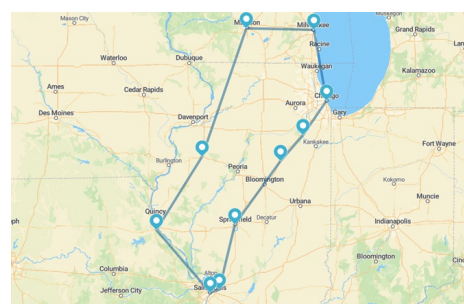




US, 9 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route through the Midwest

In Chicago start a trip that will take you along the beginning of the legendary "Route 66" and continue through some of the most fascinating corners of the real America. You will discover the origins of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, the famous arch of Saint Louis and a lot of small unknown cities that you will fall in love with. Milwaukee and Chicago will mark the ends of a trip through Illinois, Missouri and Wisconsin. A great adventure for road lovers!



**Departure date:** Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Dublin, Shannon, Cork

### Travel details

#### ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - CHICAGO

Flight departure from the city of origin to Chicago. After the necessary arrivals and customs formalities, you can pick up your rental car and start enjoying your holiday. You'll have the rest of the day free to explore one of the most interesting cities in the USA and home to an exquisite cuisine.

Overnight stay in Chicago.

## ● DAY 2 · CHICAGO - WILMINGTON - BRAIDWOOD - PONTIAC - SPRINGFIELD IL

Your "road trip" starts. The legendary "Route 66" begins its journey here, crossing the state before travelling all the way to the beautiful Pacific coast. It is recommended that you fill up at Lou Mitchell's, a famous coffee shop where people queue for breakfast. At the wheel, you'll discover landmarks from yesteryear, such as food villages, drive-in theatres, traditional filling stations (1920-1960) and drive-through restaurants. This is a famous stage because it is part of several routes. That's why you'll be driving alongside dozens of cars that are following the same route as you are. There are bound to be tourists of many different nationalities, so put your multicultural hat on and get to know them at the stops throughout the day. Another piece of advice is to use a good GPS, it will be very useful if you make a detour to visit somewhere. Road crossings are so frequent that you'll appreciate some help at times. On the trip you can stop at old gas stations and take a look at the restaurants and coffee shops that are very typical of America. If you have time, stop and take some photos at the Gemini Giant, in Wilmington, at Polka Dot Diner, in Braidwood and in the Old Log Cabin, in Pontiac. After these visits, you will set off on the last stretch on the way to Springfield, the capital of the state of Illinois. In Towanda, you can walk along the road that "Route 66" originally followed. The roads around here are very comfortable, so you'll be able to admire the landscape. This includes endless swathes of cornfields which were once the claim of the local mechanics. And finally we arrive in Springfield! Here, the President of the United States Abraham Lincoln practised as a lawyer. One of the things you should visit in Springfield is the Abraham Lincoln presidential library and museum. It contains a wealth of information on the life of the president and the American Civil War, as well as documents on the abolition of slavery. It includes exhibits about the life of Lincoln before and during the presidency with photographs by the famous photographer Annie Leibovitz. (Note: Please note that the museum closes at 5:00 PM so it would be a good idea to get to Springfield well in advance). For dinner, the local specialities are the 'corn dog' (hot dog with corn around) and the 'horseshoe', a sandwich with fried meat. Overnight stay in Springfield.

## ● DAY 3 · SPRINGFIELD IL - CAHOKIA MOUNDS - COLLINSVILLE - SAINT LOUIS MO

Once you set off again, you can take a look around Springfield and discover some historic buildings and areas, such as Lincoln Home National Historic Site (neighborhood where Lincoln lived in Springfield), New Salem Historic Village (reconstruction of the village where Lincoln lived during his childhood ) and Dana-Thomas House designed by the famous architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Continue south and follow "Route 66". Perhaps you want to stop at Cahokia Mounds, located just over 1 hour and 30 minutes away if there is not much traffic, where the largest prehistoric Indian city in the United States was located. Cahokia Mounds in an interesting national park and one of the forgotten cities of the USA. Before Columbus arrived in America, the Indians of Illinois has established a city that exceeded 15,000 inhabitants. One of the obligatory stops is the Mound of the Monks, recognised by UNESCO as a World heritage cultural asset. From there you can see the 'skyline' of the city of Saint Louis, which will be the next destination on the trip. If you want to know more about the ancient Indian civilisation, you can visit the museum and interpretive centre. The closest city to Cahokia Mounds is Collinsville, about 10 minutes by car, a nice little place famous for the 170-foot-tall Ketchup bottle. Drive by the old Chain of Rocks Bridge. It is the longest bridge in the world for cycling and walking. It should only take half an hour to get to your final destination: Saint Louis. Before going to bed, visit 'The Hill', a small Italian neighbourhood that is worth seeing and a nice place to have dinner. A recommendation? How about some toasted ravioli and a square pizza? Overnight stay in Saint Louis.

#### ● DAY 4 · SAINT LOUIS MO - HANNIBAL - GALESBURG

Saint Louis is an old industrial city that became famous after the Universal Exhibition of 1904. It was from Saint Louis that the funding came for the first trip across the Atlantic in the 'Spirit of Saint Louis'. The city has several attractions that are worth visiting. The symbol of the city is the 'Gateway to the West', a steel arch that is located in the centre of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Park. In that same park is the Old Courthouse, a former courthouse. In addition to its appeal, this is where you can buy tickets to see the arch more closely on a boat or helicopter ride. (Note: Admission not included). If you are a beer lover, you can visit the Anheuser-Busch Brewery factory, where Budweiser is produced. Going north from Saint Louis, you can make a small stop in Hannibal (Missouri), the city where Mark Twain lived as a child and which is about 2 hours and 30 minutes away. In fact, some of the places in this city inspired books by this writer such as "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". If you have read these books, I am sure that some areas will be familiar to you. The author's house is open to the public in case you want to take a look. Head to Galesburg, home of the American poet Carl Sandburg. Visit the historic district of Seminary Street, which is one of the most successful restoration and revitalisation centres in the Midwest. Overnight stay in Galesburg.

#### ● DAY 5 · GALESBURG - MOLINE - GALENA - MADISON

After enjoying the charms of Galesburg, we return to Ruta. Leaving Galesburg, take Hwy 74 to Moline, a picturesque town about an hour away. If you feel like it, you can visit the John Deere pavilion of the famous agricultural machinery company. You will cross the Mississippi River and continue north on Hwy 67, along the Mississippi, all the way to the small town of Galena, just a few miles from Iowa and Wisconsin in the northwest corner of Illinois. Thanks to its privileged location, a few miles from the Galena River, it was an important port for steamboats on the Mississippi River. This place has changed very little from the nineteenth century until today. Stroll along Main Street and visit the historic centre. From there, head for Madison, Wisconsin. The history books tell us that Madison was a mudflats or wooded marshy area, infested with mosquitoes, when it was selected as the political nucleus of the territory of Wisconsin in 1836. Today it has become a young and stimulating metropolis, small, calm and attractive. The Capitol in the form of X, which dominates the city, and the Museum of Contemporary Art are two places you must visit. For dinner, the cuisine on offer is quite varied. You can go along State Street, a atmospheric street dotted with cafes and restaurants. Overnight stay in Madison.

#### ● DAY 6 · MADISON - MILWAUKEE

Drive for approximately one hour west on Hwy 94 toward Milwaukee. Once in the city, you can start with a free visit to the two main attractions of the city: the Miller brewery, which boosted the city's growth, and the Harley-Davidson plant where you can ride old bikes. You can continue with a walk through Lakefront Park, a visit to the Third Ward (fashion) and Water Street (bars and restaurants). If you have time or if you prefer to go to another museum, head to the Milwaukee Art Museum or the Discovery World, for science and technology. For dinner, we recommend you try the speciality of fried local fish accompanied with a local beer. Overnight stay in Milwaukee.

#### ● DAY 7 · MILWAUKEE - CHICAGO

For breakfast, you can visit another typical place in Milwaukee: Solly's Coffee Shop. Since 1936, locals and savvy travellers have settled on Solly's horseshoe bars, where Milwaukee waitresses serve hearty breakfasts, sirloin burgers and malt whiskey in a steel jar. Back in Chicago, enjoy the view on the shore of Lake Michigan. Chicago boasts excellent museums, as well as countless coffee shops, restaurants, bars and clubs where you can enjoy jazz and blues. A visit to the neighbourhood of "The Loop" is fundamental. You can decide between going to the Art Institute museum, walking through Millennium Park or climbing the Sears Tower skyscraper and enjoying a panoramic view of the city. You can't leave Chicago without trying one of their legendary thick pizzas. And if you're not too tired, visit the classic bar of Al Capone, the "Green Mill" to listen to jazz and have a drink. Overnight stay in Chicago.

#### ● DAY 8 · CHICAGO - CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.  
Night on board.

● DAY 9 · CITY OF ORIGIN

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

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### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Chicago.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Chicago.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Springfield - Il.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Springfield - Il.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Saint Louis - Missouri.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Saint Louis - Missouri.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Galesburg - Il.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Galesburg - Il.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Madison - Wi.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Madison - Wi.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Milwaukee - Wi.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Milwaukee - Wi.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Electronic Authorization (ESTA/ETA) to enter in US.
- ✗ Resort fee US.
- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

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Chicago



Wilmington



Pontiac



Springfield - Il



Collinsville



Saint Louis - Missouri



Hannibal - Mo



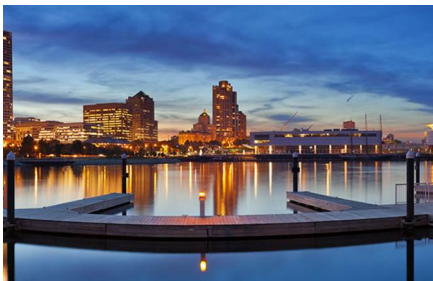
Galesburg - Il



Madison - Wi



Milwaukee - Wi



## Important remarks

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- Tips in US are a common practice.

- Generally in US the accommodation in the triple rooms have two double beds or one double and one single bed and the quadruple accommodation has two double beds.

- Driving in the USA: 1. Overtaking on the right is not only legal but everyone does it. And the sooner you get used to roads with more than five lanes, the better. 2. It is legal (and mandatory) to turn right on a red light when there is a signal to do so. 3. With regard to parking, make sure you check when you can park on the street and never park in front of a fire hydrant (even though there are no signs prohibiting it). If there are lines painted on the road to mark out parking spaces, leave the car right in the middle of them, however huge the gap may seem. Be especially careful in the centre of big cities and don't let the parking meter go over by even one minute (check before paying because there are days of the week or certain times when you don't have to pay). 4. Beware of tolls. They will be indicated with the words toll or turnpike and don't usually have a barrier, so you can drive through them without realising and then receive a fine a few weeks later. Don't drive in FasTrak Only lanes and make sure you have some cash on you, as some tolls are cash-only. 5. Unless you want a ticket and a stern chat from a Highway Patrol Officer, it's best not to drive more than five or ten miles above the maximum speed allowed for the road. If the police end up stopping you, keep your hands on the steering wheel and in sight at all

times and don't even think about trying to be funny. 6. We recommend signing up to roadside assistance services and a GPS when you hire a car.

- Consult the entry restrictions and additional requirements for people who have previously traveled to destinations such as Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, etc.
- Hotels may charge a Resort Fee charge that must be paid directly at the destination. The amount can vary between approximately \$15 and \$65 per room per night. This charge is indicative and may be modified depending on the establishment's policy.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.
- You must give notice that you are going to cross the border while collecting the vehicle. Authorisation may be required to drive through certain countries or areas/states (as is the case in the US and Canada). Depending on the conditions set out in the rental contract and the company hired, you might be charged a surcharge payable at the destination office.