

KANSAS

ROUTE 66

Historic Byway



Marsh Arch Bridge located at SE 50th & Beasley Road on old Route 66 between Riverton and Baxter Springs

For more information about the Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway, please contact:

Baxter Springs Heritage Center & Museum, 620-856-2385
heritagectr@embarqmail.com
www.baxterspringsmuseum.org

Baxter Springs Visitor's Center, 620-856-2066
kansas_66_station@yahoo.com

Galena City Clerk, 620-783-5265

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/KSRoute66HistoricByway

Kansas Byways, 1-800-684-6966
www.ksbyways.org/route_66
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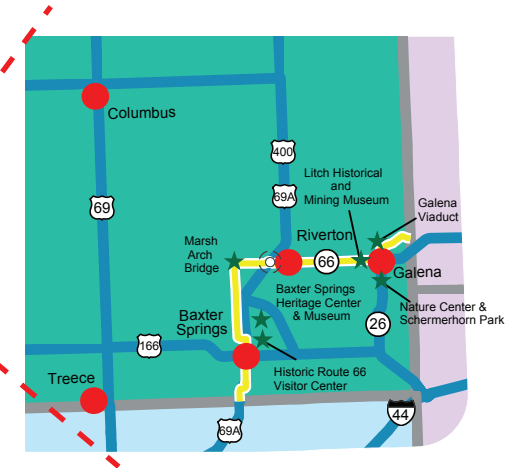
ROUTE 66

Historic Byway



Come travel the road
Get your kicks on
Kansas Route 66

Kansas Route 66 Area Map



Points of Interest Near the Byway

- Galena Mining Museum, Galena
- Hell's Half Acre & Red Hot Street, Galena
- Historic Homes & Downtown Buildings, Galena
- Ghost Writing on Buildings, Galena
- Tow Tater @ 4 Women on the Route, Galena
- Schermerhorn Park Nature Center, Galena
- Nelson's Old Riverton Store, Riverton
- Marsh Arch "Rainbow" Bridge, between Riverton and Baxter Springs
- Field of Dreams Baseball Park, Baxter Springs
- Baxter Springs Heritage Center, Baxter Springs
- Fort Blair - Civil War Site, Baxter Springs
- Historic Homes & Downtown Buildings, Baxter Springs
- Route 66 Visitor Center, Baxter Springs
- Baxter Springs City Cemetery Soldiers' Lot, Baxter Springs



Nelson's Old Riverton Store is still operating as it was 75 years ago. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Note: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, KS, 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.

Calendar of Events

Baxter Springs

- 4th of July in Kiwanis Park
- Cowtown Days & Rodeo - 2nd weekend in August
- Steel Guitar Rendezvous - 1st Full Weekend in October
- Octoberfest
- Historic Homes Christmas Tour - Weekend Before Thanksgiving
- Christmas Tree Lighting - Thursday before 1st Saturday in December
- Christmas Parade - 1st Saturday in December 2:00 p.m.

Riverton

- Kansas Rt 66 Assn. "Race Across Kansas"
- Christmas Parade - 1st Saturday in December Noon

Galena

- Galena Days - 1st Thursday, Friday, & Saturday in June
- Car Show - 1st Saturday in June
- October Fest & Art Walk - 1st Sunday in October
- Christmas Parade - 1st Saturday in December 6:00 p.m.



"Cars on the Route," Galena Home of "Tow Tater" the inspiration for Tow Mater in the Pixar movie "Cars"

Get your kicks on Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway

Plan to motor west on 13.2 miles of Old Route 66, in the southeast corner of Kansas, also known as the "Ozark Plateau" region of the state. Your journey of the Kansas portion of the "Mother Road" begins at the Missouri State Line and winds along county, city and state roads to the Oklahoma State Line continuing the route of the original Route 66 highway. Along with some of the original roadbed, you will find culverts and bridges built in the 1920's.

Driving toward Galena over the Katy railroad viaduct, one of the many iconic features of that formed the character of Route 66, catch a view of "Hell's Half Acre," landscape remnants of the mining era. Mostly reclaimed land now, during the mining years, this area was the leading producer of lead and zinc concentrates in the world.

Follow the route into Galena and check out "Cars on the Route," a former gas station that serves as a Route 66 welcome center, sandwich and souvenir shop. Take your picture with "Tow Tater" the inspiration for "Tow Mater" from the Disney Pixar movie "Cars"...

Continue on Route 66 through Galena's Main Street lined with historic buildings, some that still have visible ghost writing advertising, calling to the "Mother Road" traveler. Explore Galena's rich mining and railroad history at the Galena Mining Museum and dine in one of the local restaurants.

Schermerhorn Park, just south of Galena and tucked back in Ozark hills, features work done under the 1930's Work Project Administration (WPA). This is the perfect place for a picnic and a visit to the Nature Center.

Follow Route 66 west from Galena to Riverton and enjoy a stop at Nelson's Old Riverton Store. The building, originally opened in the 1920's as a Route 66 gas station, has been a mainstay on the Route for over 75 years. Though no longer a fuel stop, you may

enjoy a custom deli sandwich and browse the store for your perfect Route 66 memorabilia.

Driving west from Riverton, through the roundabout, follow the original route (Beasley Road exit) and drive over the Marsh Arch "Rainbow" Bridge. Though a typical structure on Route 66 in its heyday, it is the only remaining bridge of its kind on the "Mother Road." Capture your own pictures at this stop that also serves as a popular wedding site.

What is more American than apple pie and Route 66? Baseball, of course! Traveling south from the bridge the route takes you past homes and rolling farmland where you will find the "Field of Dreams," a modern baseball facility, just north of Baxter Springs. This community is proud of its baseball history and rightfully so! Baxter Springs was once the home of the "Whiz Kids," a team that included baseball great, Mickey Mantle, on their roster.

Fort Blair in Baxter Springs was the site of one of the earlier battles of the Civil War, an attack on the fort by Quantrill's Raiders in 1863. Many of the casualties of that battle were buried at the Baxter Springs City Cemetery Soldiers' Lot, a Civil War Era National Cemetery, found a mile west of town. Southeast of the fort site is the Baxter Springs Heritage Center and Museum with exhibits preserving and interpreting the rich regional history.

Housed in a restored Phillips Petroleum Station, the Baxter Springs Visitor Center offers local information and souvenirs to commemorate your Route 66

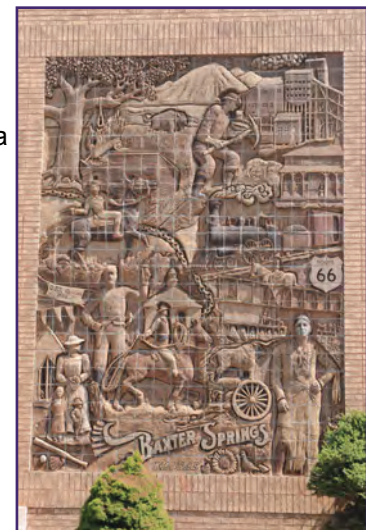
adventure. Cruising on south through downtown, many of the buildings retain their original storefronts. There are murals that depict some of the area's history, including the early cow town days or buildings such as the 1870 Crowell bank building that was said to have been robbed in 1876 by Jesse James and Cole Younger.



Visitor Center in Baxter Springs

Food cravings may be satisfied at any of the many restaurants found along the route in Baxter Springs.

Continuing south through town, be sure to stay on the original Route 66 roadbed as it curves its way out of town toward the Oklahoma State Line, but not before you "get your kicks" enjoying the many one-of-a-kind places you can only find along the Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway.



Frieze depicting Baxter Springs heritage



Baxter Springs City Cemetery Soldiers' Lot