Seasonal Route 66 Itineraries - Summer Highlights (10 Days, June-August)

Day 1: Chicago, IL -> Springfield, IL (~200 miles, ~4.5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
08:00 AM	Route 66 Begin Sign, Chicago	Start of the journey
08:30 AM	Navy Pier	Morning stroll
10:00 AM	Route 66 Hall of Fame, Pontiac	Photo ops & history
11:30 AM	Fuel Stop: Dwight	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket	Classic Route 66 diner
02:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Lincoln	Top off fuel
06:30 PM	Dinner: Cozy Dog Drive-In	Springfield original

Overnight Stay: Route 66 Hotel & Conference Center, Springfield

Seasonal Note: Best enjoyed in June-August with long daylight hours

Day 2: Springfield, IL -> St. Louis, MO (~100 miles, ~2 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:30 AM	Lincoln Library	Historic exhibits
11:00 AM	Gateway Arch	Iconic landmark
12:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Litchfield	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Ariston Cafe	Historic Route 66 eatery
01:00 PM	Forest Park	Picnic and relaxation
07:00 PM	Dinner: Pappy's Smokehouse	Famous BBQ

Overnight Stay: Red Roof Inn, St. Louis

Seasonal Note: July evenings perfect for Forest Park

Day 3: St. Louis, MO -> Springfield, MO (~215 miles, ~4.5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	Missouri Botanical Garden	Seasonal blooms

11:00 AM	Route 66 State Park	Scenic stop
12:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Rolla	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Ted Drewes Frozen Custard	Frozen treat
01:30 PM	Fantastic Caverns	Underground tour
03:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Lebanon	Top off fuel
07:00 PM	Dinner: The Order	Modern American cuisine

Overnight Stay: Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven, Springfield

Seasonal Note: June-July blooms at Botanical Garden

Day 4: Springfield, MO -> Tulsa, OK (~180 miles, ~4 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	Vintage Iron Motorcycle Museum	Classic bikes
12:30 PM	Fuel Stop: Miami	Top off fuel
01:00 PM	Lunch: Burn Co BBQ	Popular local BBQ
02:30 PM	Fuel Stop: Claremore	Top off fuel
03:00 PM	Tulsa Art Deco District	Architecture walk
07:00 PM	Dinner: The Tavern	Gastropub fare

Overnight Stay: Route 66 Harley Motel, Tulsa

Seasonal Note: July evenings lively in Tulsa

Day 5: Tulsa, OK -> Oklahoma City, OK (~105 miles, ~2.5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	OKC National Memorial	Reflective visit
11:00 AM	Bricktown Entertainment District	Shops & sights
12:30 PM	Fuel Stop: Chandler	Top off fuel
01:00 PM	Lunch: Empire Slice House	Creative pizza
07:00 PM	Dinner: Cattlemen's Steakhouse	Historic steakhouse

Overnight Stay: Skirvin Hilton, Oklahoma City

Seasonal Note: August nights perfect for Bricktown

Day 6: Oklahoma City, OK -> Amarillo, TX (~260 miles, ~5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	Cadillac Ranch	Spray-painted cars
11:00 AM	Fuel Stop: Elk City	Top off fuel
11:30 AM	Amarillo Historic District	Explore downtown
01:00 PM	Lunch: Big Texan Steak Ranch	Route 66 classic
02:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Shamrock	Top off fuel
07:00 PM	Dinner: Tyler's Barbecue	Local favorite

Overnight Stay: Big Texan Motel, Amarillo

Seasonal Note: July-August sunsets at Cadillac Ranch

Day 7: Amarillo, TX -> Santa Fe, NM (~280 miles, ~5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	Midpoint Cafe, Adrian	Halfway point of Route 66
11:30 AM	Fuel Stop: Tucumcari	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Watson's BBQ, Santa Rosa	Local favorite
02:30 PM	Santa Fe Plaza	Shops & culture
07:00 PM	Dinner: The Shed	New Mexican cuisine

Overnight Stay: Inn of the Governors, Santa Fe

Seasonal Note: Cool mountain evenings in July-August

Day 8: Santa Fe, NM -> Gallup, NM (~200 miles, ~4 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	Santa Fe Art Stroll	Morning galleries
12:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Grants	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Local Cafe	Quick bite

01:00 PM	El Rancho Hotel	Historic Route 66 stop
03:00 PM	Red Rock Park	Hiking & views
07:00 PM	Dinner: Jerry's Cafe	Local favorite

Overnight Stay: El Rancho Hotel, Gallup

Seasonal Note: July evenings are vibrant at Gallup's Red Rock Park

Day 9: Gallup, NM -> Holbrook -> Flagstaff, AZ (~185 miles, ~3.5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
09:00 AM	Petrified Forest National Park	Scenic drive
12:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Holbrook	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Joe & Aggie's Cafe	Route 66 classic
01:00 PM	Wigwam Motel	Photo stop
03:00 PM	Flagstaff Downtown	Shops & culture
07:00 PM	Dinner: Beaver Street Brewery	Local brews & food

Overnight Stay: Little America Hotel, Flagstaff (or Days Inn on Route 66)

Seasonal Note: June-August is perfect for exploring the Petrified Forest

Day 10: Flagstaff, AZ -> Needles -> Santa Monica, CA (~280 miles, ~5 hrs)

Time	Activity/Stop	Notes
08:00 AM	Grand Canyon Detour (Optional)	Early start for long drive
12:00 PM	Oatman Ghost Town	Historic mining town
01:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Kingman	Top off fuel
12:30 PM	Lunch: Oatman Hotel	Western-style meal
03:00 PM	Fuel Stop: Barstow	Top off fuel
04:00 PM	Route 66 End Sign, Santa Monica Pier	Photo finish
07:00 PM	Dinner: Santa Monica Pier	Seafood by the ocean

Overnight Stay: Ocean View Hotel, Santa Monica (or The Georgian Hotel)

Seasonal Note: August rides capture the desert heat and coastal cool