

RV TRIPGEN

The Complete Guide to
RV Travel in
Connecticut

Merritt Parkway is closed to you, I-95 is a traffic problem,
and the Litchfield Hills are the reason you came.

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RV travel in Connecticut

Connecticut is small, dense, expensive, and one of the trickier states to route an RV through because two of its three main north-south corridors -- the Merritt Parkway and the Wilbur Cross Parkway -- prohibit commercial vehicles and RVs entirely. That leaves I-95 (chronically congested), I-91 (the only easy north-south), and the back roads. The state's RV-friendly half is the northwest corner: the Litchfield Hills, Housatonic State Forest, and US-7 through Kent and Cornwall make a genuinely good touring loop. Plan the parkway prohibition into every route, treat I-95 between New Haven and Greenwich as a 25-mph experience during business hours, and Connecticut works as a transit state with a few worthwhile destinations.

Connecticut by the numbers

Boondocking + dispersed sites	97
Established campgrounds	18
Dump stations	6
Propane refills	10
Potable water fill-ups	9
Laundromats	9
RV showers	7
Verified-bad spots (overnight prohibited)	11

Source: iOverlander community database (68% of Connecticut spots verified in the last 24 months).

Driving rules

Interstate (cars + RVs)	65 mph (most rural segments); 55 mph in metro areas
State highway (cars + towing)	55 mph default
Built-up areas	25-40 mph (posted)
Drive on	Right
Seatbelts	Required for all front-seat occupants and all under-18 in any seat
Cell phone use while driving	Hands-free only; all hand-held use prohibited including at red lights
Parkways (Merritt/Wilbur Cross)	RVs and trailers PROHIBITED -- enforce yourself; the parkway police enforce regardless

Highways

RV-friendly corridors

Highway	Note
I-84	Danbury to Hartford to the Mass border. Main east-west interstate; four-lane, easy outside peak hour in Hartford.
I-91	New Haven to Hartford to the Mass border. Main north-south interstate for RVs (since the parkways are closed). Smooth four-lane.
I-95	NY border to RI border along the coast. Heavily congested through Stamford-Greenwich and Bridgeport-New Haven. Plan around rush hour or expect 25 mph crawl.
I-395	Norwich-Plainfield to the Mass border. Quiet alternative to I-95 for southeastern CT.
US-7	Norwalk to the Mass border via Danbury, Kent, and Canaan. Two-lane scenic byway through the Litchfield Hills. Manageable for most RVs north of Danbury.
US-44	Hartford to the NY border via Salisbury. Two-lane, scenic, easy.

RV-restricted segments

Segment	Restriction
Merritt Parkway (CT-15 Greenwich to Stratford)	RVs, trailers, and commercial vehicles PROHIBITED. Posted at every entrance. Multiple low historic stone bridges below 10 ft. Use I-95 or US-1 instead.
Wilbur Cross Parkway (CT-15 north of Stratford)	Continuation of CT-15; same prohibition. RVs and trailers PROHIBITED.
Berlin Turnpike (US-5/CT-15 between New Haven and Hartford)	Technically open to RVs but tight and traffic-heavy. Use I-91.
Most parkway-style limited-access roads	Connecticut classifies many roads as parkways with low-clearance historic bridges. Always check signage for RV/commercial prohibition before entering CT-15.
Steep Hill Lane and similar coastal village roads	Tight, low overhangs, dead-ends. Use mainline routes.
I-95 Stamford-Greenwich-Bridgeport rush hour	Legal but practically immovable. Plan transit for 10 am - 2 pm or after 8 pm.

Mountain passes

Pass	Elevation	Note
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Bear Mountain (CT-41/US-44 corner)	2316 ft	Highest point in CT but no mountain pass; US-44 stays at moderate elevation through Salisbury. No real grade issues.
Mohawk Mountain area (CT-4)	1683 ft	Rolling two-lane through the Litchfield Hills. Manageable for most RVs.

National parks + monuments

National Park / Monument	Entry fee	Reservation note
Weir Farm NHP	Free entry	Wilton, CT. Day-use only, no camping. Small lot; tow-car or small-RV friendly.
Coltsville NHP (Hartford)	Free entry (limited access -- in development)	Hartford. Day-use only, no camping. Park downtown and walk.
Appalachian National Scenic Trail (corridor)	Free	Trail crosses northwestern CT. Trailhead parking only; no RV camping on the corridor.
New England National Scenic Trail (corridor)	Free	Crosses central CT (Metacomet Ridge). Trailhead parking only.

State parks

Connecticut State Parks operates 100+ parks and forests; about 14 have RV camping. Hammonasset Beach (Madison) is the largest and busiest coastal campground in CT; Burr Pond, Black Rock, and Devil's Hopyard are popular inland units. Reservable up to 11 months in advance via reserveamerica.com (CT portal). Day-use \$7-22/vehicle (resident vs non-resident pricing), camping \$20-40/night. Most CT state parks have no individual hookups (centralised fill and dump); a few offer 30-amp electric.

Boondocking + dispersed camping

BLM: No BLM land in Connecticut. Public-land boondocking is effectively nonexistent in the state.

National Forest: No National Forest in Connecticut. The closest equivalents are Housatonic State Forest, Pachaug State Forest, Mohawk State Forest, and others, which permit primitive backcountry camping only at designated sites with advance permits -- not drive-up dispersed boondocking. Plan on private RV parks or state-park campgrounds.

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

Tribal lands

Connecticut has two federally-recognised tribal nations: Mashantucket Pequot (operating Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket) and Mohegan (operating Mohegan Sun, Uncasville). Both casinos have RV parking lots and welcome overnight RV guests with rules (check current policy at the security gate). The Mashantucket Pequot Museum is worth visiting and has a tow-car-friendly lot.

Propane, dump stations, fuel

Propane: Plentiful in Hartford, New Haven, Stamford, and along I-84/I-91. Reasonable in the Litchfield Hills (Torrington, Litchfield, Canaan). Most KOA and Good Sam parks fill on-site. U-Haul locations statewide are reliable for refills.

Dump stations: Reasonable coverage along major highways and in tourist regions. Connecticut State Park campgrounds offer free dump stations for registered guests. Truck stops at I-84 (Danbury, Waterbury, Manchester) and I-91 (Meriden, Wallingford) have fee dump stations (\$10-15). Sparse on the coast outside private parks.

Fuel: Diesel and gas widely available statewide. I-95 and I-84 corridors have full coverage; the Litchfield Hills back roads thinner -- fill up in Torrington or Canaan before extended back-road touring. Fuel prices typically highest in Fairfield County (Greenwich-Stamford area) and lowest near the Mass border on I-91.

Weather windows

Best months: Late May through mid-October. Daytime highs 70-85 F coast, slightly cooler in the Litchfield Hills. Foliage peaks mid- to late October.

Avoid: December through March. Snow common; nighttime lows in teens to single digits. Most state-park campgrounds close mid-Oct to mid-May. Summer humidity (Jul-Aug) on the coast can be oppressive.

Climate caution

The Merritt Parkway prohibition is enforced -- the state troopers ticket RVs that enter at the parkway's entrance ramps regardless of GPS directions. Always reject parkway routing in your nav system before departing.

Emergency + road conditions

State patrol

Dial *CSP (*277) from a cell phone for state police dispatch; 911 for emergencies

Road conditions

<https://cttravelsmart.org>

How RV TripGen helps

Parkway prohibitions blocked at routing time

RV TripGen blocks routing of any RV through the Merritt Parkway, Wilbur Cross Parkway, and Berlin Turnpike regardless of your nav system's suggestion -- the trooper writes the ticket, not your phone.

I-95 rush-hour windows surfaced before you depart

RV TripGen flags Connecticut I-95 transit through Stamford-New Haven during commuter hours and suggests off-peak windows so you don't lose three hours sitting in traffic.