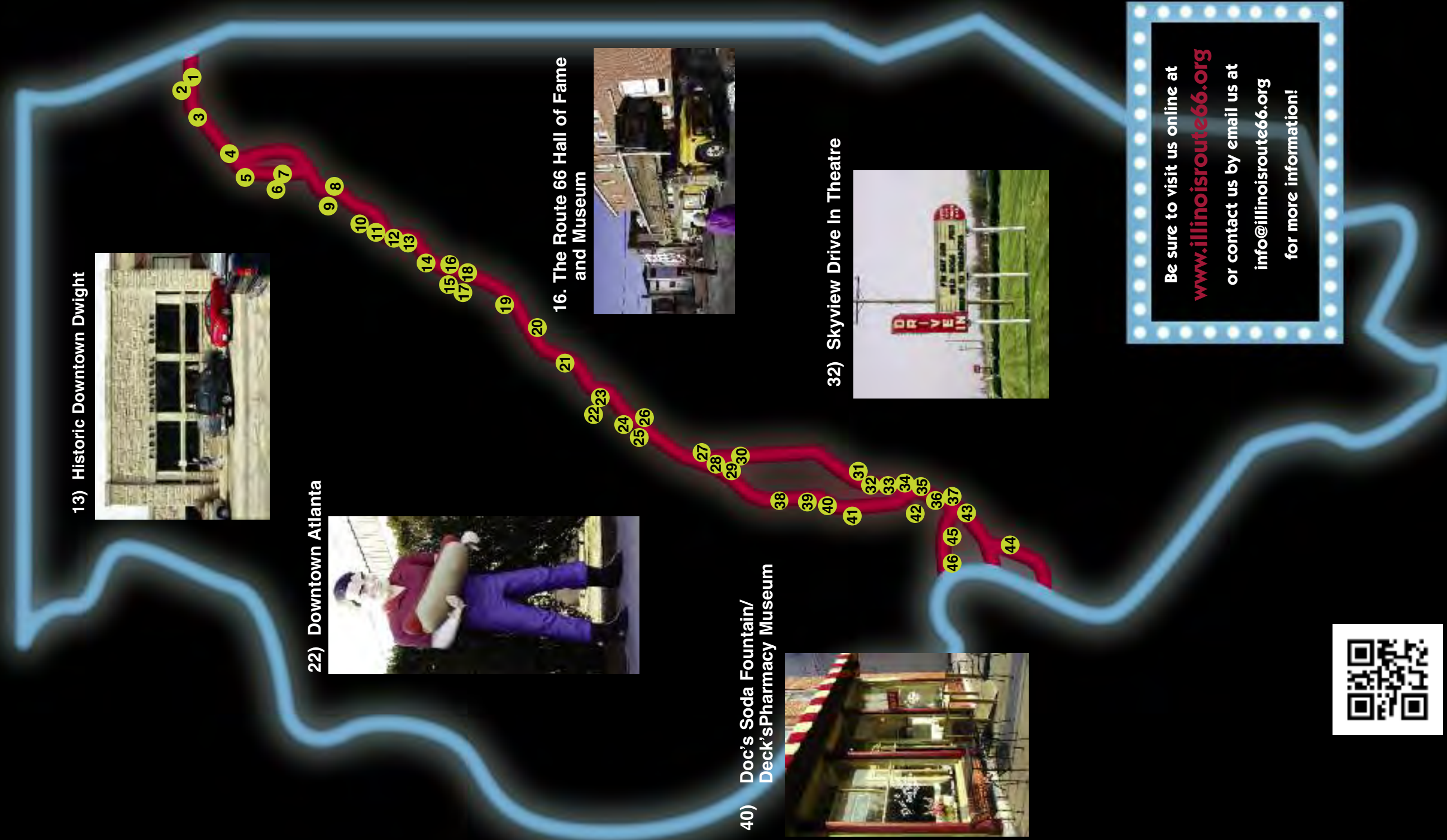


ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 Guide Map

Your guide to all the fun on 66!



Be sure to visit us online at www.illinoisroute66.org or contact us by email us at info@illinoisroute66.org for more information!



Map Legend

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Buckingham Fountain | 27) Mahan's Filling Station at Fulgenzi's Pizza |
| 2) Lou Mitchell's | 28) Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum |
| 3) Al Capone Gravesite | 29) Cozy Dog Drive In |
| 4) Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket | 30) Knight's Action Park & Caribbean Water Adventure |
| 5) White Fence Farm | 31) Litchfield History Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center |
| 6) Joliet Area Historical Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center | 32) Skyview Drive In Theatre |
| 7) Fiatto Theatre | 33) Ariston Cafe |
| 8) Gemini Giant | 34) Mother Jones Monument |
| 9) Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve | 35) Soulsby Station |
| 10) Polk-a-Dot Drive In | 36) Henry's Re66it Ranch |
| 11) The 2-Cell Jail and Christiansen Memorial | 37) The Winery at Shale Lake |
| 12) Ambler - Becker Texaco | 38) Original Brick Road |
| 13) Historic Downtown Dwight | 39) Monument to the Virden Mine Battle of 1898 |
| 14) Odell Station | 40) Doc's Soda Fountain/Deck's Pharmacy Museum |
| 15) Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum | 41) The Macoupin County "Million Dollar" Courthouse |
| 16) The Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum | 42) Carlisle Historic Square |
| 17) The Museum of the Gilding Arts | 43) Weezy's Route 66 Grill |
| 18) Murals on Main Street | 44) Brooks Catsup Bottle |
| 19) Memory Lane | 45) The Luna Cafe |
| 20) "Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66" Visitor Center | 46) The Old Chain of Rocks Bridge |
| 21) Funks Grove | |
| 22) Downtown Atlanta | |
| 23) Palm's Grill Rt. 66 Cafe | |
| 24) The Railsplitter Covered Wagon | |
| 25) Lincoln Christening Site | |
| 26) The Mill on 66 | |

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 LICENSE PLATES

The Illinois Route 66 license plate is an ideal way for you to help preserve and promote Route 66. Register your plate with the Illinois Secretary of State at www.cyberdriveillinois.com or apply at any local license service facility.

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Since its official designation as a Heritage Corridor by the Illinois Bureau of Tourism in 2001, the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project has been serving the needs of Route 66 communities, businesses and travelers. As a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the development and promotion of the Route 66 experience throughout the state, we obtained status as an America's Byway designated by the Federal Highway Administration in 2005. Although we are a non-governmental body, we maintain a close network of partners at the local, state and federal level to support our efforts.

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

700 E. Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701
217-525-9308
866-378-7866
illinoisroute66.org



Heritage Corridor
convention & visitors bureau



AMERICA'S BYWAY Illinois Route 66!



Where The Mother Road Begins...

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 — A BRIEF HISTORY

Route 66 defined a remarkable era in the growth of our nation. As it threaded its way across eight states, it left its indelible mark on our nation's physical, historical and cultural landscape. No other road symbolizes optimism, freedom and the American Dream quite like Route 66.

It began with an Oklahoma businessman and entrepreneur, Cyrus Avery, who envisioned a road stretching diagonally across the country between Lake Michigan and the Pacific Ocean. The diagonal course made it possible to connect hundreds of rural towns throughout the country and provide small communities access to a national highway system. The road was officially named Route 66 in 1926, but it was Avery who proclaimed it the "Main Street of America."

Many "main streets" in Illinois were already connected by the Pontiac Trail, the original automobile route between Chicago and St. Louis. In 1920, State Bond Issue 4 enabled the construction of a new "hard road" to connect the two cities in a more direct fashion — the first in a series of efforts to make highway travel more efficient. Already paved in concrete by 1926, the Illinois stretch of US 66 was the first to claim it was "slab all the way."

Over the next fifty years, the road carried travelers of all kinds: migrants from the Dust Bowl, military personnel, truckers, farmers, and eventually, vacationers. Enterprising business people along the road quickly recognized the need for food, lodging and auto services and the travel industry was born. Eventually, other amenities, such as motor courts, souvenir shops and roadside attractions sprang up to meet the growing demands of travelers.

Illinois was no exception. From the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago to the Apple Valley Motel in Granite City; from the Lou Mitchell's Restaurant in Chicago to the Ariston Cafe in Litchfield; from the Standard Oil Station in Odell to the Soulsby Station in Mt. Olive, the road was lined with businesses eager to serve Route 66 travelers. Many of these familiar landmarks became regular stops, not just for the goods and services they provided, but for the warmth and hospitality served on the side. Route 66 became a linear community that spanned more than 2400 miles between Chicago and Los Angeles.

Ultimately, the desire for faster, safer and more efficient roadways led to the construction of a 4-lane Route 66 following World War II. In addition to the extra lanes, the road was also

realigned to bypass the small towns that had grown accustomed to heavy traffic and the commerce that came with it.



By 1977, Interstate 55 had completely replaced Route 66 in Illinois and in 1984 the last remaining section of US 66 in Arizona was bypassed by

Interstate 40. Route 66 was officially decommissioned by the federal government in 1985.

Fortunately, the legacy of Route 66 has survived. Today, travelers of the historic highway in Illinois can cruise more than 400 miles of road, including some of the original 1926 concrete segments. Historically significant structures have been preserved to help bring the Route 66 experience to life and many authentic businesses welcome the opportunity to serve today's Route 66 traveler.

The road is alive with great stories of Route 66 and as you visit our Classic 66 locations in Illinois, you'll be able to meet the legends, swap some stories and make new memories. Whether you're a seasoned roadie or a first-time traveler, there's plenty to experience, so go on ... go get your kicks on Illinois Route 66!

