

## Travel the Mother Road Challenge

Route 66 – the Mother Road – was born in Missouri. The highway, running from Chicago to Los Angeles, received its number designation via a telegram sent from Springfield’s Colonial Hotel on April 30, 1926. The Travel the Mother Road Challenge invites you to explore the roadside attractions and historic sites in Missouri that helped make Route 66 the Main Street of America.



*The Travel the Mother Road Challenge is sponsored by the **Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society**. The mission of the Society is to educate, promote, and develop Route 66 in Laclede County. The organization holds an annual Lebanon Route 66 Festival and supports projects that commemorate the importance of Route 66 to the history of Laclede County.*



**Travel the Mother Road Challenge ... Visit 10 sites in at least 5 counties. 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.

### Crawford County

**Route 66 Mural City**  
Cuba, Missouri

*The Missouri General Assembly designated Cuba as the “Route 66 Mural City” in 2002. The community’s murals offer a window into Cuba’s past. Snap your photograph in front of your favorite mural.*

<https://cubamomurals.com/#murals>

**Route 66 Rocker**  
5957 Route ZZ  
Fanning, Missouri  
573-885-1474

*Among the curiosities along Historic Route 66 in Missouri is this oversized rocking chair created by Dan and Carolyn Sanazaro. Snap your photograph in front of the giant rocker.*

<https://www.facebook.com/fanning66outpost/>

### Franklin County

**Meramec Caverns \$**  
1135 Highway W  
Stanton, Missouri  
573-468-CAVE

Please call for current hours.

*Enjoy a guided tour along what may be the oldest stop along Historic Route 66. Site requires wearing of masks over face and nose, maintain social distance. Snap your photograph inside the cavern or outside at the entrance.*

<https://www.americascave.com/>

### Greene County

**Birthplace of Route 66 Roadside Park**  
1200 W. College Street  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-869-3000

*Springfield is officially recognized as the birthplace of what became known as the iconic “Mother Road.” Route 66 meandered across the*

city from Kearney to Glenstone to St. Louis Street, through Park Central Square to Olive and College streets, then headed west along what is now Chestnut Expressway. Snap your photograph in front of the Red's Giant Hamburg sign replica.

**Conway Official Missouri Welcome Center**  
110619 I-44 Westbound, Mile Marker 111  
Conway, Missouri  
417-589-0023

*The Welcome Center in Conway, Missouri, offers a nice place to take a break from driving Route 66. The center is located on I-44 Westbound, between Lebanon and Marshfield. Inside the center, visitors can enjoy a classic Route 66 motif and access staff who provide information about the immediate area, entire Show-Me State and its myriad attractions. Additionally, the center offers clean restrooms, vending machines for those who need a quick snack or beverage, and travel brochures and maps. Also featured is a playground area, spacious picnic sites, and areas to walk pets. Snap your photograph with the Welcome Center's Route 66 memorabilia.*

<https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/conway-official-missouri-welcome-center-west>

**Gary's Gay Parita**  
21118 Old Route 66  
Paris Springs, Missouri

*Visit this recreation of a 1930 Sinclair gas station, created by Gary Turner. Snap your photograph in front of the station near the Route 66 sign.*

<http://garysgayparita.com/>

**Route 66 Car Museum \$**  
1634 W. College Street  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-861-8004

*The Route 66 Car Museum is a privately owned car collection that is located along the famed and historic Route 66. Guy Mace started collecting in 1990 when he bought his first*

*Jaguar. The collection has since grown to nearly 70 automobiles that "strike a fancy". Ranging from early brass era cars to vehicles used in cinema, such as the Gotham Roadster, this collection is sure to have a vehicle for every museum goer's taste. The City of Springfield requires wearing of masks over the face and nose and for visitors to maintain social distance. Snap your photograph in front of your favorite car.*

[www.66carmuseum.com](http://www.66carmuseum.com)

**Route 66 Plaque**  
Park Central Square  
Springfield, Missouri

*Snap your photograph next to the plaque commemorating the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Route 66.*

**Route 66 Tourist Information Center**  
815 E. St. Louis Street  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-881-5300

Please call for current hours.

*Start your adventure at the Route 66 Springfield Visitor Center for inspiration and mementos. As an official travel source, the Visitor Center provides maps, guides, driving directions and heaps of information on all the fun things to see, do and experience in and around the Springfield area. The City of Springfield requires wearing of masks over the face and nose and ask visitors to maintain social distance. The Visitor Center team is here to encourage you to make memories and enjoy the little things. Snap your photograph in front of the Route 66 sign out front.*

<https://www.springfieldmo.org/listings/893/route-66-springfield-visitor-center>

**Springfield History Museum on the Square \$**  
154 Park Central Square  
Springfield, Missouri  
417-831-1976

*Springfield is generally considered the birthplace of Route 66. Visit the History Museum on the Square to learn more about the history of the Mother Road and the community of Springfield. All guests will be asked to wear face masks and use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the Museum. The Museum encourages social distancing with stickers placed on the floor and signs throughout the Museum. Snap your photograph in front of the Birthplace of Route 66 Exhibit.*

<http://historymuseumonthesquare.org/>

### **Jasper County**

#### **Joplin History and Mineral Museum**

504 S. Schifferdecker Avenue  
Joplin, Missouri  
417-623-1180

*The two distinctly different museums on site have different paths through history, but they ultimately reveal Joplin's rich past through different aspects. The Mineral Museum boasts one of the world's most exceptional collections of lead and zinc ores and other minerals found in the area – explaining the geology and geochemistry of the area and demonstrating mining processes and methods used from the 1870s through the 1960s. The Historical Museum emphasizes the growth and development of Joplin as the result of the mining in the area with assorted historical items from Joplin's mining era. Snap your photograph in front of the Crystal Cave or the Famous Joplinites exhibits.*

<http://www.joplin-museum.org/>

#### **Kellogg Lake Park**

1215 Esterly Drive  
Carthage, Missouri

*Find a portion of the original Mother Road at Kellogg Lake Park. Snap your photograph in front of Kellogg Lake Dam.*

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/kellogg-lake-carthage>

#### **Lakeside Route 66 Mural**

Inside the Route 66 Visitors Center  
Webb Street and Broadway  
Webb City, Missouri  
417-673-4651

*Located inside the Route 66 Welcome Center / Chamber of Commerce offices, artist John Biggs portrayed vintage automobiles and motorcycles in a rural setting just east of Webb City along Route 66. Of special interest on the Lakeside Route 66 Mural is the bridge constructed in 1922. The 8-foot by 16-foot mural is a great photo opportunity for Route 66 tourists and Webb City visitors. Snap your photograph in front of the mural.*

<http://webbcitymo.org/department/detail/route-66-lakeside-mural>

#### **Route 66 Mural Park**

619 S. Main Street  
Joplin, Missouri  
417-625-4789

*Historic Route 66 brought travelers through the heart of Joplin in the mid-20th century. The city became a popular stop on the highway, and businesses along Main Street flourished because of it. Today, on the same street, you'll find Route 66 Mural Park, which pays homage to that nostalgic era with two large tile murals: *Cruisin' into Joplin* and *The American Ribbon*. The murals were proposed by Paul Whitehill, designed by artists Chris Auckerman and Jon White, and produced by Joplin's Images in Tile. Snap your photograph in front of the red mock 1964 Corvette, located just below the murals.*

<https://www.visitjoplinmo.com/business/route-66-mural-park>

### **Laclede County**

#### **Boswell Park**

51 Drury Lane  
Lebanon, Missouri  
417-991-2222

Open Mon-Sun 6:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

*Visit the three Route 66 murals in Boswell Park, funded by the Lebanon-Laclede County Route 66 Society. Snap your photograph at one of the three murals.*

### **Munger Moss Motel**

1336 E Rt. 66  
Lebanon, Missouri  
417-532-3111

*Built in 1946, the Munger Moss Motel still stands strong today to serve the weary traveler. In fact, 2021 is their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Come, enjoy the charm of one of the few remaining ‘mom and pop’ motels on Route 66 in Lebanon, Missouri, owned and managed by Bob and Ramona Lehman since 1971. Snap your photograph in front of the Munger Moss Motel sign.*

<https://mungermoss.com/>

### **Route 66 Museum**

915 S. Jefferson  
Lebanon, Missouri  
417-532-2148

*Housed in the Lebanon-Laclede County Library, visit the Route 66 Museum to learn more about the history of the Mother Road. Snap your photograph at the service station with the Red Crown Gravity Gas Pump.*

<http://www.lebanon-laclede.lib.mo.us/MuseumPage.html>

### **Pulaski County**

#### **Devil’s Elbow Bridge**

Teardrop Road and Big Piney River  
Devils Elbow, Missouri

*Built in 1923, the Route 66 bridge at Devil’s Elbow served Route 66 travelers from 1923-1943. Snap your photograph at the Route 66 sign in the road at the entrance to the bridge.*

#### **Frog Rock**

300 Historic Route 66  
Waynesville, Missouri

*Located on Waynesville Hill, Frog Rock, a.k.a. W.H. Croaker, is a unique roadside attraction along Historic Route 66. Snap your photograph from alongside Route 66 at the base of Frog Rock.*

<https://www.visitmo.com/things-to-do/frog-rock>

### **St. Louis City**

#### **Old Chain of Rocks Bridge**

10950 Riverview Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri  
314-455-6329

*Part of the original Route 66, today Old Chain of Rocks Bridge is a pedestrian and bicycle bridge. Please note, there is no secure automobile parking on the Missouri side of this bridge. 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.*

[www.Greatrivergreenways.org](http://www.Greatrivergreenways.org)

#### **Ted Drewes Frozen Custard \$**

6726 Chippewa  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Please call for current hours.  
314-481-2652

*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/>

### **St. Louis County**

#### **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. Masks are mandatory during your visit. Snap your photograph inside with the Coral Courts Motel exhibit.*

<https://tnmot.org/>

### **Maplewood Memories**

7200-7300 blocks of Manchester  
Maplewood, Missouri  
314-645-3600

*Visit the sidewalk plaques along the 7200-7300 blocks of Manchester commemorating*

*Maplewood businesses along Historic Route 66. Snap your photograph with one of these historic plaques.*

<http://www.cityofmaplewood.com/205/Route-66-Memorial-and-Tribute-Plaques>

### **Route 66 State Park**

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

*Stop by the visitor center at Route 66 State Park, housed in the former Bridgehead Inn, a 1935 roadhouse on Historic Route 66. Snap your photograph front of the Route 66 State Park sign.*

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