

Eastern Route 66 Details

The following are some of the basic details to help you prepare for the tour. Starting January 15th you will begin to receive bi-monthly e-mails about specific details of the tour such as bike shipping, airline travel and other Route 66 trivia about places we will visit during our tour.

Food and Meals

During the tour an average of one meal per day will be provided by PAC Tour. This meal will usually be at a famous diner or cafe along the route. Depending on the spread of the riders, this meal will usually be at a time when all the riders are eating together so we can pay the group bill.

A mid morning stop at our van will be a good time to stock up on more snacks or stow away extra clothing.

For lunch a designated cafe will be listed on your route card. While you eat inside, our support van will be waiting to refill water bottles and provide pocket food for the afternoon.

Depending on the length of the day an afternoon stop may be provided by our van. The gear bags will be delivered to the final motel at a specific time, usually after 3:00 PM.

Travel Plans to the Start and Finish

A detailed plan of starting in Amarillo, Texas and departing from Chicago, Illinois will be sent to you with the first updates. There are shuttle services and taxis to and from the airport available for each location.

Shipping Your Bike and Case

You can ship your bike to the starting motel in Amarillo. Remember we will not be transporting hard shell cases during the tour. We will transport cardboard bike boxes that can be folded flat. We can carry CO-Motion type cases for take-apart bikes. If you have a full size hard shell case you will need to arrange with UPS to transport your case to our our final motel near Chicago.

Motels and Smoking Rooms

We will stay in many smaller quaint motels along the route. Most nights our group will fill all the available rooms. We have tried to find motels that are clean but still represent the style of motel from 50 years ago. It is not practical for us to guarantee nonsmoking rooms for everyone each night. We will try to rotate our group so no one has a smoking rooms all the time. If you must have a nonsmoking

room, this tour might not be the best adventure for you. We hope staying at older Rt. 66 motels is not a problem for you.

Jersey Design

We are designing a new Rt. 66 jersey. These jerseys are always collector items even among non cyclists. You will receive one jersey with your application. You can order an additional jersey, wind vest or jackets at a cost of \$80 per garment. Our deadline for ordering jerseys or vest is 90 days before the tour. Contact Lon Haldeman if you want an additional Voler items and you can pay for it with your final payment <haldeman@pactour.com>

Where is the "Best Milkshake on Rt. 66"?

During the tour we will have lots of opportunities to eat at many interesting diners. One of the fun things to do is sample the "Best Of Rt. 66". We would like to keep track of the best hamburger, milk shakes, french fries, pie, waitress or any other thing we want to compare. We are going to rank all these items and keep track of them during the tour. If you can think of anything you want to add to this list be sure to let everyone else know so we can compare ideas as the tour crosses the country.

Scavenger Hunt on Rt. 66

During the tour we will have a scavenger hunt to find specific items during the tour. Some items you can find along the roadside or you might have to look in a flea market or antique store. Finding for these items is a good time to talk with the local people. Some things we will be looking for are; the oldest vehicle license plate, the oldest soda or beer can, the most unique salt and pepper shakers, the most outrageous hat and many other items. Anything you collect will be a good souvenir of your trip on Route 66.

PAC Tour Gear bags

You will receive your PAC Tour gearbag in mid April. This gearbag is about 5,000 cubic inches or the size of three brown paper grocery bags. All your clothes should easily fit in this bag. You will receive information about packing your gearbag. Remember if you bring it...you lift it. We will have some space in our trailer for your souvenirs, so you don't have to carry everything in your gearbag you buy during the tour. Extra purchases should be kept in deep storage so we will keep them safe and we will not have to move them everyday.

If you already have a standard PAC Tour gearbag you can receive a \$65 credit on your final payment. Be sure to contact Susan at info@pactour.com if you do not need a new gearbag for Rt. 66.

Computers and Extra Bags

We will have room for your laptop computer in a separate case, (5" x 14" x 17"). Limit your computer case to a briefcase style piece of luggage that will travel well when placed on the shelving units in our yellow trailer. Carry-on luggage or backpacks are not allowed if they are wider than 5 inches. Not all of our Ma and Pa motels will have wireless connections in the room but you can usually get a connection in the lobby.

We will have room for you to bring a stash box with extra hardware items such as spare cables, chains, spokes or electronics. Your stash box should not exceed 7" x 7" x 14"...a shoe box or plastic tupperware box works well.

The Best Bikes and Tires for Route 66

This is our 12th Tour of Route 66, including our transcontinental tours on the old road. We are planning to ride on the sections of Route 66 that avoid the interstate (Interstate mileage is 3 miles in Texas). Some of these sections are not maintained so the pavement has become filled with potholes or gravel. 90% of the roads will be smooth, however the remaining 10% (150 miles) will be gravel or cracked concrete. This 10% of Route 66 offers some of the most interesting sites along the old highway.

During past years the riders have agreed that 28 or 32mm tires are a good compromise between racing tires and mountain bike tires. Panaracer and Continental Gatorskins are good touring tires in this size. Rivendell Ruffy Tuffy Tires are about 29mm and ride very nice. These tires have lots of tread and will last over 3,000 miles. A 28-32mm tire works best at 65 psi tire pressure.

A touring bike with clearance for wider tires is recommended for this tour. There are some steep grades so low gears with a 34 front chainring and 28 tooth rear cog could be needed.

Bagels and Locks

Many of our meals will be at restaurants, diners and cafes. You will need to leave your bicycle outside while you eat. Most of the neighborhoods are safe, but we suggest you lock your bike while you are inside eating. You should bring a cable small and flexible enough to fit in a jersey pocket. It will not stop professional bike thieves, but it will detour the mischievous vandals. A small combination lock for locking airline luggage is perfect to use with this cable lock. Locking several bikes together is safe way to secure your bikes and a good way to be sure your friends don't leave the restaurant without you.

Guest Speakers and Videos

During the tour will be joined by Nick Gerlich who is an author and historian of Route 66. Nick will be presenting interesting nightly seminars several times during the tour and riding with us during the day to explain additional Route 66 history along the way. Throughout the tour we will be joined by many other Route 66 guest speakers who will add their personal knowledge of the old road. So far we have at least one speaker scheduled during each state. We will also be offering informative videos and Rt. 66 movies during the tour.

Each nightly seminar will be scheduled during a dinner meeting or in the early evening. These programs are optional for your attendance. We understand you could be tired from a long day of cycling so these programs will be scheduled on shorter days. In the past, these seminars and programs were very popular with the riders. We will have interesting entertainment again this year.

Be a Road Scholar

Since 1981 I (Lon) have bicycled over 25,000 miles on Rt. 66. Something I noticed is that it is interesting how people and motorists react to bicycles who are visible fans of Rt. 66. If local people know you are exploring Rt. 66 they will be more than eager to talk with you. Wearing a Rt. 66 jersey or displaying a Rt. 66 logo on your bike will usually give you more respect on the road with motorists. I have had many cars actually pull ahead and wait on the side of the road, then want me to stop and talk about Rt. 66.

I have been invited on to private land to look at old sections of the road by people who knew I wanted to learn more about the highway. It is never difficult to find an old timer at a cafe who is curious about why you are riding a bike on Rt. 66. These are good opportunities to meet new road personalities.

As we cross America on Rt. 66 we will be unique ambassadors to bring cycling and mother road history together. Traveling on the old highway for two weeks it is easy to feel Rt. 66 overload after stopping in your 35th gift shop selling the same cheap coffee cups or eating at another diner with the same sticky red vinyl seats.

Remember it is the first time the owner and locals have met you. You might meet a new friend or hear a new story. I hope cycling Rt. 66 will be a highlight of your cycling and travel experiences.

Questions?

Contact Lon Haldeman haldeman@pactour.com 262-736-2453