



Explore Illinois with  
*Illinois*  
**A**GRICULTURE  
in the Classroom<sup>SM</sup>



# Explore

As Illinois celebrates the 100th anniversary of Route 66, use this passport to explore fascinating sites along the great route as well as other locations across the state located on our fine Roads, Rivers and Rails.

In 1925 the U.S. Congress established a plan for a national highway system. One of those highways was to connect Chicago with Los Angeles. This new highway system connected cities and rural communities using existing roadways instead of forging new roads. Route 66 was officially recognized on November 11, 1926 with road signs stretching through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona before eventually arriving in Santa Clara, California at the Pacific Ocean.

The road was a primary route for western migration during the Great Depression and found favor in popular culture through books and movies. In 1985 the route was officially disbanded as it was replaced by the Interstate Highway system. Over 300 miles of Route 66 cut from Chicago to St. Louis through Illinois.



# ----- Illinois

Use this guide to find interesting locales along Route 66.  
**Explore Illinois** along our Roads, Rivers and Rails and  
**discover the history and agriculture** of our great state!

Be sure to check websites and social media of locations  
for visiting hours and any fees associated with a visit.



To find more sites near you, visit:  
**[www.iaitc.co/RRR](http://www.iaitc.co/RRR)**



# Chicago

## START OF ROUTE 66

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The official Route 66 starting point is located at 122 S. Michigan Ave. near the intersection of S. Michigan Ave. and E. Adams St., just across from the Art Institute of Chicago. The 2,448 mile adventure begins here!

While in Chicago, visit the Palmer House, just two blocks from the beginning of Route 66. The brownie was invented here. The Twinkie, Cracker Jacks, Wrigley Gum and Chicago-style pizza also call Chicago their birthplace.

**122 S. MICHIGAN AVE, CHICAGO**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66Start>



# *Bloomington*

## **HISTORIC ROAD SAFETY MARKER**

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Access to roads and improvements in automobile technology lead to increased automobile accidents. The number of accidents lead some to refer to the road as "Bloody 66". Check out the historic marker that describes the adventures of Illinois State Police Officer Chester Henry, who set a record for the most tickets written in a year along Route 66. Other unique locations near this historic marker include the McLean County Museum with a unique collection of Route 66 memories, and the original Steak and Shake, which opened in Normal in 1934 along Route 66.

**N. MAIN ST. & JEFFERSON ST, BLOOMINGTON**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66Safety>

# *Springfield*

## COZY DOG RESTAURANT

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Starting in 1946 at a small Springfield restaurant, then sold later that year at the Illinois State Fair, the original corn dog has its start in the Land of Lincoln. Combining a cornbread mixture with a hot dog, then French frying in hot oil, the corn dog named Cozy Dog has a humble beginning. You can visit the restaurant, where the recipe is mainly unchanged, and also check out unique Route 66 memorabilia.

**2935 S 6TH ST, SPRINGFIELD**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66CozyDog>

# *Collinsville*

## **WORLD'S LARGEST BOTTLE OF CATSUP**

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The World's Largest Catsup Bottle stands just off of Route 66 south of downtown Collinsville, Illinois. The unique 170 ft. tall water tower was built in 1949 by the W.E. Caldwell Company for the G.S. Suppiger catsup bottling plant - bottlers of Brooks old original rich and tangy catsup. If the water tower held catsup, it would hold 640,000 gallons!

**800 S. MORRISON AVE, COLLINSVILLE**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66Catsup>

# *Jo Daviess*

## **CHARLES MOUND - HIGHEST POINT**

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The highest point in Illinois is located in far northwestern Illinois in Jo Daviess County. While not an official landmark, Charles Mound sits northwest of the small town of Scales Mound and northeast of Galena about one half mile from the Wisconsin border. In an area not impacted by glaciers like the rest of the state, Charles Mound is 1,235 feet above sea level, making it the 45th highest elevation in the nation.

**688 W. CHARLES MOUND RD, SCALES MOUND**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66HighestPoint>

# Rock Island

## JOHN DEERE PAVILION

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In 1837, John Deere invented the first commercially successful, self-scouring steel plow that could turn over heavy, sticky prairie soil. Deere moved his business from Grand Detour to Moline in 1848. By 1850, Deere was producing over 1,600 plows a year.

Located in Moline on the Mississippi River, the John Deere Pavilion celebrates all things John Deere. History, innovations and applications to homeowners and farmers across Illinois, the United States and around the world are featured in this unique museum and information center.

The original John Deere Historic Site is located in Grand Detour about 75 miles northeast of Moline.

**1400 RIVER DR, MOLINE**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66JohnDeere>

# *Peoria*

## **USDA NATIONAL CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL UTILIZATION & RESEARCH**

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Located just off the Illinois River along I-74, The Center researches new industrial and food uses for agricultural commodities, develops new technology to improve environmental quality, and provides technical support to federal regulatory and action agencies. Originally established in 1938, this facility is the home to the industrial production techniques of Penicillin as led by Andrew Moyer in 1942. This facility was also instrumental in the development of soybeans, taking this from a small forage crop to the second largest and most valuable row crop in the U.S.

**1815 N. UNIVERSITY ST, PEORIA**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66USDA>

# *Urbana*

## MORROW PLOTS

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Located off of I-74 and I-57 on the campus of the University of Illinois, the Morrow Plots were established on the U of I campus in 1876 as experimental agricultural fields. They are the oldest experimental fields in the nation and the second oldest in the world. Today, there are three fields in these plots located near the center of the campus, and one has had corn planted annually since 1876. A visit to the Morrow Plots will showcase the importance of agricultural research and the university's commitment to innovation and sustainability in a unique setting.

**1102 S. GOODWIN AVE, URBANA**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66MorrowPlots>



# *Salem*

## **WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN STATUE**

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Located off of I-57 and US 50 in Salem, a statue of William Jennings Bryan can be found in Bryan Park just off of Broadway near downtown. Bryan, a native of Salem, was a newspaper editor, lawyer and three time candidate for President, who served as U.S. Secretary of State from 1913-1915. The statue in Bryan Park near his birthplace was sculpted by Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor of the faces on Mount Rushmore. Salem was also the home to Max Crossett's Café, home of Max's "X-tra Fine Salad Dressing" that was sold to Kraft in 1931 and was renamed Miracle Whip.

**NORTH BROADWAY, SALEM**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66Salem>



# *Chester*

## POPEYE STATUE

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Located on the Mississippi River, Chester is the county seat of Randolph County south of St. Louis. Chester is also the home of Popeye the Sailor Man, created by Elzie Crisler Segar, a Chester native, in 1929. A statute of Popeye was unveiled in 1977 to welcome tourists to town, and now 18 other Popeye-themed statues are sprinkled throughout the city. Visitors can enjoy river views as well as a Spinach Can Collectable Museum in Chester.

**BY-PASS ROAD, CHESTER**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66Chester>

# *Elizabethtown*

## **RIVER TO RIVER TRAIL HEAD**

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Connecting the Ohio River and the Mississippi River is the River to River Trail. Starting in Elizabethtown, on the Ohio River, and heading west to Grand Tower, on the Mississippi, this trail covers 151 miles through the Shawnee National Forest in Southern Illinois. The trail is perfect for backpacking, hiking, camping and exploring beautiful scenery and native wildlife.



**MAIN STREET, ELIZABETHTOWN**

<https://iaitc.co/Rt66RivertoRiver>

- ☐ ① *Chicago*  
Start of Route 66
- ☐ ② *Bloomington*  
Historic Road Safety Marker
- ☐ ③ *Springfield*  
Cozy Dog Restaurant
- ☐ ④ *Collinsville*  
World's Largest Catsup Bottle
- ☐ ⑤ *Jo Daviess*  
Charles Mound
- ☐ ⑥ *Rock Island*  
John Deere Pavilion
- ☐ ⑦ *Peoria*  
USDA National Center for Agriculture Utilization & Research
- ☐ ⑧ *Urbana*  
Morrow Plots
- ☐ ⑨ *Salem*  
William Jennings Bryan Statue
- ☐ ⑩ *Chester*  
Popeye Statue
- ☐ ⑪ *Elizabethtown*  
River to River Trail Head

# Checklist





[agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org)