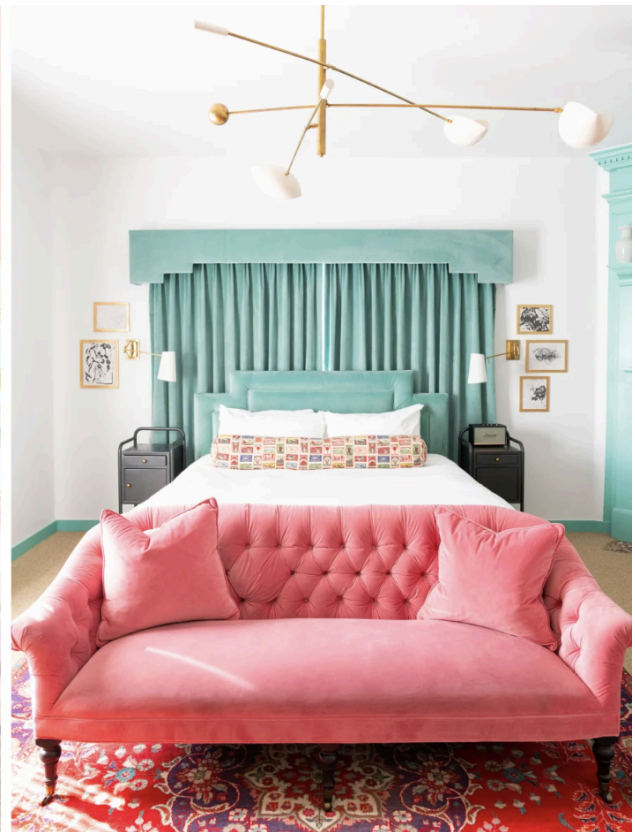


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Neon-Lit Landmarks and Stylish Adobe Hotels: Our Favorite Places to Stay Along Route 66

From mosaic tiles to cowhide, these hotels celebrate Americana from Chicago to L.A.



When Route 66 opened in 1926—linking Chicago to Santa Monica as one of the United States’ first federal highways—it was built to connect small towns with major cities and stimulate local economies along the way. The 2,448-mile “Mother Road” began as a mostly gravel route, lined with simple motels and diners that catered to motorists heading west. Now, as Route 66 nears its centennial in 2026, those roadside stops have evolved into chic neon-lit retro lodges, restored Victorian homes, and stylish adobe-style hotels. From refurbished landmarks to new, design-forward inns, our latest Hotels We Love list spotlights the best retreats for a centennial road trip down America’s storied highway.

Okana



Embrace Oklahoma's retro side at Okana. Courtesy of Okana Resort & Indoor Waterpark

LOCATION: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

WHY WE LOVE IT: A family-friendly new resort with plenty of onsite activities, including a sandy beach, a swim-up bar, and 13 dining venues

RATES: From \$178

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While many hotels along Route 66 have historic pedigree, one new retreat offers a playful, family-friendly option. Owned by the Chickasaw Nation, Okana is a \$400 million resort and waterpark on the Oklahoma River, with 404 guest rooms and suites and 13 restaurants and bars, which range from a **gastropub** overlooking the Oklahoma City skyline to an adults-only **swim-up bar**. The 100,000-square-foot indoor waterpark includes a wave pool, lazy river, cabanas, and 15 slides. Guest rooms, including the bunkbed-equipped OKA Suite, are designed with Indigenous art, wood floors, and balcony views of either the river or a 4.5-acre lagoon with a sandy beach. Non-guests can also purchase pool passes or waterpark tickets.