

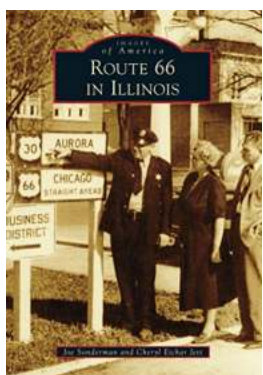
Unveiling the Hidden Gems: Route 66 In Illinois



Route 66, also known as the Main Street of America, holds a special place in the hearts of road trip enthusiasts and history buffs alike. Stretching across eight states, this iconic highway weaves through breathtaking landscapes and charming towns, offering a nostalgic glimpse into America's past. In this article, we will delve into the charm and allure of Route 66 in Illinois, as we explore the images of America that unfold along its scenic route.

1. The Beginnings of a Legendary Journey

Illinois, an influential state in the Route 66 heritage, is where the journey begins for many road trippers venturing westward. The highway was officially established on November 11, 1926, and soon became a vital link between Chicago and the Pacific Coast. As you embark on this picturesque journey, you will be captivated by the ever-changing landscapes, from bustling urban environments to serene countryside scenes. Let's uncover some of the highlights that make Route 66 in Illinois a true treasure trove of American history.



Route 66 in Illinois (Images of America)

by Cheryl Eichar Jett (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 103532 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 131 pages
Screen Reader	: Supported



2. The Charm of Springfield

No exploration of Route 66 in Illinois is complete without a visit to its capital – Springfield. The city boasts a rich history intertwined with Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. Visit the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, where you can step into the preserved house where Lincoln resided with his family from 1844 until he left for the White House. Take a stroll through the charming streets and marvel at the meticulously restored buildings that have stood the test of time.



3. Pontiac: A Haven for Classic Car Enthusiasts

As you continue your journey through Illinois, Route 66 leads you to the quaint town of Pontiac. This charming stopover is a real treat for automobile aficionados, as it is home to the Pontiac Oakland Automobile Museum. Marvel at the collection of classic cars that have graced American roads throughout the decades. You'll find yourself transported back to the golden age of automobiles as you soak in the nostalgia and admire the exquisite craftsmanship.



4. The Wonder of the Gemini Giant

Route 66 in Illinois is also known for its quirky roadside attractions. One such gem is the towering Gemini Giant in Wilmington. Standing at an impressive height of 28 feet, this iconic fiberglass statue used to advertise the Launching Pad Drive-In restaurant. Stop by for a photo opportunity and marvel at the sheer magnitude of this nostalgic symbol along the historic highway.



5. The Delights of Lincoln's Route 66 Museum

Heading further down the road, you'll encounter the city of Bloomington, where the illustrious Route 66 Association Hall of Fame and Museum awaits. Immerse yourself in the captivating exhibits that document the history and cultural significance of Route 66. From vintage signs and memorabilia to interactive

displays, the museum offers a deep understanding of the profound impact this highway had on the development of the United States.

LINCOLN'S FESTIVAL



on



BLOOMINGTON - NORMAL, ILLINOIS

6. The Artistic Appeal of Joliet

As you near the end of your journey through Route 66 in Illinois, make sure to visit Joliet – a city steeped in artistic heritage. The Joliet Area Historical Museum showcases the city's vibrant past through various exhibits, including an interactive replica of a 1940s street corner. Stroll through the galleries and discover the unique blend of history and art that defines Joliet.

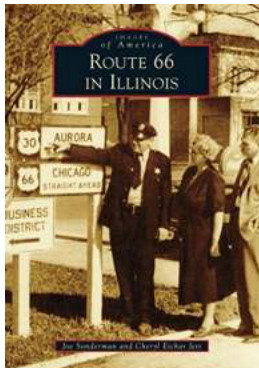


7. Reliving the Glory Days

The charm of Route 66 in Illinois lies not only in its landmarks and attractions but also in the people you meet along the way. Whether it's sipping a milkshake at a classic diner, chatting with friendly locals, or cruising down the open road with the wind in your hair, this scenic journey allows you to step back in time and relive the glory days of American road trips.

Route 66 in Illinois offers a captivating blend of history, nostalgia, and natural beauty. As you meander through the charming towns and take in the picturesque landscapes, the images of America paint a colorful picture of the nation's past. From the vibrant streets of Springfield to the unique roadside attractions, every

mile along this iconic highway is filled with stories waiting to be discovered. So, embark on your own adventure, and let Route 66 in Illinois guide you on an unforgettable journey through the heart of America.



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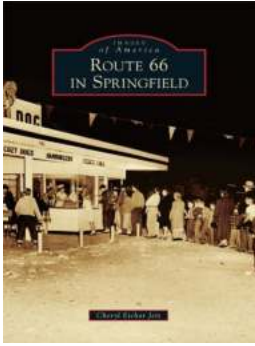
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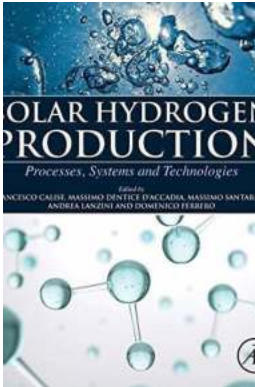
Route 66 goes through the heart of Illinois: between the great cities of Chicago and St. Louis, there are 300 miles of adventure, history, culinary delights, and quirky attractions.

This is the "Land of Lincoln" and roadside giants. There are cozy motels, cozy diners, and Cozy Dogs. Interstate 55 will speed travelers to their destination, but Route 66 offers something more. It goes through the hearts of the towns, wandering onto old brick pavement far from the roar of the interstate. Historic restaurants like Lou Mitchell's in Chicago, the Palms Grill in Atlanta, and the Ariston Cafe in Litchfield still keep their coffee pots warm. Waitresses, pump jockeys, gangsters, cops, and politicians all gave the "Main Street of America" its distinctive personality, and their stories are within these pages. So slow down, take the next exit, and head toward the beckoning neon in the distance. Come explore Route 66 in Illinois - where the road began.



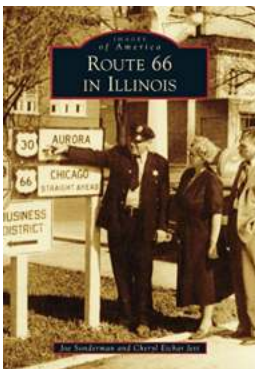
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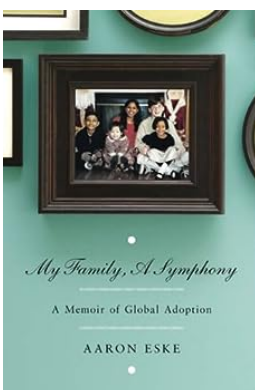
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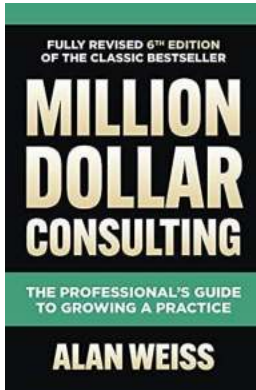
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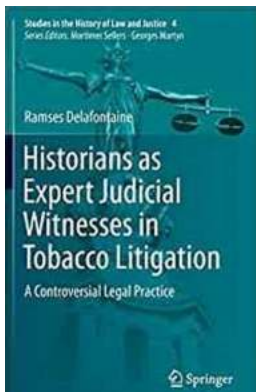
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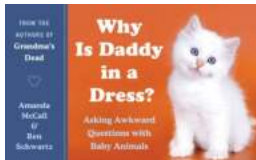
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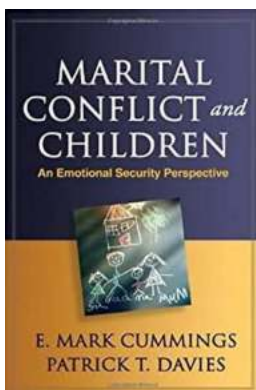
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