

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!

Suggested Bus/Group Tours:

Bus Tour - Springfield's Route 66:

For Bus Tour Promoters, it is possible to stay at the Best Western Route 66 Rail Haven and do a two-day tour of the city's rich Route 66 heritage.

The first day of your stay could include a tour of the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks, or the AMMO Museum as it is called. This museum features military items from WWI through Desert Storm. A number of military vehicles are showcased inside as well as a fighter jet! The museum also features some information on Springfield's rich history as the home to the O'Reilly General Hospital. During WWII this hospital was run by the U.S. Army for the care and rehabilitation of WWII soldiers.

The O'Reilly Hospital is now home to Evangel University. After touring the AMMO Museum, travel down Rt. 66 to Evangel University's library, and view their O'Reilly Hospital collection. For lunch, eat at Buckingham's, a local barbeque joint located at the

corner of Glenstone Avenue and Kearney Streets, where the City Route 66 and Truck Route 66 originally split from each other in Springfield. After lunch, travel to Springfield's downtown, via Glenstone Avenue and St. Louis Street, which form the eastern half of the City Route 66.

Let your tour participants disembark in the downtown area and spend the afternoon touring such great shops as Springfield Hot Glass Studio, where they can watch Terry Bloodworth make all kinds of wonderful things from molten glass. At Springfield Pottery, you can watch a clay vessel being "thrown". Well-Fed Head Books offers wonderful readings to the studios. South Peer Antiques provides a vintage shopping experience or just a walk down memory lane. Other stores such as Keyes Gallery or the Hawthorn Gallery showcase all kinds of artwork from the local area.

For guests with an interest in things historical, they can see the recently restored Gilloiz Theater. Built in 1927, this theater played movies on Rt. 66 for over 50 years and just recently re-opened. The Landers Theatre is also a wonderful turn-of-the-century theater which has been restored and is home to the Springfield Little Theater. The city square itself was the scene of a very famous shoot-out in the 1870's between none other than Wild Bill Hickok and Dave Tutt, and markers in the sidewalk denote where they stood as they shot at each other.

The corner of Jefferson and Pershing was the home to the Jewell Theater which in turn was the home of a program called "Ozarks Country Jubilee" which launched the careers of artists such as Red Foley and Porter Wagoner, and was one of the most watched, nationally-televized programs in the 1950's. A marker in the parkway on Jefferson Street marks the location of the theater. For the hardy walker, a tour of downtown public artwork, including the Yellow Bonnet Girl atop the Jordon Creek Bar can be enjoyed.

The downtown area is also rounded out with a number of restaurants. Suggest that your group eat dinner while downtown. Mexican, Italian, and Japanese cuisine can be had along with a diverse selection of American based offerings. Evening dinner arrangements can be made at places such as Maria's, Nona Nunzia's, Millie's Turn of the Century Café, Flame, South Avenue Pizza Company, Izumi Hataki, Hickok's Steak House, and the Springfield Brewing Company to name a few. And a note to travelers: Springfield native Brad Pitt is known to hang out at Bijan's when he visits town!

After dinner, your tour can either partake of some of the downtown nightlife or return to the Rail Haven to get an early start on the next day. If you opt for a nighttime activity, catching a baseball game at Hammons Field, a Springfield Little Theater production at the Landers Theatre, or a movie at the Dive-In Theater or the Moxie are all options. Other options include hearing dueling pianos at Ernie Bigg's Piano Bar, catching a comedy act at the Skinny Improv, or seeing one of the many productions scheduled at the Gilloiz Theater.

On the second day, your group could schedule a formal tour of the recently restored Gilloiz Theater and/or the Landers Theater. The Springfield-Greene County History

Museum always has interesting displays of both local and national importance and interest. Have lunch at Big Whiskey's, located next door to the Gillioz Theatre.

In the afternoon, travel the Truck Route 66 and veer off about two blocks to see the Skate Park Museum at Doling Park, then travel to the City's northwest edge and tour Fantastic Caverns. Fantastic Caverns is the only cave that you can drive through! Visitors are taken through the cave on a Jeep-drawn tram, and the cave has a very rich history to be discovered by your tour goers.

If the group stays a second night in Springfield, schedule dinner at Millie's Turn of the Century Café.

Optional activities could also include a tour of the historic Shrine Mosque, which has seen performances by the like of Elvis Presley and the Ringling Brothers Circus! Lunch at the historic Taylor's Drive-In, and spend an afternoon seeing the world-famous Dickerson Park Zoo!

BUS TOUR - SPRINGFIELD:

Springfield has a lot to offer bus tours! For a general tour of Springfield, start the day by visiting the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks, called the AMMO Museum. See their displays of military items covering WWI through Desert Storm. Spend an hour visiting the Skating Museum located at Doling Park. Have a barbeque lunch at Buckingham's at Kearney and Glenstone, or have Buckingham's catered to Doling Park!

In the afternoon, visit the Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Bass Pro Shops. See the fish fed in the indoor aquarium at Bass Pro and marvel at the animals and displays in the Wonders of Wildlife Museum. Set up dinner for your group at Hemingway's, inside Bass Pro Shops. An interesting way to finish the evening would be to travel to Richardson's Candy House on South Campbell and see chocolates being made!

On the second day, after enjoying the complimentary deluxe continental breakfast, start the day with a visit to the Springfield-Greene County History Museum. Then allow your group to spend the day visiting the shops in the downtown area, where they can lunch on their own at any of a number of fine restaurants. Pick your group up in the mid-afternoon, and bring them back to the motel to prepare for the evening.

Round out the day by making arrangements to take your group to catch a performance at Landers Theater or Gilloiz Theaters, a baseball game at Hammons Field, or catch a movie at the Moxie or Dive-In Theaters downtown. Schedule dinner beforehand at Springfield Brewing Company, Millie's, Harpo's or Flame.

Other optional local tour options include visiting the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, the Discovery Center, Jordon Valley Ice Park, and the Springfield Art Museum.