



# Route 66

Chicago to Los Angeles

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE:  
*April 30—May 15, 2026*



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308A Elton Hills Drive NW  
Rochester MN 55901  
(507) 289-3332  
(800) 658-7128

Fax: (507) 281-9747

Email: [tours@ed-ventures.com](mailto:tours@ed-ventures.com)  
[www.ed-ventures.com](http://www.ed-ventures.com)

**Day 1: Thursday, April 30, 2026 • Chicago, Illinois**

Today is a day of travel to Chicago, Illinois where our journey begins. Upon arrival, we transfer to the hotel and enjoy free time. **Inflight Meals**

**Day 2: Friday, May 1, 2026 • Chicago, Illinois**

This morning, we meet our driver and guide and begin our adventure with a **city tour**, taking in highlights of the Windy City's skyline, history, and neighborhoods. Later, we enjoy a captivating **architectural boat tour** along the Chicago River—an iconic way to appreciate the city's world-famous architecture. This evening, enjoy a **welcome dinner** with your fellow travelers as we kick off our journey together. After dinner, we head to the **Willis Tower Skydeck** for breathtaking panoramic views of the city illuminated at night. **D**

**Day 3: Saturday, May 2, 2026 • Springfield, Illinois**

After breakfast, we board our coach and make a quick stop at the iconic **"Route 66 Begin"** sign for a group photo. We continue on to **Wilmington**, where we pause for a quirky photo opportunity with the **Gemini Giant**—a 30-foot-tall statue and one of the famous "Muffler Men" that dotted Route 66 in the 1960s. From there, we travel to **Springfield, Illinois**, where our afternoon is dedicated to exploring the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. We visit the **Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum**, tour the **Old State Capitol**, and pay our respects at **Lincoln's Tomb**. This evening, we enjoy dinner at a **historic local restaurant**, followed by an overnight stay in Springfield. **B/D**

**Day 4: Sunday, May 3, 2026 • St. Louis, Missouri**

This morning we head to **St. Louis**, where our first stop is the city's most famous landmark—the **Gateway Arch**, a stunning 630-foot-tall and equally wide stainless steel structure that stands as a symbol of westward expansion. We ride the tram to the top for breathtaking views of the city and the **Mississippi River**. Next, we visit the **Old Courthouse**, where the pivotal **Dred Scott** case was argued, shaping the course of American history. Lunch is on your own at the vibrant **City Foundry**, a modern food hall featuring a variety of local vendors. In the afternoon, we explore the **City Museum**, a whimsical, interactive attraction built from reclaimed architectural and industrial materials. After checking into our hotel, we gather for **dinner at a fine-dining restaurant**, possibly accompanied by live jazz music to complete the St. Louis experience. **B/D**

**Day 5: Monday, May 4, 2026 • St. Louis, Missouri**

We begin our day with a visit to **Grant's Farm**, once the home of Ulysses S. Grant and later the ancestral estate of the Busch family, founders of Anheuser-Busch, where we'll see the famous Budweiser Clydesdales and explore the scenic grounds. From there, we head to **Laclede's Landing**, a historic riverfront district, for lunch on our own. In the afternoon, we visit the **National Blues Museum** to explore the roots of the Blues and its influence on all modern American music. Later, we tour the **Anheuser-Busch Brewery**, one of the oldest and largest breweries in the country, where we learn about the brewing process and enjoy some samples. We end the day with **dinner and a live music performance**, a fitting close to a day full of history, culture, and entertainment. **B/D**

**Day 6: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 • Springfield, Missouri**

After breakfast and check-out, we visit **Fantastic Caverns**, one of only four ride-through caves in the world—and the only one in North America. This remarkable natural wonder features towering columns, delicate soda straws sparkling with minerals, and tiny cave pearls resting in crystal-clear pools, all viewed

comfortably from a Jeep-drawn tram. We then continue to **Springfield** to explore the **Route 66 Car Museum** and the **Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park**, honoring America's most iconic highway. This evening, we dine at and explore **Finley Farms**, where the historic **Ozark Mill** has been beautifully restored and reimagined. Modeled after the family farms that once covered the Ozarks, the property features a high-yield urban farm supplying seasonal produce to on-site restaurants, along with blooming flower fields and a shaded mushroom yard—creating the perfect setting for a memorable farm-to-table experience. **B/D**

**Day 7: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

Our day begins in **Joplin, Missouri**, with a stroll through the colorful **Route 66 Mural Park**, a vibrant artistic tribute to the legendary highway. We then drive the short but scenic **13-mile stretch of Kansas Route 66**, stopping at **Luigi's Pit Stop** near Galena, home to life-sized replicas of characters from the movie *Cars*. Continuing on to **Catoosa, Oklahoma**, we stop for a fun photo at the **Blue Whale**, a quirky roadside attraction built by zoologist Hugh S. Davis as a family swimming spot. In **Tulsa**, we visit the **Cyrus Avery Bridge and monument**, honoring the "Father of Route 66." From there, we travel to **Oklahoma City**, where we check in to our hotel. This evening, explore **Bricktown**, a lively and revitalized district known for its repurposed warehouse spaces, canalside walking paths, shops, and diverse dining options. Dinner is on your own tonight—soak in the vibrant atmosphere as you choose from a variety of local restaurants. **B**

**Day 8: Thursday, May 7, 2026 • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

This morning, we visit the **Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum**, a powerful site honoring the victims, survivors, and heroes of the 1995 bombing. Then, we explore the **Centennial Land Run Monument**, a striking collection of bronze sculptures capturing the spirit and energy of the 1889 land run. After lunch on your own, we visit the **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum**, the nation's premier institution showcasing Western history, art, and culture. Later, we stroll through **Automobile Alley**, a vibrant district where restored 1920s brick buildings glow with vintage neon—once home to Oklahoma City's original Model-T dealerships. We enjoy dinner together. **B/D**

**Day 9: Friday, May 8, 2026 • Amarillo, Texas**

Following breakfast, we begin our journey west. In **Clinton, Oklahoma**, we stop at the **Oklahoma Route 66 Museum**, where exhibits tell the story of the legendary highway and the dreams that drove it. Our next stop is the whimsical **Cadillac Ranch** in Amarillo, Texas. Created in 1974, it consists of ten Cadillacs buried nose-first in the ground. Visitors are encouraged to bring spray paint to paint the cars. This evening, we explore **Amarillo's Cultural District**, including Historic Downtown, the Sunset Center Galleries, Route 66 murals, and the famous **Hoofprints of the American Quarter Horse** statues. We enjoy dinner at a classic Texas steakhouse. **B/D**

**Day 10: Saturday, May 9, 2026 • Santa Fe, New Mexico**

After breakfast, we drive toward **Santa Fe**, stopping en route in **Tucumcari** to admire the town's colorful murals—over 50 of them—many created by artists Doug and Sharon Quarles. We browse **Tee Pee Curios**, a quirky Route 66 landmark offering local artisan jewelry and nostalgic finds. Although some neon signs were damaged in 2023, restoration efforts are underway to bring the glow back. Upon arrival in Santa Fe, we enjoy a guided **city tour** followed by dinner at a local restaurant. **B/D**

**Day 11: Sunday, May 10, 2026 • Flagstaff, Arizona**

We depart early this morning and drive through the dramatic landscapes of the **Painted Desert** and **Petrified Forest National Park**, where vibrant colors and ancient fossilized trees create an otherworldly experience. Along the way, we pass the quirky **Wigwam Motel** in Holbrook, with its iconic concrete teepees. We stop in **Winslow, Arizona**, to visit the famous **Standin' on the Corner Park**, inspired by the Eagles' song "*Take It Easy*". Enjoy a photo op with the mural, flatbed Ford, and statue that immortalize this beloved lyric. We then continue to **Flagstaff** where we check into our hotel. We enjoy dinner together. **B/D**

**Day 12: Monday, May 11, 2026 • Flagstaff, Arizona**  
We enjoy a full-day excursion to **Grand Canyon National Park**, one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Here, we take in awe-inspiring views from multiple viewpoints along the South Rim and learn about the canyon's geological and cultural history. We return to Flagstaff in the evening. **B**

**Day 13: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 • Las Vegas, Nevada**  
After breakfast, we travel to **Seligman, Arizona**, the inspiration for Radiator Springs in *Disney's Cars*. We stop at **Angel & Velma's Route 66 Gift Shop**, where Angel, a former barber, famously fought to preserve Route 66. Next, we visit the whimsical **Snow Cap Drive-In**, built from scrap lumber in 1953, featuring a colorful 1936 Chevy with a Christmas tree in the back and plenty of Route 66 humor. We then continue to **Oatman**, a lively old mining town known for its wild burros that roam freely through its historic streets. In the late afternoon, we arrive in **Las Vegas**, check into our hotel, and enjoy dinner on your own tonight. **B**

**Day 14: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 • Las Vegas**  
Today is a free day to experience **Las Vegas at your own pace**.  
**B**

**Day 15: Wednesday, May 14, 2026 • Los Angeles, California**  
This morning, we board the coach and drive toward Los Angeles. Along the way, we stop in **Oro Grande** at **Elmer's Bottle Tree Ranch**, a folk art installation made of colorful glass bottles, scrap metal, and vintage signs. We then make a quick photo stop at the nostalgic **Wigwam Motel** in **San Bernardino**, one of the last remaining "sleep in a teepee" motels on Route 66. We check into our Los Angeles hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner together at a local restaurant. **B/D**

**Day 16: Thursday, May 15, 2026 • Los Angeles, California**  
Today is a free morning to explore Los Angeles at your own pace - perhaps do some last-minute shopping or soak in a bit more of the local culture. We regroup for lunch before we head to the iconic **Santa Monica Pier** for a final stop. Here, we have the chance to snap a photo at the famous "**End of the Trail**" **Route 66 sign**—a perfect way to commemorate your journey. We then transfer to the airport in time for our late afternoon flight home, filled with great memories and new friendships. **B/L**



**Abbreviations for Meals**  
**B**=Breakfast **L**= Lunch  
**D**=Dinner

**\$6,599**  
*per person, double occupancy*

**Single supplement = \$1,850**  
*with a minimum of 25 participants*

**Your Tour Includes:**

- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in 3 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of Jay Schmidt as **tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, except as noted below

**Your Tour Does Not Include:**

- Airfare
- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees.
- Luggage handling
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. *(This insurance is available and recommended.)*

**Payment Schedule:**  
A deposit of \$750 per person is due with reservation. A second deposit of \$1,500 per person is due on November 1, 2025. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date (January 20, 2026). Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

**Currency:**  
Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

**Refund/Cancellation Policy:**  
All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 100 days before departure a \$200 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From 99-46 days, a \$750 per person cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling 45 days or less prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

*Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.*

## Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of participation. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

**Responsibility:** Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we have a right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices prior to ticketing.

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I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.