

2010 NFPW Conference Post-Tour

By Marlene Cook

Be ready some old-fashioned fun and adventure during the post tour, "Route 66 in Illinois," scheduled for August 28-30, 2010.

Cindy Cruz and Marlene Cook are going to take you on a 3-day journey back in time. This is a one-time opportunity to see Americana at its very best. We'll cruise the second most popular attraction in Illinois, the one, the only, Historic Route 66.

Thousands of tourists come from around the world to get their kicks on the Mother Road. Even Sir Paul McCartney traveled the iconic road last year, but he didn't see all that we will.

Our custom designed journey promises sites the average tourist is not even aware of. You see, we have an insider, an expert who knows all the nooks and crannies and secrets of the famous road. Our award winning guide knows the inside stories and is willing to share them.

We will eat only at mom and pop diners, drive-ins and dives. No need to gussy up. We're talking down-home cooking and authentic hospitality of small town folks. No plastic, no big box stores, no packaged commercialism, just the real deal as it was in your parent's and grandparent's day.

After all the hustle and bustle of a high tech conference in the Windy City, we're going to wind down, relax and have some simple old-fashioned fun.

We will visit a streetcar diner from the 1800s. We'll see the last remaining roadhouse on Rt. 66. Then there's the Cozy Dog where they invented the hot dog on a stick. We'll see the last remaining bank designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the Polk-a-Dot drive-in where even the bathrooms are worth seeing. You'll even see a couple of giants along the way.

While in Dwight, IL the Keeley Institute story will come alive. (The Keeley Institute was a 1800s version of AA). There is so much to see and do, we promise you'll have no time for boredom. We also promise lots of laughs and lots of stories to bring home.

We'll overnight in Pontiac, IL where the locals will perform a play, just for us, "Route 66, The Musical," after which we'll have a sock hop, and a Hula Hoop and costume contest. So think Grease and get your bobby sox and 1950s costumes ready.

The second night we'll overnight in Springfield where we will visit the newly renovated Lincoln Museum where "The Great American Story" of Abraham Lincoln's life is

presented through immersive exhibits that employ state-of-the-art technology never seen before in a presidential museum.

And best of all! Everything is included in one old-fashioned price. You won't have to take a dime with you except for personal purchases from neat small town shops and gin mills along the way.

The complete cost includes transportation, hotels, all admissions, all meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner, and even snacks – and I'm not talking a breakfast bar here. Just wait until you see what we have in store for you. Better bring your appetite for food and fun.

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