



UPDATE: Registration for all ticket packages, including Platinum, Gold, Long Hauler, Multi-Day, and Single Day tickets will go on-sale January 12, 2026 (Monday) at 10AM EST at

[HOTROD PowerTour.US](https://www.hotrodpowertour.us)

It's been years in the making, and now it's official—the 2026 HOT ROD Power Tour will cruise along legendary Route 66 as the world's largest rolling automotive festival helps celebrate 100 years of America's most famous roadway.

Serving as the first of two major HOT ROD events honoring the historic highway's centennial, the Power Tour runs June 8–12, 2026, starting in Illinois and ending in Oklahoma, following one of the most nostalgic and culturally important stretches of pavement in American history.

The 32nd annual [HOT ROD Power Tour](https://www.hotrodpowertour.us) launches at Route 66 Raceway in Joliet, Illinois, near the easternmost point of the historic highway. Last year's stop at the NHRA-sanctioned facility delivered a record-setting turnout of cars and fans, and 2026 promises even more excitement. Along with the manufacturer midway, expansive car show, and main-stage entertainment, drag racing will once again be open to all registered participants, making Joliet a powerful start to this milestone tour.

From there, the tour heads south to the Village of Rantoul, Illinois, where a unique venue and special activities await. Additional details will be released soon, but participants can expect a distinctly local experience that showcases the charm and character of this former Air Force base community. The action ramps up again on Wednesday as the tour pulls into World Wide Technology Raceway, just outside St. Louis, where attendees can participate in drag racing and autocross, offering a full day of high-performance driving opportunities.

On Day Four, the Power Tour welcomes thousands of participants and tens of thousands of fans to Missouri State University in Springfield. The Bears are out of season, so the university is rolling out the red carpet by opening its expansive athletic field parking lots to host the event. The grand finale takes place in the great state of Oklahoma, where Route 66 leads the tour to Tulsa Raceway Park for the closing celebrations of this unforgettable centennial road trip.



HOT ROD POWER TOUR 2026 SCHEDULE

- Kickoff/Day 1: June 8—Route 66 Raceway, Joliet, IL
- Day 2: June 9—Village of Rantoul, Rantoul, IL
- Day 3: June 10—World Wide Technology Raceway, St. Louis, MO
- Day 4: June 11—Missouri State University, Springfield, MO
- Day 5: June 12—Tulsa Raceway Park, Tulsa, OK

Several levels of tickets are available—Platinum, Gold, Long Hauler, and Daily. The [Long Haul category](#) is reserved for those who wish to attend every day, and it comes with several perks, like a car pass and two admission tickets for every venue, a Long Haul plaque, and other goodies. Also available in limited quantities are the Platinum and Gold packages that feature special parking locations, lunches, exclusive goodie bags, and other VIP perks. HOT ROD Power Tour also offers single- and multi-day passes for enthusiasts who can't make the full five-day road trip. Please sign up for the [HOT ROD Events newsletter](#) to get the latest information or visit the HOT ROD website for the newest details.

About the Famous Route 66

In the 1920s, the federal government recognized the need for a unified highway network to better connect states and create standardized travel routes. While the system was originally designed to link major cities, planners made a pivotal decision in November 1926—[Route 66](#) would intentionally pass through small towns and rural communities rather than bypass them. The result was a 2,448-mile corridor stretching from Chicago to Santa Monica, weaving together big cities, small towns, farming communities, and remote stretches of the American heartland.

This routing choice became one of the road's defining strengths. By running through underserved regions, Route 66 helped stimulate local economies, improve access to goods and markets, and provide farmers and manufacturers with a dependable transportation lifeline. Its importance grew even more during the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s, when thousands of displaced families traveled west in search of opportunity. In 1939, author John Steinbeck famously dubbed it "The Mother Road" in *The Grapes of Wrath*, cementing its place in American cultural history.

From World War II through the 1960s, the significance of Route 66 continued to expand—both practically and culturally. It supported military transport during the war, fueled postwar tourism, and inspired popular music and television, including the iconic *Route 66* TV series. Although the highway was officially decommissioned in 1985, its legend never faded. Instead, Route 66 became synonymous with America's love affair with the automobile, open-road adventure, and the freedom of driving.

