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Strange RV Encounters: Route 66: The Wigwam Motel and Giant Dinosaurs

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The Weird, the Wacky, and the Wonderful



Juliana Mathews, Yahoo Contributor Network
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Where will you find attractions like wigwam motels for that overnight stay in a teepee that you've always dreamed of? Or giant dinosaur statues used for marketing everything but dinosaurs? Along [Route 66](#) in the good old U.S. of A., that's where.

If You Build It, They Will Come

Whether it's your scrap art hobby or grossly oversized frying pans and milk bottles, Route 66 is a treasure trove of the weird, the wacky, and the wonderful. It's a testament to what makes this country great. This 2,400-mile highway is dotted with the many roadside attractions that highlight America's freedom and opportunity to create almost anything you want and call it a roadside attraction. If that alone isn't reason to love this country, I don't know what is.

After [standing on a corner in Winslow, Arizona](#), I followed Route 66 about 30 miles east to the town of Holbrook, humming "Take It Easy" the whole way.

First Stop: [The Wigwam Motel](#)

Have you dreamed of spending the night in a teepee or wigwam? The Wigwam Motel in Holbrook, Arizona, opened over 60 years ago in 1950, and it's still operating today. Therefore, I suspect many of you have dreamed of sleeping in a teepee and have probably done so.

Let me take this opportunity to mention the difference between a teepee and a wigwam: A teepee is a conical dwelling made of branches and animal hides, while a wigwam is often a domed structure made mostly of mud. (Yes, I had to look it up.)

Giant Dinosaurs Hocking Rocks

You may think dinosaurs are extinct, but you'd be wrong. Dinosaurs are alive and well in Arizona. And they're working for a living. It appears they are the preferred method for marketing your local rock business along Route 66. It doesn't matter that the business has little, if anything, in the way of dinosaur fossils for sale -- unless you count trilobites.

Now, if only the owners of the Wigwam Motel would use a giant dinosaur to market the motel, you could fulfill your dream to be in scene from a Godzilla movie.

To see more photos, [follow more of my weird, wacky, and wonderful RV adventures on Flickr](#).

My next stop: [Strange RV Encounters: Energy Vortexes and Weird Rock Formations in Sedona, AZ](#)

Read how it all began: [Strange RV Encounters: An Introduction](#)

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Published by [Juliana Mathews](#)

In the summer of 2011, Juliana bought an RV, gave up most of her possessions and began traveling around the country with her cat, seeing all the weird, wacky and wonderful roadside attractions. She writes... [View profile](#)



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Juliana Mathews 6/1/2013

Someone in another forum asked why I said 'Winnebago Ford' in the lyrics. Just chalk it up to creative license ;) ...I drive a Winnebago with a Ford engine. I thought it appropriate to change the lyrics from "flatbed Ford".

Yes, I also -- unintentionally -- sing the wrong lyrics to other songs.



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