KANSAS CITY

ROADTRIPS USA

MISSOURI

VISIT THE USA

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI → ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI	256 mi/411 km
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI → SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI	218 mi/350 km
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI → KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	223 mi/358 km

VISIT THE USA

Day 1: Kansas City, Missouri → St. Louis, Missouri

Begin your journey in Kansas City, heading eastward along scenic roads into historic Independence. Here, pause to explore the National Frontier Trails Museum, immersing yourself in stories of pioneers who began their arduous journey westward on the Oregon Trail. Exhibits vividly portray the lives of settlers through authentic artifacts, wagons, and personal accounts, transporting you back to America's era of exploration and expansion.

Leaving Independence, continue eastward through Missouri's gently rolling hills, farmland, and wooded landscapes. Enjoy a leisurely midday break in the bustling college town of Columbia, stretching your legs downtown amidst charming boutiques, cafés, and historic architecture. This relaxed pause is ideal for soaking up the local atmosphere and enjoying a snack or coffee before resuming your journey.

As you approach St. Louis in the late afternoon, the impressive Gateway Arch rises gracefully into view, signaling your arrival at America's symbolic gateway to the west. Take the tram to the top to capture breathtaking panoramic views of the Mississippi River and the historic downtown area below. Afterward, step inside the Old Courthouse nearby, absorbing the history surrounding the landmark Dred Scott freedom trials. As evening approaches, savor mouthwatering BBQ at renowned Pappy's Smokehouse, relishing award-winning ribs and flavorful smoked meats in a relaxed, inviting atmosphere.

Overnight Accommodation: St. Louis, Missouri

Day 2: St. Louis, Missouri

Enjoy a leisurely morning in St. Louis at the lush and expansive Forest Park. Explore the Missouri History Museum, discovering exhibits about Missouri's past, including highlights of Route 66 history, local culture, and famous personalities. Alternatively, experience St. Louis's brewing heritage with a guided tour of the historic Anheuser-Busch Brewery, home of Budweiser, where you'll encounter magnificent Clydesdale horses and learn about traditional brewing methods.

After lunch, set out along legendary Route 66 toward the Ozarks region, pausing at Meramec Caverns in Stanton. Wander through impressive underground chambers, marveling at dramatically lit stalactite and stalagmite formations, hearing tales of how the infamous outlaw Jesse James reportedly used the caves as his hideout. Continue along the nostalgic Route 66 to the charming town of Cuba, Missouri, known as "Route 66 Mural City." Here, vibrant murals adorn buildings, telling stories of mid-20th-century Americana, classic road travel, and local history, a perfect spot for photographs.

Returning to St. Louis by early evening, stroll through historic neighborhoods like Soulard or Lafayette Square. Experience their vibrant streets filled with beautifully preserved Victorian homes, lively local pubs, and restaurants. Complete your day with a visit to the iconic Ted Drewes Frozen Custard stand, an authentic Route 66 landmark where you can indulge in classic frozen treats beloved by locals and travelers alike for generations.

Overnight Accommodation: St. Louis, Missouri

Day 3: Kansas City, Missouri →Springfield, Missouri

Depart St. Louis in the morning, heading southwest along historic Route 66. Today's drive offers countless opportunities to appreciate vintage Americana, as small towns and roadside attractions recall the golden age of car travel. Take a pause in Lebanon, Missouri, to admire the neon glow of the Munger Moss Motel. This iconic Route 66 stop evokes nostalgic memories of mid-century road trips and classic family vacations.

Arriving in Springfield in the afternoon, immerse yourself in the rich legacy of the "Mother Road" at the History Museum on the Square. Detailed exhibits and engaging displays recount Route 66's historical importance, from its beginnings to its lasting cultural impact on America. Spend time exploring the downtown area, filled with charming historic buildings, unique local shops, and vibrant public spaces perfect for exploration.

As the evening unfolds, savor a memorable barbecue dinner at City Butcher and Barbecue, offering authentic, Texas-style smoked brisket, spicy sausages, and perfectly seasoned ribs. Following your meal, stroll through downtown Springfield, soaking in the friendly, small-town ambiance, and perhaps enjoy live music or dessert at a cozy café.

Overnight Accommodation: Springfield, Missouri

Day 4: Springfield, Missouri → Kansas City, Missouri

On your final day, head westward from Springfield toward the picturesque town of Carthage, Missouri, a true gem along Route 66. Carthage offers an authentic glimpse of mid-century roadside nostalgia, where landmarks like the beautifully restored 66 Drive-In Theatre invite you to imagine warm summer evenings under starlit skies. Nearby, stop at the Boots Court Motel, a meticulously restored 1930s motor court boasting Art Deco architecture and neon signs reminiscent of Route 66's heyday.

Continuing through the historic city of Joplin, pause briefly to capture photographs of the colorful murals and classic roadside signage commemorating Route 66. Please take a moment to reflect on the many generations of travelers who have journeyed along this storied route, making their memories along the way. Your leisurely drive north from Joplin back toward Kansas City provides scenic countryside views, concluding your nostalgic road trip.

Arriving back in Kansas City by late afternoon, visit the iconic Joe's Kansas City Bar-B-Que, a world-renowned spot serving exceptional barbecue out of a gas station famous for its tender brisket and legendary burnt ends.

Overnight Accommodation: Kansas City, Missouri

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