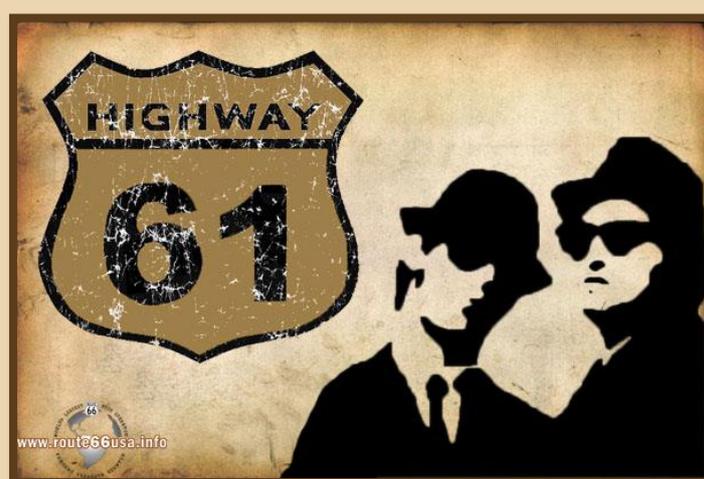




# THE BLUESTOUR



*\*\*\* We emphasize that we continually work to improve the trip. Changes in the program may occur, but in this case it will always be for the better. After every trip we analyze the feedback from our tour participants and make small adjustments to the program as we see fit in order to perfect the trip!*

## **Day 1** CHICAGO ARRIVAL

Arrival in Chicago with the WORLD'S BIGGEST BLUES FESTIVAL at your feet!

The entrance tickets to the festival are included in the package!

## **Day 2** CHICAGO & THE WORLD'S BIGGEST BLUES FESTIVAL

We spend the entire day in Chicago. The WORLD'S BIGGEST BLUES FESTIVAL is at its peak this Saturday and it doesn't get any better! Over half a MILLION blues-lovers from the whole world will be there!

Some of the world's best blues artists play here. It is the MECCA for those interested in blues. You will find all the info on: [www.chicagobluesfestival.com](http://www.chicagobluesfestival.com)

## **Day 3** CHICAGO: BLUES FESTIVAL & OTHER "GOODIES"

Another day in the world's blues capital: The guides, who have been here many times before, will be able to help those who wish to see what other sights Chicago (aka. "Mini-New York") has to offer. All of Chicago's highlights are located in the city centre and are easily accessible. You can also visit the KINGSTON MINES, the city's famous blues hotspot.

## **Day 4** BRAND NEW HARLEYS & ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL CITIES

Today we drive from Chicago to Madison. We'll cover approximately 430 km in 6-7 hours.

We pick up our bikes and travel south on highway 41/52 to Lafayette in the state of Indiana. As we are the only tour operator in Norway and Sweden AUTHORIZED by Harley-Davidson, we are guaranteed brand new bikes!

From Lafayette we continue onto highway 231/52 to Spences and the native lands from which the Shawnee-tribe originated. Then we hit highway 46 to Bloomington and thereafter highway 446 into beautiful woodlands and crossing Monroe Lake. Next we continue through Brownstown and Little York on highway 56 until we reach beautiful Madison by the Ohio River. In 2001 the city was voted one of the 12 best places to visit in the USA! We will spend the night in this wonderful city.

## **Day 5** DANCING IN THE BARN & the ELVIS of BANJO

This is a relaxed day where we'll drive only 230 km from Madison to Mt. Vernon in approximately 4 hours. We cross the Ohio River and into the state of Kentucky; this is the bluegrass state and the kingdom of the banjo-king Bill Monroe. Monroe was in many ways the 'Elvis of banjo' and the 'Father of bluegrass'.

We now find ourselves in the MECCA of bluegrass music –the banjo and violin dominates this city! We are on highway 421 to Lexington and Richmond, and then turn onto highway 25, which brings us to Renfro Valley. This is another exciting hotspot for the bluegrass music. We'll spend the night in Mt. Vernon and in the evening, our heels will be 'hitting the roof' to the live music at "The Red Barn".

## **Day 6**    **ROCK CLIMBING & INCREDIBLE VIEWS**

We drive about 200 km, a 3-5 hour drive from Mt. Vernon to Morristown. We reach the Cumberland Mountains and 'climb' the mountainsides with our vehicles in the direction of a small city named London on highway 25E. We arrive at the Cumberland Gap and witness some incredible views before we descend to Morristown in the state of Tennessee where we spend the night.

## **Day 7**    **APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS –the Rocky Mountains of the EASTCOAST**

We'll drive 200 km on the beautiful winding roads between Morristown and Asheville (approximately 4 hours). The day begins on scenic roads, through the city of Newport and over to the Appalachian Mountains to Asheville in North Carolina. This is Hillbilly-land and we are going to sleep over at a very special hotel, The Mountaineer Inn. Chris, a 90-year-old Greek, has run this hotel since 1952 – and it certainly looks like it too! It was here that the film crew stayed when they filmed "Deliverance", a famous film from 1973 with Burt Reynolds and Jon Voight in the main roles. Also the actors stayed here during the filming, which took place in exactly this area.

Read more about "Deliverance" here: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deliverance>

## **Day 8**    **BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, TAIL OF A DRAGON, NATIVE RESERVE**

Today we will drive on America's most beautiful motorcycle road: The Blue Ridge Parkway, from Asheville to Crossville (a 4-5 hour, 350km ride). The road is perfect for motorcycling and takes us to the Cherokee Native Reserve. From here we cross over to the Great Smoky Mountain and highway 129 to The Deals Gap. Here we'll join a Harley-Davidson- gathering, shop at a Harley store, and eat great food. Next we drive to the Tail of the Dragon!! 230 winding kilometer with 318 curves! This is simply a "must" for all MC bikers and is known all over the USA. We have now returned to the state of Tennessee and sleep over in Crossville.

## **Day 9**    **JACK DANIELS DISTILLERY, SHOWBOATS & NASHVILLE**

We'll cover 280km in 4-5 hours along winding roads from Crossville to Nashville. We will stop in Lynchburg to visit one of the world's most famous whisky distilleries: Jack Daniels! Here you can buy some of these precious golden drops. After eating lunch in Lynchburg we continue in direction Nashville, the MECCA of country music! We stay at the celebrated hotel Fiddlers Inn, right by the new Grand Ole Opry and a gigantic market named Opry Mills Mall. Close to the hotel you will find many sights and places for music-lovers. It is called the Music Valley and at night we visit Nashville's downtown. Here you'll get country music for all your money! -Artists of great quality and hundreds of places to choose between.

## **Day 10**    **GRAND OLE OPRY & The COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME**

Today is a driving-free day of rest! We spend the day exploring the best of Nashville. We will visit The Country Hall of Fame and other attractions that the city offers. We will return to the hotel around 5pm and catch a buss to the paddle steamer "General Jackson Showboat". Onboard we will enjoy a 3-course dinner and experience an insane music show with extremely talented artists! You will discover the wealth of the American country music history from the 1930s to present day. We spend another night in Nashville.

## **Day 11** MEMPHIS

390 km, 4-6 hours: The trip starts out on highway 70 and we head to yet another historical music city, Memphis. This is the Mecca of Blues & Rock'n Roll. In the evening we'll jump on an old tram from 1900 down to none other than Beal Street, packed with fantastic clubs and high-quality artists everywhere! This is without doubt a pulsating hot spot for music lovers.

## **Day 12** ELVIS & GRACELAND

Another driving-free day: We go by buss to the world's most famous recording studio, The Sun Studio, where the first Elvis recorded his firsts songs. The director, Sam Phillips, also worked with rock'n roll artists such as Cal Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis and Roy Orbison. Afterwards we will visit Stax Studio, the birthplace of soul music. We will be shown around a new museum with lots of Soul and artists like Aretha Franklin and Otis Redding. Next we head to Elvis' Graceland where the life of The King of Rock'n Roll is immortalized.

## **Day 13** HIGHWAY 61 –CROSSROADS –the CRADLE of BLUES

Today we will cover 220 km in about 4 hours and begin with highway 61, the "Blues music Road Number ONE" surrounded with incredible nature. First stop today is Clarksdale, Mississippi. The intersection between highway 61 and 49, also known as "The Crossroads", symbolizes Robert Johnson's pursuit of music rather than religion (i.e. the devil's road). He is today known as the "Father of the Blues and Rock'n Roll".

We will visit Morgan Freeman's Ground Zero Blues Club for lunch. Next door we find the Delta Blues Museum, where Muddy Waters is a highlight. The trip then continues to a small, poor city by the name of Tutwiler, also known as the "Cradle of Blues"-This is where it all started out! Many artists come from the blues delta, for example BB King, Muddy Waters, Little Milton, Robert Johnson, John Lee Hooker and Howlin' Wolf, just to mention a few.

We then drive to Indianola where we will spend the night. Here we will visit BB Kings new museum, and thereafter we head towards Leland, Mississippi on highway 82 where we will visit the Highway 61 Blues Museum. Here you will experience real delta blues live as a "tired" Pat Thomas plays for us. The trip now continues on highway 61 to Vicksburg. We will eat a lovely dinner at the charming hotel Battlefields Inn. The city carries a historical character from the civil war in 1863 where Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E Lee fought a battle in the last phases of the war.

## **Day 14** COCA COLA'S HOMETOWN & The AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

We drive 4 hours on 230 km of lovely winding roads from Indianola to Vicksburg. In Vicksburg we will stop by the Coca Cola museum, where the Bierdenharn Candy Company produced the first Coke bottle in 1890. Next we drive highway 61 to Baton Rouge, the capital of Louisiana where one of the last battles in the American Civil War took place. The Battlefield Museum is one of the highlights here. We will visit the town, enjoy a nice meal and spend the night.

## **Day 15** NEW ORLEANS & HIGHWAY 61

We continue to cruise down the famous Highway 61, a road that Bob Dylan, among others, has made famous through his music. After enjoying a 390km stretch on Highway 61 (a 5-7 hour drive), we reach New Orleans where we return our bikes.

There is a short distance from Baton Rouge to Orleans (110km) so we get plenty of time to relax at

Courtyard Hotel. We eat lunch in Natchez, a well-known blues-city with a charming place with good food. There is a hotel from the 1880s in The French Quarter. This city is so beautiful and exciting that you will feel overwhelmed. Its architecture is rare and you will feel like the time is turned back 150 years! We enjoy dinner at a balcony restaurant with seafood of high quality. The Jazz nights in Bourbon Street are truly one of the highlights of the entire trip!

**Day 16** **DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS & ALLIGATOR SWAMPS**

Today you can choose between a thrilling alligator trip in the swamps or simply a day of relaxation and exploration of the city itself: colorful, artistic and exotic! We will stay right at the heart of New Orleans at one of the most charming hotels in the French Quarter. Take a dip in the outdoor pool, a refreshing shower, or just enjoy a cold drink by the poolside!

**Day 17** **MISSISSIPPI on the PADDLE STEAMER NATCHEZ**

Join us for a ride on the Mississippi with a paddle steamer or enjoy your last day exploring the city of New Orleans.

**Day 18** **HOMEBOUND**

End of our USA adventure; return flight home.

[www.route66usa.info](http://www.route66usa.info) invites you on a fantastic journey through the best of USA's Blues & Country landscape!