

route 66 answer key

Route 66 answer key is a phrase that evokes nostalgia and adventure, often associated with the iconic highway that stretches across the United States from Chicago to Los Angeles. This legendary route, also known as the "Main Street of America," has been a symbol of freedom and exploration since it was established in 1926. The journey along Route 66 offers travelers a glimpse into the rich history, unique culture, and diverse landscapes of the American Midwest and Southwest. In this article, we will explore the significance of Route 66, its attractions, and how to navigate the essential stops along this historic highway.

Understanding Route 66

Route 66 was one of the original highways in the U.S. Highway System, and it holds a special place in American culture. It runs approximately 2,448 miles and encompasses eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The road has been immortalized in songs, literature, and television, becoming synonymous with the American road trip experience.

The Historical Significance of Route 66

The history of Route 66 dates back to its establishment in 1926, serving as a major route for those migrating westward, particularly during the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. Here are some key historical points:

- **Transportation and Trade:** Initially, Route 66 facilitated the movement of goods and people, promoting economic growth in the regions it traversed.
- **Post-War Popularity:** After World War II, the rise of automobile travel and the suburban boom contributed to Route 66's status as a popular road trip destination.
- **Decline and Revival:** The construction of the Interstate Highway System in the 1950s led to a decline in traffic along Route 66, but it has experienced a revival thanks to nostalgia and tourism.

Key Attractions Along Route 66

Traveling along Route 66 offers a variety of attractions that showcase its rich heritage and unique charm. Here are some must-see stops:

1. Chicago, Illinois

As the starting point of Route 66, Chicago is known for its vibrant culture and iconic skyline. Key attractions include:

- **Willis Tower:** Formerly known as the Sears Tower, this iconic skyscraper offers stunning views of the city.
- **Route 66 Sign:** The official start of Route 66 is marked by a sign located at Adams and Michigan Streets.
- **Chicago's Deep Dish Pizza:** No visit is complete without trying the famous deep-dish pizza at one of the city's many pizzerias.

2. St. Louis, Missouri

St. Louis is famous for its Gateway Arch, symbolizing westward expansion. Key points of interest include:

- **Gateway Arch:** This 630-foot monument offers a museum and tram ride to the top for breathtaking views.
- **Route 66 Museum:** Located in the city, this museum offers insights into the history and significance of Route 66.
- **St. Louis BBQ:** Indulge in the local barbecue scene, with many eateries offering delicious smoked meats.

3. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Oklahoma City provides a blend of history and modern attractions. Highlights include:

- **National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum:** Explore the history of the American West through extensive exhibits and artifacts.
- **Bricktown:** This entertainment district features restaurants, shops, and a scenic canal.
- **Route 66 Park:** A lovely park that celebrates the history of Route 66 with art installations and walking paths.

4. Amarillo, Texas

Known for its classic roadside attractions, Amarillo is a quintessential stop along Route 66. Notable sites include:

- **Cadillac Ranch:** An iconic art installation featuring buried Cadillacs, which visitors are encouraged to spray paint.
- **The Big Texan Steak Ranch:** Home of the famous 72-ounce steak challenge, this restaurant is a must-visit for food enthusiasts.
- **Route 66 Historic District:** A charming area filled with vintage shops and diners.

5. Santa Fe, New Mexico

Santa Fe is known for its Pueblo-style architecture and vibrant arts scene. Key attractions include:

- **Santa Fe Plaza:** The heart of the city, surrounded by shops, galleries, and restaurants.
- **Georgia O'Keeffe Museum:** Dedicated to the works of the iconic American artist, this museum showcases her contributions to art.
- **Pueblo Culture:** Explore the surrounding Pueblo communities and learn about their rich history and traditions.

6. Route 66 in Arizona

Arizona features some of the most breathtaking landscapes along Route 66. Key highlights include:

- **Grand Canyon:** A short detour from Route 66, the Grand Canyon is a natural wonder that should not be missed.
- **Route 66 in Flagstaff:** Discover the historic downtown area with its Route 66 memorabilia and local shops.

- **Kingman:** Known as the "Heart of Route 66," Kingman offers museums and vintage diners along the route.

7. Los Angeles, California

The end of Route 66, Los Angeles, is a bustling metropolis with countless attractions. Highlights include:

- **Santa Monica Pier:** Marked as the official end of Route 66, the pier features an amusement park and beautiful views.
- **Hollywood Walk of Fame:** Celebrate the stars of the entertainment industry along this famous sidewalk.
- **Griffith Observatory:** Explore space and science while enjoying panoramic views of the city.

Planning Your Route 66 Adventure

To make the most of your Route 66 journey, consider the following tips:

1. Research and Map Your Route

Before hitting the road, research the attractions and stops you want to include in your itinerary. Many websites and guidebooks offer detailed maps and information about Route 66.

2. Embrace the Roadside Culture

Route 66 is famous for its quirky roadside attractions, diners, and motels. Take the time to stop at these unique places, as they often tell the story of the highway's history.

3. Allow for Flexibility

While it's essential to have a plan, allow for spontaneity. Some of the best experiences come from unplanned detours and discoveries along the way.

4. Capture the Memories

Bring a camera or smartphone to document your journey. From stunning landscapes to quirky roadside attractions, you'll want to capture every moment.

5. Enjoy Local Cuisine

Route 66 is home to a variety of regional cuisines. Be sure to savor local dishes and visit diners that have been serving travelers for decades.

Conclusion

The **Route 66 answer key** is not just about the road itself but the experiences and memories created along the way. From historic landmarks to vibrant cities and stunning landscapes, this iconic highway offers a unique window into America's heart and soul. Whether you're planning a road trip or simply dreaming of one, Route 66 remains a timeless symbol of adventure and exploration. Get ready to hit the open road and discover the magic of this legendary route!

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Route 66 commonly known as?

Route 66 is commonly known as the 'Main Street of America' or the 'Mother Road.'

What states does Route 66 pass through?

Route 66 passes through eight states: Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

What year was Route 66 established?

Route 66 was established on November 11, 1926.

What are some popular attractions along Route 66?

Popular attractions include the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, the Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, and the Wigwam Motel in Holbrook.

Is Route 66 still an official highway?

Route 66 is no longer an official U.S. highway, but many portions are still marked and preserved as historic routes.

How long is Route 66?

Route 66 is approximately 2,448 miles long, stretching from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California.

What cultural significance does Route 66 hold?

Route 66 symbolizes freedom and the American road trip experience, representing the historic migration to the West.

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