

ROUTE 66 IN SANTA MONICA

Since 1926, Route 66 has guided travelers west across the United States, eventually spanning over 2,400 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica. Immortalized in John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" and Nat King Cole's "Get Your Kicks on Route 66," this legendary highway symbolizes freedom, adventure and the open road.

THE MANY "ENDS" OF ROUTE 66

But where does it actually end? That depends on who you ask.

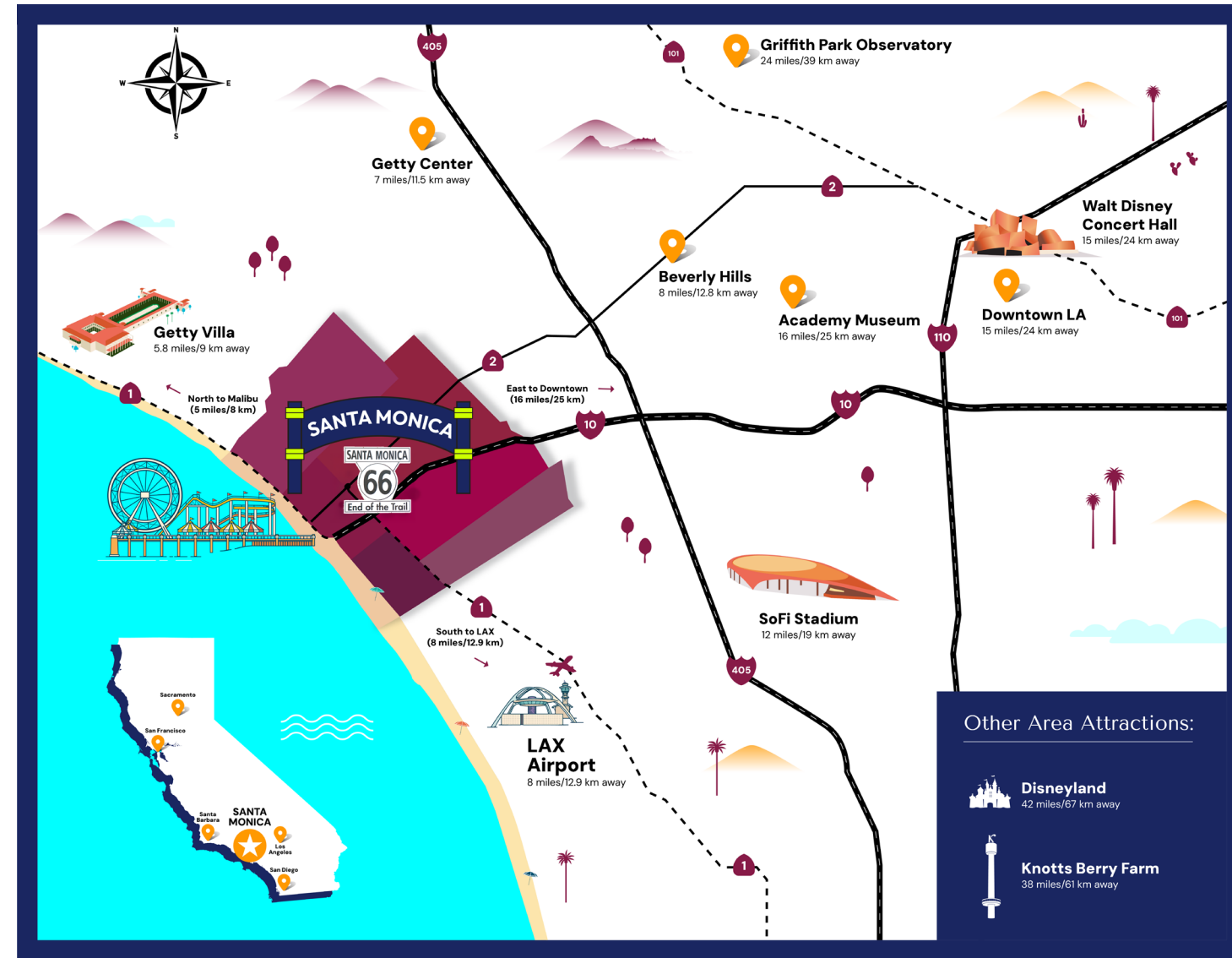
Official End: Route 66 officially concludes at Lincoln Blvd. & Olympic Blvd., where it merges into Interstate 10. Before 1939, it ended in Downtown Los Angeles, but was later extended to Santa Monica.

Rumored End: Some believe it ends at Santa Monica Blvd. & Ocean Ave., near a plaque in Palisades Park marking Route 66 along the Will Rogers Highway.

Traditional End: In 2009, the Santa Monica Pier was named the "traditional" end by the Route 66 Alliance. The End of the Trail sign now marks this beloved photo spot.

A DESTINATION FOR TRAVELERS, THEN & NOW

The spirit of Route 66 remains alive in the city's landmarks and culture. Today, Santa Monica honors that legacy by offering a blend of history, coastal beauty and adventure. Whether you're starting your journey or reflecting on its end, Santa Monica invites you to embrace the enduring allure of Route 66 while encouraging sustainable travel, ensuring the magic of the road can be enjoyed for generations to come. Consider options like renting an electric vehicle, using reusable water bottles and food containers or exploring the city by bike to make your trip more eco-friendly. Plan your trip with the QR code on the back and find 150+ EV charging stations in Santa Monica.



Other Area Attractions:

 Disneyland
42 miles/67 km away

 Knotts Berry Farm
38 miles/61 km away



CONTACT

Santa Monica Travel & Tourism
2427 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405
+1 310 319 6263 | info@santamonica.com
Learn more at santamonica.com/route66

 SeeSantaMonica

 VisitSantaMonica

 Santa Monica Travel & Tourism

 GoSantaMonica

SANTA MONICA

YOUR PERFECT ROUTE 66 ADVENTURE



Route 66, America's "Mother Road," has led countless travelers West in search of adventure, opportunity and the Pacific horizon. Since its extension to Santa Monica in 1936, this historic highway has been rooted in the city's rich culture, making it a must-visit destination for road-trippers past and present.

Whether you're kicking off your Route 66 adventure or celebrating its completion, Santa Monica offers the perfect blend of nostalgia and oceanfront beauty. From iconic landmarks to timeless road trip charm, there's no better place to get your kicks—at the start, the finish, or anywhere in between!

DAY ONE

Morning

Kick off your Route 66 adventure with **breakfast at Mel's Diner**, a nostalgic eatery where road trippers have been fueling up for decades near the highway's historic end. After breakfast, swing by **Santa Monica Travel & Tourism's Visitor Information Center Kiosk** for your **free Route 66 certificate of completion**—a must-have memento of your journey. From there, take a short walk to **snap a photo with the iconic "End of the Trail" sign**, **dive into the highway's rich history on a guided tour and browse 66-to-Cali for Route 66 memorabilia at Santa Monica Pier**. With ocean views, lively attractions and over a century of history, the Pier is the perfect place to soak in the spirit of the Mother Road.

Afternoon

Explore the Santa Monica History Museum, where you'll uncover stories of Route 66's lasting impact on the city before diving into **lunch at A Cut Above**, a Santa Monica Boulevard classic serving up generous portions of homestyle deli fare—perfect for road trippers craving a comforting meal. After lunch, take a leisurely walk down Santa Monica Boulevard, keeping an eye out for vintage signage, classic motels, and nods to the city's road trip legacy.

Evening

Wrap up your day with a classic **coastal dinner at The Lobster**, where fresh seafood meets stunning sunset views over the Pacific. As night falls, head back to the Santa Monica Pier, where the neon glow of **Pacific Park's historic rides and games** brings Route 66 nostalgia to life. Ride the world's only solar-powered Ferris wheel, take a spin on the Route 66-themed West Coaster and soak up the lively boardwalk atmosphere. Cap off your day with a **nightcap at the legendary historic landmark Chez Jay**, a dive bar steeped in Route 66 history—where Hollywood icons have long gathered over drinks and stories. Stop by on Wednesday night to catch live music and soak in the timeless atmosphere.



Visitor Center Information Kiosk



Mel's Diner



The Georgian Hotel



Pacific Park

DAY TWO

Morning

Embrace Santa Monica's coastal lifestyle and **stretch your legs along the beach** with an energizing start to the day—whether it's a surf lesson, a scenic bike ride along the Marvin Braude Trail or a beach yoga session with ocean views as your backdrop. After working up an appetite, **refuel at Dogtown Coffee**, a laid-back café housed in a historic surf shop, where the menu and atmosphere pay tribute to the city's legendary surf and skate culture. From there, take a **leisurely stroll down Main Street**, a vibrant district where eclectic boutiques, charming cafés, and a touch of nostalgia set the perfect tone. Keep an eye out for classic cars and vintage motorcycles cruising by—an unmistakable nod to Route 66's timeless love affair with the open road.

Afternoon

Grab **lunch at Socalo**—a beloved beachside spot that has been serving up classic American eats since the golden days of Route 66—before diving into Santa Monica's dynamic art and culture scene. Embark on a **self-guided mural tour** via the QR code above, exploring Santa Monica's eight unique neighborhoods adorned with over 170 vibrant murals. As you explore, count how many Route 66 icons you find throughout the artwork. If you have time after exploring Santa Monica's inspiring murals, make your own Route 66-themed art at **The Splatter Studio**.

Evening

For a stylish yet nostalgic night out, **dine at The Misfit**, a vintage-inspired eatery with a speakeasy vibe, where craft cocktails and locally sourced dishes set the perfect scene. After dinner, keep the spirit of Route 66 alive with **live music at Harvelle's Blues Club**, one of Santa Monica's most legendary venues. With its intimate, dimly lit atmosphere and electrifying performances, Harvelle's channels the raw energy of classic roadside blues bars once found along the highway. It's the ultimate way to wrap up the day surrounded by music, history and the unmistakable rhythm of the Mother Road.



Dogtown Coffee



Self-Guided Mural Tour



Bergamot Station Arts Center



Aero Theatre

DAY THREE

Morning

Start your day with a nostalgic **breakfast at Rae's Restaurant**, a 1950s diner serving up hearty classics in a retro setting. Then, explore **Bergamot Station Arts Center**—one of Southern California's largest art residencies. Afterwards, **stroll down Pico Boulevard**—stop by the legendary McCabe's Guitar Shop for a touch of celebrity music culture or browse fresh local finds at the Saturday Pico farmers market.

Afternoon

Savor a toes-in-the-sand lunch at Back on the Beach Café, then visit the Annenberg Community Beach House, a historic oceanfront retreat from Hollywood's golden era and the nation's only public beach house. Reserve pool access in advance and soak in the glamour of Route 66 travelers past for the perfect mix of history and relaxation.

Then, get road-trip ready or explore Santa Monica's automotive culture along **Santa Monica Boulevard**, from expert tune-ups and detailing to the latest models, this hub of automotive excellence keeps the spirit of the open road alive. Be sure to power up at one of over 150 EV charging stations before your next adventure!

Evening

Stroll the local shopping scene along quaint Montana avenue before dining at one of LA's premier restaurant to grab an American classic—the hamburger. **Dinner at nationally acclaimed Father's Office** promises classic American fare with an elevated twist—including the famous "Office Burger". Afterward, settle in for a **cinematic throwback at the Aero Theatre**, a historic single-screen cinema that brings the golden age of road trip films to life with vintage and cult-classic screenings. To wrap up the day in style, **raise a glass at Sogno Toscano**, a cozy, inviting spot where expertly crafted drinks and warm ambiance provide the perfect setting for reflecting on your journey.

HOTELS

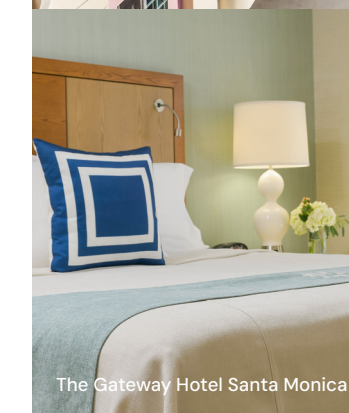
Santa Monica hotels range in price and budget depending on their location and amenities. To learn more about Santa Monica's 40 hotels, visit [SantaMonica.com/hotels](https://www.santamonica.com/hotels).

Santa Monica offers a better value than other areas of Los Angeles/Southern California:

- It offers beachfront and oceanfront hotel access
- Only 8 non-freeway miles/ from LAX, it offers a central base for your Greater Los Angeles visit
- Most hotels offer a high-quality product and experience, with many prioritizing sustainable practices
- The city is compact and bikeable with a variety of surrounding quality amenities such as restaurants and shopping

Experience Route 66's historic journey to the coast with a stay at these hotels along Santa Monica Blvd.:

- Comfort Inn Santa Monica–West Los Angeles
- Days Inn by Wyndham Santa Monica
- The Gateway Hotel Santa Monica



The Gateway Hotel Santa Monica

For more hotel options in Santa Monica, consider these welcoming accommodations:

Downtown Santa Monica/ Third Street Promenade

- Cal Mar Hotel Suites
- Courtyard by Marriott Santa Monica
- Hampton Inn & Suites Santa Monica
- Hilton Santa Monica Hotel & Suites
- Hostelling International LA/Santa Monica
- Hotel Carmel
- Huntley Santa Monica Beach
- Palihouse Santa Monica
- The Pierside Hotel

Main Street

- Hyatt Centric Delfina Santa Monica
- Ocean Park Inn
- Santa Monica Hotel
- Sea Shore Motel

Mid-City

- American Motel
- The Ambrose Hotel

Ocean Park Boulevard/ Santa Monica Airport Area

- Ocean Park Hotel

Pico Boulevard

- SureStay Hotel by Best Western–Santa Monica

Santa Monica Pier Area/Ocean Avenue

- Bayside Hotel
- Hotel Casa del Mar
- Ocean Lodge Hotel
- Ocean View Hotel
- Oceana Santa Monica, LXR Hotels and Resorts
- Regent Santa Monica Beach
- Sandbourne Santa Monica
- Sea Blue Hotel
- Shore Hotel
- Shutters on the Beach
- Sonder The Beacon
- The Cottage Santa Monica
- The Georgian Hotel
- Viceroy Santa Monica

Wilshire Boulevard

- Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows
- Santa Monica Proper Hotel