

Get Your Kicks in St. Louis Challenge

Since being designated a national highway in 1926, the “highway that’s the best” switched roads a few times going through St. Louis, adjusting to the city’s growth. That’s why there’s more than one Route 66 in the city. The purist will want to travel them all.



It Winds from Chicago to L.A.

...but St. Louis is the largest city you’ll travel through, and there is a lot to experience here. Once you cross over from Illinois, the streets have new names, but they retain the “Mother Road” historic significance that travelers love. As you’ll discover with great delight, many towns and cities along the route have preserved their Route 66 heritage.

That’s certainly true of St. Louis. There are three Route 66’s to know about: City 66; Original City 66; and Bypass 66 (www.historic66.com). Many start the 2,448-mile trip in Chicago, and end it on the Santa Monica Pier at the Pacific Ocean. But some of your best memories will be made here in the shadow of the Arch, your Gateway to the West.

*The Get Your Kicks in St. Louis Challenge is sponsored by **Explore St. Louis**. The driving force behind St. Louis’ \$5 billion convention and tourism industry, Explore St. Louis is the official destination marketing organization of St. Louis City and County and operator of the America’s Center Convention Complex. Visit Explore St. Louis at explorestlouis.com.*

explore **st.louis**

Get Your Kicks in St. Louis Challenge ... Visit at least 8 sites. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at <https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/> to receive your merit badge button.

Remember, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving. All sites require wearing of masks over face and nose and asks visitors to maintain social distance.

Old Chain of Rocks Bridge

10950 Riverview Drive
St. Louis, Missouri

As you cross this treasured bridge, imagine the 1930s roadsters that used it to cross the Mississippi River when it became Route 66 in 1936. The unusual 22-degree bend must have given those drivers pause, though

today it is open only to pedestrians. If you are here in late winter/early spring, it is a great spot for eagle watching. And there is always an impressive view of the mighty Mississippi and the Gateway Arch. The parking lot on the Missouri side is closed, except for special

events. Snap your photograph on the bridge with a Route 66 sign or on a Route 66 bench.

<https://greatriversgreenway.org/>

Crown Candy Kitchen

1401 St. Louis Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri

During the 1920s and 1930s, this delectable landmark was a must for travelers craving world-renowned handmade malts. Now in its 104th year of continuous family-owned operation, the thick-stacked sandwiches assure no one goes away hungry. The BLT is the stuff of legend. Snap your photograph outside the famous green store front.

www.Crowncandykitchen.net

Gateway Arch National Park

St. Louis Riverfront
St. Louis, Missouri

Since 1965, Route 66 travelers have taken in this inspiring symbol of the Gateway to the West as they begin the Missouri part of their journey. First, enjoy the Arch ground's \$380 million makeover. This inspired transformation connects the city to the riverfront with lush greenspaces – including the new park over the highway – cultural centers, and restaurants. There are new pedestrian and biking pathways, so get out of the car and stretch your legs! Then ride to the top of the tallest man-made monument in the United States. Once at the top, scope out your next stop on your personal Route 66 tour. Snap your photograph in front of the Gateway Arch.

www.Gatewayarch.com

Eat-Rite Diner

622 Chouteau Avenue No. 1028
St. Louis, Missouri

This historic diner fed many motorists, especially during the early days when the Mother Road went straight through downtown. The diner is currently closed, but snap your photograph in front of its famous blue and white sign.

The Chase Park Plaza Royal Sonesta

212 N. Kingshighway Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

Route 66 was packed with down-on-their-luck dreamers traveling to a new life and desperados on the run. But there were plenty of the well-heeled who traveled the motorway, too, and they stayed at The Chase Hotel. Be quartered in style, or at least get that perfect martini in the classy bar. Snap your photograph outside this famous hotel.

www.chaseparkplaza.com

Central West End

Maryland Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

The Central West End provides endless possibilities for visitors to imagine, create, explore, unwind and dream. The Central West End is where the familiar moniker of Eat, Play, Shop is too bland a description for this vibrant, elegant, diverse and eclectic neighborhood where visitors can meander down tree-shaded streets lined with iconic winged griffin lamp posts, flowers, and stunning historic homes that date back to the 1904 World's Fair in Forest Park. Snap your photograph with the world's largest chess piece in front of the World Chess Hall of Fame.

www.cwescene.com

Missouri History Museum

5700 Lindell Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri

Voted 2016's Best Museum in St. Louis, this is a jewel among Forest Park's many institutions. From 1764 to the present, the Museum has deftly portrayed Missouri's history and is currently housed in a building that is the first national monument to Thomas Jefferson. Its emphasis is on St. Louis history, and a permanent exhibit tells the city's rich and fascinating story. Snap your photograph in front of the statue of Thomas Jefferson, which is located just inside the front entrance to the museum.

www.Mohistory.org

Maplewood Memories

7200-7300 blocks of Manchester
St. Louis, Missouri
314-645-3600

Maplewood boasts both Route 66's past and its future. A diner, upscale restaurants, a 100-year bowling alley, a dueling piano bar, a brew pub, a hardware store that dates back to 1905, quirky shops – it's all here. The history is celebrated with memorial plaques along the 7200 and 7300 blocks of Manchester Road, including shops that were active during the Route's heyday. Spend

the afternoon and get lost in its history – or maybe buy a new instrument at Eddie’s Guitars. Snap your photograph in front of one of the iconic Route 66 plaques.

www.Cityofmaplewood.com

Donut Drive-In

6525 Chippewa Street
St. Louis, Missouri

The Donut Drive-In is a shrine to neon road signs and fried dough deliciousness. You don’t think you need that chocolate glazed or that custard filled, but trust us: You need both. Voted best donuts on Route 66. Snap your photograph with their famous “Fresh Donuts” sign.

www.donutdrivein.com

Ted Drewes Frozen Custard \$

6726 Chippewa Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Yup – pull in, get a “concrete,” and turn it upside down. This thick milkshake made from vanilla frozen custard and blended with traditional and inventive treats will not fall out. Since 1929, travelers have been delighted by this popular custard-stand shake handmade so thick that it earned that nickname. Snap your photograph with one of their famous “concretes.”

<http://teddrewes.com/>

Crestwood Bowl

9822 Watson Road
St. Louis, Missouri

Take a break from the road, knock out a few frames, and make some new friends at this old-school bowling alley. In 2012, the original neon sign was restored through a grant from the National Park Service – that alone is worth a stop. May all your frames be strikes! Snap your photograph in front of the neon sign of the bowling ball and pin.

www.Crestwoodbowl.com

National Museum of Transportation \$

2933 Barrett Station Road
St. Louis, Missouri
314-965-6212

Please call for current hours.

The National Museum of Transportation has it all in terms of transportation history, filled with trains and planes – but let’s get real, you’re here to see the car collection, particularly Bobby Darin’s “Dream Machine.” Also featured is the Coral Court room façade, making it a must stop for any Route 66 fan. Snap your photograph inside with the Coral Courts Motel exhibit.

<https://tnmot.org/>

Amp Up Action Park

13901 Manchester Road
St. Louis, Missouri

Get your kicks on the old Route 66 with high-speed electric powered go karts at Amp Up Action Park. Cross the finish line and toast to your speed at the Trackside Tavern or compete in more fan-favorites such as axe throwing, laser tag and an elevated ninja ropes course. Amp Up is one-of-a-kind and locally and veteran owned. Snap your photograph in front of Amp Up.

<https://ampupactionpark.com/>

Route 66 State Park

97 N. Outer Road
Eureka, Missouri
636-938-7198

Route 66 State Park’s visitors center is a treasure trove of Route 66 memorabilia, and it is housed in a 1935 roadhouse formerly known as Steiny’s Inn. Here the story of “Main Street, America” is told. Also get your outdoor kicks on the seven miles of hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding trails. Snap your photograph front of the Route 66 State Park sign.

<https://mostateparks.com/park/route-66-state-park>

Meramec Caverns \$

1135 Highway W
Stanton, Missouri

As you head out west with St. Louis in the rearview mirror, stop by Stanton, Missouri, Meramec Caverns' museum is intriguing and eye-opening, and the cave lives up to the hype. At five stories high, it is the largest commercial cave in Missouri and offers guided tours. Bring a sweater as it is pleasantly cool in the magnificent caverns that has been wowing roadsters since 1935. Snap your photograph inside the cavern or outside at the entrance.

www.americascave.com

Jesse James Wax Museum

1135 Highway W

Stanton, Missouri

While at Meramec Caverns, check out the Jesse James Wax Museum. Did Jesse James really die in 1882 or was it an elaborate hoax perpetrated by the outlaw? The tour includes a live video of Jesse James, wax figures, guns, and affidavits. Snap your photograph on the museum's front porch.

www.Jessejameswaxmuseum.com