

WHERE TO STAY

For a classic lodging experience while in Springfield, Missouri, stay at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven Motel! This unique 1930's vintage Route 66 'motor court' motel was recently extensively renovated with our guests at heart.

Our newly redecorated rooms now feature new upscale furniture, and our beds all have pillow top mattresses with luxurious comforter duvets. Some rooms have massaging recliners while others have the convenience of a microwave and a refrigerator. We also offer cottage rooms with a separate bedroom, great for people traveling with small children or older parents.

All rooms have convenient ground-floor access with parking at the door, along with hi-speed Internet access and free local calls. A swimming pool in our front courtyard is available to all our guests during warm weather, and a complimentary deluxe continental breakfast with hot food items is included with your stay.

For the business traveler, the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven also offers a frequent stay/rewards program, and a complimentary business center with fax and copy service is available.

The Route 66 Rail Haven itself is one of the original motels in the Best Western chain, and retains much of its vintage ambiance. The motel is conveniently located at the corner of Glenstone Avenue and St. Louis Street on Route 66, minutes away from both Springfield's downtown and south side shopping and business areas.

So treat yourself to a stay behind the rail fence in the luxurious rooms at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven for a truly unique lodging experience!

AUTO TOUR - RT. 66 THEME (Self-guided):

When traveling Route 66, Springfield, Missouri offers a very unique experience. In the heyday of Route 66, Springfield was blessed to have two Route 66 alignments traversing the town; a City Route 66 and a Truck Route 66. These two routes split at the eastern edge and western edge of the city and literally make it possible to drive a circle around Springfield, staying on Route 66 the entire time.

For a guest staying at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven, it is possible to leave our parking lot and spend an entire day, traversing the city on 66.

After enjoying the free deluxe complimentary breakfast that comes from staying at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven, make a left turn out of our parking lot onto Glenstone Avenue, then another left turn onto St. Louis Street. The intersection of St. Louis and Glenstone is where the City Route 66 turned and headed into downtown Springfield. As you travel up St. Louis Street towards the square, take note of the Kentwood Arms and the Shrine Mosque, two distinctive structures in this city that date to the beginning of

Rt. 66. Pass by the Gillioiz Theater, and if it appears open, stop for a peek inside. Spend the morning exploring the businesses in the downtown area. Back track to Steak-N-Shake at St. Louis and National Avenue for lunch.

Businesses in the downtown area worth a peek include Springfield Hot Glass Studio, where you can see glass artist Terry Bloodworth sculpt all kinds of objects out of molten glass. Watch the potters at Springfield Pottery throw a clay vessel. South Peer features all kinds of antiques and can prove to be a walk down memory lane. The Keyes Gallery, the Hawthorne Gallery among others feature all kinds of artwork. Staxx offers unique clothing, while Well Fed Head Books offers something for the more studious.

You can also take a tour of the downtown public artwork; brochures are available in the motel lobby. See the Yellow Bonnet Girl atop the Jordan Creek bar and look at the fountain in the middle of the Square. After lunch, drive on out College Street. Stop and see the mosaic art created by Springfield school kids on the retaining wall on West College, and the unique Melinda Court further out on West College. Swing around onto Chestnut Expressway, and take that to the West By-Pass.

This is the western edge of the City Route 66, and was home to the famous Red's Giant Hamburg, now gone. At the West By-Pass, turn right. You are now on Truck Route 66. Note Danny's Service Station at Division Street and the West By-Pass. The neon sign out front is original, although recent roadwork in the area has caused it to be moved back from the roadbed.

At Kearney Street, turn right, traveling back east, in towards Springfield. When you get to Kansas Expressway, turn north on Kansas and take a side trip off 66 to Fantastic Caverns or Dickerson Park Zoo. Fantastic Caverns is the only cave you drive through! Visitors are taken through the cave on Jeep-drawn trams, and the cave has a very rich history to discover. Dickerson Park Zoo is known worldwide for its work with elephant breeding and raptor (birds of prey) rehabilitation. It also features an area showcasing animals native to Missouri, and has a small scale train to take visitors around the perimeter of the zoo.

Afterwards, follow Kearney east all the way back up to Glenstone Avenue. Have dinner at Buckingham's at Glenstone & Kearney, then continue south back down Glenstone to the motel. If warm weather, spend the evening swimming in the pool at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven or catch a ballgame at Hammons Field with the Springfield Cardinals. In the winter, catch a performance at the Landers Theater or the Gillioiz Theater, or a movie downtown at the Dive-In Theater or the Moxie. When you're done celebrate that you have toured the entire city via the City Route and Truck Route 66!

On the second day of your stay, begin your day by visiting the Springfield-Greene County History Museum, located in the old City Hall at Boonville and Chestnut Expressway. Also visit Evangel University, site of the O'Reilly General Hospital that was run by the US Army during WWII. This hospital was one of the main rehabilitative sites for WWII soldiers in the early 1940,s. Also visit the Air and Military Museum of the

Ozarks, called the AMMO Museum on Kearney, and see the wonderful displays they have on the military from WWI to Desert Storm.

KIDS TOUR OF SPRINGFIELD:

There are many things for children to do and experience around Springfield. Begin your day with a visit to the Animal Paradise at Strafford or Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield. Both showcase wild animals in natural habitat settings. The Dickerson Park Zoo is known worldwide for its elephant breeding program while the Animal Paradise at Strafford is a drive-thru animal park.

Return to Springfield for a barbeque lunch at Buckingham's (don't forget to try the sweet potato fries!). After lunch visit the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks, called the AMMO Museum, in the afternoon. Follow that with a visit to the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame out near Highland Springs Country Club. Afterwards, stop at Richardson's Candy House and see chocolates being made, then travel to Incredible Pizza for dinner and games afterwards!

After enjoying the complimentary deluxe continental breakfast at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven, spend the morning touring the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Bass Pro Shops. Lunch in Bass Pro at either Hemingways or McDonalds, then spend the afternoon at the Discovery Center followed by dinner at Steak-N-Shake, returning for another night at the vintage Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven.

If time allows, spend a third day touring the Springfield-Greene County Historical Museum and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on the way out of town, and try to have dinner at Lambert's Café, home of the "throwed" rolls!