

Historic US Route 6: Provincetown, MA → Long Beach, CA

A 22-day, moto-friendly, rest-smart itinerary (with options + budget)

Note: “Historic US-6” ran coast-to-coast (1937–1964) from Provincetown to Long Beach and is officially the **Grand Army of the Republic Highway**. Today the signed western end is at **Bishop, CA**; to finish at Long Beach you’ll follow the former CA alignment (US-395/CA-14/I-110) to the coast. [Federal Highway Administration Wikipedia+1](#)

Day-by-day route (built for comfort, scenery, and real rest)

Daily mileages are “reasonable-pace” estimates with time for photos, food, and fuel. Where “REST/SHORT” appears, plan a later start, earlier finish, or a no-ride afternoon.

D1 — Provincetown → Providence (~130 mi)

Cape Cod sweep on US-6: Race Point, Pilgrim Monument, Sandwich Boardwalk; canal views at Sagamore. Federal Hill for dinner.

Sleep: The Dean (Providence); Eat: Federal Hill trattorias.

D2 — Providence → Danbury, CT (~150 mi)

US-6 across RI & CT mill towns. Stops: Willimantic’s Frog Bridge; Mark Twain House (Hartford).

Sleep: Danbury hotels near Main St; Eat: Yankee-style diners.

D3 — Danbury → Milford, PA via Bear Mountain Bridge (~140 mi)

Hudson Highlands crossing on US-6/202; pause at Perkins Memorial Tower. Historic Milford for the night.

Sleep: **Hotel Fauchère** (classic Route-6 lodging); Eat: Bar Louis / Milford taverns. [Hotel Fauchère](#)

D4 — Milford → Wellsboro, PA (~200 mi)

Classic PA Route 6 towns: Hawley, Honesdale, Tunkhannock, Towanda. Sunset at the **PA Grand Canyon** overlooks (Leonard Harrison or Colton Point). [Pennsylvania Government+1](#)

Sleep: **Penn Wells Hotel**; Eat: **Wellsboro Diner**. [Penn Wells](#)

D5 — Wellsboro (REST/SHORT)

Morning hike at the canyon, optional night ride to **Cherry Springs** dark-sky area (if skies are clear). [National Park Service](#)

D6 — Wellsboro → Bradford/Warren, PA via Kinzua Sky Walk (~160 mi)

Detour to **Kinzua Bridge State Park** for the famous skywalk over the gorge. [visitanf.com](#)

Sleep: Warren/Bradford motels & inns.

D7 — Warren, PA → Cleveland, OH (~210 mi)

Lake-shore US-6 via Ashtabula and Euclid. Sunset at Edgewater Park; browse West Side Market.

D8 — Cleveland → Bowling Green, OH via Sandusky (~140 mi)

Harbor towns (Lorain, Vermilion, Huron). Optional Cedar Point detour.

Sleep: Bowling Green; Eat: downtown pubs/BBQ.

D9 — Bowling Green → Goshen/Elkhart, IN (~190 mi)

Small-town Ohio (Napoleon, Bryan) into Indiana's Amish country.

Sleep: Hotel Elkhart; Eat: **South Side Soda Shop** (retro diner). [South Side Soda Shop](#)

D10 — Goshen → Utica/Starved Rock, IL (~220 mi)

US-6 through South Bend, Joliet, Morris, Ottawa. Late-day canyon stroll at **Starved Rock State Park**.

Sleep: **Starved Rock Lodge**; Eat: Lodge dining room or Nonie's. [starvedrocklodge.com](#) [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#)

D11 — Utica → Iowa City/Amana, IA (~210 mi)

Quad Cities crossing; Mississippi views; roll to Iowa City or the **Amana Colonies**.

Sleep: **Hotel Millwright (Amana)**; Eat: Ox Yoke Inn, Millwright's Indigo Room. [Hotel Millwright Amana Colonies in Amana, Iowa | Tourism](#)

D12 — Iowa City/Amana (REST/SHORT)

Stroll historic Amana workshops, breweries, bakeries.

D13 — Iowa City → Omaha/Council Bluffs (~250 mi)

Grinnell & Des Moines corridor; Missouri River sunset in the Old Market.

Sleep: Downtown Omaha.

D14 — Omaha → McCook, NE (~280 mi)

US-6 across Nebraska heritage towns (Lincoln, Hastings, Holdrege) to McCook. [Wikipedia](#)

Sleep: Local motel; Eat: steakhouses along B St.

D15 — McCook → Denver/Golden, CO (~270 mi)

Plains to Front Range (Sterling, Fort Morgan) on the US-6/I-76 corridor.

Sleep: Golden or Denver.

D16 — Denver/Golden → Glenwood Springs, CO via Loveland Pass (~180 mi)

Ride **Loveland Pass (11,990 ft)** on historic US-6 over the Continental Divide; soak at Glenwood Hot Springs. [US Route 6 Tourist Association](#)

Sleep: Glenwood Springs.

D17 — Glenwood Springs → Price/Helper, UT (~220 mi)

Glenwood Canyon to the Book Cliffs; mining art in Helper.

D18 — Price/Helper → Delta, UT (REST/SHORT, ~150 mi)

Short day to reset; Great Basin Museum, desert sunset.

D19 — Delta, UT → Ely, NV (~155 mi)

US-6/50 loneliest stretch; railroad history at Nevada Northern in Ely. (Top off fuel at every chance from here on.)

D20 — Ely → Tonopah, NV (~168 mi)

One of America's **longest fuel-service gaps**—plan for 170 miles between towns; carry extra fuel/water. [Wikipedia](#)

Sleep: Mizpah or retro motor-inns; Eat: Tonopah Brewing.

D21 — Tonopah → Bishop, CA (~180 mi)

Basalt & Montgomery Pass into the Owens Valley; official modern US-6 western terminus at **US-395 in Bishop** (photo stop). [Wikipedia](#)

Sleep: Bishop (or push on if you're fresh).

D22 — Bishop → Long Beach, CA (historic finish, ~280 mi)

Follow the **former US-6 alignment** via US-395 → CA-14 → I-110 to the coast. Celebrate at the Ocean Blvd/Long Beach Blvd plaque area or the Queen Mary. (Historic AASHO documentation places the terminus at the Long Beach Fwy & PCH.) [Federal Highway AdministrationAARoads](#)

Eat + sleep: reliable, Route-6-flavored picks (east→west)

- **Milford, PA:** Hotel Fauchère (lodging + dining). [Hotel Fauchère](#)
 - **Wellsboro, PA:** Penn Wells Hotel/Lodge; classic downtown eats (Wellsboro Diner, etc.). [Penn Wells](#)
 - **Goshen, IN:** South Side Soda Shop (retro diner). [South Side Soda Shop](#)
 - **Starved Rock/Utica, IL:** Starved Rock Lodge (rooms, cabins, dining). [starvedrocklodge.com](#)
 - **Amana Colonies, IA:** Hotel Millwright (on-site restaurant/tavern). [Hotel Millwright](#)
 - **Ely, NV:** Historic railroad-town inns; many riders like downtown motels near the Nevada Northern complex.
 - **Tonopah, NV:** Mizpah Hotel; barbecue & pub grub on Main.
 - **Bishop, CA:** Motor-inns on 395; walkable eats on Main.
(I kept this list compact; I can expand with 2–3 vetted options per stop.)
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Essence of Historic US-6: must-do experiences

- **Climb a tower / cross a skywalk:** Bear Mountain Bridge views (NY); Kinzua Sky Walk (PA). [visitanf.com](#)

- **Stand at the rim of the PA Grand Canyon** (Colton Point or Leonard Harrison). [Pennsylvania Government+1](#)
 - **Soak in history-rich main streets:** Wellsboro gas-lamps; Amana Colonies workshops; Old Market Omaha.
 - **Ride a high mountain pass: Loveland Pass, 11,990 ft**—the high point of US-6. [US Route 6 Tourist Association](#)
 - **Stargaze in true dark:** Cherry Springs State Park (optional night leg from Wellsboro). [National Park Service](#)
 - **Finish at Long Beach:** grab a photo at the historic terminus area and the Queen Mary. [Federal Highway Administration](#)
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Best time + weather (what to expect)

- **Prime windows: late May–June and September–early October** balance cool Atlantic air, manageable Great Plains winds, and avoid peak desert heat.
 - **Rockies:** Even in summer, expect sudden cold, hail, or storms at high elevation; **snow is possible any month over Loveland Pass (11,990 ft).**
 - **Great Basin (UT/NV):** Dry, big-sky riding with long gaps between services; summer highs commonly 90–100°F+. Carry extra water/fuel. [Wikipedia](#)
 - **Coastal SoCal:** Mild but traffic-dense; plan urban hours off-peak.
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Prep, packing & safety (motorcycle-specific)

- **Bike & body:** fresh tires; brake pads/lines inspected; chain/sprockets or belt in spec; oil/filter; coolant; tools & **tubeless plug kit + mini-compressor**; **spare key**; daily chain lube on the road.
- **Fuel planning:** From Ely↔Tonopah is **~168 mi with limited/no services**—top off at every town; consider a 1–2 gal auxiliary can. [Wikipedia](#)
- **Personal kit:** ATGATT (all-the-gear-all-the-time): mesh or vented jacket/pants + **insulating layer + rain layer**; heated gloves/liner for the Divide; earplugs; sunscreen; lip balm; hydration pack (2–3L); electrolytes; first-aid; paper maps as backup.
- **Operations:** Early starts; **15-minute breaks every ~90 minutes**; snack often; watch for wildlife at dawn/dusk; check DOT advisories for mountain weather and construction.
- **Overnights:** Every 3–4 days, schedule a REST/SHORT day (already baked into this plan).

Budget (solo rider, mid-range)

(Assumes ~3,930 miles including the Bishop → Long Beach historic finish.)

- **Fuel:** 40–50 mpg bikes at national avg ~\$3.16/gal ⇒ **\$250–\$310**. [AAA Fuel Prices](#)
 - **Lodging:** 21 nights × \$110–\$170 ⇒ **\$2,300–\$3,600** (mix of motels, historic lodges).
 - **Food:** \$45–\$70/day ⇒ **\$1,000–\$1,550**.
 - **Activities/Admissions:** **\$150–\$300** (museums, hot springs, etc.).
 - **Contingency/Maintenance:** **\$200–\$400** (oil, chain lube, small repairs).
- Estimated total: \$3,900–\$5,900** depending on hotel class, fuel economy, and splurges.

(National average gas price cited from AAA; your effective cost will be slightly higher in CA and lower in the Plains.) [AAA Fuel Prices](#)

GPX / maps / printable

If you'd like, I can generate **day-by-day GPX tracks and a printable PDF checklist** (packing list + fuel stops + lodging phones) from this plan in one go.

Why this route works

- Honors the **historic** alignment (with modern signing realities) and hits the **signature US-6 experiences** from the Cape to the Continental Divide to the Nevada empties. [Wikipedia](#)[Federal Highway Administration](#)
- **Daily miles** are humane for a loaded bike, with **built-in recovery days** and **short Rockies days** to respect altitude and weather.
- **Service gaps** and **photo-op finishes** are called out so you can prep and celebrate properly. [Wikipedia](#)

Want me to tailor this for your exact bike (range/ergos), camping vs. hotel mix, and any “must-eat/must-see” pins you already have?