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The first car crossed the High Desert in 1903. However, desert's sandy roads and steep grades were difficult for cars. In 1911, San Bernadino County built the first road for cars to cross the Mojave Desert.

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Experience the vastness of the Mojave Desert, and discover the iconic signs, buildings and communities that have ignited the romance of Route 66 for generations.

El Mirage Dry Lake Recreation Area: Off-highway vehicle riding, camping, climbing, and more. Fee required. blm.gov/ca/barstow

California Route 66 Museum: Featuring Route 66 memorabilia and gift shop. Provides information to guide visitors on their Route 66 journey. califrt66museum.org

Harvey House: A depot, restaurant, and complex built in 1911 as a stopover for thousands of World War II troops. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Houses the Western American Railroad Museum and Route 66 Mother Road gift shop. barstowharveyhouse.com

Desert Discovery Center: Provides year-round opportunities to learn about public lands and history of the Mojave Desert. For more information call (760) 252-6060. desertdiscoverycenter.com

Amboy Crater: A young volcanic cinder cone rising 250 feet from the desert floor. During cooler weather, a 3-mile round trip hike climbs to the top of the crater for panoramic views. blm.gov/ca/needles

Geffs Cultural Center: One of the largest archives on ranching, railroad, mining and military history in the Mojave Desert. mdhca.org

Mojave National Preserve: Singing sand dunes, volanoic cinder cones, Joshua tree forests, and carpets of wildflowers are all found at this 1.6 million acre park managed by the National Park Service. nps.gov/moja

Wilderness: Large swaths of natural areas that are undeveloped and roadless. Wilderness areas provide opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation and are part of BLM’s National Conservation Lands. blm.gov/ca/nlcs