

ROUTE 66 ASSOCIATION OF MISSOURI

2018 MOTOR TOUR

Information regarding OPTIONAL Friday night activity: Excursion from Kirkwood, MO (KWD) to Washington, MO (WAH) and back via Amtrak's "Missouri River Runner"

IF YOU WANT TO GO ON THIS OPTIONAL EXCURSION, PLEASE E-MAIL OR CALL ROBERT SCHULZ (schulz@htc.net, or 618.799.8021) FOR EVEN MORE INFORMATION.

| Departs | From | Arrives | At | Duration | Train # |
|----------------|------|---------|-----|----------|---------|
| 4:29 pm | KWD | 5:06 pm | WAH | 37min | 313 |
| 8:16 pm | WAH | 8:58 pm | KWD | 42min | 316 |

Right now, the cheapest one-way non-refundable adult regular fare between Kirkwood station and Washington MO is \$13.00. But remember—you need a round-trip ticket! The cheapest non-discounted regular round-trip fare for September 7, 2018 (as of March 20, 2018) is \$26.00. Fares may change at any time.

Note that Amtrak currently offers many discounts (20% Saver Fares for booking 14 days in advance, i.e., by August 23rd, 10% senior discounts, and child half-price fares). Be sure to research "Midwest Train Routes" option on the Amtrak.com/promotions/deals page (scroll down to find this option). You should explore these options before booking your tickets—you might find a great discount!

BUYING YOUR TICKETS. These options are in decreasing order of convenience (in our opinion).

- Log onto Amtrak.com well before August 23rd. You can research discounts not offered elsewhere.
- Call 1-800-872-7245.
- Use a "Quik-Trak" kiosk located inside Kirkwood station on the day of the excursion. But the kiosk could be out of order (unlikely, but who knows) and Kirkwood or Washington stations have no agents. If the kiosk works (and it should), then great! Welcome aboard! If it doesn't and you still want to go, there are still a few options.
- Go online or call the toll-free number and ask Amtrak how to buy a last-minute ticket.
- Drive to Gateway Station (STL) at 430 S 15th St (near Scottrade Center downtown) and talk to a live agent. You could also board and return there, but remember the train leaves STL at least 40 minutes earlier and arrives at least 40 minutes later that night. There is no free parking downtown. Allow plenty of time to get there and buy your tickets if you choose this option on September 7th.
- Try to buy a ticket from the conductor when you board. IF they can, they will charge the highest fare available—much higher than if you pre-buy your ticket. This is a bad option.

DAY OF THE EXCURSION. Try to be inside Kirkwood Station by 4 PM!

- *Parking: Check with Robert Schulz in late August to find out if there are other options for getting to and from the station.* The Amtrak parking lot is across Kirkwood Road and on the other side of the train tracks. Long-term parking costs \$5.00 per day. Purchase passes from the kiosk on the lot. Parking here is enforced from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. For handicap parking, please inquire at the information desk inside the station in advance.

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Free parking in downtown Kirkwood is limited to two hours. Passes allowing for more time can be purchased at Kirkwood City Hall, 139 S. Kirkwood Road, for \$5.00. There may be free parking away from downtown Kirkwood, but you would have to walk several blocks for it.

- **Station & Boarding:** Try to be inside the station by 4 PM. The train departs quickly, so be prepared to board as soon as the train is announced. Follow the Conductor's instructions and have your tickets in-hand as you board.

Choose seats that don't have a paper tag over them. Seats on the right-hand side (when facing forward in the car—left-hand side if you are boarding from the front) offer a better view of many sights along the way, including Route 66 in Eureka and Pacific. Keep your tickets handy until the conductor confirms them. **DON'T LOSE THEM—YOU NEED THEM FOR THE RETURN TRIP** (thanks Capt. Obvious)!

Features and amenities include Wi-Fi Onboard, and a Cafe Car (not useful because of the short trip).

- **Disembarking:** The train departs quickly, so gather your possessions and be ready to disembark as the train slows down. Follow the Conductor's instructions and disembark after the train stops completely.

IN WASHINGTON

You will have PLENTY of time to enjoy a relaxing, pleasant meal. Downtown Washington offers several dining choices, and Cowan's Restaurant at 114 Elm is a great one. It serves American-style diner fare at reasonable prices, and delicious home-made pies and cakes. Many of us have eaten there, and it is always good. Note that it is up a moderately steep hill about two blocks from the station. Sugarfire Smoke House is a casual barbecue restaurant with outdoor seating and is an easy, level three block walk from the station. Marquart's Landing looks good, but we have never eaten there. The Blue Duck and Old Dutch Hotel and Tavern look more upscale than the others, but even they *probably* don't require reservations early on a Friday night. The other places in Washington look more like bars (many with outdoor seating) and bar food—but maybe you want that! And remember that any restaurant listed here may be closed by September—keep your options open.

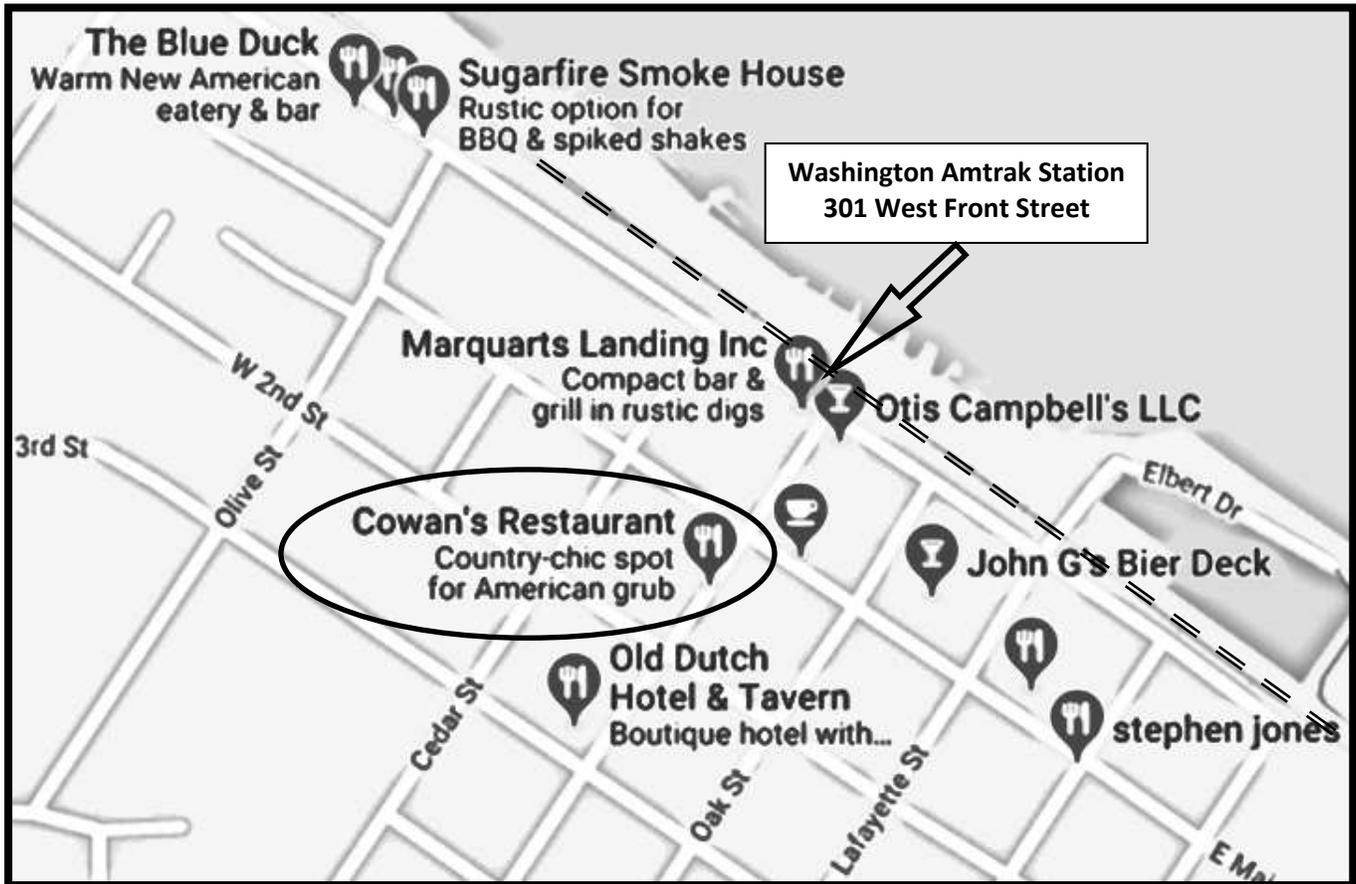
Or maybe enjoy a picnic dinner (Sugarfire order to go, or maybe bring Subway?) at Riverside Park, just east of the station. While away the evening watching "Big Muddy" and the setting sun. Don't forget bug spray.

The following Google map of downtown Washington shows the location of the train station and the various restaurants. The blank area at the top of the map is the Missouri River. Note that the land rises up from the train station as you walk away from the river.

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IF YOU MISS THE RETURN TRAIN, YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET BACK TO KIRKWOOD!
Be at Washington Station no later than 8 PM as the train will probably be on time. The train is not announced, so you might stand outside near the gate when the train is scheduled to arrive (8:15 PM). Have your tickets handy when you board, and follow the Conductor's instructions. Be sure to pick up your belongings before you disembark at Kirkwood Station (or at STL if you caught the train there).

The Missouri Pacific Railroad built **Kirkwood Station** at 110 West Argonne Drive and Kirkwood Rd. a.k.a. "Bypass Route 66" in 1893 as a stone structure reminiscent of Medieval Romanesque structures found in Europe. The depot features a *porte-cochere* and a main entrance set within a large round arch. A curved bay facing the tracks is topped by a turret with a conical roof and finial. After Amtrak discontinued agents at the station in 2003, the City of Kirkwood purchased it to keep from losing this vibrant part of downtown. It remains open with volunteer labor to this day.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad built **Washington Station** at 301 W. Front St. in 1923. The hipped roof flanks the central gable on the street side and the extended bay for the station manager on the track side. The bay's second story is capped by an octagonal roof, and darker brick decorates the red brick exterior.