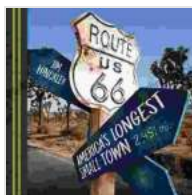


Route 66: America's Longest Small Town

Route 66, also known as the Will Rogers Highway, is a legendary road that stretches for over 2,400 miles from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California. It has been dubbed "America's Longest Small Town" due to its unique character and the countless small towns and communities that dot its path.

Route 66 was established in 1926 and quickly became a major artery for travel and commerce. It played a vital role in the westward expansion of the United States and served as a lifeline for migrants during the Dust Bowl era. Over the years, it has witnessed countless stories of adventure, hardship, and triumph.



Route 66: America's Longest Small Town by Jim Hinckley

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 47508 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 160 pages



Today, Route 66 remains a popular destination for road trippers, history buffs, and nostalgia enthusiasts. It offers a glimpse into the past and a taste of the true American spirit. Along the way, travelers can explore quaint

towns, visit historic landmarks, and discover hidden gems that capture the essence of small-town America.

Iconic Roadside Attractions

One of the highlights of a Route 66 road trip is the abundance of iconic roadside attractions that line the highway. These quirky and eye-catching landmarks have become synonymous with the Route 66 experience and offer a fascinating glimpse into American pop culture.

- **Giant Blue Whale, Catoosa, Oklahoma:** A colossal blue whale sculpture that has become a beloved landmark since its construction in 1972.
- **Cadillac Ranch, Amarillo, Texas:** Ten Cadillacs buried nose-down in a field, creating a surreal and unforgettable sight.
- **Four Corners Monument, New Mexico:** The only place in the United States where four states (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah) meet.
- **Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona:** A vast and awe-inspiring landscape filled with ancient petrified trees.
- **Santa Monica Pier, California:** The western terminus of Route 66, featuring an amusement park, shops, and restaurants.

Small-Town Charm

Beyond the roadside attractions, Route 66 is renowned for its charming small towns. These communities have preserved their unique character and offer a warm and welcoming atmosphere to travelers.

Some of the most notable small towns along Route 66 include:

- **Williams, Arizona:** A charming gateway to the Grand Canyon, offering a glimpse into the Wild West.
- **Gallup, New Mexico:** A Native American cultural center known for its vibrant art and music scene.
- **Springfield, Illinois:** The hometown of Abraham Lincoln, offering historical landmarks and a glimpse into his legacy.
- **Carthage, Missouri:** A historic mining town known for its well-preserved Victorian architecture.
- **Eureka Springs, Arkansas:** A quaint Victorian mountain town nestled in the Ozark Mountains.

Cultural Heritage

Route 66 has played a significant role in American culture and has been immortalized in countless songs, movies, and literature. It has been a source of inspiration for artists, writers, and musicians, who have captured its unique spirit and the stories of its travelers.

Some of the most famous cultural depictions of Route 66 include:

- **John Steinbeck's novel "The Grapes of Wrath" (1939):** The story of a migrant family traveling west along Route 66 during the Dust Bowl.
- **Bobby Troup's song "(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66" (1946):** An iconic anthem that captures the allure and nostalgia of the highway.
- **The animated film "Cars" (2006):** Featuring a fictionalized version of Route 66 as the main setting.

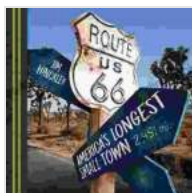
- **Bruce Springsteen's song "Highway 29" (2009):** A poignant tribute to Route 66 and its significance in American history.
- **The television series "Route 66" (1960-1964):** A classic drama that followed the adventures of two young men traveling across the country.

Planning a Road Trip

If you're planning a Route 66 road trip, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- **Allow plenty of time:** A typical Route 66 road trip takes at least two weeks to complete. However, you can customize your itinerary and spend more time in the places that interest you most.
- **Choose your stops wisely:** With so many attractions and small towns along the route, it's impossible to see everything. Prioritize the places that are most important to you and allow ample time to explore them.
- **Stay flexible:** Part of the charm of a Route 66 road trip is the unexpected detours and discoveries. Be open to changing your plans if you hear about something interesting or if you want to linger in a particular place.
- **Respect the history:** Route 66 is a historic highway, so be respectful of the communities and landmarks that you visit. Preserving the legacy of this iconic road is essential for future generations.
- **Have fun:** Most importantly, relax and enjoy the journey. Route 66 is a unique and unforgettable experience, so make the most of every moment.

Route 66, America's Longest Small Town, is a timeless road that has captured the hearts of travelers for generations. It offers a nostalgic journey through the past, a celebration of small-town charm, and a glimpse into the true spirit of adventure. Whether you're a history buff, a road trip enthusiast, or simply seeking a taste of Americana, a Route 66 road trip is an experience that will create lasting memories.



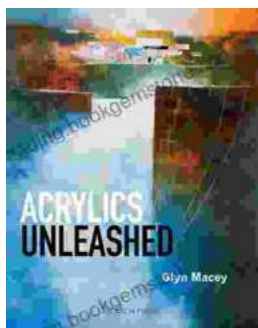
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