of the road was flat, so the giants added variety and interest.
- Route 66 passes through Hopi, Hualapai and Pueblo Indian reservations. The Hualapai have a hotel in Arizona. Tourists stay there before going to visit the **Grand Canyon**, one of the largest canyons in the world.
- Abraham Lincoln**, the 16th president of the USA, was born in a **cabin** in central Kentucky in 1809. He was the president who emancipated the slaves. In 2009, President Barack Obama's inauguration ceremony took place at the Lincoln Memorial, in Washington, D.C.
- The **NASA Space Center** in Houston, Texas, is the command center for NASA space exploration. And it is a popular tourist attraction, too!
- In Amarillo, Texas, you can visit the **Cadillac Ranch**: 10 old Cadillacs planted in the ground like modern megaliths. In fact, you can do more than just see them: visitors are invited to paint them, so this monument is covered with graffiti!

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