

Great Day! Scheduled Tour Summary

AMERICA'S 250TH – ROUTE 66, HISTORIC ST. LOUIS & SPRINGFIELD
SAT-FRI JULY 18 – 24, 2026

Departures, as applic: Beachwood/Orange, Independence, Middleburg Hts, No.Olmsted.

**TIME-SENSITIVE RESERVATIONS . . . EARLY
BOOKING RECOMMENDED . . .**



2026 marks the 250th Anniversary of our Country, and during those years our Nation has transformed the way that it gets around, even though it has been undertaken in “various steps”. Just as in our own area, Pioneers oftentimes traveled along trails that had been used for years by the Indians who resided in the territories. As more folks arrived, especially with the advent of carriages, wagons and then motor vehicles, these roads gradually became highways set up by state and federal agencies. In Central Ohio, for example, U.S. Highway 40 was one **of the first U.S. Highways and opened in 1926**, combining roads that ran from Atlantic City on the East Coast all the way to San Francisco on the West Coast. It was originally known as the National Road, traveling through cities such as Columbus and Indianapolis, and, in recent years, cities along the way are more typically served by Interstate 70. For those living in Northern Ohio, Historic Route 20 began not too much later to serve twelve states as far west as Oregon and Montana, through Ohio, and east to Pennsylvania and New York.

Like the other highways that came through Ohio, in 1926 the Government's Transportation Planning led to the combining roads into yet another icon, the romanticized U.S. Highway 66, better known as “Route 66” which this tour will be recognizing. America is celebrating its 250th Anniversary but this important highway is Celebrating its 100th Anniversary!!! Its history, and the continued interest in this Historic Road, was popularized by songs and even a television series with two young men who traveled along, stopping in towns along the way, as they romanced, had an occasional fight and romanticized iconic Route 66. They obviously had plenty of opportunities to create stories since the Highway stretches 2448 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, basically Lake Michigan to the Pacific Ocean.

Route 66 changed much of American life, even today. The Route 66 portion of this tour has us first visiting the “jumping off point” of the original Eastern “starting point” at the intersection of South Michigan Avenue and East Adams Street, and having Vito putting on a musical dinner & show at his “Roaring 20s Speakeasy”, along with his “Gang of Mugs and Flappers”.

GREAT DAY! TOURS & CHARTER BUS SERVICE . . . (440) 526-5350 . . . (800) 362-4905

All tour details are anticipated at the time that the Scheduled Tour Brochure was prepared and specific stops and/or other inclusions are subject to change or elimination without notice. Tours typically depart between 6 AM and 8 AM with the exact time shown on the itinerary you will receive approximately one to two weeks prior to the tour departure. Most tours return about 8 PM to 10 PM, although this may vary.

We will be traveling along, or near, the original Route 66 through parts of two states, Illinois and Missouri. But, as you will find out, we have included other stops along the way that have been suggested by our passengers over the years. Springfield has an equally important place in our Country and was a popular stop along Route 66 with attractions such as Schae's Gas Station & Garage and Cozy Dog Drive-In. It is steeped in history.



The Illinois State Capitol building in Springfield is located a few blocks north of Route 66. The city has been dubbed "Land of Lincoln" as it was the town where President Abraham Lincoln had been a prominent lawyer. Fortunately, he had good-paying employment when he married Mary Todd and had four sons, eventually becoming our Country's President. There are a number of interesting stories you will be hearing, including how Lincoln worked at a general store and earned a reputation for strength by defeating the leader of a local gang of bullies.

Traveling south about 98 miles along the former Route 66, we will be arriving in yet an even more important city along this Historic Highway, St. Louis, Missouri. Originally part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, this territory took on the heritage of both the Spanish and French Settlers, primarily serving as a Trading Post due to it being located between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers. During our three-night stay in this important part of the tour, we will be enjoying a cruise along its most important waterway, while being reminded of the part it served in developing the Western portion of our Country, the Gateway Arch which you are welcome to enjoy as a part of this tour.

Some years later, the railroads came into St. Louis, named after King Louis IX of France, expanded with the number of railroads coming into the town. Union Station was the largest Train Station in the World, with 300 trains carrying 87,000 passengers arriving each day. Across the street a hotel was constructed for the Railroad Executives and Trainmen to meet and stay, while seeing their trains come into the station. While Amtrak had been the last of the trains to use the station, it was beautifully restored into an entertainment and dining venue and we will be staying all three nights at that very same hotel, a location where we will be greeted with cocktails and dinner upon our arrival. Over the next few days we will be seeing the impact on the city, including its breweries, gorgeous farm estates, steakhouses, museums and even Ted Drewes, known for its "concretes" sold along Route 66, but better known to folks now-a-days as frozen custard.



Departing St. Louis, we will be connecting to the highway that has now replaced The National Highway. Along the way we will be seeing a number of points-of-interest and then arriving at a dinner-theater for a performance of “The Play That Went Wrong”, rounding out this wonderful seven-day tour package.

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Expanded Package includes 14 meals.

\$2324 per person in a double

\$2294 per person in a triple

\$2264 per person in a quad

\$2922 per person in single

Deposit to book, \$100 per person; we accept all major credit cards and checks

Tours can now be booked online, 24 hours a day with a credit card.