



RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
Arizona

Speed limits, towing rules, NPS reservations, monsoon windows,
and everything else you need to know before you cross the state line.

2026 Edition | Last verified: 25 April 2026

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RV travel in Arizona

Arizona is one of the most rewarding RV states in the country. The Grand Canyon, Sedona, Saguaro, Petrified Forest, and Monument Valley are all within a long week's loop. The roads are big and well-maintained, fuel is plentiful, and the BLM around Quartzsite is one of the largest free-camping areas in North America. The catch is the climate: the Sonoran Desert in July is genuinely dangerous for any rig without serious airflow, and the monsoon thunderstorms from late June through September can flood low washes within minutes. Plan around it and Arizona is one of the best states to spend a fortnight in.

Arizona by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	2,344
Established campgrounds	485
Dump stations	124
Propane refills	204
Potable water fill-ups	345
Laundromats	130
RV showers	70
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	143

Source: iOverlander community database (70% of Arizona spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars)	75 mph
Interstate (trucks + towing)	65 mph
US/State highway (cars)	65 mph
US/State highway (towing)	55 mph
Built-up areas	25-35 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
RV passenger seatbelts	Required for all front-seat occupants
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only (banned hand-held)

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-10	Coast-to-coast main corridor through Phoenix and Tucson. Big rigs, easy.
I-40	Old Route 66 corridor across the north. Flagstaff at 7,000 ft gets snow Nov-Mar; chains may be required.
I-17	Phoenix to Flagstaff. Steep 6% grades on the climb out of the Verde Valley. Use lower gears descending.
I-8	Yuma to Casa Grande. Empty desert; long fuel gaps between exits. Carry water.
US-89/US-89A	Scenic alternative through Sedona, Oak Creek Canyon, and up to the Grand Canyon. Tight switchbacks south of Flagstaff -- not recommended for rigs over 35 ft.
US-191	Eastern Arizona via Greer and the White Mountains. High elevation, scenic, slow. Closed sections in winter.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
AZ-87 north of Payson (Mogollon Rim)	Steep grades and tight curves. Rigs over 40 ft are technically permitted but practically a bad idea.
AZ-261/AZ-273 (Sunrise Park)	Seasonal closures Nov-May. Not for fifth wheels.
Bright Angel/South Kaibab Trail (Grand Canyon)	Hiking trails. RVs prohibited (obvious, but worth saying).

Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
Mingus Mountain (AZ-89A)	7023 ft	Tight switchbacks, 6-7% grades. Not recommended for trailers over 30 ft.
Hannagan Pass (US-191)	9100 ft	Open year-round but plows infrequent. Closed in heavy snow Dec-Feb.
Sunrise Pass (AZ-273)	9200 ft	Seasonal closure Nov-May.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
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Grand Canyon NP (South Rim)	\$35/vehicle (7 days), \$80 America the Beautiful annual	Mather Campground requires reservation Mar-Nov via recreation.gov; book 6 months ahead. Trailer Village takes hookup-needs RVs up to 50 ft.
Grand Canyon NP (North Rim)	\$35/vehicle (7 days)	Open mid-May to mid-Oct only. North Rim Campground reservable via recreation.gov.
Petrified Forest NP	\$25/vehicle (7 days)	No camping inside the park. Backcountry permits available; nearest RV camping in Holbrook.
Saguaro NP (East + West)	\$25/vehicle (7 days)	No RV camping in either district. Stay in Tucson or at Catalina State Park.
Canyon de Chelly NM	Free entry (Navajo Nation tribal park)	Cottonwood Campground first-come; small rigs only. Navajo guide required for canyon floor.
Glen Canyon NRA (Lake Powell)	\$30/vehicle (7 days)	Wahweap Campground reservable; Lone Rock Beach is dry-camp on the sand (4WD recommended for soft spots).
Organ Pipe Cactus NM	\$25/vehicle (7 days)	Twin Peaks Campground first-come Nov-Mar peak season; RVs to 35 ft. Mexican border 5 miles south -- check current advisories.
Chiricahua NM	Free entry	Bonita Canyon Campground reservable Mar-May; RVs to 29 ft. Steep narrow access road -- not for big rigs.
Wupatki/Sunset Crater NM	\$25/vehicle (7 days, combined)	No camping in either monument. Bonito Campground (USFS) adjacent to Sunset Crater takes RVs to 40 ft.

State parks

Arizona State Parks operate 30+ parks including several with full-hookup RV sites: Catalina (Tucson), Lost Dutchman (Apache Junction), Patagonia Lake, Roper Lake, Lyman Lake. Reservable up to 12 months in advance via azstateparks.com. State park day-use \$7-15/vehicle, camping \$25-40/night for full hookups.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: Arizona has some of the best BLM dispersed camping in the country. The big two: Quartzsite (La Posa Long-Term Visitor Area, \$40 for 14 days, \$180 for the season Sep-Apr; outside the LTVA boundary it's free 14-day dispersed) and the Sonoran Desert National Monument south of Buckeye. Most BLM in Arizona allows free 14-day dispersed camping unless posted otherwise.

National Forest: Coconino, Kaibab, Tonto, and Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests all permit free dispersed camping along forest roads. Coconino's roads around Flagstaff (FR 552, FR 545) are popular. Fire restrictions are common Apr-Oct -- check current status before you light anything.

Stay limit: 14 days at any one location (federal rule, applies to BLM and NF dispersed).

Tribal lands

Arizona contains 22 federally-recognized tribal nations. Navajo Nation (largest, NE corner) and Hopi Reservation operate on Mountain Standard Time and observe Daylight Saving (the rest of Arizona does not). Tribal lands are sovereign; some require permits for stopping, photography, or off-road travel. Dispersed camping is generally not permitted on tribal land. Always check current rules before pulling off the highway.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful in Phoenix, Tucson, Flagstaff, and along I-10 and I-40. Sparse in the eastern White Mountains and along the Mexican border. Most KOA and Good Sam parks fill on-site. U-Haul locations are reliable for refills (not exchanges) and accept most tank types.

Dump stations: Dense in Phoenix, Tucson, and along I-10/I-40. Most state parks have free dump stations for registered guests. Flying J / Pilot truck stops along the interstates have fee dump stations (\$10-15). Quartzsite has multiple commercial dump stations open year-round.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available along all interstates and US highways. Arizona has unusually long stretches between fuel stops on US-191 (Springerville to Alpine, 30 miles), AZ-89A through Oak Creek Canyon, and the Apache Trail (now closed past Tortilla Flat anyway). Carry an extra 5 gallons if you're heading off-interstate in eastern Arizona. Fuel prices typically lowest in Tucson, highest in Sedona and the Grand Canyon area.

Weather windows

Best months: Late October through April. Daytime highs in the desert sit in the 60s-80s F; nights drop to 30s-50s F.

Avoid: June through early September. Phoenix routinely hits 110-118 F. RV interiors without solar-vent fans become unsafe within 30 minutes of parking. Flagstaff and the Mogollon Rim stay 20-30 F cooler but get violent monsoon storms with flash-flood risk in any low wash from late June onward.

Climate caution

Never park in or cross a low wash during a monsoon storm. Walls of water 6-8 ft high travel down dry washes within minutes of a thunderstorm 20 miles upstream. "Turn Around Don't Drown" is not an exaggeration.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol

Dial *DPS (*377) from a cell phone for non-emergency state patrol

Road conditions

<https://az511.gov>

How RV TripGen helps

We map your monsoon-risk overnights

RV TripGen flags any Arizona overnight stop in a flood-prone wash or low-elevation desert area between mid-June and mid-September, so you can pick higher ground.

Fuel-stop spacing for desert routes

RV TripGen calculates fuel-stop spacing per leg for routes through the Sonoran and through eastern Arizona, so you never end up on US-191 with a quarter tank.