



Route 66 Recommended Reading

Route 66: The Mother Road by Michael Wallis (2001). The definitive history, with chapters on each of the eight states as well as profiles of significant people and hundreds of photos.

Route 66: Then and Now by Joe Sonderman (2018). Gorgeous then-and-now photographs of Route 66 landmarks.

Moon Guide Route 66 Road Trip by Jessica Dunham (2019). My favorite Route 66 travel guide. Includes descriptions of significant attractions, turn-by-turn directions, maps and suggested itineraries.

EZ66 Guide for Travelers by Jerry McClanahan (2019) Easy-to-use spiral-bound book of maps for traveling the entire length, westbound or eastbound

Billy Connolly's Route 66 (2011). Fun four-episode television travelogue by the Scottish actor and comedian. Available on DVD and Acorn TV. Also has an accompanying book.

Route 66: An American Odyssey directed by John Paget (2002). A documentary film, available on DVD. Although outdated in parts, remains interesting and includes appearances by Rt. 66 icons including Bobby Troup, Angel Delgadillo and Michael Wallis.



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Timeline of Route 66

- 1920** Cyrus Avery, highway commissioner of Tulsa, OK, leads effort for a Chicago-Los Angeles highway thru Tulsa
- 1926** U.S. highway 66 officially commissioned with 2,448 miles of mostly existing road crossing 8 states and 3 time zones. By the end of the year, 800 miles are paved.
- 1927** U.S. 66 Highway Association formed to promote the road
- 1928** Transcontinental foot race, nicknamed the Bunion Derby, held to help promote U.S. Highway 66
- 1935** Route 66 is extended from downtown Los Angeles to a terminus near the Santa Monica Pier in Santa Monica.
- 1937** Route 66 in New Mexico is rerouted, bypassing Santa Fe
- 1938** Paving of Route 66 is completed
- 1939** John Steinbeck publishes *Grapes of Wrath*
- 1946** Robert (Bobby) Troup writes a road map song with the words "Get Your Kicks on Route 66". Nat King Cole releases popular recording of it
- 1953** I-44 between Tulsa and Oklahoma City opens, bypassing 100 miles of Route 66 and beginning the gradual replacement of Route 66 by interstates.
- 1956** Congress authorizes construction of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Interstate Highway System
- 1960** Route 66 television show starring Martin Milner and George Maharis debuts. Runs for 116 episodes
- 1970** Nearly all segments of the original Route 66 are replaced by Interstates 55, 44, 40, 15, and 10
- 1984** Final section of Route 66 bypassed by Interstate 44 at Williams, AZ
- 1985** Route 66 officially decommissioned as a federal highway
- 1986** Historic Route 66 Association of Arizona formed, led by Angel Delgadillo and others in Seligman and Kingman, sparking formation of similar groups in other states
- 1999** Congress creates the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program